



## **Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project**

Thursday, March 21, 2019

10:00am – 12:00pm

Legislative Office Building, Room 1D

### **MINUTES**

Present: William Dyson, Jim Fazzalano, Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, George Sinclair, Ana Mitchell, Chief Neil Dryfe, Chief L.J. Fusaro, Michael Gailor, Sgt. Dwight Washington, Commissioner James Rovella, Rashad Glass, Cheryl Sharp, Werner Oyanadel, Dr. Cato Laurencin, Stacey Manware, Joe Cristalli, David McGuire, Tanya Hughes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **I. Welcome and Introduction of new members**

Chairman Dyson welcomed the advisory board and thanked them for attending. He also introduced new members to the board which included: Commissioner Rovella, Under Secretary Pelka, Sgt. Dwight Washington, Colonel Mellekas, and Lt. Colonel David Montini.

#### **II. Approval of the December 6, 2018 meeting minutes**

Andrew Clark made a motion to approve the December 6, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by David McGuire and the minutes were approved.

#### **III. 2017 Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings report update**

Ken Barone provided an update on the status of the 2017 Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings report. Project staff recently met with the Derby and Fairfield Police Departments to discuss the results of the analysis. Staff has begun to conduct the follow-up analysis and plans to meet with the police departments next month to continue the discussions. It is the goal of the project staff to have the full 2017 report completed and ready for publication later in May or early in June.

#### **IV. Brief presentation on 2018 Traffic Stop Data totals**

Project staff made a presentation about the traffic stop totals for the past five calendar years. Overall, Connecticut has seen a 19% decrease in overall reported traffic stops since 2014. The 94 municipal police departments total reported traffic stops decreased by 6% and the State Police decreased by 44% during the same time period. Most of the decline in reported traffic stops since 2014 can be attributed to less state police activity. Commissioner Rovella indicated that this was likely the result of significantly fewer officers on the roadways over the last five years. There were 508,361 traffic stops reported in calendar year 2018.

#### V. Policy Work Group Updates

Ken Barone provided an update on the activities of the Policy Work Group, which was formed at the December 2018 meeting. The group has met a number of times to discuss proposed legislation and other research initiatives. The work group developed testimony in response to Proposed Bill 707, An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Reports. The testimony included a proposal that the advisory board explore other alternatives for providing the driver of the stopped vehicle a receipt of the stop. The advisory board agreed to explore this issue and report back to the legislature before the beginning of the 2021 session.

The work group also outlined a few topic areas that they plan to focus on in the coming months. This includes a review of consent search policies in other states, the impact of equipment and administrative offenses on minority motorists, and the statutory definition of racial profiling. This group is open to all members of the advisory board.

#### VI. Stanford Open Policy Project recent study of 100 million traffic stops

Project staff shared a report recently published by Stanford University where a team of researchers analyzed over 100 million traffic stops around the country. The report highlights some of the work done in Connecticut and includes our data in their analysis. Matt Ross also provided a handful of other academic articles where the work being done in Connecticut has been prominently highlighted as advancing the field of research.

#### VII. General Discussion

The advisory board discussed a proposal to request more detailed infractions data from the Centralized Infractions Bureau. There was consensus to make a formal request for the information to further our research.

The CTRP3 website has been updated and is more user friendly. In addition, the data website was updated to include 2018 traffic stop records.

Finally, Ana Mitchell mentioned that there would be a public forum on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m., American Legion McKinney-King Post, 2121 Main Street, Hartford, CT.

There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.