



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Columbia Police Chief's Vehicle Stop Committee

Tuesday, August 13, 2019
5:30 PM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 7 - Robert Aulgur, Toni Dukes, Pamela Hardin, Don Love, Eric Parsons, Dale Roberts and Tara Warne-Griggs

Absent: 3 - Andre Cook, Matthew Nichols and Jerome Sally

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ REVISED AGENDA

Motion passed unanimously.

Approve agenda as submitted.

Yes: 7 - Aulgur, Dukes, Hardin, Love, Parsons, Roberts and Warne-Griggs

Absent: 3 - Cook, Nichols and Sally

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Minutes - July 9, 2019

Motion passed 5 - 0, with Bob Aulgur abstaining due to his absence on July 9.

Accept the July 9, 2019 minutes as amended (pg. 2, second section, last bullet – insert “policy” after “policing”).

Yes: 6 - Dukes, Hardin, Love, Parsons, Roberts and Warne-Griggs

Absent: 3 - Cook, Nichols and Sally

Abstain: 1 - Aulgur

IV. DATA PRESENTATION - TARA WARNE-GRIGGS

Data Presentation - Tara Warne-Griggs

Tara explained that contextualizing traffic stops offers a larger picture than staying deep in traffic stop data - even when Census data is updated, disparities remain - she referred to testimony and other materials compiled during the City's 2017 vehicle stop listening tour - literature has emphasized two main causes of disparities: an officer's overt or implicit bias and institutional bias - looking at the cost-benefit of traffic stops is a different position than "us vs. them"

Other points

- Has heard that keeping contraband and criminals off the street justifies stops
- We don't know the true percentage of investigative stops
- Columbia has a deep history of disparities - Blacks tend to come out on the losing end - Boone County is one of Missouri's least socially mobile counties (see Boone indicators and items on Race Matters, Friends drive)
- This infers that an officer is thinking of reasons for making a stop and not about how an individual will be affected or the factors affecting that person
- When you're always concerned, this creates a sense of not being at ease, leading to tense drivers and tense cops
- Investigative stops feed into a long history of mistrust - this materially and disproportionately affects Black and low-income drivers who don't have the flexibility that others might have
- Investigative stops don't do much to lower crime rates or contribute to public safety
- We don't have data on pedestrian stops or hand-cuffing at stops

Comments

- Don - former Chief was concerned about automatically cuffing after stops, but not sure if he followed up - pedestrian stops are more significant for St. Louis and Kansas City than other Missouri cities
- Jerry East - if someone is cuffed, this should be followed by a "blue team," which is CPD's review of use of force
- Pamela - recently has seen two persons, riding four deep, be stopped, cuffed and then let go - all were Black males
- Toni - recently saw a Black female stopped, not cuffed, but she was agitated - she tried to calm the woman and invited her to come to the Committee's meeting - Toni, herself, was stopped - she told the officer she was a Committee member and was later cleared - both stops occurred in the Hanover area, but the officers were different

More data needed

- Don - cuffing policy and data - there's more advantage to using incident rather than summary data - officers may be working on credible intelligence, and treatment of drivers should be consistent - if there's a disproportion, supervisors should review
- Tara - need to understand discretion and decisions at each level or each step, e.g., disparities in treatment of drug odors (Don: odor searches are a weakness in the data and should be separate from alcohol)
- Bob Aulgur - need statistical information on each stop - we, as a Committee, can't do it on our own
- Toni - wants to understand the value of a stop, hear from more than one officer and review a sample of stops and body cam footage - wants police to present on reasonable suspicion and probable cause - how are they trained, and what

discretion do they have?

- Pamela - is it random, or not, in certain areas?
- Tara - How are saturation patrols and hot spots determined and communicated?

Members noted there may be different assumptions about "good policing" - officers may have pretext and there may be assumptions that the benefits of "Terry stops" exceed the costs - good policing may be discriminatory when, e.g., drivers are stopped because they "don't belong" in certain neighborhoods - some neighborhoods know the costs and benefits of good policing and a safe community - it's a bigger concern than just "don't pull us over"

Members noted factors affecting police practice, including: enough description to improve an officer's ability to stop the right vehicles; a common sense approach to addressing possible biased policing up through supervisors; an intentional process design; proper use of consent

V. POLICE RIDE-ALONGS

Toni asked members to schedule police ride-alongs through Toni Messina.

VI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

General Comments by Public, Members and Staff

- Don - asked Toni Messina to share his comments on Dr. Milyo's analysis - this summer, a Missouri House panel is taking testimony on criminal justice issues, including vehicle stops, and the Vehicle Stop Committee could make a significant contribution
- Grace Vega - there are mostly white people in the room - disparities due to bias and institutions are real - during a ride-along in the past, she observed that an officer got a call to respond to a fight, but he could not leave the neighborhood quickly enough - CPD did not provide the tools he needed to respond
- Traci Wilson-Kleekamp - members should review new studies and read books on this topic - is offended when she hears that racism doesn't affect traffic stops - keeps seeing Blacks pulled over and killed by police - recently was stopped for a driving infraction and let go
- Mary Ratliff - this has to change - with an excellent choice of Chief, look at what we can do with the Department - data are important but we need to change dynamics - training is important, especially for officers who may not know they're biased
- Chad McLarin - a video explaining reasonable suspicion and probable cause is on the RMF website
- Carol Brown - works with the bail fund and not sure that traffic stops benefit the people she helps - need to include those voices - it will take time to find things that really are workable for officers

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE - SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn

Yes: 7 - Aulgur, Dukes, Hardin, Love, Parsons, Roberts and Warne-Griggs

Absent: 3 - Cook, Nichols and Sally

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