Proposed changes to the Urbana IDOT traffic stop task force preliminary report

Changes 1-4 below are proposed changes based on the public comment suggestions made by Durl Kruse on 7/7/15. Change 5 below is my (Andy Charles) suggested change.

Continuation and Expansion of Recently Instituted Changes

• The collection of traffic stop "category" data as instituted is a good addition to the data collected by the Police Department. These categories should be reviewed and changed as necessary. The categories currently being collected are: T-identified traffic issue, P Targeted Patrol and CC Community Caretaking. Officers have been instructed to use the following criteria to determine which category the stop falls into. T is defined as stops that are made because the Officer observed unsafe driving. P is an investigatory stop made to address a problem, related to a person or location, which the Officer is aware of. CC is a stop that is intended to be informational in nature (are you aware that you have a headlight out). A CC stop is not intended to be investigatory in nature. A second motivation for a CC stop is enforcement of administrative traffic laws (expired registration). In addition to category of stop, additional pieces of data (for example, reason for length of stop) should also be collected.

• ~~Training on the proper use of traffic stops appears to be effective; this should be continued. Such training should include information on the negative impacts of traffic stops, particularly for African American Drivers.~~

The Urbana Police department has conducted department wide training on traffic stops. The syllabus for the completed training includes the following overview of the training:

Overview: An overall review of traffic stops including a background on why stops are made as well as the mechanics and philosophies of making stops. Why it is important to make stops, considerations when making stops, formats for interaction on stops and the self review of stops will be covered. A hands on practical will accompany the discussion and include traffic stop tactics for single Officer, Multi Officer and Known risk stops.

The following points were stressed in training and are pulled from the training syllabus:

Ask yourself, Did this stop serve the purpose that I made it for. Believe in what we do, if you are making meaningful stops you will prevent a death or life changing injury in your career. You will help

the community by solving patrol problems and you will
professionally/positively interact with the public.

Ask yourself, was this stop consistent and fair, both are necessary.

Training must continue. The emphasis of future training should be on meaningful, professional stops and understanding the full effect of making stops. Traffic stop training should be combined with implicit bias training with a goal of mitigating the negative impacts of disparate traffic stops.

• A key recommendation is to hire or enlist the services of a statistician to provide the Police Department with an annual assessment of trends in traffic stops ~~so that they can be aware of trends. and traffic stops and~~ Trends should be examined for racial disparities. If disparities are identified, they should be examined for a link to training, current policing tactics or biases. ~~any biases that may exist in training and policing.~~

• The City Council or an appointed commission should review statistical data regarding traffic stops bi-annually or annually and publicly report ~~on progress.~~ whether progress in reducing traffic stop racial disparities is occurring.

• Statistical evidence should be gathered on how often traffic stops lead to arrests. ~~for non traffic related crimes, and that those~~ The arrests should be classified according to traffic crimes, warrant arrests, drug crimes, property crimes, and violent or weapons crimes. The arrests should be further classified as to the type of stop that was made; traffic, patrol or community caregiving. Gathering these particular statistics would permit an evaluation of the efficacy of investigatory stops as a crime fighting tool, which could be used as a basis for future policy decisions.