

Columbia Police Chief's Vehicle Stops Committee Minutes: DRAFT
August 8, 2023
Conference Room 1C, City Hall

Members Present: Bob Aulgur, Toni Dukes-Larkins, Chris Horn, Tabitha Juneau, Derek Moore

Members Absent: Pam Hardin, Jerome Sally

Others Present: Interim Police Chief Matt Stephens, Communications and Outreach Supervisor Toni Messina

Chair Toni Dukes-Larkins called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. A quorum was established.

Agenda

Chris motion and Derek second to accept the agenda as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Derek motion and Chris second to accept the July 11, 2023 minutes as amended to change the time the meeting was called to order from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Interim Police Chief Matt Stephens introduced himself to Committee members, saying he supported the Committee and its work. He expects he will have his Interim status for a brief period and that there will be little change during his tenure. Chair Toni briefly summarized the Committee's charge and said she observed that a lot had changed since the group was established in 2019.

Old Business

Tabitha shared Columbia's history of traffic stops, by race, since 2012. Although the population proportions are not really changing, there still is work to do to see what is driving disparities. Stops appear to be decreasing more for whites than for Blacks. Even if population changes, the "math" is very sensitive to other factors used to calculate disparities. Policing practices, for example, may differ among agencies, and not all agencies submit incident-based data to the Attorney General.

Members expressed other thoughts and concerns.

- Should look at Columbia data and not be so concerned with the AG's report or with comparisons to other agencies.
- We may not see meaningful change until next year, and there may be continuing questions about what happens at stops. It may feel like harassment to some drivers.
- If you can explain that stops are legitimate, people may have fewer concerns.
- Would like to see Don Love's report on Columbia's 2022 data.

Bob motion and Tabitha second to get Don's report or invite him to present at a future Committee meeting; motion failed 4 – 1 (Bob "yes")

- Don's report is online.
- CPD supervisors are now able to review data from March – August 2023.
- The African-American community at-large is happy that the data is being reviewed. This knowledge balances what is provided by news media.
- Columbia's contraband "hit rate" is about 50%; why isn't it 100%? This is an efficiency measure.

- “Reasonable suspicion” remains a grey area, but there should be no search based on suspicion of a weapon. That’s a “frisk.””
- Both officers and community members could benefit from training.
- “Incident to arrest” should involve a search. If the car is towed and inventoried, that’s counted twice.

New Business

There was no new business.

General Comments by Public, Members and Staff

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items – Sept. 12, 2023

Tabitha will bring a revised Veil of Darkness analysis to the September meeting. Bob will not be able to attend the September meeting.

Adjournment

Toni motion and Chris second to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT

Columbia Police Dept

Table 1: Number of Stops by Race for Columbia Police Dept from 2012 to 2022

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Native American	Asian	Other
2012	19154	13994	4318	262	8	460	112
2013	18414	13401	4199	242	5	426	141
2014	16416	11608	4004	211	12	420	161
2015	11304	7354	3348	173	11	277	141
2016	11819	7416	3691	197	5	312	198
2017	12437	7557	4062	228	7	360	223
2018	16707	10660	4866	344	28	426	383
2019	15015	9069	5250	247	67	259	123
2020	7772	4682	2732	148	25	147	38
2021	6414	3864	2255	122	21	121	31
2022	5370	3055	2007	167	22	91	28