

**Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority**

**Minutes**

**Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Data Use and Collection Task Force Meeting**

Pursuant to section (h-1) of the Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Statistical Study 625 ILCS 5/11-212 (h-1), P.A. 101-24

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Location

Via WebEx Video Conference/Teleconference

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Jack McDevitt calls the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and asks General Counsel Dawn English to call the roll. Quorum was achieved.

**Attendees**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task Force Member Attendance** | **Present** | **Telephone** | **Absent** |
| Assistant Professor Felipe Goncalves, UCLA | X |  |  |
| Professor Jack McDevitt, Northeastern University | X |  |  |
| Professor Tyrone Forman, UIC | X |  |  |
| Colonel Isaiah Vega, Illinois State Police | X |  |  |
| Commander Stephen Chung, Chicago Police Department | X |  |  |
| Chief Steven Stelter, Illinois Assoc. of Chiefs of Police | X |  |  |
| Director Jim Kaitschuk, Illinois Sheriffs’ Assoc. | X |  |  |
| Second Vice President Dan Gorman, Chicago FOP | X |  |  |
| Second Vice President Keith Turney, Illinois FOP | X |  |  |
| Director Khadine Bennett, ACLU | X |  |  |
| President Teresa Haley, Springfield NAACP | X |  |  |
| Senior Counsel Fred Tsao, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights | X |  |  |
| Director Esther Franco-Payne, Cabrini Green Legal Aid |  |  | X |
| Reverend Ciera Bates Chamberlain, Live Free Illinois | X |  |  |
| Desmon Yancy, Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability |  |  | X |

**Also present were:**

Timothy Lavery – ICJIA Research Director

Jessica Reichert – ICJIA Research Manager

Dawn English – ICJIA General Counsel

Emilee Green – ICJIA Research Analyst

Austin Randolph – Springfield NAACP

**Welcoming Remarks**

Ms. Reichert begins by giving a brief introduction of herself and ICJIA for the new members of the Task Force. She also notes that the meeting is being recorded through WebEx. She reminds members that ICJIA will be handling the administrative side of the Task Force and finishes by introducing ICJIA’s new Research Director, Timothy Lavery. She then hands over the meeting to the Chair, Dr. Jack McDevitt.

**Introductions**

Dr. McDevitt starts off the meeting by asking Ms. Green to introduce some of the new members of the Task Force. These members include Commander Stephen Chung, Reverend Ciera Bates Chamberlain, and Desmon Yancy.

Afterward, Dr. McDevitt asks Ms. Green to give an update on a grant opportunity that ICJIA is applying for. The purpose is for ICJIA to undertake a 12-month project that will use publicly available Illinois Department of Transportation data and transform it so that members of the public, researchers, and policymakers can have easier access and perform their own analyses using this data.

**Data Collection Discussion**

Dr. McDevitt then speaks to the group about the Illinois Traffic Stop data sheet that is used to collect traffic stop data in Illinois. The purpose of this is for the group to discuss any potential changes that should be made to the data sheet to eventually recommend in the final report. Dr. McDevitt asks if it would be easier to record the time that a stop was made and when the call was cleared, rather than having to calculate the duration of the stop.

Next, the group discussed whether or not reporting the make and model of a vehicle that is being stopped is significant. Ms. Haley felt that recording the make and model is important for members of her community, as the NAACP has received complaints from citizens who felt they were only pulled over for the model of the car they were driving. Mr. Kaitschuk noted that when the police run a license plate, the model of the car may not be automatically captured. Dr. Goncalves also noted that while this data would be interesting, it may be challenging to analyze.

Dr. McDevitt then asks the group to discuss issues with reporting race during a traffic stop. Dr. Goncalves says that based on his experience, race can be reported inaccurately because of an officer’s lack of accurate judgment during their traffic stop. For example, there is a lack of reporting of the Hispanic race as officers usually resort to reporting White, Black, or Asian races. Task Force members suggested to have a checkbox that says “other.” Allowing officers to check multiple boxes for those that identify as multiracial was suggested as well. Another suggestion was to have a checkbox that says “MENA” or Middle Eastern and North African, as this is a category that members of the community have requested. The Task Force decided that they will return to this discussion in the next meeting.

Mr. Gorman suggests that for the “Reason for Stop” section of the data sheet, it might be good to include an option that reads “Compliance Violation” in addition to the others. Mr. Gorman also asks if it would be alright to check multiple boxes for this category. Dr. McDevitt adds that in the “Result of Stop” section of the form, there is no “Arrest” option. Mr. Stelter agrees that there should be a fourth option added that says “Arrest,” as this is a frequent occurrence during a traffic stop.

Next, Dr. McDevitt leads the group to look at the following section of the Traffic Stop data sheet, which is the “Searches” section. Dr. Forman asks if it would be possible to look at some examples of other locations and see how they have their forms organized to get a better sense for comparison.

Dr. Goncalves asks if instead of having just a “Drugs” category, would it help to specify as marijuana or any other drug that may have been obtained during a search. Mr. Gorman says that Illinois does have a distinction between marijuana charges and other controlled substances. He agrees that there should be a distinction.

Mr. Tsao asks if it would be helpful or useful to record whether there was a dashcam or bodycam in use during a traffic stop. Mr. Gorman notes that there is a law that will come into effect soon that requires all officers to be equipped with bodycams. Mr. Randolph says that he still thinks that having a section for this on the traffic stop document is important. He suggests that it would give citizens a better sense of security in case the footage needs to be reviewed.

Dr. McDevitt asks the group if they have any last thoughts. The group briefly discusses some issues that should be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Dr. McDevitt then turns it over to Ms. English for final steps.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. English calls for a motion to approve the minutes taken on December 16, 2020. Mr. Gorman motioned to approve the minutes and Dr. Goncalves seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

Ms. English called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Haley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Forman. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.