

DEPARTMENT OF  
POLICE

ARTURO VENEGAS, JR.  
CHIEF OF POLICE

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

May 12, 2000

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City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session

**SUBJECT:** RACIAL PROFILING DATA COLLECTION PROJECT

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** Citywide

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council direct the City Manager and the Chief of Police to continue with plans for implementing a racial profiling data collection project and to contract with the University of Southern California for data analysis once funding for the project has been identified.

**CONTACT PERSONS:** Arturo Venegas, Jr., Chief of Police, 264-5121  
Captain John Parker, Office of the Chief, 433-2292  
Lieutenant Cara Westin, Economic Development, 264-7327

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** May 23, 2000

**SUMMARY:**

In February 2000, City Council approved a proposal by the Police Department to develop and implement several accountability-based strategies, including a project to collect and analyze demographic information related to traffic stops. City Council also requested that the Police Department report back on the status of this project.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:** None

**BACKGROUND:**

In September 1999, Governor Gray Davis vetoed Senate Bill 78, which would have required California law enforcement agencies to collect demographic information from traffic stops. He then

*The mission of the Sacramento Police Department is to work in partnership with the Community to protect life and property; solve neighborhood problems, and enhance the quality of life in our City.*

requested that the cities of Los Angeles and Sacramento collect race and ethnicity data to help determine the extent of the practice of racial profiling in California. Staff examined the feasibility of the project, and in February 2000, a Police Department proposal was unanimously approved by City Council to implement a plan to collect and analyze demographic information related to traffic stops. Data collection is scheduled to begin July 1, 2000.

### **Project Expectations**

The Sacramento Police Department is committed to providing the best, unbiased professional service to every segment of our community. The intent of the data collection project is to address concerns raised across the nation and in the Sacramento community regarding racial profiling by integrating accountability, technology, and community alliances. Evaluating the data will help determine the extent of racial profiling, where and under what conditions racial profiling is likely to take place, and which officers are most likely to engage in the practice.

### **Project Development**

The data collection project for racial profiling involves Police Department partnerships and collaborations, an independent consultant, and the Sacramento community. The design, integrity, validity and value of this project were given extensive consideration because of the impact this project will undoubtedly have on the nation. Two measures were put into place to address those issues:

- The Department has partnered with the Washington D.C. based Police Foundation to employ a systemic approach to evaluating performance by linking officer demographic characteristics (gender, race, age, assignment, seniority, education, training, and performance information) with data obtained from the survey instrument.
- The Department realizes that an independent research authority is fundamental to the development of the survey instrument and analysis of the data. The researcher will monitor data collection, ensure quality control, and merge and analyze the officer data, survey data and U.S. Census information specific to Sacramento. The University of Southern California has submitted a proposal to contract with the Police Department to provide those services and present the results in a mid-project report and final report.

### **Survey Instrument**

A valid survey instrument is crucial to the success of the project. In developing the survey instrument, staff examined more than thirty-five possible variables. California Senate Bill 1389<sup>1</sup>

would have required officers to collect the following information: race, reason for stop, if a search was conducted, the result of the search, and the result of the stop. The same data variables, supported by civil rights groups, are collected by an estimated sixty California law enforcement agencies, with

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<sup>1</sup> On April 27, 2000, Governor Gray Davis and SB1389 author Senator Kevin Murray agreed to inactivate the bill in support of an alternative bill that would require officers to obtain cultural diversity training and to issue business cards to drivers who were stopped and not cited.

slight variations as they may apply to each agency (Attachment 1). The Sacramento Police Department has chosen to use a Scantron form for officers to capture a significantly greater amount of information than most other agencies who are collecting data (Attachment 2).

In developing the survey instrument, the Police Department conducted a Department-wide meeting and a series of meetings throughout the city. The purpose of these meetings was to provide information on the project, to respond to any questions and concerns, and to solicit input on the data collection instrument. On Monday, April 10, an estimated 75 sworn and civilian staff attended the Department-wide meeting and provided valuable input. Recommendations also were received from numerous officers who attended continuing professional training classes. To obtain input from the community, letters were mailed, community members were phoned, a press release was issued, and a notice was printed in the Sacramento Bee, encouraging residents to attend area meetings and participate in the process. Between April 10<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>, six meetings were held across the city, drawing an estimated 175 total persons. The Department also contacted the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and met with representatives from interested organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund regarding the project. The Department has stated in several forums that staff is available to meet with individuals and groups who may have concerns regarding the form and/or the project. A statement has also been placed on the Department's web site regarding racial profiling that includes an e-mail link for anyone who wishes to post questions or concerns.

Finally, in early May 2000, the data collection form was pre-tested. Officers unfamiliar with the form completed it in 1½ to 2½ minutes. This is expected to shorten significantly. The data collection form will be regularly tested throughout the project to ensure validity.

### **Project Timeline**

Data collection is scheduled to begin July 1, 2000. A mid-project abbreviated report will be completed in January 2001 and a presentation will be made to City Council shortly thereafter. Data collection will continue until July 2001, after which a final detailed report will be presented to City Council, followed by public presentations.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Project costs are estimated at \$114,000 and are outlined as follows:

- ◆ USC has submitted a proposal to assist in the design of the survey instrument, to merge data sets, and to analyze and present the results of their findings in a mid-project and final report. The contract for services shall not exceed \$78,000.
- ◆ Program administration costs for travel, supplies, and the 50% dedication of a currently employed Police Clerk for data entry have been estimated at \$36,000.

At this time, there is no funding identified for the data collection project. A proposal to fund the project has been submitted to the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. The Department is currently looking for other sources for project funding such as grants. A budget augmentation is not requested as the Department will find the funds within the existing budget.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

This activity does not constitute a "project" and is therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061 and 15378.

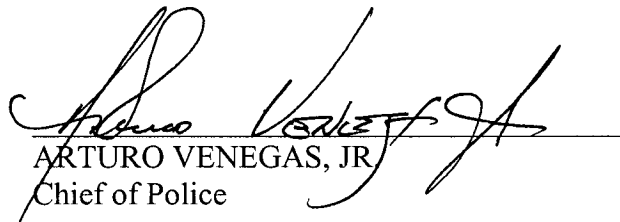
**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Sacramento Police Department does not condone a law enforcement practice of racial or bias profiling. It is committed to holding open dialogue, discussion, and examination of this issue in order to produce guidelines for police policies, operational procedures, and training programs to ensure professional and legal standards, as well as community expectations for quality of service, are met.

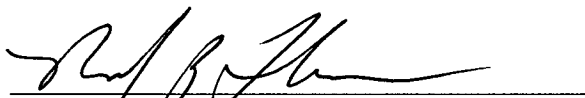
**ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:**

Materials and services will be procured in accordance with the City's ESBD policy.

Respectfully submitted:

  
ARTURO VENEGAS, JR.  
Chief of Police

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

  
ROBERT E. THOMAS  
City Manager

AV:tdj  
REF: 5-24  
Attachment

## Data Collection Variables

POSSIBLE VARIABLES	Sacramento Police Department (Proposed)	Senate Bill 1389 (Proposed)	ACLU	Stockton	CHP
Race	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Age	✓			✓	✓
Sex	✓			✓	✓
Reason for Stop	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Search	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Result of Search	✓	✓	✓		
Result of Stop	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Citation Number	✓		✓		
Time of Stop	✓				
Length of Stop	✓				
Number of Passengers	✓				
Authority for Search	✓				
Driver Asked to Exit Car	✓				
Location	✓			✓	
Officer Badge	✓				
Officer Special Detail	✓			✓	
Date of Stop	✓				

# Sacramento Police Department

## VEHICLE STOP DATA FORM # # # # #

1. **APPROXIMATE TIME OF STOP**     a.m.     p.m.  
**HOUR:** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12]  
**MINUTE:** [5] [10] [15] [20] [25] [30] [35] [40] [45] [50] [55] [00]
  
2. **DATE OF STOP**    **YEAR:**     2000     2001  
**MONTH:** [J] [F] [M] [A] [M] [J] [J] [A] [S] [O] [N] [D]  
**DAY:**    [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15]  
              [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28]  
              [29] [30] [31]
  
3. **REASON FOR STOP** (Check all that apply)  
 *Hazardous Violation of the Vehicle Code*  
 *Violation of the Penal Code*  
 *Violation of a city ordinance*  
 *Call for service - suspect description/vehicle description*  
 *Pre-existing knowledge/information*  
 *Equipment/registration violation*  
 *Special detail (POP Project, DUI Checkpoint, Crime Pattern /Series, Narcotic/Prostitution Suppression Detail)*  
 *Other* \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. **RACE/GENDER OF DRIVER**     Male     Female  
 *Afr.-Amer.*     *Hispanic*     *White*     *As./Pac.Isl.*  
 *Nat. American*     *Other/Not Apparent*
  
5. **DRIVER YEAR OF BIRTH:** [0] [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9]  
  [0] [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9]
  
6. **DRIVER'S LIC./ID:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. **WAS DRIVER ASKED TO EXIT CAR?**     Yes     No
  
8. **NUMBER OF PASSENGERS**     0     1     2     3     4+
  
9. **WAS A SEARCH DONE?**  
 Driver     Passenger     Vehicle     No
  
10. **SEARCH AUTHORITY:**     Consent     Terry Cursory  
 Incident to Arrest     Parole/Probation     Tow Inventory
  
11. **IF A SEARCH WAS DONE WHAT WAS DISCOVERED OR SEIZED?**  
*(Check all that apply)*     *Weapons*     *Drugs*  
 *Cash*     *Vehicle*     *Alcohol*     *Other Property*     *Nothing*
  
12. **RESULT OF STOP #** \_\_\_\_\_  
 *Citation*     *Arrest*     *Report*     *Advised*     *FC*
  
13. **STOP LOCATION:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DISTRICT:**    [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]  
                      [0] [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9]
  
14. **VEHICLE LIC. PLATE #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_
  
15. **DURATION OF STOP IN TOTAL MINUTES**  
[1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [0]  
[1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [0]     99+
  
16. **OFFICER BADGE #**    [0] [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9]  
                                  [0] [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9]  
                                  [0] [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9]  
                                  [0] [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9]
  
- SECONDARY OFF. BADGE #** \_\_\_\_\_
  
17. **VEHICLE EQUIPPED WITH CAMERA**     Y     N

**RESOLUTION NO. 2558-271**

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_



**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT RACIAL PROFILING DATA COLLECTION PROJECT**

WHEREAS the City of Sacramento desires to provide the best, unbiased professional service to every segment of the community;

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:

The City Council directs staff to:

1. Continue with plans to implement a racial profiling data collection project; and
2. Contract with the University of Southern California to analyze data once funding for the project has been identified.

Further, staff is directed to report back to City Council on the data collection project with preliminary results after six months and a final detailed report after one year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

**FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY**

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

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