

**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, September 22, 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. General Counsel Dawn English calls the roll. Quorum is achieved.

**Attendees**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 Karl Walldorf, 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 |  |  |
| Dale Lichtenstein for Interim Director Steven Fus, 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

Dawn English – ICJIA General Counsel

Emilee Green – ICJIA Research Analyst

Austin Randolph – Springfield NAACP

Rachel Murphy – Illinois ACLU

Roger Huff – Public representative

**Approval of Minutes**

General Counsel Dawn English asks if there is a motion to accept the minutes of the June 30th, 2021 meeting. Mr. Turney motions to accept the minutes, and Mr. Vega seconds. The motion passes and the minutes were approved.

**Introduction**

Ms. Green begins the meeting by giving a brief update on two grants that were awarded to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The first is from the Illinois Department of Transportation to examine racial profiling in Illinois, and the second is from the Bureau of Justice Statistics for the visualization of traffic stop data.

**Presentation**

Then, Mr. Lavery and Ms. Green give a presentation on Traffic Stop Disparity Measurement and Data Reporting as a way to remind the task force of benchmarking methodology and disparity identification. Mr. Lavery starts by explaining how to calculate a disparity index, which can indicate whether there is racial bias in stops. Mr. Lavery also explains population benchmarks and how these are calculated for each racial/ethnic group. Ms. Green briefly explains that this process may seem complex, and that although Census data seems like an easy and accessible benchmark, this data does not tell us much information about the actual driving population. Field observations, while providing a more accurate picture of the driving population, can be challenging to use as it is quite costly, time-intensive, and potentially dangerous.

**Group Discussion**

Mr. Goncalves starts off the discussion by proposing a potential benchmark for how to go about this data collection/measurement in Illinois. He suggests looking at the racial composition of car accidents and claims that this was effective in a previous study he did in Florida.

Mr. Lavery follows up by asking the task force if they think it would be beneficial to get more granular with the data collection, rather than it being done at the county/city level**.** Based on group responses, the task force suggested taking a closer look into this subject. The more granular-level analysis can be achieved by potentially including crime rate or perhaps the traffic fatality rate in a certain area.

Moving forward with the presentation, Mr. Lavery gives an overview of how to access and interpret some of the findings from traffic and pedestrian stop data that can be found on the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) website. Ms. Green then follows up by giving information on traffic and pedestrian stop data collection and utilization at the national level for comparison purposes.

Mr. Lavery asks the group their opinion of what they think could be done to improve the reports that better service law enforcement agencies and help decision-making.

Ms. Haley brings up an example of a state convention that had 10 police chiefs present from around the state of Illinois. They said that since the most recent report has come out, they have made the effort to look more closely at the data with the purpose of combating it in their communities in order to make sure that all racial/ethnic groups are being treated fairly in terms of traffic and pedestrian stops. Ms. Haley adds that the chiefs were surprised by the level of magnitude that their cities and counties were called out.

Mr. McDevitt suggests that the task force should consider thinking about improved or more visually appealing ways to illustrate the traffic and pedestrian stop data instead of having to deal with the robust and confusing data portrayal formats that Illinois has been using.

Mr. Walldorf then explains that police chiefs should, on their own, feel the responsibility of taking a deeper look into the traffic and pedestrian stop data reports when they are made available. Based on his experience, most of the chiefs he has discussed this matter with do these things; however, there are some outliers that do not.

Mr. Lavery then follows up on that point by asking the task force if they think that the data collection should be expanded so that there is more personally identifiable information available regarding specific officers or departments. He adds that this may help out with being able to identify officers that are more involved in biased policing versus those that are not.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Huff makes an initial comment on data retention and how he was able to look into the general orders of certain departments. Mr. Huff found that they are only keeping traffic stop data for one year and then it is destroyed. He asks if there is value in having this type of data retained for longer periods of time.

He then applauds the Task Force for considering recommendations on how stop data information is communicated both back to the agencies and to the general public. One point he makes is to include within a data dashboard a way to compare agencies. Mr. Huff also thinks it would be helpful to create some sort of enhanced data model through an Application Programming Interface (API) so that other organizations have the means to extract the data through the API.

Mr. Huff’s final point is that there is also information on the stop card for beat information. He thinks that it would be useful in considering the beats where there are serious issues, particularly to the chiefs.

**Adjournment**

General Counsel Dawn English asks if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gorman moves the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Haley seconds that motion. The meeting is adjourned.