



CITY OF URBANA
HUMAN RELATIONS OFFICE
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61801

LAUREL LUNT PRUSSING
MAYOR

IDOT TRAFFIC STOP DATA TASK FORCE

PUBLIC COMMENT COVER PAGE

**THE ATTACHED IS PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE
“PRELIIMINARY REPORT” PUBLISHED ON 07/06/2015
BY THE URBANA IDOT TRAFFIC STOP DATA TASK FORCE**

Comments Submitted by:	Laurel Lunt Prussing
Date Received:	July 15, 2015

TASK FORCE INFORMATION:

The I.D.O.T. Traffic Stop Data Task Force was established by Urbana City Council Resolution NO. 2014-01-002.

The Task Force is charged with identifying and studying any racial disparities that may exist in local traffic stop data supplied annually to the City by the Illinois Department of Transportation (I.D.O.T.), and attempting to find the source and cause of any disparity. The Task Force is directed to examine multiple aspects of the traffic stop data, including race, driver age, residence, stop time, stop location, the reason for the stop, vehicle age, and any other information the Task Force finds to be useful. The Task Force will also look beyond traffic stop data to consider census and unemployment data, high school graduation rates, and incarceration statistics from the September 2013 study of the Champaign County justice system.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TASK FORCE:

On the web, visit <http://urbanaillinois.us/boards/idot-traffic-stop-data-task-force>; or

Contact the Urbana Human Relations Office by mail to: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801-3336; by email to acweck@urbanaillinois.us; by telephone to (217) 384-2455; or by fax to: (217) 328-8288.



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July 15, 2015

IDOT Task Force
Pete Resnick, Chair

Dear Members of the Task Force,

Thank you for your many hours of work on this topic. I am glad that you are taking the time for public input so we can discuss the best way to proceed and what other questions may need to be answered.

Since the report is 95 pages, I will try to respond in a series of brief commentaries as I go through it in the weeks ahead.

First, it is important to put in context why police are in certain neighborhoods more than others. As your report indicates, this is a factor in increased investigative traffic stops.

Urbana Police are responding to calls for help from the public. The raw IDOT statistics indicate African-Americans are more likely to be stopped in traffic. However, the report should include that African-Americans are even more likely to be victims of crime. Although they are 17% of the census population, they are 40% of the victims of crime. The disparity in crime victims by race is twice the disparity in traffic stops.

If traffic stops in themselves are contributing to a mistrust of police in the African-American community, we need to have a public discussion of ways to improve the situation.

Again, thank you for the work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Laurel Lunt Prussing

