



## **Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project**

Friday, April 21, 2017

10:00am – 12:00pm

Legislative Office Building, Room 1C

### **Draft Minutes**

Present: William Dyson, Jim Fazzalano, Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Cheryl Sharp, Chief Doug Fuchs, Aaron Swanson, David McGuire, Lt. Marc Petruzzi, Michael Gailor, Dane Silcox, Stacey Manware, Chief Neil Dryfe, Scott Madeo, Shannon Trice

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am

#### I. Welcome

Bill Dyson welcomed the advisory board and thanked them for attending.

#### II. Approval of the January 19, 2017 minutes

Michael Gailor made a motion to approve the minutes from January 19, 2017. The motion was seconded by Douglas Fuchs. There was no discussion and the minutes were passed unanimously.

#### III. Presentation on Hartford PD 2015-2016 Data Audit

Ken Barone made a presentation regarding outstanding issues with the Hartford Police Department traffic stop data. The project staff noticed that there was a significant reduction in the total number of stops reported by the Hartford PD for the 2015-2016 collection year. This prompted staff to begin researching the reduction because it was believed it may be the result of a data transmission error. Hartford is one of seven departments that collects traffic stop records on paper forms, including Bridgeport, Middletown, New London, Cheshire, Clinton, and Wallingford.

It was determined that the RMS vendor forwarded all traffic stop records in their system. According to the publicly available dispatch records for Hartford, there were approximately 6,500 traffic stop dispatch calls and the state system only had approximately 1,600 reported traffic stops. The research staff requested copies of the

paper forms from Hartford PD to better understand the number of forms completed by officers. The department submitted forms on two separate occasions, the first time they submitted 2,274 traffic stop records and the second time they submitted 3,654 traffic stop records. There still appeared to be a discrepancy with the number of forms matching the dispatch log and the records in the state database. Project staff is estimating that anywhere between 2,000 and 4,000 traffic stop records are missing.

Additionally, the project staff conducted a quality control audit to determine if the traffic stop records are being recorded properly. The staff chose two months at random (March and June) to review the paper form and the data submitted to the state database. In March 2016, there were 355 stops in the database and the staff could identify 88 matching forms. Of the 88 matching forms, 49 had data that didn't match. In June 2016, there were 53 stops in the database and the staff could identify most of them. There were 22 forms that didn't match the data in the system. The project staff informed the advisory board that at this time they would not feel comfortable using any of Hartford's traffic stop data for analysis in the year 3 report due to poor data quality. The Hartford Police Department informed project staff in March 2017 that they have begun to implement changes to the data collection system to improve the issues brought to their attention.

In addition to the data issues identified in Hartford, the project staff also identified issues in Middletown. The Middletown Police Department reported approximately 1,600 traffic stops, but their dispatch logs indicated over 3,000 traffic stops. Due to the fact that not all stops reported to dispatch require a traffic stop form it was difficult to determine the number of missing records. The Middletown PD implemented changes to their data collection system to ensure all appropriate stops have traffic stop forms completed.

Ken Barone also informed advisory board members that he has reached out to the Bridgeport Police Department and New London Police Department for additional information to conduct a similar data audit. He indicated that he has not received a response. Michael Gailor and Chief Doug Fuchs offered to contact the department and coordinate a discussion to help project staff complete their audit.

#### IV. Presentation on 2015-2016 (Year 3) data

The project staff completed the compilation of the year three dataset, which officially includes 555,713 traffic stops from October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016. A new protocol was put in place this year to clean the database for duplicate records. There were 29,540 duplicate records that resulted from the same case number being recorded with different violations being recorded. This problem was discovered this year and was also identified in the year one and two datasets. It is estimated that after accounting for the duplicate records that traffic stops have decreased by between 7,000 and 10,000 stops statewide. That represents less than 2% of all traffic stops statewide.

#### V. Update on 2017 reports

A follow-up analysis for the 9 departments identified in the year 2 report is being completed by project staff. It is anticipated that the report will be released sometime in June. The Year 3 analysis is anticipated to be completed for some time in July.

## VI. 2017 Legislative Update

Ken Barone and Jim Fazzalano provided an update on two pieces of proposed legislation before the Connecticut General Assembly this year. In particular, H.B. 7258 would amend the Alvin W. Penn Act to: (1) make it a discriminatory practice to violate the act, (2) require the electronic collection of data, (3) provide an electronic receipt of the stop regardless of the stop outcome, and (4) require DMV to provide the complaint notice during license renewal notifications. H.B. 7301 would amend the Alvin W. Penn Act to: extend the provisions of the act to cover pedestrian stops.

The project staff produced and shared written testimony that was submitted by Ken Barone and Jim Fazzalano for each proposed bill. The testimony regarding H.B. 7258 requested that the legislature not require a receipt of data collected to drivers due to cost and implementation concerns. It would be possible to conduct random audits of departmental stop data as a way to address the concern that data could be manipulated. In addition, the testimony regarding H.B. 7307 recommended that the legislature allow the advisory board an opportunity to explore the possibility of collecting pedestrian stop data and report back with recommendations prior to the 2018 legislative session.

Michael Gailor addressed a specific concern that he had regarding language in H.B. 7258 which would make it a discriminatory practice to be in violation of the Alvin W. Penn act. Chief Fuchs also mentioned a concern about the ability to access DMV photos to help validate the race of the driver and wasn't sure that this would be possible. Ken Barone also identified testimony submitted by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association regarding H.B. 7307 which referenced Connecticut police departments that hiring outstand researchers to dispute the initial findings in the Connecticut Traffic Stop studies. Chief Fuchs was unaware of any reports that were produced by individual police departments. There was a brief discussion among advisory board members on the CPCA testimony.

## VII. Follow-up to Dr. Phillip Goff and Chief Chris Burbank Presentation

The Project Staff is hoping to follow-up with Dr. Goff and Chris Burbank following their April visit to determine next steps. Additional information will be forthcoming when available.

## VIII. General Discussion

There was no general discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.