

Combined Subcommittee Report from Police Procedure & Public Engagement
Submitted: January 21, 2015

Prelude

Dear IDOT Task Force Colleagues:

Greetings from Nicole Anderson Cobb, fellow IDOT Task Force Member & Police Procedure & Public Engagement Subcommittee Member.

Since our December meeting, I have been doing a lot of reflecting on our work as a Task Force and how we must proceed moving forward. I have not held an official Police Procedure & Public Engagement meeting, as I had to take some time to sort through December's public comments, my own concerns about our work and my need for additional informational perspectives.

After my ruminations, I have now come to the following conclusions.

As we are now in late January and we only have three more months to complete our work, I believe that it is IMPERATIVE that we set some more tangible goals for the work we do moving forward. To this end, I have met with Todd Rent and Paul Testa since our last meeting to discuss how to best accomplish our work together.

Rationale For This Combined Report

At the outset, I beg the pardon of other committee members who might have been interested in participating conversations related to the following issues.

HOWEVER, THIS REPORT IS NOT AN OFFICAL REPORT FROM THE POLICE PROCEDURE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE.

THIS IS A COMBINED REPORT FROM INDIVIDUAL TASK FORCE MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLICE PROCEDURE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS COMMITTEE.

It is a result of my own fact-finding and discussions with Todd Rent and Paul Testa and **I am open to future meetings with other Task Force members and committees to further discuss the contents of this document.**

As a result of our conversation, discussions of some of the data before us and reflections from our engaged citizenry, Paul and I determined that **we needed concretize our efforts and shift the focus of our work from broad social science reading to engage with local data and our local officers in our**

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community directly.

To this end, Paul and I agreed that we would like to set forth a series of meetings that will meet the following objectives.

Requests That We Are Making of The IDOT Task Force, Urbana Police Department & City of Urbana for the February 2015 Meeting

Request #1

- A.) We have crafted a set of questions that we would like representatives of the Urbana Police Department to engage and resources we would like them to provide to the Task Force **IN PERSON at our February 2015 meeting.**
*****In particular, we would like to hear from officers who work regularly in areas with the highest frequency of traffic stops.*****

Request #2

- B.) Prior to our February 2015 meeting, we would like to **meet with Urbana Police Department representatives to prior to the February meeting to review the resources that we are interested in discussing at a time agreeable to all who can attend.**

Request #3

- C.) We MUST **finalize the objectives, dates, times and locations of the Community Impact Sessions** and we propose that **at least one of those meetings MUST BE HELD in one of the locations with the highest incidents of traffic stops.**

Request #4

- D.) We also ask that **resources be deployed by the City of Urbana to advertise these meetings in the communities most impacted by traffic stops** so that we can maximize the opportunities for folks most affected to attend these meetings.

Questions For Urbana Police Department Representatives for February 2015 Task Force Meeting

- 1.) We would like to see dashcam videos from selected communities in Urbana. What is the procedure for the Task Force to see 10 dash cam videos from the areas with the most frequent traffic stops and 10 dash cam videos from the least frequent traffic stops areas or from STEPS program traffic enforcement?

Please explain the process by which this request can be honored, the time frame that you would require, possible dates and times when this can occur **during the**

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next month prior to the February 2015 IDOT Task Force Meeting.

2.) Can you explain any differences you note (as officers) between areas where there are the highest frequencies of traffic stops and the lowest frequencies of traffic stops? What accounts for these differences?

3.) How are traffic stops incentivized for officers? What are the mechanism for oversight and review of traffic stops that you conduct? How are citizen complaints processed?

4.) What are the outcomes that you have observed regarding traffic stops in areas with high frequencies of stops? Do increases in enforcement/traffic stops correspond to decreases in crime or other observable outcomes?

5.) Furthermore, from your experience(s), how do high levels of traffic stops impact community relations? By deploying traffic stops in targeted areas, how have the relations between the community and police department changed over time?

***Here we would appreciate seeing any additional Urbana Police Department data reflecting traffic stops and their results over time that we might not have reviewed.

6.) Is it possible to provide more clear and transparent public education regarding traffic stop policies and procedures via public outreach activities, community forums and the City website?

7.) What steps have the Urbana Police Department taken to decrease racial disparities in traffic stops? What are the results to your efforts to date?

*****Additional questions can be submitted by Task Force members for review*****

Questions for Committee Impacts Committee

1.) What are the proposed dates for the Community Impact meetings? How many will occur?

2.) Is it possible to hold one of the Community Impact meetings in one of the locations that have the most frequent traffic stops?

3.) What is the format for each gathering?

4.) What kind of logistical needs have to be addressed and what role do you need Task Force members to play to aid in the planning of these gatherings including the following:

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- Define objectives for each event(s)
- Conduct research and gather materials to distribute at event(s)
- Confirm dates of event(s)
- Confirm locations of events
- Confirm tasks needed to complete for event(s):
- Establish budget for each event
- Finalize invites to participants, moderator, audience members, and media representatives
- Decide event protocols, security and rules/regulations for event
- Secure individual who will record the event
- Recruit volunteers to collect info, distribute info, assist with seating, etc.,
- Assign tasks that Task Force members can complete
- Selection of media & publicity to promote events
- Set up deadlines for completion of event activities
- Complete task sheet of assignments for event
- Evaluation of event for participants
- ***Other tasks as deemed appropriate

6.) What are the expected outcomes for this activity? How will we deploy the information gained in our final report?

*****Additional questions can be submitted by Task Force members for review*****

Concluding Remarks

These are our initial questions that we hope will undergird our work moving forward. Thank you for your consideration of this document and we look forward to your feedback and additional questions to consider for our future proceedings!

Respectfully,
Nicole Anderson Cobb & Paul Testa, IDOT Task Force Committee Members and Subcommittee Representatives
1/21/2015