

IDOT Traffic Stop Data Task Force - Bi-monthly Report to City Council

Please accept this interim progress report from the IDOT Traffic Stop Data Task Force.

Our progress has been steady and we are starting to draft our report. Here are some highlights of our work for the past few months:

- Our "Statistical Analysis" subcommittee has completed its analysis of the existing data and is currently drafting its preliminary findings to be included in our final report to Council. There is some additional data that we are hoping to acquire from our "Police Procedure and Public Engagement" subcommittee (see below) and proceed to analyze and include in our report if the data can be retrieved in time and there is enough of it to do a reasonable analysis.

- Our "Police Procedure and Public Engagement" subcommittee has been working with the Police Department to gather additional information for our report. One specific item is that additional data is to be collected during traffic stops to determine the whether the motivation for the stop (or "type of stop") was traffic safety, crime control, or some other law enforcement objective. This subcommittee, through discussions with our "Social Science" subcommittee and the Task Force as a whole, has determined that the type of patrol may be an important indication of why particular areas of the community experience more traffic stops. We are hopeful that this data can be collected for at least a few months and analyzed by our "Statistical Analysis" subcommittee, and included in our final report. The "Police Procedure and Public Engagement" subcommittee has also been formulating questions for the Police Department (potentially both to leadership and to patrol officers) that will assist us in our conclusions.

- Our "Community Impact" subcommittee will be holding our first "Traffic Stop Impact Town Hall meeting", scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2015, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Urbana Civic Center. For our final report, we are collecting information regarding the impacts that disparate numbers of traffic stops have on members of our community. While we have been reviewing the literature through our "Social Science" subcommittee, the Task Force wanted to collect first-hand accounts from community members regarding the impacts. We plan additional community interactions and will include our findings in our final report.

- Finally, our "Social Science" subcommittee has been contributing to each of the other subcommittees with a great deal of excellent research information, as outlined above. The research has been invaluable to our formulation of questions that each of the other subcommittees has been answering.

We understand that the deadline for completion of our work, per Resolution number 2014-01-002R, is April 30, 2015, only 10 weeks from now. While we are making good progress, and it is possible that we could complete our work and deliver our report by that date, that deadline is very tight. Some extra time would be extremely helpful in order for both the "Police Procedure and Public Engagement" and "Community Impact" subcommittees to collect the additional data they already have in the works, and

for that data to be properly analyzed and added to our report. Also, the Council should be aware that while the Resolution was passed in January of 2014, by the time final appointments were approved and Task Force members were organized, our first introductory meeting did not take place until June 18, 2014, and work did not really begin in earnest until July of 2014, so we have really only been working for 7 months. We would like to request of the Council an extension of two (2) months to complete our work, with a new deadline of June 30, 2015. We feel that this would allow us to prepare a much more complete and helpful report to the Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Resnick, Chair
for the IDOT Traffic Stop Data Task Force

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