



DATE: 23 March 2015

TO/DEST: Executive Director, Ottawa Police Services Board

FROM/EXP: Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service

SUBJECT/OBJET: **TRAFFIC STOP RACE DATA COLLECTION PROJECT:
UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND

As a result of an agreement between the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and the Ottawa Police Services Board (Board), the Ottawa Police Service has undertaken the largest race based data collection project in Canadian policing history.

The Traffic Stop Race Data Collection Project (TSRDGP) requires police officers to record their perception of the driver's race, by observation only, for traffic stops over a two-year period from June 2013 to June 2015.

The OHRC and the OPS believe that race based data collection is part of an organizational approach to ensuring bias-free policing services. Full information, including the [agreement](#), project updates, and opportunities to stay engaged are available online at ottawapolice.ca/race.

DISCUSSION

The OHRC and the Research Team agree that the project has made significant progress to date and is fulfilling, and in some cases exceeding, the requirements set out in the Minutes of Settlement – including extensive community-police engagement that has shaped the design of the project. This report provides a timely project update on four key areas.

- Data Collection Update: A regular part of their traffic stop duties, officers have collected race based data for over 90,000 stops since data collection began on June 27th, 2013.

- Draft Report & Plan for Analysis: Led by the York Research Team, planning for the data extraction, analysis and report writing phase is well underway thanks to considerable project consultation efforts with both police and community members.
- Timeline: The York Research Team has advised OPS and the Ontario Human Rights Commission that the data analysis and report writing phase could take up to one year to complete with the final report and recommendations expected in Summer of 2016.
- Data Collection Continuance: Based on initial research and consultation efforts, Ottawa Police officers will continue to collect race based data during the data analysis and report writing phase; however, the plan for long term data collection will be determined after sufficient police and community consultation on the final report.

Strong Data Collection Rates Continue

Officers are collecting the race based data as part of their regular traffic stop duties and have already conducted over 90,000 stops since the two year data collection study began on June 27th, 2013.

In addition to the location and date of the traffic stop which are recorded automatically by the computer, officers are required to collect other data fields as a result of the extensive consultation efforts from the first phase of the project including:

- Reason for Stop;
- Driver Information including address (city), age, gender and race;
- Outcome of the Stop; and
- Perception of Race (whether race was perceived prior to the decision to stop the vehicle).

Strong data collection rates continue despite the realities of the computer system functionality and the dynamic environment of front-line policing duties:

- Over 82 percent of all traffic stops to date have all eight fields completed for each stop.
- When examined individually, each data field is completed 90 percent and over (including the race field).

As previous reports have noted, quality assurance is an integral part of this project and is one of the main reasons for project success and strong data collection rates.

Report Outline & Data Analysis Plan

Based on their expertise and on the extensive community and police consultation efforts, the York Research Team has drafted an outline for the final report along with a plan for analysis of the data (See Annex A: Report Outline & Data Analysis Plan Overview).

Over the last several months, the report outline and plan for analysis have been presented and discussed with both COMPAC and the project's community-police advisory committee.

Timelines – Final Report & Recommendations

The two-year data collection period will be followed by the data analysis and report writing phase, which will be led by the York Research Team and is expected to take up to a year to complete.

The high-level phases include:

- Two-Year Data Collection Period: June 2013 – June 2015.
- Data Uploading to Research Team: Summer 2015.
- Data Analysis: Fall 2015.
- Report Writing: Winter 2016.
- Report Presentation: Summer 2016.
- Consultation & Engagement on Report: following the report presentation.

Data Collection Continuance

While the agreement specifies that race data collection *may* continue *if* recommended by the expert, it is important to consider data collection continuance in the short-term while awaiting the report and recommendations which could take up to a year for the Research Team to deliver.

Some initial research and consultation was conducted with project team members, front-line officers and supervisors, the Ottawa Police Association, Ontario Human Rights Commission, York Research Team, Office of the Privacy Commission, COMPAC and the project's Community-Police Advisory Committee.

With considerable investment in consultation and engagement, the Ottawa Police Service has demonstrated professionalism and leadership to advance the study of race data collection in Canada while contributing to open dialogue and building trust. The police service will continue the data collection during the data analysis and report writing phases. The plan for long term data collection will be determined after community and police consultation on the final report.

In addition, a study will be conducted with officers who are collecting the race based data. Researchers Greg Brown and Phillip Primeau are doctoral candidates and will be conducting interviews to gauge the impact of the project on front-line officers, which will also help inform the final report.

CONSULTATION

As noted in previous update reports to the board, ongoing engagement and dialogue is the foundation for this project. In addition to the major Let's Chat public forum sessions, the plan for ongoing engagement has also included dialogue sessions and presentations with both police and community members – including COMPAC and the project's community-police advisory committee. Since our last update report, we have been successful at conducting over a dozen of these identified sessions including student organizations, community centres and organizations, faith based groups, community leaders, community police centre officers, and front-line police officers and supervisors. These sessions continue to provide ongoing exchange on the progress of the project as well as important feedback to help inform the next phases of the project.

Ongoing engagement will continue through the coming months, as we prepare for the remaining phases.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

The police service is committed to working collaboratively with the York Research Team and the Ontario Human Rights Commission throughout the project and keeping stakeholders informed of project progress as required. Furthermore, community-police consultation will also be critical to ensure there is a local approach to action planning the final report and recommendations.

The extensive police and community consultation has not only helped shape the design of this project, it has generated important dialogue about race based data collection and bias-free policing. Recognizing that this project is only one component of an integrated strategy to address racial profiling concerns, a committee led by the Director of Community Development and Executive Officer will conduct a review of other areas (training, policy, outreach and recruiting, community engagement) to strengthen the organizational approach to ensuring a bias-free police service. This important work will also promote continued momentum and community-police dialogue while we await the report.

(Original signed by)

Charles Bordeleau
Chief of Police

Responsible for the report: Inspector Pat Flanagan

Attach. (1) - Annex A: Report Outline & Data Analysis Plan Overview