



MEMORANDUM

SAGINAW POLICE DEPARTMENT

505 W. McLeroy Blvd. Saginaw, TX 76179
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DATE: 02/04/09	TO: Nan Stanford City Manager	FROM: Roger Macon Chief of Police	SUBJECT: 2008 Citizen Contact Data
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Overview

Since January 1, 2002, the Saginaw Police Department has collected citizen contact data in accordance with the Texas Racial Profiling Law for the purpose of identifying and responding (if necessary) to concerns regarding racial profiling practices. This report presents a summary of data collected, and provides an analysis of citizen contacts compared to our general population. As you are aware, the law requires that this information be presented to our city council no later than March 1st of each year.

Citizen Contact Data

The Saginaw Police Department documented 7,052 citizen contacts between January 1 and December 31, 2008. The following table provides a distribution of these stops sorted by race/ethnicity, as mandated by state law:

Race/Ethnicity	Contacts	
	N	%
Caucasian	5,087	72.1%
Hispanic	1,230	17.4%
African	576	8.2%
Asian	130	1.8%
Native American	2	0.0%
Other	27	0.4%
Total	7,052	100.0%

Search Data

Of the 7,052 documented citizen contacts, Saginaw Police officers conducted 113 searches (1.6% of all stops). Most searches (85%) were based upon the arrest of a person, or probable cause to search the motor vehicle or person stopped. Consent to search was given in the remaining 17 searches (15%). No searches were categorized as “other”.

The following table provides a distribution of all searches sorted by race/ethnicity, as mandated by state law:

Race/Ethnicity	Searches				Probable	
	N	Total	Consent	Arrest	Cause	Other
Caucasian	69	61.1%	11	23	35	0
Hispanic	28	24.8%	3	11	14	0
African	15	13.3%	3	5	7	0
Asian	1	0.9%	0	1	0	0
Native American	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	113	100.0%	17	40	56	0

Baseline Information/Methodology

Several methods (residential population, licensed driver population, road surveys, vehicle availability data, etc.) have been discussed for establishing baseline population information for comparative purposes. The most logical when discussed among law enforcement professionals is the use of Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) data for licensed drivers. This in itself still presents logistical problems when attempting comparisons. DPS data is not available for individual cities, but is provided by zip code. The following table presents DPS data for the two predominant zip codes in Saginaw (76131 and 76179), sorted by race/ethnicity:

Race/Ethnicity	DPS Data	
	N	Total
Caucasian/ Hispanic	44,942	89.9%
African	2,617	5.2%
Asian	1,931	3.9%
Native American	117	0.2%
Other	373	0.7%
Total	49,980	100.0%

Please consider two things when reviewing this table; 1) the Caucasian and Hispanic licensed drivers have been combined due to DPS reporting standards; and 2) the total number of drivers far exceeds the city’s population. Again, this is due to DPS reporting standards and our inability to elicit information specific to Saginaw drivers. However, these numbers should be considered representative of our transient population (i.e. those people who travel through Saginaw on a daily basis, regardless of where they live).

The police department has tracked the number of Saginaw residents contacted during the reporting period. The following table details residents stopped, sorted by race/ethnicity using DPS standards. These numbers will be compared against DPS driver information in the Comparative Analysis section of this report.

Race/Ethnicity	Resident Data	
	N	%
Caucasian/ Hispanic	2,167	92.4%
African	139	5.9%
Asian	27	1.2%
Native American	0	0.0%
Other	11	0.5%
Total	2,344	100.0%

Comparative Analysis

State law requires that our department offer a comparative analysis of total persons stopped (citizen contact data) to a total of the general population (baseline data). The following table does so, comparing Saginaw residents stopped, sorted by race/ethnicity, to that of our prevailing zip codes, also sorted by race ethnicity. Also note that Caucasians and Hispanics have once again been combined, to conform to DPS reporting standards.

Race/Ethnicity	Resident Data		DPS Data		Variance	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Caucasian/ Hispanic	2,167	92.4%	44,942	89.9%	42,775	102.8%
African	139	5.9%	2,617	5.2%	2,478	113.3%
Asian	27	1.2%	1,931	3.9%	1,904	29.8%
Native American	0	0.0%	117	0.2%	117	0.0%
Other	11	0.5%	373	0.7%	361	62.9%
Total	2,223	100.0%	49,980	100.0%		

The “Variance” column relates to the percentage of residents stopped compared the DPS data for this area. (Example: 92.4% of SPD stops were Caucasian or Hispanic, while these groups make up 89.9% of the local population – 92.4% divided by 89.9% equals 102.8%.)

Theoretically members of each race/ethnicity would be stopped in proportionate numbers to the persons living in our area. Our numbers suggest a slightly higher percentage of Caucasians and Hispanics were detained than live in this area, though this percentage should not be considered extreme.

Policies and Training

As required by law, the Saginaw Police Department adopted policies regarding Racial Profiling (SPD General Order 308), complaints against police employees (SPD General Order 203 – Discipline) and the use of in-car video camera systems (SPD General Order 305 – Mobile Video Systems). Each of these policies was in place prior to January 1, 2002. The Department received verification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) in June 2002 that our racial profiling policy conforms to all applicable state statutes.

State law also required that the chief of police and every sworn officer be trained in racial profiling by September 1, 2003. This mandate has been attained – all officers employed by the City of Saginaw have received racial profiling training.

Complaints Regarding Racial Profiling

Any officer of the Saginaw Police Department who is found, after investigation, to have engaged in racial profiling may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Disciplinary or corrective action may include cultural diversity, sensitivity or other appropriate training or counseling, as determined by the Chief of Police.

The Department provides education to the public on how to make a complaint against a police employee in our brochure, *Commendations and Complaints Regarding Saginaw Police Employees*. These brochures are available at the police department, through the municipal court, on-line at the department’s website, or by request from any supervisor.

The Saginaw Police Department received no complaints, on any members of its police force, for having violated the Texas Racial Profiling Law during the time period of January 1 to December 31, 2008.

Conclusion

These findings suggest that the Saginaw Police Department does not currently experience a problem regarding racial profiling practices. This is supported by the fact that we have not received complaints from community members regarding officers misconduct associated with racial profiling practices.

The continuing effort to collect police contact data will assure an on-going evaluation of the Saginaw Police Department practices. Thus, allowing for the citizens of the Saginaw community to benefit from professional and courteous service from their police department.

Copies of this report are available for council members, and will be posted on the department's website for the public.