

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

Connecticut Judicial Branch

## Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2021

2:00 – 3:30

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

*Commission members in attendance: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chair), Carleton Giles (BOPP), Gail Hardy (DCJ), Monica Rams (DCF), David McGuire (Majority Leader of the Senate), Scott Jones (President Pro Temp of Senate), Preston Tisdale (Governor), Sharon Cheeks (Governor), Claud Chong (OCPD).*

*Non-commission members in attendance: Aileen Keays (IMRP), Ken Barone (IMRP), Jodi Hill-Lilly (DCF), Troy Brown (Judicial/CSSD), Deb Fuller (Judicial/CSSD).*

- I. Welcome**
  - a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:05pm
- II. Review and approve minutes from March meeting**
  - a. Motion made to approve made by Carleton Giles, seconded by Preston Tisdale and Sharon Cheeks. Approved unanimously via voice-vote.
- III. Presentation by Ken Barone, CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project**
  - a. 2019 data identified one department that warranted follow-up. This report has not been made public but was shared with the Advisory Board last November. Continue to work on part II of the report which summarizes the follow up work.
    - i. Most drivers were stopped for speeding, then registration, and third for defective lights.
  - b. 2020 traffic stop data was unique, due to COVID.
    - i. 50% reduction in traffic stop compared to prior year. April, traffic stops virtually stopped; whereas usually April is the busiest month for traffic stops due to federal initiatives (e.g., distracted driving, seatbelts, etc.) held annually during the month.
  - c. Disparity in traffic stops has decreased statewide because this is the state's 6<sup>th</sup> report. Over the past 6 years, the initiative has identified 29 departments as having disparity and then worked with those agencies to dig deeper to identify the causes of that disparity. Following these partnerships, 28 of the 29 adopted policy change(s) based on the findings which led to decreases in disparity. There is a new report that has not yet been made public which summarizes further analysis on the only agency that has not responded in that progressive manner.
- IV. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces**
  - a. *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) – Judicial/CSSD*

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### Connecticut Judicial Branch

- a. JJPOC RED Workgroup Update – Judicial/CSSD
  - i. JJPOC RED Workgroup Update – Judicial/CSSD
    - 1. The bill to document pedestrian stops by police is making its way through the legislative process. A lot of it now has to do with providing educational services to juveniles in detention.
- b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (CTRP3) – IMRP
  - a. Please see above notes from the presentation
- c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – IMRP
  - a. Proposed a few bills to the legislature:
    - i. Sentence modification statutes
    - ii. Drug-free zones
    - iii. Voting
- d. [Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force](#) (PTATF) – IMRP
  - a. Task Force has been meeting every month. Has endorsed 13 or 14 recommendations for the legislature to consider. Has several working groups meeting multiple times a month. Legislature has tasked the Task Force with looking at 12 issues and then the task force has added additional issues to examine.

### V. Conference planning

- a. Looking for a dynamic national personality for keynote
  - i. Troy knows a potential national speaker but would require honorarium funds
- b. Additional potential agenda items discussed:
  - i. Issues with minority promotions within departments
  - ii. CBA policing task force received a presentation from Preston and Troy on screening police officers for racial animus
  - iii. Mental health issues – officers being required to participate in counseling every few years. Mental health screening/assessment every 2-3 years.
  - iv. Podcast series, “Criminal Injustice” by David Harris. Might find good speakers and potentially topics.
- c. Intended outcome(s) of the report – specific recommendations for legislature and police departments

### VI. Other business

- a. None

### VII. Meeting adjournment

- a. Motion made by Carleton Giles and seconded by Sharon Cheeks; meeting was adjourned at 3:22pm