

**COMMISSION ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITY IN
THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

MINUTES

**December 9, 2013 Meeting
2-3:30PM**

Community Court Conference Room, 80 Washington St., Hartford, CT

Persons in attendance: Justice Harper (Chair), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Subira Gordon (AAAC), Tracy Gove (House of Reps appointee), Gary Roberge (CSSD), Esther Harris (Jury Administrator, Judicial), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Andrew Moseley (BOPP), Brian Austin (DCJ), Preston Tisdale (Governor's appointee), Aileen Keays (Consultant – IMRP), Andrew Clark (Consultant – IMRP).

II. Welcome

- a. Meeting commenced at 2:13pm

III. Review and approve minutes from September 9th meeting

- a. Members reviewed and unanimously approved September 9th meeting minutes by voice vote

III. Membership update – Ann Smith, AFCAMP

- a. Will follow-up with Deb Fuller to determine whether Attorney Smith has been followed up with regarding her interest in participating on the Commission.

IV. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces

- a. [Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee \(CJPAC\)](#)
 - i. During next CJPAC meeting on Dec. 12th, 9-11AM in LOB room 1C, Bill Carbone will review CJ system and CSSD during his tenure. Meeting will also be broadcast on CT-N.
- b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project \(RP3\)](#)
 - i. Oct. 1st was implementation date for police departments to begin new traffic stops reporting process. Now monthly data submitted on traffic stops as opposed to annually.
 - 1. Will allow benchmarking, acquiring true assessment of what is occurring and a breakdown of the information at officer-level. This will permit supervisors to identify potential profiling behavior when it is beginning to occur and intervene to correct.
 - ii. Discussion on RP3 initiative
 - 1. Chief Gove – Received no pushback on implementation from his department. Department will now watch data patterns to ascertain any change in the number of traffic stops being made since revised law's implementation.

2. Glenn Cassis – implementation has gone well due to the diligence of the project staff and their hosting trainings for law enforcement on the revised law prior to it going into effect.
- c. CT Sentencing Commission (CSC)
 - i. Next meeting is Dec. 19th. This will be final meeting before legislative session begins.
 - ii. Anticipate CSC’s progress report will be submitted by January 1st deadline. It may be accompanied by three proposals. All three are resubmissions of legislation from last session that did not pass:
 1. Certificates of Rehabilitation
 2. Drug-Free School Zones
 3. Juvenile Sentence Reconsideration

IV. Follow-up from last meeting

- a. FOI requests of BOPP for pardon applications
 - i. Summary update provided by BOPP
 1. No resolution yet, BOPP has another hearing tomorrow.
 2. Background – journalist Alex Wood from Inquirer filed FOI request to allow public access to all information contained within pardon petitioners’ BOPP files. BOPP proposed legislation last session to safeguard the confidentiality of petitioners’ information, although it did not ultimately pass.
 3. Historical intent with pardon law’s creation supports confidentiality.
 4. Other states provide the equivalent of a provisional pardon. CT is only state that offers true pardons that allow the pardoned individual to tell potential employers they have never been convicted of a crime, and their record is completely erased.
 5. BOPP’s success rate is incredible – less than 1% of pardoned recidivate. Most petitioners have been convicted of minor offenses yet continue to suffer conviction’s consequences.
 6. BOPP believes to safeguard petitioners’ privacy would require public support leading to legislative action.
 7. DCJ has taken no position on the bill, however, became concerned when their access to information regarding a former offender’s petition for pardon was limited. BOPP used to provide this information to DCJ but as a result of this FOI case has ceased to provide it.
 - ii. REDCJS would like to be informed if BOPP plans to introduce legislation again this session.
 1. Andrew Moseley will update REDCJS.

- b. Possible participation by the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (APAAC)
 - i. Brian Austin provided update. Received letter from Arlene Avery of APAAC indicating interest in REDCJS. IMRP will scan the letter to circulate to members. Will discuss at next meeting.
- c. How REDCJS may support "The Color of Justice" project
 - i. Interested in hosting a screening of "The Color of Justice" accompanied by dialogue. Could incorporate screening in a day-long event on race. Include informational session on pardons process.
 - ii. IMRP has put two dates on hold for Commission to choose from: Tues., April 1st and Mon., April 14th from 8AM to 7:30PM
 - iii. IMRP will follow-up with Martha Stone to ascertain her vision for REDCJS support.
- d. Letter to CGA re: racial impact statements
 - i. Justice Harper drafted letter to urge the use of racial impact statements. Commission will send the letter to CGA now and then will follow-up during session.
 - ii. IMRP will scan and e-mail a copy of the letter to members.
 - iii. Discussion over format of racial impact statements. Chris Reinhart of OLR has template used for the one statement drafted years ago. Assumption is OLR would replicate this format for future requests unless provided an improved alternate. The Sentencing Project would be interested and willing to provide technical assistance to CGA's OLR to create a process and structure if this engagement was initiated and facilitated.

IV. Other business

- a. Glenn Cassis introduced Subira Gordon, new Legislative Analyst for AAAC
- b. Preston Tisdale wanted to reintroduce a topic REDCJS explored previously. Federal joint task forces on gun violence and narcotics in CT's major urban areas have determined that the people committing gun violence and narcotics offenses are a small, identifiable percent of urban residents. Profiling should be of those individuals, not casting a wide net to catch those that are not persistent, high-level offenders. Racial profiling is ineffective but character profiling would target CJ resources toward those that need it.

IV. Adjourned

- a. Meeting adjourned at 3:24PM