

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)

August 15, 2024

10:00 am- 12:00 pm

Location

Via WebEx Video Conference/Teleconference

Call to Order and Roll Call

Karyn Bass-Ehler (CHAIR) calls the meeting to order at 10:04 am. The CHAIR explains the meeting is being held virtually under the conditions listed within the Board's by-laws. CHAIR announces roll call of the members. Quorum for the meeting was achieved.

Board Members Present & Absent

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Karyn Bass-Ehler (CHAIR)	Senator John Curran
Phyllis Logan	Michael Newman
Delila Garcia	Representative William Davis
Marcus Gipson	
Holly Bieneman	
Amy Thompson	
Jermaine Harris	
Tammy Rinehart Kochel	
Dulce Dominguez	

Also present were:

IDOT- Jessica Keldermans, Sean Berberet
ICJIA – Emily Green, Kimberly Atkins

Approval of Minutes

May 16th, 2024, Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Holly Bieneman made the motion to approve, and Phyllis Logan seconded.

Introductions

Tammy Rinehart Kochel, PhD: Dr. Rinehart Kochel is Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice with focus on policing issues and Associate Dean for Research, Diversity and Personnel for the College of Health and Human Sciences at Southern Illinois University.

Delila Garcia: Master Sgt. Garcia is from the southwest side of Chicago and has a BA in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology from UIC in Chicago. She began her career wanting to become a police officer to represent the Latino community and offer new perspectives. Early on Sgt. Garcia served the DuPage, Kane, Lake, and McHenry counties where there are significant Hispanic populations. She became the first Latina Public Information Safety Education Officer for the area. She is a Spanish speaker, giving her an advantage when communicating with non-English speaking public. She has worked for the IL Gaming Board where she became Sgt. From there Sgt. Garcia went to the statewide Public Information Office where she was the Assistant Deputy Chief. Currently Sgt. Garcia is in her 20th year with the IL State Police and is the Shift Commander for the northern part of the state.

Amy Thompson: Thompson works for an organization called Impact for Equity in Chicago. It is a law policy center focusing on racial, social, and economic justice. Her area of expertise is in the criminal legal systems with a focus on traffic stops.

Dulce Dominguez: Guzman represents the board as a community member. She is the Deputy Director of Institutional Development at Alianza Americas. Alianza Americas is a nationwide network of immigrant led organizations.

Holly Bieneman: Bieneman is the Director of the Office of Planning and Programming at the IL Department of Transportation. The department of Office of Planning and Programming collects and shares data, drafts the report and staffs the committee.

Jermaine Harris: Lt. Harris is a 21-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department and works on the Compliance Subcommittee.

Marcus Gipson: Colonel Gipson is with the IL State Police working in the Academy and Training division and oversees new officer training and in service for state and local.

Phyllis Logan: Ms. Logan is the Executive Director of Universal Housing Solutions in Chicago and serves on the Executive Committee for the state conference of the NAACP.

Karyn Bass-Ehler: Bass-Ehler is the Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General for IL Attorney General Kwame Raoul. She is the AGs appointment and Chair of the Racial Profiling Prevention and Data Oversight Board. Her focus is on equity and impact issues and major federal consent decree cases, such as the Chicago Police Department consent decree case, as well as several other high priorities for the AG.

Board Openings

Sean Berberet reported Board member renewal dates were updated and by the governor's office except for Michael Newman and Jermaine Harris. Current Board members not planning to serve another the two-year term were advised to contact Sean so a potential candidate could be found. If a member needs to leave the board, their assistance is requested in potentially finding a replacement. There is currently a vacancy for the member of Community Organization representing minority interest. Potential candidates should complete an application online with the Governor's Office.

Board Inquiries

Karyn Bass-Ehler noted board members have received inquiries from reporters, press and researchers. She stated board members serving in individual capacities are welcome to speak to the press however they wish. As a representative of an office or organization it is recommended responses be run through the organization prior to commenting. Also, if members are uncomfortable in responding, they can always refer inquiries to the IDoT Communications Team. Additionally, Sean Berberet asked members who choose to respond to an inquiry on behalf of the Oversight Board to give IDoT a "heads up" regarding the contents of the interview.

Dulce Guzman suggested the Board create a library of shared statements members could use in response. This is not something the Board has done in the past but could be considered. Karyn Bass-Ehler stated potential inquiries could be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if a statement can be formulated representing all Board member positions. Under the Open Meetings Act requirements, a public meeting may be necessary to develop a public statement. The Chair will review the bylaws for further insight and has asked Sean Berberet to check with the governor's office to see how similar commissions and oversight boards have handled media and press inquiries in the past or currently. This topic will be kept on the agenda for the next board meeting to share any findings.

Subcommittee Updates

The Chair requested Subcommittee progress updates and reports.

Law Enforcement Compliance Subcommittee - Lt. Harris stated the subcommittee has been developing a survey during the past year to identify barriers preventing police agencies from submitting complete traffic and pedestrian stops. The subcommittee is focusing specifically on compliance and trying to get as close to 100% as possible. Development of the survey began with professionals within the IDoT team and vetted with law enforcement liaisons or LELs. A link to the online survey was emailed to all policing agencies across the state through the Illinois Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Study (ITPSS) system. The intent was to keep the survey simple to understand, make it easy to complete and to encourage all agencies to participate. Twenty-nine questions were formulated to understand information such as the size of the police agency, personnel responsible for reporting, processes used and to identify barriers preventing compliance.

The survey was rolled out from July 9 – August 9. Information has only been available to the subcommittee for the past 5 days and has not yet been fully analyzed. The survey took departments approximately 20 minutes to complete. 289 agencies completed the surveys. Agencies varied in number of stops from 10 to 10,000. Surveys were completed anonymously to encourage true, honest feedback. Individuals completing the survey were identified only as police officer, civilian, third-party agency, etc.

It was found less than half of the agencies used a 3rd party vendor for data entry and an even smaller number allowed the vendor to submit the data on their behalf. The subcommittee is looking for ways to provide continued support to the agencies and to bridge their technology and procedure gaps.

Feedback and suggestions regarding the racial study and system were provided by agencies.

There are plans for in person visits to obtain an informal understanding of the recording and transmission process.

Data Collection Forms – Bass-Ehler called for a motion to vote on recommendations 1 through 6 presented by the subcommittee to all Board members at the May 2024 meeting. Dulce Guzman provided an overview of 1 through 6 as curtesy to the newest members.

Recommendation Voting Results:

1. PASSED

The data subcommittee recommends expanding data fields associated with the reason for stop and to require the law enforcement officers to record:

- a. Specific or detailed Moving Violations
- b. Specific or detailed Equipment Violations
- c. Specific or detailed Commercial Vehicle Violations
- d. Specific or detailed License Plate / Registration Violation

(Reason for Stop must be specifically identified by the officer. Violation must be specific for reason of stop and must be written in by the officer.)

2. PASSED

The data subcommittee recommends amending the language in vehicle code statute to reflect or adopt all race and ethnicity categories used by the U.S. Census.

3. PASSED

The data subcommittee recommends adding the GPS coordinates or address of traffic or pedestrian stop.

4. **PASSED**

The data subcommittee recommends adding “Body Type” as additional data requirement in the vehicle description area.

5. **PASSED**

The data subcommittee recommends the Traffic Stop Data Sheet to include data fields to report traffic stop, start and end times (military time). (*“Duration” will be removed.*)

6. **PASSED**

The data subcommittee recommends adding new paragraphs to the Illinois vehicle code to require law enforcement members to report whether the stop was recorded on a body worn camera, an in-car camera, or both.

Recommendations passed will be sent to the Governor’s office. From there the Governor’s office, another legislator or organization can take it for legislative session. Historically a vendor created the form with collaboration from IL Association of Chiefs of Police representatives, the Sheriff’s Association, the State Police and Chicago PD. This is the first time the Board has taken on the responsibility of recommending changes to the data collection forms used by law enforcement agencies.

Model Policies and Training – Karyn Bass-Ehler tabled this section until the next meeting due to time restraints but did ask if new members were interested in this subcommittee to contact Sean Berberet or herself.

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Task Force

The Task Force has reconvened. Meetings will be monthly with the next recommendation report to the Governor scheduled for March 1, 2025. Emilee Green shared ICJIA created a tableau dashboard of all traffic stop data from 2004 through 2023 with interactable filters including gender, race, age, police agency, county, and year. It will soon be published publicly. A quantitative analyst has also been hired to work on certain analysis including a “veil of darkness” study. This report will be completed and published soon. Green will continue to attend these meetings for ongoing corroboration.

Open Discussion

Holly Bieneman: IDoT received a letter from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILCAP) outlining concerns to the methodology and benchmarking used in the statistical analysis section of the annual Stop Study report. IDoT worked with its consultant, The Mountain Whisper Light (TMWL) and responded to the inquires and statements on 08/12/2024. The letter from the Chiefs of Police along with response has been posted on the Illinois Traffic and Pedestrian Stop [Studies](#) website.

Amy Thompson commented on her recent discussions with Kenneth Barone from the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project. Barone has recently published working papers describing additional steps taken in Connecticut, beyond annual racial or stop study reports. Barone's Connecticut State board works with local departments to address the disparities and develop strategies to reduce profiling. Barone mentioned he has received grant funding to provide technical assistance to 3 states to help develop the types of models developed in CT. Two of the states have already been selected but they are looking for a third. Thompson asks the board to consider being included in the third position. Holly Bieneman stated a follow-up from IDoT will occur.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

New Business

- Next meeting is November 21, 2024.
- Looking to appoint a vice chair to the Board. If anyone is interested, please communicate to Karyn Bass-Ehler or Sean Berberet.

Adjourn

The CHAIR called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phyllis Logan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dulce Dominguez seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.