



## MINUTES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom

Advisory Board Members Present: William Dyson (Chair), Andrew Clark, Tanya Hughes, Cheryl Sharp, Chief Fusaro, Kathryn Overturf, Rashad Glass, Robert Klin, Commissioner James Rovella, Chief Dryfe, Chief Riddick, Tamara Lanier, Gail Hardy, Stacey Manware, Michael Gailor

Staff: Ken Barone, Jim Fazzalano, Natalie Casanova

Guests: Maurice Reaves, Amelia, CT-N

I. Welcome & Introductions

- a. *Chair Dyson convened the meeting at 10:02am. Members introduced themselves.*

II. Approval of the December 22, 2021, meeting minutes

- a. *A motion was made by Tanya Hughes and seconded by Gail Hardy to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved by a voice vote.*

III. Old Business

a. Hartford PD 2020 Data Compliance Issue- Update

*Ken Barone updated members on the status of the Hartford PD data reporting failure. Hartford failed to report over half of their traffic stops in 2020. After the advisory board's December meeting, the department was able to submit approximately 6,000 missing records. In total, the agency submitted approximately 12,000 of 13,000 traffic stops. We are working to find out why the remaining records were incomplete and what officers they were from. We are analyzing the new data and should have the results of the newly added data by our next meeting. Ken indicated that he was pleased that the agency was able to catch-up on the reporting, but was troubled that such a significant reporting issue*

*occurred in the first place. We are in the process of auditing 2020 data and pushing Hartford to finish reporting by February.*

*Chief Riddick asked what the explanation provided by Hartford was for the missing reports. Ken Barone informed him that there was no specific explanation provided. However, it is possible that the agency dealt with staffing issues related to COVID-19, but it was unclear.*

*Tamara Lanier mentioned that in past when this issue has arisen, we have met with departments and granted them assistance. She further asked if this issue was related to the pandemic or a lack of interest.*

*Ken Barone informed members that this is an issue that we have had in the past with the Hartford PD. We have always been concerned with agencies that rely on paper reporting systems to submit data, there are three agencies that use this method. Hartford recently adopted a new system and will at least move away from paper, if not entirely. It is detrimental to the process because here we are over a year later with officers and we can't go back to an officer asking if they can fill out forms on reports, they made six months to a year ago. Relying on people's memories is not going to work.*

*Stacey Manware stated that one of the solutions is electronic citations. Hartford has recently chosen Central Square as vendor which has not been successful in deploying the e-citation system yet. She stated that fully integrating electronic citations is a way to prevent this issue from occurring in the future. It's worth a discussion with the department, we have the technology developed and the funding. From a highway safety perspective and for the project it is beneficial.*

*Ken Barone stated that he agreed with Stacey Manware. We have struggled with Central Square as an entity with regards to citations and collecting data. This project over the course of ten years have spent over \$600,000 to purchase citation printers, we have purchased equipment and we need to keep working towards 100% e-citation.*

*Jim Fazzalaro mentioned that we're dealing with a unique situation in Hartford. We have three sets of data for them. We have the original data they entered, we have the 6,000 data reports they just submitted and then we have the 1,000 records that could not be submitted due to missing information. We have a lot of work to do to figure out what the problem really is in Hartford. One of the problems is that they never took the step to tell us that they were in trouble. It's disturbing because we must rely on the agency to communicate with us and now that we know that they spent this time catching up on 2020, we know that they're behind for the 2021 reports. It begins to really hamstring the entire program not having*

*reliable data. The fundamental first step is having reliable data in the system. We need to get some feedback on what their real perception is on this process. We have not been able to rely on the traffic stops in Hartford for the past six years. It takes time and effort to see what's happening here, are there officers that aren't doing what they're supposed to do or is it a systematic problem.*

*Ken Barone mentions that he'd like to propose that the advisory board write a letter to the agency outlining their concerns and inviting them to speak about this issue at our next meeting.*

*Chief Dryfe mentioned that we should notify OPM that Hartford is not in compliance with the statute. I think they're aware of the issues, it's been a struggle with the technology, and I can imagine what the struggle is like, it is something I faced when I came from Cheshire. I don't know how much more needs to be said but I like the idea of Hartford coming to explain for themselves. I think it would benefit the rest of the board members to hear from them. I'm curious as to what can be said other than what they already know.*

*Commissioner Rovella stated that the agencies technological infrastructure problems made then doomed in the very beginning of the project. When you talk about the money you've dropped, that's peanuts to them. It's heartening to me that they haven't abandoned the spirit of the law. We have to put our money where our mouth is and support these departments financially. We can criticize them all we want but I think its time to come in and try to help them.*

*Ken Barone stated that he agreed with the comments about the technological obstacles. We know that Hartford does not have all the equipment. The letter will involve figuring out how we can support them and what resources we can give them.*

*Cheryl Sharp stated that obviously these stops are priority. What is not a priority is the reporting of the stops. I agree with Chief Dryfe that the letter should be drafted and then the advisory board can review it. The intention of the Alvin Penn law is to prevent racial profiling and we can't do that without the reliable data.*

*Chief Riddick stated that he agreed with the Commissioner and Chief Dryfe, you can't just jump to conclusions. The priority for the police is priority of life and at the end of the day we must comply with the law. It would be beneficial to have the Chief come and say here's what happened, here's what we can do. They face a lot of economic obstacles and I know that firsthand.*

*Chair Dyson asked if there was any objection to sending a letter to Hartford PD and inviting them to present at our next meeting. There was no objection.*

b. 2021 Traffic Stop Record Totals

- i. *Ken Barone informed members that the project staff is in the middle of completing traffic stop records within the next month. We do know that traffic stops will be over 300,000 in 2021. We are still far below 2019 levels, but we should be above the numbers in 2020. State police had more traffic stops than in 2020. The total number of traffic stops state police made reached 2019 numbers.*

IV. New Business

a. Future Traffic Stop Database Modifications- Policy Work Group proposal

*Ken Barone informed members of the proposed changes recommended by the research team. We can have members think about it and then vote on its next meeting. Realistically we are looking at a 2023 rollout for any of these changes.*

*Chief Dryfe mentioned that the only thing he has any concern about is that everything except for zip code is a drop box or a check box. The zip code is the only manual entry for the police officers and to have a drop down will make it easier and the data more accurate. This is the only field where the officer is doing more than a check box style answer. Ken Barone stated that what they can do is change the zip code entry to name of the town and the vendors will have to make a drop-down option.*

V. General Discussion

a. JJPOC Pedestrian Stop Proposal

*Ken Barone requested that we table this item for next meeting. There was no objection.*

b. Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force Primary/Secondary Stop proposal

*Ken Barone requested that we table this item for next meeting. There was no objection.*

c. Social Media Campaign

i. Advisory Board Spotlight

*Ken Barone informed the members that there will be an upcoming request for a bio and headshot to feature on the project's social media pages.*

*There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.*