



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Columbia Interim Police Chief's Vehicle Stop Committee

Tuesday, June 11, 2019
5:30 PM

City Hall - Conference
Room 1A, 701 E.
Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 9 - Robert Aulgur, Andre Cook, Toni Dukes, Pamela Hardin, Don Love, Matthew Nichols, Dale Roberts, Jerome Sally and Tara Warne-Griggs

Absent: 1 - Eric Parsons

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/REVISED AGENDA

Motion passed unanimously

Approve agenda as submitted

Yes: 9 - Aulgur, Cook, Dukes, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Roberts, Sally and Warne-Griggs

Absent: 1 - Parsons

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee minutes - May 14, 2019

Motion passed unanimously

Approve Committee's May 14, 2019 minutes as submitted

Yes: 9 - Aulgur, Cook, Dukes, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Roberts, Sally and Warne-Griggs

Absent: 1 - Parsons

IV. DATA PRESENTATION - DON LOVE

Data Subcommittee meeting minutes - May 29, 2019 - INFORMATION ONLY - NOT A BUSINESS ITEM

Data Presentation - Don Love

Don and Committee members discussed nature and interpretation of vehicle stop data submitted by the Columbia Police Department (CPD) to the Missouri Attorney General. He noted that on May 14 the data subcommittee had reviewed his analysis, an analysis prepared by Dr. Jeff Milyo and summary data prepared by CPD.

Intro to CPD VSR Data - Love

Don - The data are somewhat misleading and not accompanied by analysis. A lot of arrests are for outstanding warrants, and officers don't have discretion on that.

- Pam - We don't know what "other" is" (Don - could be weapons arrests)
- Tara - How do outstanding warrants work (Don - may be for not showing up for court - could affect poor people more)
- Matt - When we report, may need to do an arrest page - arrest could have been a summons for appearance - not a custodial arrest - could have been a summons for appearance
- Bob - Driver's license not frequently revoked for out-of-state warrant

Don -Some things snowball as they come together

- Matt - Bond just guarantees that you show up in court - you release on summons when they say they'll show up
- Bob - Have to miss court about three times here before we issue a warrant
- Pam - Eventually you get arrested for not showing up
- Bob - Committee should spend time on Columbia data rather than Attorney General data
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Don - Drew Committee's attention to "searches" - can be associated with drug/alcohol odor and other factors - data is based on total searches, and there may be more than one reason for a search - you need incident data to see reasons for drug/alcohol searches

- Bob - Suggests looking a "white" vs. all other races (Don - compare what happens with "white" vs. each other race)
- Tara - Suggests looking at the number vs. percentage of searches

Don - His basic analysis divides the indices by each other, which gives you the rate of stops - no one else does this math - disproportions for post-stop activity can be figured on stops per group

- Andre - Where [in the data] do you see white vs. non-white drivers
- Dale - Does the report capture all reasons for searches?
- Matt - We can report all reasons - probably search for marijuana more than anything else - it's prevalent here, and may begin with a consent search - may smell the odor in the vehicle - may find as the search is being conducted - may turn into probable cause - can check several boxes (on the form) - it depends on the stop and the officer who's conducting it - he was trained to mark all that applies, and that's how he trains others
- Bob - Supervisor should have access to data like this to make sure it's all covered - maybe a committee recommendation to do it consistently
- Don - If officers get good feedback from a supervisor, a lot of problems could disappear
- Matt - There are options to search the driver, the vehicle and the driver *and* vehicle
- Toni Dukes - Is this probable cause and reasonable suspicion?
- Bob - We're also supposed to be looking at reasons for stops

Don - It's easier to start with post-stop activity - consent vs. whether there was a "hit" - evaluated by strength of reasons or because [an officer] was distracted by race - affects

accountability and how it's evaluated

- Bob - There's a difference between what the law allows and what the community wants as a policy - courts don't care about pretext, even if we do - they look more at objective facts
- Andre - It's a slippery slope when we look at data and say, if the reason isn't strong enough, there must be bias - focus on the stop - is there reasonable suspicion, and build on probable cause...a justifiable reason, not just because you want to - if minority drivers are stopped at a higher rate, what's the root cause
- Pam - Doesn't know anyone who will admit they stopped someone on account of race - people will create a justification - the form may not reflect the truth - how many complaints are made against officers? Are forms available? Has a hard time looking at the data - sees disproportions and doesn't need to go through a long dialog

Don - Officers may get directives

- Matt - Body-worn camera is his best tool - reasonable suspicion differs by officers - encourages review of his own actions
- Andre - We must consider stop locations - even on City streets, racial diversity will make a difference in numbers - not sure it's reported

Don - CPD post incident-based data without names - can sort

- Dale - Refers to 0700 Report on Sheriff's website - do our own data show who is frequently stopped (Jerry - we could, but that would take some time to compile)
- Matt - Can likely track by vehicle and driver's license

Don - Can focus deeply

- Bob - Should look at the bigger picture - if something is consistent month in and month out, such as contraband, what are we doing with it? Is there disparate treatment?
- Matt - Need to separate drug and alcohol
- Bob - If Chief decides he wants it done, we can do it
- Jerry - Can add citations filed - can pull in the charge
- Dale - Thinks recommendations should be shared with local legislators

Comments to Data Subcommittee - Love

Tale of Four Cities - Love

V. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

General Comments by Public, Members and Staff

To allow all who wish to speak to do so, Toni said each speaker could have one question and one follow-up.

- Chad McLaurin - is driver's license information in any dataset? (Jerry East: would not add that to a public dataset - can assign a generic number to drivers and officers, but we normally just share Attorney General's data)

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE - JULY 9, 2019

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn

Yes: 9 - Aulgur, Cook, Dukes, Hardin, Love, Nichols, Roberts, Sally and Warne-Griggs

Absent: 1 - Parsons

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