

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

26 September 2016 / 26 septembre 2016

Submitted by / Soumis par:

Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa

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SUBJECT: TRAFFIC STOP RACE DATA COLLECTION PROJECT UPDATE

**OBJET: COMPTE RENDU DU PROJET DE COLLECTE DE DONNÉES
FONDÉES SUR LA RACE AUX CONTRÔLES ROUTIERS : MISE A
JOUR**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

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

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du
présent rapport à titre d'information.**

BACKGROUND

As a result of an agreement between the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and the Ottawa Police Services Board (Board) that was signed on April 27th, 2012, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) 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.

As reported in the last project update report to the board, the Ottawa Police Service completed the data extraction for this two year data collection period. Last December, it

was delivered to the York Research Team for their planned data analysis and report writing phase to take place through summer 2016. The Team is following the report outline and plan for analysis – both of which were developed from extensive community-police consultation efforts.

While awaiting the recommendations in the report, OPS has continued data collection beyond the original two year commitment, and is now in the 40th month of data collection with over 180,000 traffic stops to date.

The York Research Team and the Ontario Human Rights Commission agree that the project has made significant progress and is exceeding the Minutes of Settlement.

Full information, including the [agreement](#), project updates, and engagement opportunities are available online at ottawapolice.ca/race.

DISCUSSION

The OPS is pleased to report that the project is on track as it nears completion.

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief project update on the following areas:

1. Data Analysis & Report Writing Phase – COMPLETE

The York Research Team has completed the data analysis and report writing phase on schedule and is preparing to present the report along with the data this fall. To date, access to the data for analysis purposes has been exclusively limited to the York Research Team. Ongoing quality assurance measures designed to ensure the data fields are being populated have been conducted.

As per the Minutes of Settlement between the OHRC and the Board, the data does not contain names of individual officers or drivers. It is limited to “relevant information required for analysis” which was determined by the York Research Team, in collaboration with the community, OPS members, the Board, Commission, Ottawa Police Association, and the Ottawa Police Service via extension consultation efforts.

Containing over 100,000 records or rows of data, the data fields include:

- Date of the Stop;
- Location of the Stop;
- Reason for Stop
- Driver Information: 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).

Release of Report & Data – Late October

Under agreement with the OHRC, the York Research Team will be the first to publish and release the data analysis and report this fall before any other project analysis, report or findings. In consultation with the stakeholders, the York Research Team report is expected to be released on October 24th. The York Research Team will present the report with recommendations, and it will also be made available publicly along with the data at that time.

Police Member and Community Engagement Continues – An Ongoing Commitment

The OPS has been committed to extensive community and police member engagement throughout the project. It has helped shape the direction of the project and has created important dialogue about racial profiling. The OPS is committed to engaging on this important topic over the long term both externally and internally. Following the October 24th release of the report, engagement with police members and the community will continue to play a critical role to ensure that there is a collaborative approach to action planning the report and recommendations.

The police service will continue working with the Board, Ottawa Police Association, Ontario Human Rights Commission, and the York Research Team to ensure that there are meaningful consultative and outreach opportunities including: information sessions, presentations, focus groups, online and social media contribution opportunities, and community forums. We will also consult community partners, like COMPAC and the project's joint police-community advisory committee during the planning of these activities.

The full consultation plan will be outlined in a report to the Board at its October 24th meeting.

CONSULTATION

Included above.

CONCLUSION

The Ottawa Police Service has demonstrated leadership and commitment to professionalism by advancing the study of race data collection in policing. This project continues to contribute to open dialogue and community trust. Community and police member engagement remains at the foundation of this important work.

The OPS is committed to bias-neutral policing and recognizes that addressing racial profiling concerns requires a multi-pronged approach. Race based data collection is an important tool. It is important to recognize the various efforts being made by the OPS in working with partners on several initiatives such as training, policy, community outreach and Street Checks.