



## **Minutes**

Thursday, November 7, 2019  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Legislative Office Building, Room 1B

Present: William Dyson, Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Jim Fazzalero, Ana Maria Mitchell, Chief Neil Dryfe, Rashad Glass, Tanya Hughes, Tamara Lanier, Dr. Cato Laurencin, Robin Fox, Sgt. Karen O'Connor, Trooper Joe Dorelus, Chief Ronnell Higgins, Taylor Caldwell

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

### **I. Welcome**

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

### **II. Approval of the October 17, 2019 minutes**

Andrew Clark made a motion to approve the October 17, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Chief Neil Dryfe and the minutes were approved.

### **III. Approval of Chief Ronnell Higgins to the advisory board**

Andrew Clark introduced Chief Ronnell Higgins for consideration as an advisory board member. Chief Higgins has served as Chief of Police at Yale University since 2011; he was additionally named Director of Public Safety in 2015. In his 20-year career with Yale, he has been instrumental in significantly reducing crime. Chief Higgins has earned a reputation for driving sustainable initiatives that continue to ensure a safe campus and community by preventing crime, championing exceptional relationships, and building community trust through collaboration with stakeholders, leaders, and members of both the University and City of New Haven communities.

Andrew Clark made a motion to nominate Chief Higgins to the advisory board as a representative of special police departments. His nomination was seconded by Tanya Hughes and supported unanimously by the board. Chairman Dyson congratulated Chief Higgins and welcomed him as a member.

### **IV. General Announcements**

Ana Maria Mitchell, IMRP community outreach coordinator, announced that the next public forum will be in Waterbury on November 13, 2019. The forum will take place at the Silas Bronson Library from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The forum will be filmed and highlights from the forum will be made available to the advisory board and members of the public on our website. All advisory board members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Ken Barone informed members that the Policy Work Group met earlier in November and drafted proposed changes to the state definition of racial profiling. The board will meet in December to finalize their proposal for consideration of the full advisory board.

V. Presentation by Dr. Cato Laurencin regarding Urban Trauma and other related research

Dr. Cato Laurencin, a professor of orthopedic surgery at the UCONN Health Center, presented on existing research on the effects of racial profiling through the lens of public health and health disparity. He identified six ways in which the research supports racial profiling having adverse health effects on Black communities: the direct effect of police violence on Black Americans, the direct effect of micro-aggressions by police on Black Americans, the direct effect of non-lethal confrontations Black Americans have with police, the actual or perceived threat of police violence has on Black American communities, the indirect effects of a Black American's family member or friend's confrontation with police, and the indirect effects of police killings of unarmed Black Americans on the surrounding Black community's mental health.

Dr. Laurencin cites that Black Americans are five times more likely than white Americans to have a police intervention-related injury to demonstrate the direct health disparity effect of racial discrimination by police. He then references a paper from the National Academy of Sciences that analyzed police camera footage and found that officers speak with less respect toward black, as opposed to white, community members, illustrating the micro-aggressions that exist on behalf of police when interacting with black members of the community. Studies on the psychological effects of police intrusion suggest higher levels of anxiety and PTSD among Black respondents reporting frequent police stops and police mistreatment, increasing the likelihood of suicidal ideation, plans, and attempts. Dr. Laurencin cites a paper from *The Journal of Mental Health Counseling* showing that 81% of African Americans who reported racial discrimination experienced PTSD.

In analyzing the perceived threat of racial profiling, Dr. Laurencin references a study from the *Journal of Population Health* that showed perceived unfair treatment on behalf of the police was correlated with waist circumference discrepancies between black and white populations. The study focused on a Nashville neighborhood and found that black drivers were five times more likely to be stopped multiple times a year and twice as likely to have their cars searched than white drivers. This unfair treatment by police was seen to represent a virulent stressor on the society, leading the authors to hypothesize that it contributes to higher rates of obesity in the black community.

Dr. Laurencin concluded by identifying the indirect adverse psychological effects of having a friend or family member subjected to police discrimination, while the effect of an unarmed Black American killed by the police was shown to have adverse mental effects on the surrounding Black community where the shooting takes place by a study published in The Lancet.

VI. Discussion regarding the release of the 2018 Traffic Stop Findings

Ken Barone indicated that the project staff was working to complete the 2018 annual analysis. The intention is to release the full report by March 2020.

VII. General Discussion

There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.