



Memorandum

TO: Kevin J. Jackson, Village Manager *KJ*

FROM: Kira Tchang, Assistant Village Manager/HR Director and Staff Liaison to Citizen Police Oversight Committee *KT*

FOR: Village President and Board of Trustees

DATE: May 9, 2024

SUBJECT: CPOC Request re: Investigation into Racial Disparity in Oak Park, IL Traffic Stops (2020-2022)

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide additional information regarding the Citizen Police Oversight Committee (CPOC) request to engage with the Oak Park Police Department (OPPD) in investigating the racial disparity regarding OPPD traffic stops as detailed in the Illinois Traffic Stop Study (ITSS) reports for the same time frame.

Background

The CPOC has requested that the OPPD investigate racial disparities with regard to OPPD traffic stops and then provide the data collected to the CPOC. The CPOC's specific requests are outlined in the attached memo and may be viewed through the lens of the CPOC's enabling ordinance and current workplan.

Section 2-30-2 of the Village Code provides, "C[POC] shall be an advisory committee to the President and Board of Trustees and is hereby authorized as follows: ...To monitor and evaluate Village efforts in the Police Department in regard to racial and cultural diversity in such areas as training, recruitment, promotions and interpersonal relations... In addition to the required semiannual meetings and reports, the Committee may report to the Village Board on special items of concern within its purview at any time or with any degree of frequency which the Committee deems appropriate or necessary."

The Board of Trustees adopted a 2024 workplan for the CPOC which includes the committee's planned activity for 2024. While the majority of work in the CPOC's adopted workplan is related to citizen complaints regarding the Police Department, the committee may "[w]ith approval of the Board of Trustees, or at the direction of the Board, undertake studies of issues pertaining to police-community relations, policing strategies, recruitment, training or promotions."

Additionally, staff notes that the BerryDunn Public Safety Report contained an analysis of traffic stop data for the period of time from 2019 to 2021 with partial data from 2022.

Timeline and Resources

Should the Board of Trustees assign the Illinois Traffic Stop Study Analysis to the CPOC for review, the OPPD would conduct the applicable investigation, then compile and analyze the data. There are a number of competing priorities within the Department that would impact the OPPD's ability to turn around the data and analysis quickly. Current priorities in the Department include the implementation of a new RMS/CAD system and the police strategic plan, including Lexipol policy review and issuance; new technology, including radio integration; and recruitment of entry-level patrol officers. Given Police Department staffing levels and current priorities, the OPPD estimates that much of the data and analysis requested by the CPOC could be provided within 4-5 months. If the Board wishes to prioritize this information and analysis over existing Department priorities, the information may be available sooner. Alternately, if the Board is open to identifying additional resources for the Police Department, either in the form of additional staff or external support, the data and analysis could be provided earlier dependent on the speed of hiring or selection.

For questions, please contact Kira Tchang, Assistant Village Manager/HR Director via email at ktchang@oak-park.us or by phone at (708) 358-5652.

cc: Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager
Ahmad Zayyad, Deputy Village Manager
Erin E. Baynes, Assistant to the Village Manager
Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk
All Department Directors



Memorandum

TO: Kevin J. Jackson, Village Manager *KJ*
Kira Tchang, Assistant Village Manager/HR Director *KT*

FROM: Kevin Barnhart, Citizens Police Oversight Committee, Chair

FOR: Village President and Board of Trustees

DATE: April 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Investigation into Racial Disparity in Oak Park, IL Traffic Stops (2020-2022)

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to request the Citizens Police Oversight Committee (CPOC) to engage with the Oak Park Police Department (OPPD) to conduct a thorough investigation into the racial disparity regarding traffic stops conducted by OPPD from 2020 through 2022 as detailed in the Illinois Traffic Stop Study (ITSS) reports for the same time frame.

The aim of this investigation is to provide full transparency around OPPD traffic stop practices and associated outcomes to the Village Board of Trustees and Village President to ensure traffic stop policing practices are fair to all who traverse our community. OPPD will be responsible for conducting the data analysis as part of this investigation.

Background

Over the past few years, roughly fifty percent of all traffic stops conducted in Oak Park are of Black drivers, even though Oak Park's Black population is only nineteen percent. In addition, most of the stops are for moving violations where officer motives can be subjective and may be difficult to understand. Moreover, most of the stops of Black drivers are not residents of Oak Park and do not result in a citation, which also can lead to perceptions of Oak Park not being a welcoming community for everyone.

Rather than relying on hunches and assumptions, it will be instructive to rely on the data provided to ITSS by OPPD and to understand the tactics, policies, and procedures governing traffic stops in Oak Park. CPOC requests access to all of Oak Park's traffic stop data as well as all policies and procedures governing traffic stops conducted by the Oak Park Police Department during this period.

Areas of Concern

The Citizens Police Oversight Committee (CPOC) wishes to explore various areas of concern with the Oak Park Police Department (OPPD) regarding the racial disparity of the traffic stops conducted in Oak Park. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. Heat map analysis of the location of traffic stops for each year
2. Identification and explanation of the triggers for OPPD making a traffic stop
3. Access to all policies and procedures governing officer conduct during a traffic stop
4. Demographic Summaries for each year:
 - a. All traffic stops conducted in Oak Park compared to Oak Park demographics
 - b. Resident vs. non-resident stops
 - c. Moving violations, identified by type of moving violation
 - d. Consent and non-consent searches
 - i. Outcome of each search:
 1. Weapons seized, weapon category (e.g., firearm, knife, etc.)
 2. Contraband found; type (e.g., Class of drug, amount, etc.)
 - e. Citations and warnings (verbal and written)
 - f. All arrests made by OPPD resulting from traffic stops
 - g. Time of day analysis of traffic stops for the following time periods:
 - i. 6:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 - ii. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
 - iii. 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM
 - iv. 12:00 AM - 6:00 AM

The Citizens Police Oversight Committee (CPOC) requests the full cooperation of the Oak Park Police Department (OPPD) in support of this effort. We also request that OPPD provide the necessary data analysis personnel to fully investigate any disparities CPOC wishes to discuss with OPPD related to traffic stops during this time.

For questions, please contact Kevin Barnhart, Chair, Citizens Police Oversight Committee (CPOC), via email at kevbarnhart@gmail.com or by phone at 708-846-0262.

cc: Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager
Ahmad Zayyad, Deputy Village Manager
Erin E. Baynes, Assistant to the Village Manager
Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk
All Department Directors