

**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, December 15, 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 1:32 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 |  |  |
| Robert Moore for President Teresa Haley, Springfield NAACP | X |  |  |
| Senior Counsel Fred Tsao, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights | X |  |  |
| 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

Dawn English, ICJIA

Emilee Green, ICJIA

Sean Berberet, IDOT

Rachel Murphy, ACLU

Austin Randolph, NAACP

Roger Huff – Public representative

**Approval of Minutes**

General Counsel Dawn English asks if there is a motion to accept the minutes of the September 22nd, 2021 meeting. Mr. Turney motions to accept the minutes, and Mr. Forman seconds. The motion passes and the minutes are approved.

**Opening Remarks**

Mr. McDevitt begins by directing members’ attention to the agenda timeline and passes the meeting to Mr. Lavery. Mr. Lavery notes that this meeting is for pulling together the final recommendations of the Task Force and will focus on several meeting topics for the group to discuss, as well as opportunity for members to bring up their own discussion points.

**Introduction from Sean Berberet**

Then, Mr. Lavery hands the presentation over to Sean Berberet, the newest stop study specialist at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Sean explains that he will be sitting in on the meeting to answer questions about the stop study and to begin brainstorming how some of the group’s recommendations may be implemented by IDOT. Mr. Berberet also notes the upcoming Racial Profiling Prevention and Data Oversight Board which will be convening soon to advise IDOT on other strategies to address and eliminate racial profiling.

**Updated Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Forms**

Mr. McDevitt directs Ms. Green to cover the next item on the agenda—the updated traffic and pedestrian stop forms. Ms. Green shares samples of the updated forms based upon conversations from previous meetings. She emphasizes that these are not final changes, but that this is an opportunity to share thoughts before the final voting of recommendations occurs. The group discusses expanding the demographic information available on the forms, as well as other variables related to body camera footage, if force was used, separating contraband, and if an arrest was made.

Mr. Vega suggests that the goal of the study should use officers’ perceptions, so asking those stopped about their demographics may be offensive and inappropriate. Mr. Turney notes the burden on law enforcement of expanding the forms with categories that may not benefit stop analyses. The group collectively notes that legislative action may be needed for some of the recommendations.

**Audit/Agency Compliance Follow-Up**

Mr. McDevitt then moves the discussion to law enforcement agency compliance. He notes that agencies currently have decent compliance on traffic stop reporting but pedestrian stop reporting is far lower. Mr. Walldorf notes that the pedestrian stop statute wording only includes a subset of pedestrian stops—those where a person is stopped and searched. Mr. Kaitschuk points out that the original goal was to address stop-and-frisk and to prevent pedestrian stop reporting from being too burdensome on officers. Ms. Bennett notes that compromise in the original legislation is what led to the narrower definition for pedestrian stops.

Mr. Berberet notes that although he is newer to his position and is still learning, he has noticed that many agencies have challenges uploading the data properly for the stop study program. Mr. Vega says that agencies’ budgets are often top priority and that incentivizing or restricting grants based upon compliance may be one strategy for improving compliance.

**Reporting and Measurement for Pedestrian Stops**

Mr. McDevitt hands the presentation back to Mr. Lavery for a discussion on the reporting and measurement of pedestrian stops. Mr. Lavery first highlights the legislation mandating the collection of pedestrian stops, namely for frisks and probable cause searches. He asks the group if there are any definitional ambiguities, as well as what the group thinks should be the threshold for a reportable police/citizen encounter. Mr. Kaitschuk and Mr. Turney feel that the pedestrian stop definition does not need to be expanded unless agencies are having problems with it. Ms. Murphy notes there can be some confusion with the current definition since it does not apply to all pedestrian stops which can create misperceptions of what data is being collected.

Mr. Lavery then forwards the discussion to benchmarking of pedestrian stops. He explains that the current stop study consultants recognize some of the limitations of pedestrian benchmarking and asks the group if there are recommendations on how it could be measured. Mr. Walldorf explains that police administration find the current benchmarking frustrating, as in many locations, pedestrians often come from outside the community. He says his organization would like to see a broader pedestrian benchmark.

**Catch-All Recommendations Discussion**

Next, Mr. McDevitt directs Ms. Green to lead a catch-all recommendation discussion to allow members to bring up any final topics for the group before the voting meeting. She notes that some law enforcement had mentioned asking drivers for their race, rather than using their perceptions, and asks if there should be added clarification on the forms. Mr. Turney explains the original intent of the legislation was to capture officer perception. He also notes that many officers cannot tell a driver’s race before they interact with the driver. Mr. McDevitt notes that one recommendation may be for more post-stop analyses, such as the decision to give a warning versus a citation.

Ms. Green then gives the group the opportunity to share any final thoughts before the voting meeting. Mr. Turney says that he is grateful for the different perspectives of the Task Force, but he would like to share the frustration that many officers feel doing this data collection. Mr. Moore says that the community is also concerned that the data year-to-year continues to show disparities. Ms. Bennett adds that even in communities showing no disparities, having that data is helpful for open communication between the public and law enforcement. Mr. McDevitt suggests that Illinois’ presentation of stop data is not very accessible, so recommendations might look to address this.

**Next Meeting – Voting**

Mr. Lavery points out that the final report will be due in March to the Governor and General Assembly. He explains the process following this meeting, which will shift focus to drafting recommendations and allowing group feedback. He says the goal of the Task Force is not to make whole cloth changes but to hopefully align on improvements to the current system.

**Public Comment**

Ms. English calls for public comment. Mr. Huff expresses appreciation for the work of the Task Force and suggests that data collection should include boats, bicycles, scooters, and other forms of transportation that are not currently collected or analyzed.

**Adjournment**

Mr. McDevitt calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Haley motions to adjourn, and Mr. Vega seconds that motion. The meeting is adjourned.