

# Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

Connecticut Judicial Branch

## Meeting Minutes November 10, 2020

2:00 – 3:30

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

*Commission members present: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chair), Patrick Ridenhour (CT Police Chiefs Association), Carleton Giles (BOPP), Preston Tisdale (Governor), Gail Hardy (DCJ), Claud Chong (COPD), Alex Tsarkov (Majority Leader of the House), David McGuire (Majority Leader of the Senate), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Sharon Cheeks (Governor), Scott Jones (President Pro Temp of Senate), Jodi Hill-Lilly (DCF), Amonda Hannah (DOC).*

*Non-Commission members present: Deb Fuller (Judicial-CSSD), Troy Brown (Judicial-CSSD), Aileen Keays (IMRP)*

- I. Welcome**
  - a. Meeting commenced at 2:12
- II. Welcome new members**
  - a. Gail Hardy (DCJ)
  - b. Malik Abdul Ramiz (Speaker of the House of Representatives)
- III. Review and approve minutes from Sept meeting**
  - a. Minutes were reviewed. Motion to adopt made by Carleton Giles, voted unanimously via voice vote to approve as-is.
- IV. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces**
  - a. *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) – Judicial/CSSD*
    - a. Meets every month to discuss a variety of issues. Working on legislative package. Also working on adopting CSG AOU project's recommendations. Implemented through subcommittee of the JJPOC. Recommendations focus on juvenile review boards (to increase uniformity and study effectiveness), continuing the trend of diverting kids from the JJ system and providing juveniles with needed resources. Fran Carino has been providing police officers with annual training legislation that has passed including a focus on working with youth, but he is retiring Jan. This may be an opportunity for the Commission to get involved.
  - b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (CTRP3) – IMRP
    - a. CTRP3 shared its preliminary 2019 traffic stop data findings with the advisory board last week. It hopes to have a report released early next year. Ken Barone, the project's manager, has again indicated that he would be happy to present preliminary findings to the commission at a meeting, if interested.

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- i. Commission will invite Ken to the January meeting
- c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – Alex Tsarkov (Member, CSC Director, IMRP)
  - a. In the process of developing legislative package. Looking into:
    - i. Expanding voting rights to everyone incarcerated; discussing logistics of how voting can occur within correctional facilities. Currently, those held pre-trial and convicted of misdemeanors are eligible to vote, however, logistics for permitting voting have not been adequately established. This proposal would also seek to expand voting access to those convicted of felonies.
    - ii. Modifying money bail system. Money bail (or Bail Bondsmen industry) only exists in the U.S. and Philippines. Other states have removed money as a means for getting out of incarceration and the CSC has been speaking with them to learn from their experiences.
    - iii. Sentence modification. Under current law, sentences under 3-years require permission from State’s Attorney for modification. CSC is looking to remove that requirement.
    - iv. Discussed minimum mandatories. Possibilities of implementing statute to permit judges to steer away from mandatories.
    - v. Juvenile parole hearings. Considering increasing the age limit to early 20s (as opposed to 18) to better align the law with scientific research on brain development.
  - a. [Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force](#) – IMRP
    - i. Three upcoming listening sessions for youth ages 18-25 around CT.
    - ii. Preliminary report is due Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>; the task force is working on recommendations for that report.

## V. **Commission statement in response to George Floyd homicide**

- a. Intend to post on the Commission’s website. Commission is open to suggestions for other places to share the statement publicly.
- b. No suggestions for edit were shared.

## VI. **Other business**

- a. Looking to host a panel discussion with police officers to provide officers an opportunity to share their perspectives with current issues, and any challenges that they’re facing.

## VII. **Meeting adjournment**

- a. Meeting concluded at 2:43pm

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**2020 Meeting Schedule**

January 13<sup>th</sup>

March 9<sup>th</sup>

May 11<sup>th</sup>

July 13<sup>th</sup>

September 14<sup>th</sup>

November 9<sup>th</sup>

