

Columbia Police Chief's Vehicle Stops Committee Minutes: DRAFT
October 10, 2023
Conference Room 1C, City Hall

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

Members Absent: Pam Hardin, Chris Horn

Others Present: Communications and Outreach Supervisor Toni Messina

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

Agenda

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

Minutes

Bob motion and Tabitha second to accept the August 8, 2023 minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Bob asked for the names of active Committee members and if the City Manager planned to name a new Police Chief in November. Members include Bob Aulgur, Toni Dukes-Larkins, Pam Hardin, Chris Horn and Derek Moore. The City Manager is expected to name a new Chief some time in November.

New Business

Tabitha shared a new analysis of CPD's 2022 vehicle stop data, limited to what information was available to her. Some data that was available for a 2018 analysis was not available for her update. Thus, there was not enough data to determine if the presence of various factors was statistically significant.

The contraband hit rate might be a useful measure. A hit rate of 100% for all such searches is considered efficient, and Columbia's total average for 2022 is around 54% for all races. When asked what drives his decision to search, Derek noted that when a stop is made, the driver is identified and their record checked for a heavy history of drugs or criminal activity. It was suggested that, except for 2019, probable cause searches might be declining due to former Chief Jones' response to Committee recommendations.

Members discussed how probable cause and reasonable suspicion affect decisions to make stops. Probable cause is different for police than it is for judges. For an officer, it may not be 100% assurance, but is likely based on everything in front of the officer. A judge has to get to certainty.

Tabitha noted that the analysis provides summary, and not causal, data because the relationships in the data are not clear. It would be helpful to get: 1) CPD incident data for 2014 – 2020 that includes information on beats where stops take place; and 2) data for all years (2012 – 2022) that includes information on police division, such as traffic, patrol or other.

Bob motion and Toni second that the Committee ask the CPD Interim Chief to provide this data for further analysis. Motion approved unanimously.

General Comments by Public, Members and Staff

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items – Nov. 7, 2023

Adjournment

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

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