



Draft Minutes

Thursday, September 3, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom

Present: William Dyson, Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Jim Fazzaloro, Chief Neil Dryfe, Rashad Glass, Tamara Lanier, Andy Friedland, Chief Louis Fusaro, Michael Gailor, Robert Klin, David McGuire, Cheryl Sharpe, Commissioner James Rovella, Joe Cristalli, Steve Ginsburg, Tanya Hughes, Marc Pelka, Shannon Trice

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

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Dyson welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves.

II. Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force request regarding Public Act 20-1

The Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force has been tasked with a series of legislative priorities to report recommendations for in the coming months. The Task Force is requesting that the CTRP3 advisory board consider taking the lead on providing recommendations in the following areas: (1) the establishment of primary and secondary traffic violations in the general statutes; and (2) the establishment of a requirement in the general statutes that any police traffic stop be based on the enforcement of a primary traffic violation.

Ken Barone and Jim Fazzaloro provided some historical background information regarding primary and secondary traffic stop offenses. After a brief discussion, members agreed to the Task Force request. The Chair, with support from the advisory board, determined that the Policy Work Group would be the most appropriate subcommittee to consider these issues.

The Policy Work Group will begin to meet to discuss the establishment of a primary and secondary traffic violation system. A recommendation will be forwarded to the full advisory board for consideration before sharing with the state Task Force.

III. 2019 Traffic Stop Findings and Analysis report update

Due to delays caused by COVID-19, the 2019 traffic stop dataset was not finalized until August 2020. The data is currently being analyzed and preliminary findings should be available in the coming weeks. Advisory board members will be updated on the progress of the report.

Project staff also provided an update on the current 2020 traffic stop totals. Connecticut saw a significant decrease in traffic stops starting in mid-March. Traffic enforcement was at a depressed level through mid-July. Although traffic enforcement has increased since July 2020, overall stop totals remain significantly lower than prior years. The project staff anticipates a 50% reduction in traffic stops for the 2020 calendar year.

IV. Research Proposal: Disentangling Geography, Enforcement, and Race in Wethersfield Traffic Stop Data

Ken Barone shared a draft proposal from researchers Matt Ross and Jesse Kalinowski regarding an in-depth analysis of Wethersfield traffic stop patterns. The analysis follows a series of sophisticated statistical methodologies. Based on questions presented by advisory board members, the project staff determined that it would be best to invite the researchers to the next meeting for a discussion.

V. General Discussion

The Project Staff has been exploring ways to clean-up the location information reported for each stop. In particular, the staff is working with machine learning researchers to find ways to quickly identify latitude and longitude information for most stops based on the description provided by officers.

Ken Barone, Matt Ross, and Jesse Kalinowski have submitted a policy paper about the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project to the journal, "Criminology and Public Policy." It was accepted and will be published in October. A copy of the published article will be shared with advisory board members.

There were no additional announcements and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.