

**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 16, 2020

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Location

Via WebEx Video Conference/Teleconference

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

After a brief introduction to the meeting, Acting Research Director Jessica Reichert at ICJIA asked General Counsel Dawn English at ICJIA to call the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and call the roll. Quorum was 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 |  |  |
| Lt. Colonel Mike Gillock for Colonel Isaiah Vega, Illinois State Police | X |  |  |
| Deputy Chief Sabih Khan, 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 |

**Also present were:**

Jessica Reichert – ICJIA Acting Research Director

Dawn English – ICJIA General Counsel

Emilee Green – ICJIA Research Analyst

**Welcoming Remarks**

Ms. Reichert begins by stating that Acting Executive Director Charise Williams was to make a brief introduction, but she was unable to join the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. English calls for a motion to approve the minutes taken on September 23, 2020. Mr. Gorman motioned to approve the minutes and Dr. McDevitt seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Introductions**

Ms. Reichert asks everyone to give a brief introduction of themselves by stating their name, agency, title, and what they do for work. After introductions, Ms. Reichert asks Ms. English to lead the group into how the Chair will be elected.

**Electing a Chair**

Ms. English leads the group into how the Chair will be elected. Ms. English asks whether there is someone who would like to nominate themselves or someone else. Dr. Forman nominates Dr. McDevitt. Ms. English calls for a motion for Dr. McDevitt to be elected to Chair. Mr. Turney motioned to elect Professor McDevitt to Chair and Dr. Forman seconded.

**Research Presentation**

Dr. McDevitt gives a brief presentation on the lessons he has learned thus far from his traffic stop analyses in other states. He begins by stating that some of his past projects were done in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, at the Seattle Police Department, and Douglas County, Kansas. In addition, Dr. McDevitt speaks on the various factors that disparities can result from and notes the importance of utilizing social science to try to find solutions as to why disparities exist.

Dr. McDevitt continues with the rest of his research presentation which primarily roots its focus on specific lessons learned during his previous studies. For example, police agencies vary on the extent of disparities in traffic enforcement; no benchmark is completely accurate; the importance of looking at post-stop decisions (e.g., citation, warning, or search); data sufficiency; police reaction towards being evaluated by data of this nature; community reaction towards traffic/pedestrian stop results; and assisting law enforcement management based officer activity data.

**Discussion**

During Dr. McDevitt’s presentation, Mr. Turney asks whether influential factors such as major employers, universities, or different forms of entertainment affect results seen in a city. This information assists with the demographics of a city and allows for the results to be addressed more effectively when data collection takes place. Dr. McDevitt confirms that such factors should be considered in the data collection process.

Mr. Turney also asks if the cases of unproductive searches can be considered as an indicator of disparities in police searches. Dr. McDevitt thinks that unproductive searches are particularly things that are indicators of disparities, especially towards people of color. He adds that everyone should strive towards seeking out the best practices that police departments exhibit and discover ways to spread the productivity across all police departments. This would improve the communities as a whole and strengthen police-citizen relationships.

Mr. Turney goes on to ask if this type of data collection is a help or hindrance to the relationship between communities and the police. Dr. McDevitt thinks that this type of data collection is a help because it is much better for people to notice that the police are trying to see if there are problems in their agency, rather than saying there are no problems.

Dr. Goncalves asks what the breakdown was of departments that voluntarily asked to have their data looked at, and how much of it is state legislation that is mandating these departments to be involved in this type of data collection. Dr. McDevitt says that a majority of jurisdictions got involved because of a statutory mandate or threat of a statutory mandate. He also adds that things are slowly changing, and some police chiefs are now curious as to what their officers are doing in certain circumstances.

Dr. Goncalves also asks about how much freedom there is to actually provide officer-level feedback on these kinds of issues (pertaining to traffic stops/searches). Dr. McDevitt states that when police chiefs are presented with a disparity within their department (based on data), they immediately want to know who is causing it. With a lack of freedom to provide officer-level feedback, there is a lack of accountability that one cannot get to and it becomes more difficult to scope out who might be causing the disparity in a specific circumstance.

Dr. Goncalves brings up how Dr. McDevitt discussed differences in the number of officers in different neighborhoods and how that can drive some of the observed disparities. Dr. Goncalves then asks Dr. McDevitt if he has ever gotten any push-back from departments that are utilizing disparate tactics and assert that these tactics are necessary crimefighting strategies. Dr. McDevitt says that you do get this kind of push-back from various departments. He also adds that most of the time there is very limited traffic enforcement in areas with high levels of crime due to the focus on fighting crime.

Lastly, Mr. Turney wants to know about the depth of research and knowledge on pedestrian stops. Dr. McDevitt says that the research and knowledge is shallow overall. He mentions that areas like New York are ones with the greatest contribution to pedestrian data because of things like stop-and-frisk and zero-tolerance policing.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

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