

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-002R

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO
RECOMMEND HOW THE CITY CAN IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF DATA
COMPILED IN THE IDOT TRAFFIC STUDY AND RESPOND TO CONCERNS RAISED
BY SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana has reviewed reports from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) statistical study of traffic stops since its beginning in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the City also collected data on its own for several years prior; and

WHEREAS, the City paid for a statistical analysis of the IDOT study covering years 2007-2009 and that study raised additional questions that can only be explored further utilizing local knowledge of demographics, driving, and enforcement patterns; and

WHEREAS, on October 7th 2013, the City Council was presented a petition by social justice groups that are well established and active locally and have historically been well informed of racial justice issues, such petition asking for creation of a citizens' traffic stop data committee; and

WHEREAS, upon discussion Council members recognized that unique local demographics such as student population and commuting patterns affect the predicted racial composition of drivers in Urbana and social and economic factors may also influence the racial makeup of drivers stopped for traffic stops; and

WHEREAS, upon further discussion the Urbana City Council recognizes the need for a focused task force to provide additional information to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City takes seriously the intent embodied in its Human Rights Ordinance to end discrimination, recognizes the potential for discrimination in routine policing activities and strives to prevent discrimination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. The City of Urbana will establish a Traffic Stop Data Task Force to identify and study any racial disparities that may exist in local traffic stop data for the purpose of understanding the source and cause of the disparity.

Section 2. The Task Force will examine multiple aspects of the IDOT Traffic Stop Data, including not just the reported ratio based on race, but also including driver age, residence, stop time, stop location, reason for stop, vehicle age and any of the dozens of data items collected in the data the committee finds useful. In order to provide a broader social

context and to allow for comparisons and alternate analyses, the Task Force will also compile statistics from existing sources such as Census data, unemployment data, high school graduation rates, and incarceration data from the September 2013 study of the Champaign County justice system. [For additional social context, the Task Force will consider the experience of traffic stops from the perspective of minority drivers.](#)

Section 3. The Task Force shall be composed of 11 members. At least two members will have education and expertise in statistics. One council member may serve on the task force. Other members shall be chosen from applicants based upon their knowledge and understanding of sociology, law enforcement, or other relevant experience and a demonstrated ability to be objective and respectful in dealing with people from other backgrounds, cultures and opinions. Applicants are not required to live in the City of Urbana but should be representative of the ethnic mix of Urbana. Appointments to the Task Force and selection of a chair will be made by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. Applications shall be received through February 2014 and the Task Force will be appointed in March 2014.

Section 4. The task force will establish a regular time and place for a monthly meeting in city facilities, following the Open Meetings Act. Meetings shall be video recorded, with video posted to the Urbana web site. Staff from the Urbana Human Relations Commission and Civilian Police Review Board will provide administrative support.

Section 5. The task force will provide at least bi-monthly progress reports to the City Council. The Mayor and City Council may submit questions to be researched by the Task Force.

Section 6. The task force will report preliminary findings including any policy recommendations in writing on or before April 30, 2015 with a public presentation and opportunities for the public to ask questions.

Section 7. The report will be available for public comment for a period of 30 days, and written comment received will be included in the final report.