

Interim Police Chief's Vehicle Stops Committee Minutes: DRAFT

October 8, 2019

Mezzanine Conference Room, City Hall

Members Present: Bob Aulgur, Andre Cook, Toni Dukes, Pam Hardin, Don Love, Matthew Nichols, Eric Parsons, Jerome Sally, Tara Warne-Griggs

Members Absent: Dale Roberts

Others Present: CPD Crime Analyst Jerry East; Toni Messina, City Staff Liaison; Andrew (student); Carol Brown; Traci Wilson-Kleekamp; Lynn Maloney

Chair Toni Dukes called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

Agenda

Don motion and Eric second to revise the agenda at each meeting to include agenda items for the following month. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob motion and Eric second to approve the October 8 agenda, as amended, to include agenda items for the Committee's November meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Toni motion and Pam second to accept the September 10, 2019 minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Toni Dukes advised that members of the public attending the meeting could comment at the appropriate time reserved for that purpose on the agenda. She advised the Committee member conversations should take place in public meetings. Members should forward to Toni Messina any materials they wish to share with the whole committee, and Toni will send those to the whole group.

Columbia Community Empowerment Tour De-Briefing

Committee members who visited the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on Sept. 26 and 27 shared their thoughts on the experience.

- The trip opened a lot of people's eyes about why the African-American community feels a certain way about policing – it was good for the community and community leaders
- It will be good to debrief with all those who attended and to see the transformation that a lot of people experienced through deeper understanding – there's a strong co-relation between how and what happened during the active civil rights struggle
- Trip was well-organized - it compelled people to talk about things you usually don't mention socially – people sat with their own on the way down and with other on the way back – lit a fire and has inspired more personal research and fact-finding – we've just scratched the surface
- Everyone brought something different to the trip and now brings it to this table – it's how you feel while you're viewing the displays at the Museum
- Trip raised more questions – is curious to talk with local people, both cops and community members, who lived through the movement – better understands the community as a whole – interesting to see reactions of younger cops not familiar with Missouri's cotton fields
- Gave people an opportunity to see the struggle – learned that what you see on the surface does not necessarily reflect assumptions about a person's experience – good diversity within the group

Members suggested several steps, going forward

- Police training on race relations, not just implicit bias – what does Building Inclusive Communities curriculum, offered to City employees, include? "Diversity" evens things out and takes the emphasis off African-Americans - data tend to indicate that training may not do much good
- Would like the tour group and the Committee to debrief together – Memphis was an opportunity for people to drop their masks – was a beautiful way to bring a lot of different factors together
- Training needs to walk through vehicle stop decision points, including discretion available – need to get at what people are thinking

Data Subcommittee: What Work is Needed?

Members discussed methods for narrowing down a wide field of information, which may or may not show police bias, built from quantitative data, ride-alongs, personal interviews and the trip to Memphis

- Toni – has talked with a CPD retiree about beats, assignments and saturation patrols in hot spots – would be helpful to review where those occur, time of day, age of those stopped and how many in the car – newer data is more relevant than historical data
- Matt – “targeting” reflects knowing people involved in violent crime, their circles and their activity – may spend time there, based on information about people or groups – is it better to spend a lot of time on each profile or to look at top profiles as a sample?
- Bob – look at pg. 2 of traffic violations policy, which says that blanket saturation is not permitted – it’s the Chief’s policy – how do we suggested it be enforced, rather than racially motivated – officer tapes are the ultimate source
- Toni – when you factor in other information into the data, it changes everything – “targets” will skew data – the subcommittee should look at finding what actually needs to be done, based on relevant factual information
- Jerome – data can be skewed – numbers represent a person and a community being affected, and it depends on who is reading the data – what’s the thought process of the person starting an intervention, and where’s the de-escalation?
- Pam – likes the idea of bringing in people who have experience, both officers and community members - maybe at the December meeting – brings the data closer to home

Toni asked Jerry East to put the parameters in and generate a report

General Comments by Public, Members and Staff

- Traci Wilson-Kleekamp – teaches students who want to become teachers and does a semester to determine who they are racially – recommends “The Hate U Give,” a police story – MU campus has “theater of the oppressed” – data should be driven by the new traffic violations policy – “equity” acknowledges that we don’t all start from the same place
- Andrew – what are the data gaps? (Tara – missing variables; Don – facts that officer was acting on; Matt – CPD collects more data than the Attorney General requires)

Next Regular Meeting Date – November 12, 2019

Jerome motion and Pam second to hear from local people who lived through this. Motion passed unanimously. Pam said she will find people who could attend. Matt will be out-of-state and would like to observe through an internet hook-up.

Don said the Data Subcommittee would meet before the next full Committee meeting.

New resources that should be shared include: a 2019 Stanford University national report on vehicle stops and racial disparities; case law on K-9 sniffing of vehicles; the final, revised version of CPD’s traffic violations policy.

Adjournment

Eric motion and Andre second to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned.