

COMMISSION ON RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

MINUTES

May 28, 2014 Meeting

2:00 – 3:30

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

Persons in attendance: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chairperson), Deborah Fuller (Judicial), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Brian Austin (DCJ), Ernest Green (OCPD), Esther Harris (Judicial), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Kimberly Weir (DOC), Paul Fitzgerald (Municipal Police Chiefs), Tracy Gove (Minority Leader of the House of Representatives), Subira Gordon (AAAC), Aileen Keays (Consultant – IMRP).

I. Welcome

- a. Meeting commenced at 2:11pm

II. Review and approve minutes from March 10th meeting

- a. *Review:*
 - i. March meeting adjourned at approximately 3pm, not 2:30pm.
- b. *Approval:*
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved by voice-vote on the condition the above-mentioned correction is made.

III. Membership update

- a. *Follow-ups from last meeting:*
 - i. Ann Smith (AFCAMP)
 1. No update
 - ii. Arlene Avery (APAAC)
 1. No update
- b. *New items:*
 - i. Yale University Police Chief would like to join the Commission; Senator Martin Looney may be interested in appointing the Chief since he represents New Haven.
 - ii. Commission will review its statutory charge and make recommendations for change, if a need is perceived.

IV. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces

- a. [Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee](#) (CJPAC) – Judicial
 - i. Attorney Fuller will attend the next meeting.

- b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (RP3) – IMRP
 - i. During May’s meeting, REDCJS had asked IMRP to report the names of people that completed the Connecticut *Bias in Policing* train-the-trainer program during today’s meeting. The people are:
 1. Ken Barone, CCSU
 2. Chief Doug Fuchs, Redding PD
 3. Deputy Chief Adam Radzimirsk, Bridgeport PD
 4. Captain Patrick Gaynor, Meriden PD
 5. Officer Joanne Peterson, CT Police Training Academy
 6. Officer James Nemphos, CT Police Training Academy
 7. Arthur Kureczka, CCSU
 8. TFC Karen O’Connor, CT State Police
 9. TFC Shawn Prusinowski, CT State Police
 - ii. First analysis of traffic stop data will be published in July
- c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – IMRP
 - i. CSC has focused its recent work on responding to legislative inquiries regarding its proposed legislation. Updates on CSC’s proposed bills were provided during the “Legislative session update” discussion.

V. Legislative session update

- a. Raised bills of interest to REDCJS
 - i. [H.B. 5063](#) – *An Act Concerning the Disclosure of Pardon Applications* – did not pass

Discussion

1. One of the concerns that was raised with concealing information on pardons applications – if the pardon process was confidential and sealed, how would the public know if pardons were being awarded disproportionately? Does the public have access to the process?
 - a. The process is open but once a pardon is granted, the files are sealed.
 2. Attendees discussed access to information on Google and the resulting lack of privacy.
 - a. There are companies that will remove information pertaining to an individual’s arrest but they are charging exorbitant fees for the service. Estimate provided was \$500.
- ii. [S.B. 366](#) – *An Act Concerning the Erasure of Records in Delinquency and Family With Service Needs Matters* – did not pass

- iii. [H.B. 5221](#) – *An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding Lengthy Sentences for Crimes Committed by a Child or Youth and the Sentencing of a Child or Youth Convicted of Certain Felony Offenses* – did not pass
- iv. [S.B. 153](#) – *An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to Certificates of Rehabilitation* – passed

Discussion

- a. Parole has already been implementing it and now probation is prepared to do so. Probation will have high-level review of certificate applications.
- v. [S.B. 259](#) – *An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding the Enhanced Penalty for the Sale or Possession of Drugs Near Schools, Day Care Centers and Public Housing Projects* – did not pass

VI. *The Color of Justice*

- a. April 1st forum was well-attended with a diverse group in attendance. It was great working with CTJJA; they are well-organized.

Discussion

- a. Prior to CTJJA’s *The Color of Justice* initiative, CTJJA spearheaded Education vs. Incarceration and Raise the Age – both successful
- b. IMRP will reach-out to CTJJA for survey results from April 1st
- c. DCJ had *The Color of Justice* event tailored to prosecutors and scheduled to occur today but one of the speakers was unable to attend; in the process of rescheduling.

VII. *Community dialogues with OVA*

- a. Waterbury is interested in co-hosting an educational program to further inform the community of the mission and services of the OVA.
- b. Justice Harper would like a follow-up letter sent to Victim Advocate, Garvin Ambrose.

VIII. *Other business*

- a. Tim Salius, retiree from the Judicial Branch and Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice, passed away. Ms. DeGraffenreidt will send IMRP information on Tim Salius’ passing and services to share with Commission members.

IX. *Meeting adjournment*

- a. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3pm