

Information

February 27, 2013

TO: Board of Trustees
THRU: Mike Miles, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Craig R. Miller, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: 2013 Traffic Enforcement Diversity Report

The Dallas Independent School District Police Department in accordance with the Texas Racial Profiling Law (S.B. No. 1074) (75r), and the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (Art. 2.133, as amended) collects traffic related contact data for the purpose of identifying and responding (if necessary) to concerns regarding racial profiling practices. The law also requires that the police department submit to the governing body an annual report of the information collected. The purpose of this annual report is to provide statistical data and analysis of traffic stop data for calendar year 2013. To accomplish this, the report will focus upon the following topics:

1. How the traffic stop data was collected
2. An overview of the racial/ethnic data collected
3. An analysis of the data
4. Problems identified upon analyzing the data
5. Recommendations that address any identified areas of concern

How the Traffic Stop Data was collected

The law mandates collection of information relating to traffic stops in which a citation is issued or an arrest results from those stops. The data includes:

1. The race or ethnicity of the individual detained
2. Whether a search was conducted
3. Was the search consensual

An Overview of the Racial/Ethnicity Data Collected

Table 1 contains the information collected from the traffic stops in 2013 where a citation was issued or an arrest was made. The assignment of race/ethnicity to the various categories is accomplished either as a result of what the person told the officer; or, as determined by the officer to the best of his/her ability. A consensual search is defined as one in which the detained person voluntarily consents to a request made by the officer to search their vehicle. If they do not consent, then the officer must have probable cause for the search. This would include searches incident to arrest or the inventory of a vehicle after an arrest.

Table 1. General Demographics of Contacts and Searches 2013

Race/Ethnicity*	Contacts		Searches		Consensual Searches		Probable Cause Searches		Custody Arrest	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Caucasian	107	49.8	7	41.2	1	100	0	0	0	0
African	79	36.7	2	11.7	0	0	1	20	0	0
Hispanic	27	12.6	8	47.1	0	0	4	80	2	100
Asian	2	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	215	100	17	100	1	100	5	100	2	100

*Race/Ethnicity is defined by Senate Bill 1074 (79r) as being of a “particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, or Middle Eastern”.

Department’s Analysis of the Data/Lessons Learned

Agencies from across the state continue to evaluate the best and most accurate means of capturing, reporting, and comparing data to achieve meaningful analysis. The data presented in this report contains information regarding police contacts with the public between 1/1/2013 and 12/31/2013. Despite its value, the raw data does not present much information relevant to racial profiling trends. Although further analysis of the data is warranted, it is problematic. The question most often asked is, “What do you compare the data to?”

Agencies are given some latitude to determine what data is to be used for comparative purposes. Our comparison has been made to the racial and ethnic makeup of the students and teachers of the Dallas ISD.

Table 2. Student and Teacher Ethnicity 2013

Ethnicity	Students		Teachers	
	N	%	N	%
Caucasian	7,333	4.6	3,283	32.27
African	37,204	23.6	3,900	38.33
Hispanic	110,810	70.3	2,666	26.20
Asian	1,957	1.2	260	2.56
American Indian	549	0.3	65	0.64
Total	157,853	100	10,174	100

In conclusion, the law requires that the Department investigate any complaints of racial profiling that are filed. In 2013, there was one complaint filed. It was investigated and determined to be unfounded. Additionally, video and audio tapes of traffic contacts are randomly reviewed to assist in determining if there are any trends of racial profiling emerging. **In 2013, no such trends were discovered.** The continuing effort to collect police contact data will enable an on-going evaluation of police practices, thereby enabling our patrons to benefit from having a professional and courteous police department.

Recommendations Addressing Issues of Concern

Beyond the collection of data and required reporting, the Department will continue to provide racial sensitivity and cultural diversity training to its employees. Through the continued monitoring of motor vehicle stops, we will continue to strive to fulfill our goal of becoming a ***“Premier School District Police Department.”***

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Assistant Chief Bill Avera or myself.