



Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Legislative Office Building, Room 1C

Present: William Dyson, Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Jim Fazzalano, Ana Maria Mitchell, Chief Neil Dryfe, Rashad Glass, Spencer Hill, Tamara Lanier, Sgt. Karen O'Connor, Amy Bepko, Andy Friedland, Chief Louis Fusaro, Michael Gailor, Robert Klin, Melvin Medina

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

I. Welcome

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

II. Approval of the November 7, 2019 minutes

Andrew Clark made a motion to approve the November 7, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Michael Gailor and the minutes were approved.

III. 2018 Traffic Stop Findings and Analysis report update

Ken Barone informed advisory board members that the project staff would like to proceed with releasing the 2018 annual analysis during the March advisory board meeting. Project staff is currently working to complete the in-depth follow-up analysis on the Connecticut State Police.

The Bridgeport Police Department was the only municipal department identified with statistically significant disparities that warranted further analysis. However, after speaking with administrators for the Bridgeport Police Department, project staff learned that the first six months of 2018 data was inconsistent due to a conversion to a new records management system. Due to the system conversion, an indeterminate number of traffic stop records went unreported to the state. The missing records may have impacted the results of the departmental analysis. Therefore, the project staff does not believe it is appropriate to proceed with an in-depth analysis that includes those incomplete records. The project staff was also concerned with the amount of time it would take to complete

an in-depth analysis with new records and would like to publish the 2018 analysis as soon as possible.

The project staff recommended that the best course of action would be to conduct an in-depth analysis for Bridgeport with complete records submitted after the records management system conversion was completed. Instead of waiting for that analysis to be completed, the project staff recommended that we proceed with publishing the 2018 annual analysis and produce a supplemental report of Bridgeport traffic stop disparities in the coming months.

A motion was made by Chief L.J. Fusaro to proceed with the project staff recommendation of completing a supplemental analysis for Bridgeport after releasing the 2018 report. The supplemental analysis would review 12-months of traffic stop records after the department converted to the new records management system. This motion was seconded by Michael Gailor. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Barone briefly updated the advisory board on the State Police follow-up analysis being conducted by the research team. The analysis is reviewing five years of traffic stop records for all police troops and measuring the impact of local constables on the disparities identified in previous reports. The results from this analysis will be included in the 2018 annual report.

IV. Policy Work Group Updates/Proposals

The Policy Work Group developed a draft racial profiling definition for the advisory board's consideration for submission to the legislature prior to the start of session. The statutory definition was drafted below:

Sec. 54-11. Short title: Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act.

(a) This section and section 54-1m shall be known as the "Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act".

(b) For the purposes of this section, "racial profiling" means the detention, interdiction or disparate treatment of an individual by a law enforcement officer that is based upon an individual's perceived racial or ethnic status without reasonable articulable suspicion or cause to lawfully justify such conduct. The detention, interdiction or disparate treatment of an individual based on any noncriminal factor or combination of noncriminal factors is inconsistent with this definition.

(c) No member of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, a municipal police department or any other law enforcement agency shall engage in racial profiling.

(d) The race or ethnicity of an individual shall not be the sole factor in determining the existence of probable cause to place in custody or arrest an individual or in constituting

a reasonable and articulable suspicion that an offense has been or is being committed so as to justify the detention of an individual or the investigatory stop of a motor vehicle.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed definition, but there was no consensus on advancing this proposal. Chairman Dyson requested that a group of advisory board members meet within the next week to see if the differences between members could be rectified. A group of members was appointed to meet and see if a new proposal could be presented prior to the start of the short legislative session. This proposal was tabled.

V. General Announcements

Ana Mitchell announced that the next public forum will be held in Windham, CT on Monday, February 24th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Willimantic Town Hall (979 Main Street). All advisory board members were encouraged to attend.

Ken Barone provided copies of the executive summaries of the first annual traffic stop disparity reports published in both California and Oregon. Some of the methods used to assess racial disparities were modeled after our work in Connecticut. Advisory board members were encouraged to read about the work happening in both states.

VI. General Discussion

There were no additional announcements and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.