

Response to Durl's recommendations 5-7 8-19-15

5. **Durl** wrote: Page 29 Bullets Eight and Nine Recommendations:

I believe it would be a mistake to suggest high fines and unaffordable insurance only affect African-American and Latino drivers when the Task Force is primarily focusing on poverty or low income in these two recommendations. All races of poor people are impacted negatively by high fines and insurance costs compared to people with higher financial means. I would suggest you consider the following minor change to these two recommendations:

replace *African-American and Latino drivers* with ***“low income drivers”***.

Eric responded “I agree”

6. **Durl** wrote: Page 29 Last Bullet Recommendation:

You suggest the *“Police Department”* should undertake a moratorium on the issuing of citations for cannabis possession. I do not believe that is an appropriate decision to ask the police department to make. The community should make that type of decision and the UPD should support and implement it. Your recommendation also leaves the action hanging in the air because the UPD may choose to do nothing, which I think is their logical choice, especially without first acquiring a city council endorsement on such a volatile topic. I would suggest the following language change:

The City Council should direct the UPD to undertake a moratorium on the issuing of citations for cannabis possession when it is discovered in the course of a traffic stop for one year. The UPD will then report the effects of the moratorium in relationship to violent and property crime data, improved community safety, and how reallocation of police resources and time was used to address other community needs.

Eric responded: I agree that it should be up to the Council. My suggested wording is:

We suggest that the City Council request the UPD conduct an experiment of one year duration in which cannabis possession uncovered in the course of a traffic stop would result in neither a citation nor an arrest, unless the stop was motivated by impaired driving. The results of this experiment should be evaluated after one year.

7. **Durl** wrote: Page 30 Last Bullet Recommendation:

Just to strengthen and clarify the purpose of the community meetings, I suggest the following:

“The Police Department should assist and participate in a series of meetings with community members to discuss ways to improve police community relations, how to decrease racial disparities in policing practices, and minimize the disparate economic impacts on minorities in Urbana.”

Eric responded: It appears this change has been made