



Minutes

Thursday, April 8, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom

Present: William Dyson (Chair), Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Jim Fazzalano, Commissioner James Rovella, Brian Foley, Chief Neil Dryfe, Rashad Glass, Claudine Fox, Chief Louis Fusaro, Michael Gailor, Tanya Hughes, Marc Pelka, Dr. Cato Laurencin, Cheryl Sharp, Michelle Riodan-Nold, Tamara Lanier, Shannon Trice, Werner Oyanadel, Steve Ginsburg, Kathryn Overturf, Rob Klin, Hector Glynn (Guest).

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. *Chair Dyson convened the meeting at 10:05am. Members introduced themselves.*
- II. Approval of the February 4, 2021 meeting minutes
 - a. *A motion was made by Michael Gailor and seconded by Chief Neil Dryfe. The minutes were approved via voice vote.*
- III. Congressional Subcommittee Testimony update
 - a. *Ken Barone updated members about the testimony he provided before the House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee on Highways and Transit. This subcommittee oversees NHTSA programs and the hearing focused on the reauthorization of the Section 1906 program, which funds the work done by the advisory board. A copy of Ken's testimony and video of the hearing can be found here:
<https://transportation.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/examining-equity-in-transportation-safety-enforcement>*
- IV. Policy Work Group Update
 - a. *Pedestrian Stop Data Collection Definition: The Policy Work Group met several times to develop a recommendation regarding the definition of a pedestrian stop for the purposes of collecting pedestrian stop information. The definition endorsed by the work group reads as follows"*

“Officer-initiated pedestrian stop” means a detention of a pedestrian by a law enforcement officer, not associated with a call for service, when the detention results in a citation, an arrest, frisk, or search of the pedestrian’s body or property. The term does not apply to detentions for routine searches performed at the point of entry to or exit from a controlled area and arrests or searches pursuant to a warrant issued by a court.

A motion was made by Michael Gailor and seconded by Dr. Cato Laurencin to make a recommendation to the legislature that the Alvin W. Penn be amended to include the collection of pedestrian stop information, as defined by the advisory board. Any modifications to the Alvin W. Penn law should not go into effect for 18-24 months upon passage to allow for sufficient time to make modifications to the system and properly training police officers throughout the state. The recommendation was unanimously endorsed by the advisory board.

V. 2020 Traffic Stop Data Summary

- a. *Ken Barone provided members with an update on the 2020 traffic stop data. There were 241,384 traffic stops reported by police in 2020. That is a 53% reduction in traffic stops from the previous year. The decrease in traffic stops began in the middle of March 2020, which corresponds with the beginning of lockdowns related to the pandemic. There were almost no traffic stops in April 2020. Traffic stops remained at a repressed level through the remainder of the year.*

VI. Preliminary Wethersfield 5-year analysis presentation

- a. *Matt Ross and Jesse Kalinowski completed their analysis of disparities in Wethersfield’s border patrol enforcement. They used a technique known as regression discontinuity design to examine the racial and ethnic composition of traffic stops along Wethersfield’s border. The technique is used to ask whether the observed enforcement activity by Wethersfield is justifiable based on stops made at nearby locations by other police agencies. Researchers examined whether there was a discontinuous break from the estimated trend at the border of Wethersfield and a neighboring town. Summary findings were provided to the advisory board.*

Chair Dyson requested that an ad-hoc work group be developed to review the findings and determine the next steps that the advisory board should take. Project staff said that they would send an invitation to interested members and schedule a meeting in the coming weeks.

VII. General Discussion

- a. *The 2019 Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings Draft Report has been completed and identified the Old Saybrook Police Department as requiring additional follow-up analysis. The project staff has scheduled a meeting with police administrators for later in the month.*

There was no other general discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.