



IDOT TRAFFIC STOP DATA TASK FORCE

CITY OF URBANA
HUMAN RELATIONS OFFICE
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61801

LAUREL LUNT PRUSSING
MAYOR

PUBLIC COMMENT COVER PAGE

**THE ATTACHED IS PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE
“PRELIMINARY REPORT” PUBLISHED ON 07/06/2015
BY THE URBANA IDOT TRAFFIC STOP DATA TASK FORCE**

Comments Submitted by:	Elderss Melinda Carr
Date Received:	September 30, 2015

TASK FORCE INFORMATION:

The I.D.O.T. Traffic Stop Data Task Force was established by Urbana City Council Resolution NO. 2014-01-002.

The Task Force is charged with identifying and studying any racial disparities that may exist in local traffic stop data supplied annually to the City by the Illinois Department of Transportation (I.D.O.T.), and attempting to find the source and cause of any disparity. The Task Force is directed to examine multiple aspects of the traffic stop data, including race, driver age, residence, stop time, stop location, the reason for the stop, vehicle age, and any other information the Task Force finds to be useful. The Task Force will also look beyond traffic stop data to consider census and unemployment data, high school graduation rates, and incarceration statistics from the September 2013 study of the Champaign County justice system.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TASK FORCE:

On the web, visit <http://urbanaininois.us/boards/idot-traffic-stop-data-task-force>; or

Contact the Urbana Human Relations Office by mail to: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801-3336; by email to acweck@urbanaininois.us; by telephone to (217) 384-2455; or by fax to: (217) 328-8288.

From: Melinda Carr [<mailto:carrmr2007@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 7:08 AM
To: !HRO
Cc: Bautista, Alex (Hortencio)
Subject: Re: Public Input for IDOT Traffic Stop Data Task Force

Dear Members of the IDOT Traffic Stop Data Task Force:

I sent the following email on the morning of September 30, 2015. Unfortunately I used the email of the first page of the document posted on the site (Public Comments Requested: Preliminary Findings of the Urbana IDOT TSDTF (Sept. 2, 2015 Update – 777KB) which shows this email address (HRO@urbanaininois.com), and this does not seem to be a valid email address. Unfortunately, the message came back to my mailbox as undeliverable (a failure notice). If you need a copy of the undeliverable email message, I can send you a copy. I realize now after reviewing again that the second page has a different email address in which comments are asked to be received (HRO@urbanaininois.us). The email address on the first page should be corrected if not accurate. I expressed comments regarding the preliminary findings report in a previous meeting I attended on August 19, 2015. I wanted to follow up with these comments in writing. I am asking if the task force will include these comments for consideration.

I am writing on behalf of the Ministerial Alliance of Champaign-Urbana and Vicinity to follow up on items that I shared during the IDOT Task Force meeting on August 19, 2015. Please consider and address these questions, issues, and recommendations which are due by September 30, 2015, under requests for public comment:

1. What's supposed to happen and what's not supposed to happen during a traffic stop? What is the criteria for determining that police officers are abusing their authority against citizens when they are being stopped? What rights do citizens have to be free from – or is there such a thing as “unlawful search, seizure, or harassment” when being stopped?
2. How can we identify individuals who are carrying out unjust practices within the police force based on that criteria?
3. Did the Task Force check to see how many formal complaints have been filed? After reading about some of the documented experiences shared by citizens, it was disturbing to hear their encounters. Their encounters did not align with the mission to serve and protect the public.
4. Fear of reprisal. We do not know how many other individuals have experienced unjust treatment in their interaction with the police. Only the ones in the report who had the courage to come forward to tell their stories. From what I understood, Mr. Eric Jakobsson noted a situation about an African-American Minister, but the Minister did not want his name to be mentioned. I noted that this was an example of someone who was fearful of being targeted for speaking out. At the time that I spoke, a reference to a website or location to be established for future community feedback regarding unjust/unfair treatment was mentioned. Would the feedback captured at this site/location be considered formal/valid complaints? If names are not used, how can that information help to deter police authorities

who are carrying out unjust practices? In addition to this, residents must be encouraged to file a formal complaint when their rights are violated.

5. Please review the article entitled "Police corruption due to 'blue code of silence'" regarding a report by University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Researchers at <http://news.uic.edu/police-corruption-enabled-by-blue-code-of-silence>. "Recommendations: To combat police corruption, the researchers propose a combination of external review initiatives and internal incentives. One key recommendation is to replace the appointed Police Board with a democratically elected board of civilians, or an entire new appointed board. - See more at: <http://news.uic.edu/police-corruption-enabled-by-blue-code-of-silence#sthash.k2T41yTz.dpuf>." The City of Urbana has a Civilian Police Review Board. Have they been effective in identifying unjust practices?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important issue impacting our community.

Elderess Melinda Carr, President