


MEMORANDUM

To: Steve Lentz, Mayor
Board of Trustees

Cc: John Lobaito, Village Administrator
Police Department

From: Eric J. Guenther, Chief of Police 

Date: June 1, 2017

Re: Release of Racial Profiling Statistics

On January 1, 2004, it became mandatory for all police departments in Illinois to record specific data pertaining to race from every traffic stop (commonly referred to as the racial profiling law). The law requires this data to be transmitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation for collection and analysis. The Illinois Department of Transportation publishes their annual report every summer. Because of the limited scope of data required to be collected, this report could generate many questions.

The report generated from traffic stop data submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation and analyzed by University of Illinois at Chicago is being compared to city and county census data identifying the racial makeup of our community. The 2010 census indicates the Village of Mundelein has a reported 41.7% minority population. The obvious flaw in using this type of census data is there is no statistical correlation when comparing the ratio of minority drivers stopped versus non-minority drivers. Mundelein roads are populated by vehicles driven from all over northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

To better understand these reports and get a clearer representation of the racial makeup of drivers on our roads, it was necessary to develop additional internal benchmarks. For example, we have captured the racial background of all at-fault drivers involved in crashes occurring in Mundelein. Since Mundelein residents are not the only drivers involved in crashes occurring in Mundelein, we get a better picture of who is using our roads.

In 2016, there were 1,335 crashes reported to our department. Most crashes occur because of specific driving behaviors; therefore, an assumption can be made those same drivers will continue to exhibit the same unsafe driving habits causing them to be stopped by a police officer.

The following is the racial makeup of all at-fault drivers:

RACE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
White	624	49.21%
African American	42	3.31%
Hispanic	249	19.64%
Asian	50	3.94%
Native American	1	0.08%
Unknown *	302	23.82%
TOTAL AT FAULT DRIVERS	1,268	

*The law does not allow police officers to ask an individual his or her race. According to the law, police officers must make an “educated guess” concerning the driver’s racial background. Unknown is selected when race is not easily identifiable or in the case of a hit-and-run crash.

In addition to the benchmarks mentioned above, we have also looked at the racial makeup of traffic crash data for “not at-fault drivers” and all drivers involved in crashes.

In 2016, the Mundelein Police Department initiated 9,758 vehicle traffic stops. White drivers were stopped 5,700 times representing 58.41% of all traffic stops. Non-white drivers were stopped 4,058 times representing 41.59% of all traffic stops. Comparing the 2010 census data of 41.7% minority residents to 41.59% minority drivers actually stopped; there is no statistical disparity. As in previous years, approximately two out of three drivers stopped in 2016 were white.

IDOT also requests data on consent searches. Out of the 9,758 traffic stops, the Mundelein Police Department requested permission to conduct a consent search 221 times or 2.26% of the total traffic stops. Permission to search was granted on 191 or 1.96% of the stops and consent searches were actually performed 175 times or 1.79% of the total traffic stops.

Consent Searches:

	STOPS	CONSENT REQUEST	CONSENT GRANTED	SEARCH PERFORMED	CONTRABAND FOUND
White Drivers	5,700	99 or 1.74%	83 or 83.84%	72 or 72.73%	28 or 28.28%
Non-White Drivers	4,058	122 or 3.01%	108 or 88.52%	103 or 84.43%	35 or 28.68%

Six other types of searches are performed: reasonable suspicion, probable cause, incident to arrest, custodial arrest, drug-dog alerts, and inventory.