



IDOT TRAFFIC STOP DATA TASK FORCE

**CITY OF URBANA
HUMAN RELATIONS OFFICE
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61801**

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PUBLIC COMMENT COVER PAGE

**THE ATTACHED IS PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE
“PRELIMINARY REPORT” PUBLISHED ON 07/06/2015
BY THE URBANA IDOT TRAFFIC STOP DATA TASK FORCE**

Comments Submitted by:	Durl Kruse
Date Received:	September 2, 2015

TASK FORCE INFORMATION:

The I.D.O.T. Traffic Stop Data Task Force was established by Urbana City Council Resolution NO. 2014-01-002.

The Task Force is charged with identifying and studying any racial disparities that may exist in local traffic stop data supplied annually to the City by the Illinois Department of Transportation (I.D.O.T.), and attempting to find the source and cause of any disparity. The Task Force is directed to examine multiple aspects of the traffic stop data, including race, driver age, residence, stop time, stop location, the reason for the stop, vehicle age, and any other information the Task Force finds to be useful. The Task Force will also look beyond traffic stop data to consider census and unemployment data, high school graduation rates, and incarceration statistics from the September 2013 study of the Champaign County justice system.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TASK FORCE:

On the web, visit <http://urbanaininois.us/boards/idot-traffic-stop-data-task-force>; or

Contact the Urbana Human Relations Office by mail to: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801-3336; by email to acweck@urbanaininois.us; by telephone to (217) 384-2455; or by fax to: (217) 328-8288.

Concern:

Simply designating traffic stops as Traffic, Patrol, and Community Caregiving on the warning or citation ticket (although an improvement in data collection) will not provide a complete picture or obtain the necessary information to determine if an investigative component also occurred as part of either Traffic or Community Caregiving stops.

Under the current system, the Patrol stop is generally understood as being an investigatory stop, but not the Traffic or Community Caregiving stops. Yet these two types of stops at times can and do evolve into an investigative stop. This is a potential shortcoming and a key missing piece of the current data collection process. To document if an investigative component occurs regardless of the type of stop, a brief and simple data gathering line needs be added to the ticket (See recommendation below).

Rationale:

Statistical evidence must be gathered as to whether an investigative component occurred as part of any of the three types of traffic stops (Traffic, Patrol, and Community Caregiving); and if so, the reason for initiating the investigative component. Gathering this information will enable a future statistician to determine whether stops involving an investigative component correlate or not to traffic stop racial disparities, whether this tactic helps or not to reduce crime, and also validate whether traffic stop investigations are appropriately initiated by the legal requirement and standard of “reasonable suspicion”.

Recommendation: Add the following to the warning or citation form:

Check box if investigative component occurred as part of stop. Reason (s) for initiating: _____
