

Minutes

Racial Profiling Prevention and Data Oversight Board Regular Meeting

Pursuant to section EXECUTIVE BRANCH 20 ILCS 2715
Racial Profiling Prevention and Data Oversight Act
(625 ILCS 5/11-212)

June 12, 2025
10:00 am- 12:00 pm

Location
Via WebEx Video Conference/Teleconference

Call to Order and Roll Call

Karen Bass-Ehler (CHAIR) calls the meeting to order at 10:03 am. The CHAIR announces roll call of the members. A quorum for the meeting was not achieved.

Board Members Present & Absent

Member Names	Present	Absent
Bass-Ehler, Karyn (CHAIR – Attorney General Designee)	x	
Bieneman, Holly (IDOT Designee)		x
Curran, John (IL State Senator)		x
Davis, William (IL House Representative)		x
De Jesus, José (IL State Police Designee)		x
Dominguez, Dulce (Community Org. Representing Minority Interests)	x	
Garcia, Delila (Law Enforcement)		x
Harris, Jermaine (CO-CHAIR – Law Enforcement)	x	
Logan, Phyllis (Community Org. Representing Minority Interests)	x	
Sheehan, Patrick (IL House of Representative)		x
Thompson, Amy (Community Org. Representing Minority Interests)	x	

Also present were:

IDOT – Sean Berberet
IDOT – Jessica Keldermans
Morreale Communications – Berenice Alvarez
Morreale Communications – Diane Bustamante
Morreale Communications – Mary McIlvain

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The February 20, 2025, Board meeting minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting, as a quorum was not met to conduct a vote.

Discussion Items

The CHAIR welcomed Representative Sheehan, a new Board member. The CHAIR also noted that regular meetings will be hosted virtually via Webex, in accordance with the by-laws. Additionally, Board member Tammy Rinehart-Kochel has resigned.

Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) traffic or pedestrian stops recording in Illinois

Sean Berberet noted that ICE is not required to share any data with the State of Illinois. There are statutes and laws that prevent any law enforcement agency in the State of Illinois from cooperating with immigration enforcement arrests. Other states allow law enforcement agencies to be trained and paid. Berberet will share with the Board information regarding the Trust Act.

Board Member Dulce Dominguez noted that there have been instances in other states where ICE is arbitrarily stopping cars under false pretenses and either arresting people or racially profiling them. She asked how these reports are monitored, their impact on communities, and the process for requesting information.

Board Member Amy Thompson echoed the concern.

The CHAIR discussed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and record requests.

Ms. Dominguez asked if a request could be sent to the Governor's office on behalf of the Board for records.

The CHAIR agreed it is worth exploring but emphasized that a formal vote from the Board would be required.

ICJIA Task Force Recommendation 2025 Review

Ms. Thompson noted that around late February or March the final task force findings were published.

Recommendation 1: The Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Data Use and Collection Task Force is required to submit recommendations and findings regarding the Illinois annual Traffic and Pedestrian Stops Study every three years. It is recommended that the Task Force remains active between these periods, rather than convening every three years, to oversee the implementation of its findings and recommendations.

Recommendation 2: It is recommended to use a number of different estimates of racial disparities to gain a clearer understanding of what is happening in each jurisdiction. This reflects

concerns expressed by law enforcement, which have also been discussed during these Board meetings.

Recommendation 3: It is recommended that the task force should develop a strategy to collaborate with departments showing high racial disparities in the report.

Recommendation 4: It is recommended that Illinois, in collaboration with the task force and ICJIA, develop a strategy for engagement and support for communities interested in discussing the report findings with the local officials.

Recommendation 5: It is recommended that the task force, ICJIA, and the State of Illinois assess how the report and its data are communicated and ensure it is accessible to community members.

Recommendation 6: Since the report often includes data that may be up to a year and a half old, it is recommended to implement a real-time dashboard that will allow for more timely and proactive responses.

IDOT has been working with ICJIA to secure funding from the federal 1906 grants for racial profiling prevention. They are in the process of obtaining funds for Ken Barone to help the state carry out similar initiatives as in Connecticut.

Mr. Berberet asked if these recommendations are going to the Governor's office and whether they require approval from the Board.

Ms. Thompson noted that the recommendations have been sent to the Governor, and approval from the Board is not required, but feedback is welcomed.

Board Member Phyllis Logan asked what was added compared to what was previously discussed.

Ms. Thompson noted that, to her recollection, there are no differences between the report and what was discussed at the February Board meeting.

Ms. Logan asked, "How much confidence is there in what we're doing to effect change? How will our efforts be reflected in these recommendations if we want to modify any parts of them?"

The Chair noted that the Governor will receive the report from ICJIA and then map out any legislative changes that need to take place. The Board does not have the power to enact those changes rather makes recommendations to the Governor and the legislature.

Ms. Thompson noted that the Board made recommendations such as changes to the data forms several meetings ago, but is unsure whether those recommendations have been addressed.

Ms. Logan noted that it may be in the Board's best interest to invite legislators to its meetings so they can hear concerns firsthand and help advance the Board's recommendations through the government.

Board Member Jermaine Harris echoed the sentiment, noting there is great opportunity when both bodies work together and have support from policymakers.

Morreale Communications to assist with Oversight Board

Ms. Keldermans announced that Morreale Communications, a full-service strategic communications firm, will assist IDOT with the administrative duties of the Board.

The Board expressed kind remarks for Mr. Berberet as he transitions roles.

2024 Annual Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Study development and updates

The 2024 report, due July 1st, is in its final stages of development and review.

The data is scrubbed at the beginning of the year to determine who is compliant and who is non-compliant, who is complete and who is incomplete, and that data is sent to Mountain Whisper-Light, a consultant. The consultant analyzes and gathers statistical data on pedestrian and traffic stops for every police agency in Illinois that submitted data.

This year, data was reviewed from close to 800 agencies.

The consultant provided the data to IDOT and then shared with all the agencies for review and comment over a three-week period. The comment period has concluded, and feedback was received. All the information has been compiled, and the first draft of the annual report was reviewed and submitted back to the consultants. There are some significant key findings, but for the most part, compliance remained about the same.

The report will be released again on July 1st to the Board, the Governor's office, the General Assembly, and the public.

An agenda item for the next meeting will be to discuss key findings and related data.

Ms. Thompson suggested it would be helpful to have The Mountain-Whisper-Light attend the August Board meeting.

Ms. Berberet and Ms. Keldermans agreed and have noted the suggestion.

Subcommittee Updates

Law Enforcement Compliance

Mr. Harris noted that the intent of the subcommittee is to get as close to full compliance as possible in the state.

He mentioned that, from a technical standpoint, they've been examining where some of the challenges are. He referenced a survey conducted last year in which departments were polled to identify the challenges they were experiencing with the application itself and their ability to submit data. One key takeaway was a recommendation to find a way to eliminate inactive organizations from affecting compliance numbers. As a result, suggestions were made to IDOT to allow departments to be marked as inactive, so they no longer lower the overall compliance rate. Additionally, discussions included implementing focus groups or site visits to better understand ongoing challenges.

Mr. Harris noted that a current challenge is the need for better coordination with other subcommittees to avoid duplicating efforts.

Ms. Logan asked whether subcommittees are coordinating with one another, emphasizing the importance of avoiding duplicated or overlapping efforts. She suggested consolidating comments in one shared space and asked if other members could join the subcommittee meeting.

The Chair noted that more than three members attending would require the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Harris suggested connecting with another committee member or having a liaison.

The Chair noted that there could be an open discussion on the subcommittees' work.

Ms. Dominguez suggested having the subcommittee share their notes with the Board.

Data Collection Forms

There were no updates regarding data collection forms.

Model Policies and Training

More members will be assigned or may volunteer for this subcommittee.

Ms. Harris emphasized the importance of this subcommittee and including policymakers. Mr. Berberet noted that the Law Enforcement Compliance subcommittee is discussing model policies and training.

Open Discussion

Ms. Dominguez discussed the purpose of the subcommittees' work, noting previous conversations about whether the Board could issue press statements or take other public-facing actions. She emphasized that as the subcommittees continue their work, it's important to clarify the Board's role and understand what actions can be taken.

Ms. Keldermans responded that IDOT has been in talks with ICJIA and is aware of the overlap between efforts and are currently looking into it.

Ms. Thompson asked whether there was an update on the status of the recommendations submitted by the Data Collection Forms subcommittee. She asked if those recommendations are being incorporated and what the response has been.

Ms. Keldermans replied that regarding the form recommendations, some may require legislative changes, while others might be implemented directly. The legislative affairs office would need to determine whether the changes can proceed without legislation.

The Chair added that, in terms of legislative changes, individual Board members may be able to advocate for specific proposals. However, as a whole, the Board is a subpart of an executive branch agency and functions as a volunteer body, so its ability is limited to persuading the legislature to take up its recommendations.

Ms. Keldermans noted that legislative affairs offices accept recommended changes in August, so bureaus should submit their legislative proposals at that time.

Ms. Logan asked whether it would be appropriate to submit recommendations now or wait until August.

Ms. Keldermans replied that sending them now would be better. She will touch base with the legislative affairs office.

In order to address the vacancy on the subcommittee, Ms. Logan suggested having a representative from law enforcement to help inform and prepare recommendations for the August deadline.

Mr. Berberet suggested Delila Garcia.

Public Comment

The meeting was open to public comment. No public comments were made.

New Business

The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 21. If members are unable to make this time, please let Ms. Bass-Ehler or Ms. Keldermans know in advance so quorum can be made.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m. without a formal vote, as quorum was not met.

Action Items

Agenda items for the next meeting will include approval of the February meeting minutes, discussion of submitting a records request to the Governor's office regarding information about ICE traffic or pedestrian stops or other related data, an update on the 2024 Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Study, and further updates from the subcommittees.