



Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project

Thursday, September 6, 2012

10am – 12pm

Legislative Office Building

Room 1D

Meeting Minutes

Present: William Dyson, John DeCarlo, Chris Sedelmaier, Andrew Clark, Ken Barone, Glenn Cassis, Michael Gailor, Werner Oyanadel, Robert Brothers, Sean Thakkar, Thomas Maziarz, Stephen Cox, Aaron Swanson, Jim Fazzalaro, Under Secretary Mike Lawlor, Gabriel Cano, Colonel Danny Stebbins, Joseph Cristalli, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Lynn Blackwell, Sandra Staub, Stephanie Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am

1. Welcome on behalf of Co-Chairs William Dyson and John DeCarlo

The co-chairs, William Dyson and John DeCarlo, welcomed attendees to the advisory board meeting.

2. Approval of May 17, 2012 minutes

A motion was made by Werner Oyanadel and seconded by Michael Gailor to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 17, 2012 and were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

3. Police Survey Update

Jim Fazzalaro provided an update on the survey that was designed for Police Agencies throughout the state to benchmark to current traffic stop data collection system. The survey was finalized by the advisory board as minor suggested changes were made. Survey results should be available by the end of October.

4. Working Group Updates

Data, Methodology and Analysis

The Data, Methodology and Analysis working group has been in the process of determining what data items will be required to be collected during traffic-stops. A preliminary list has been formed to assess what is required by law, potential data items and items no longer being considered. A narrative will be developed as to the final decision of all items that have been considered by the working group.

Jim Fazzalaro explained the working group's efforts to determine data collection at both the pre-stop and post-stop level. It may also be important to better understand the level of discretion by each officer at a traffic stop for a more meaningful analysis.

The advisory board also discussed the idea of collecting the driver's religion at the time of the traffic stop. This data item was being discussed because of the attention it has been given at many of the working group meetings. There are several concerns by select religious groups that they are being profiled based in their religion. It was suggested that training be developed for officers to be more culturally sensitive. There were also several concerns that it would be difficult to collect the driver's religion without the officer guessing. There may be some cases where religious affiliation can be determined based on religious apparel, but that it would be statistically insignificant. It was determined that the working group would continue to discuss concerns presented by all advisory board members.

System and Process

The System and Process working group has been identifying agencies that are not currently included in the law and whether or not it is prudent to assure that they are (for example, university police). The working group is also looking into the complaint process and the most effective ways the public can file a complaint.

Public Awareness

A new website has been developed and will be released to the public once it has been fully updated. The new website for information on the project can be located at www.ctrp3.com.

Andrew Clark explained how the working group is attempting to engage the public in a variety of ways, including focus groups at colleges and universities around the state. The working group is also looking to host public forums later in the fall.

5. Project Update

Jim Fazzalaro updated the advisory board about the project staff's involvement with the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee. The project staff will continue to attend meetings to partner with this work group.

Ken Barone updated the advisory board about the potential working relationship with Northeastern University's Institute on Race and Justice. The project staff has begun

conversations about partnering with the Institute. The project staff is also in the process of working with co-chair John DeCarlo to put together a research team to work on this project. More information will be provided at a future meeting.

The next meeting of the full advisory board will take place on October 4, 2012 at 10:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.