DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE CONTACT DATA
2012 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

On May 26, 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1074 relating to the prevention of racial profiling by Texas peace officers. Texas Governor Rick Perry signed the bill on June 14, 2001, enacting the racial profiling law to be effective on September 1, 2001.

Since January 1, 2002, the DART Police Department, in accordance with the Texas Racial Profiling Law (S.B. No. 1074), has been collecting police contact data. Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 2.132 was amended September 1, 2009 (HB 3389) and the data collection procedures of the DART Police Department were also amended to remain in compliance. This report contains the analysis of the collected data for the purpose of identifying whether any concerns may exist regarding racial profiling practices.

This report documents the compliance with police contact data collection for the year 2012.

RESPONDING TO THE TEXAS RACIAL PROFILING LAW

Police Contact Data Collection

Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 2.133, as well as DART Police Special Order #10-03a, require DART Police Officers to collect the following information relating to police contacts and relating to arrests resulting from those traffic stops:

1) a physical description of any person operating the motor vehicle who is detained as a result of the stop, including:

(A) the person's gender; and

(B) the person's race or ethnicity, as stated by the person or, if the person does not state the person's race or ethnicity, as determined by the officer to the best of the officer's ability;

(C) whether the peace officer knew the race or ethnicity of the individual detained before detaining that individual;

(2) the initial reason for the stop;

(3) whether the officer conducted a search as a result of the stop and, if so, whether the person detained consented to the search;

(4) whether any contraband or other evidence was discovered in the course of the search and a description of the contraband or evidence;

(5) the reason for the search, including whether:

(A) any contraband or other evidence was in plain view;

(B) any probable cause or reasonable suspicion existed to perform the search; or

(C) the search was performed as a result of the towing of the motor vehicle or the arrest of any person in the motor vehicle;

(6) whether the officer made an arrest as a result of the stop or the search, including a statement of whether the arrest was based on a violation of the Penal Code, a violation of a traffic law or ordinance, or an outstanding warrant and a statement of the offense charged;

(7) the street address or approximate location of the stop; and

(8) whether the officer issued a written warning or a citation as a result of the stop.

Pursuant to Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 2.134, this report will include the following:

(1) a comparative analysis of the information compiled under Article 2.133 to:

(A) evaluate and compare the number of motor vehicle stops, within the applicable jurisdiction, of persons who are recognized as racial or ethnic minorities and persons who are not recognized as racial or ethnic minorities; and

(B) examine the disposition of motor vehicle stops made by officers employed by the agency, categorized according to the race or ethnicity of the affected persons, as appropriate, including any searches resulting from stops within the applicable jurisdiction; and

(2) information relating to each complaint filed with the agency alleging that a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling.

Police Contact Data Compilation and Reporting

DART Police traffic stop contact information

The following charts reflect the general demographics of police contacts, searches, and arrests for police contacts:

Police Traffic Stop Contacts						
	Total		Male		Female	
RACE	#	%	#	%	#	%
Caucasian	2879	64.34%	1892	65.33%	987	62.51%
African-American	1123	25.09%	663	22.89%	460	29.13%
Hispanic	372	8.31%	268	9.25%	104	6.59%
Asian/Pacific Islander	78	1.74%	52	1.80%	26	1.65%
Native American	4	0.09%	4	0.14%	0	0.00%
Middle Eastern	19	0.42%	17	0.59%	2	0.13%
TOTAL	**4475**	**100.00%**	**2896**	**100.00%**	**1579**	**100.00%**

Police Traffic Stop Searches						
	PC Search		Consensual Search		Incident to Arrest Search	
RACE	#	%	#	%	#	%
Caucasian	33	58.93%	7	70%	4	80%
African-American	17	30.36%	2	20%	1	20%
Hispanic	4	7.14%	1	10%	0	0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	1.79%	0	0%	0	0%
Native American	0	0.00%	0	0%	0	0%
Middle Eastern	1	1.79%	0	0%	0	0%
TOTAL	**56**	**100.00%**	**10**	**100%**	**5**	**100%**

Arrest		
RACE	**#**	**%**
Caucasian	6	50%%
African-American	5	42%
Hispanic	1	8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Middle Eastern	0	0%
TOTAL	**12**	**100%**

Disposition of Stop				
	Ticket		Warning	
RACE	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Caucasian	2340	64%	539	67%
African-American	927	25%	196	24%
Hispanic	326	9%	46	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	61	2%	17	2%
Native American	3	0%	1	0%
Middle Eastern	13	0%	6	1%
TOTAL	**3670**	**100%**	**805**	**100%**

FINDINGS

Summary statement regarding findings

The most accurate analysis of these police contacts would require using comparative population data that only includes DART's ridership. However, such data is not available on the racial demographics of DART's ridership.

The findings suggest that the DART Police Department does not currently experience a problem regarding racial profiling practices. This is supported by the fact that the department has not received any complaints from community members regarding officers' misconduct associated with racial profiling practices.

Additionally, in 2012, the department's officers who make police contacts are racially/ethnically diverse: 46% of the officers are African-American; 35% are Caucasian; 17% are Hispanic; and 2% are Asian/Pacific Islander.

The continuing effort to collect police contact data will assure an on-going evaluation of the DART Police Department practices. Thus, allowing for the citizens of the DART service area and surrounding communities to benefit from professional and courteous service from the DART Police Department.

Preventive recommendations

Despite the fact that the findings do not suggest that the department experiences a problem regarding racial profiling practices, the Chief of Police, along with the command staff, have adopted the following measures aimed at preventing potential racial profiling problems:

- Provide further training on the Texas Racial Profiling law to its police personnel
- Keep the DART Board and the DART Executive Management Team informed of measures being implemented at the DART Police Department

For additional questions regarding the information presented in this report, please contact:

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