

MEMORANDUM

To: Steve Lentz, Mayor
Board of Trustees

Cc: John Lobaito, Village Administrator
Police Department

From: Eric J. Guenther, Chief of Police 

Date: May 2, 2019

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 (v2018) census indicates the Village of Mundelein has a reported 47.0% 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 2018, there were 1,107 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.

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

RACE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
White	572	51.67%
African American	49	4.43%
Hispanic	293	26.47%
Asian	39	3.52%
Middle Eastern	11	0.99%
Unknown *	143	12.92%
TOTAL AT FAULT DRIVERS	1,107	

*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 2018, the Mundelein Police Department initiated 10,248 vehicle traffic stops. White drivers were stopped 5,536 times representing 54.02% of all traffic stops. Non-white drivers were stopped 4,712 times representing 45.98% of all traffic stops. Comparing the 2010 (v2018) census data of 47.0% minority residents to 45.98% minority drivers actually stopped; there is no statistical disparity.

IDOT also requests data on consent searches. Out of the 10,248 traffic stops, the Mundelein Police Department requested permission to conduct a consent search 383 times or 3.74% of the total traffic stops. Permission to search was granted on 331 or 3.23% of the total stops and consent searches were actually performed 281 times or 2.74% of the total traffic stops.

Consent Searches:

	STOPS	CONSENT REQUEST	CONSENT GRANTED	SEARCH PERFORMED	CONTRABAND FOUND
White Drivers	5,536	152 or 2.75%	127 or 83.55%	113 or 88.98%	51 or 45.13%
Non-White Drivers	4,712	231 or 4.9%	204 or 88.31%	168 or 82.35%	71 or 42.26%

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

The State of Illinois does not have a category for the Middle Eastern minority group and has directed departments to include with White statistics. The following is a complete breakdown by race:

RACE	2017		2018	
	STOPS	% OF All	STOPS	% OF All
White	6,353	56.86%	5,536	54.02%
TOTAL WHITE	5,700	58.41%	5,536	54.02%
African American	695	6.22%	703	6.86%
American Indian	6	0.05%	9	0.09%
Hispanic	3,647	32.64%	3,492	34.07%
Asian	457	4.09%	491	4.79%
Native Hawaiian	16	0.14%	17	0.17%
TOTAL NON-WHITE	4,821	43.14%	4,712	45.98%
TOTAL ALL	11,174	100%	10,248	100%

The 2010 (v2018) census data shows a minority population of 47%, which closely mirrors the above traffic stop percentages.

After reviewing the above statistics utilizing the IDOT benchmark, our internal benchmarks and comparing 2017 data with 2018 data, it is clear that there is no evidence of racial profiling by the Mundelein Police Department. As stated in the attached public statement and letter which was sent to all residents in 2001 regarding the topic of racial profiling:

*The members of the Mundelein Police Department reject racial profiling as a law enforcement tactic, and **we will not encourage, tolerate, or condone its use by any of our members.** We are committed to sound practices of **bias-free policing** based on reasonable suspicion, probable cause, and use of good discretion. Our purpose is to create the safest atmosphere for our customers (citizens of the community), promote and foster a positive working relationship with the community, and treat all individuals with dignity and respect. We are partners with the community that we serve and will act as a guardian of the people's rights.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.