



PRAIRIE VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

BYRON K. ROBERSON - CHIEF OF POLICE

Background

Since 2000, the Department has provided an annual Bias-Based Policing Report to the City Administrators and Mayors so they can stay abreast of the Department's activities regarding this ongoing national topic. This report contains information on our process for analysis, consent searches, citizen complaints of biased-based policing, use of force, and training. Since a national "benchmark" has not been established, the Department has established an internal "benchmark" or "barometer" based on a ten-year average in a proactive effort to ensure the ideals of justice, fairness, equity, protection, and equal treatment are upheld by our Department. We continue to strive for excellence in the services that we provide the citizens of Prairie Village and Mission Hills.

Legislation/Community Advisory Board

There were no new legislative bills passed in 2020 that involved bias-based policing. Senate bill No. 197 was introduced at the beginning of the 2021 session that suggests that Police Agencies in the State of Kansas improve their record keeping and publication of Racial Policing statistics. The Prairie Village Police Department already records this data and makes it available for public consumption therefore we are already in compliance if the bill passes during 2021.

There were no instances where the Community Advisory Board was convened.

2020 Officer Contact Summary

The Department mandates all officers document any seizure of a person during a self-initiated contact by recording it on their in car Mobile Data Terminals. The data segments include the following information: time of stop; location of stop; race, ethnicity or gender of the person stopped, reason for the stop, and did the officer know the race, ethnicity or gender prior to the stop.

Officers determine this data either through the person's driver's license, or judgments made by the officer during the stop. This data is separated into four citation categories, which include moving, equipment, license, and miscellaneous violations. Data was computed for the entire Department and for each individual officer. This data is reviewed

periodically during the year by supervision and with the individual officer. The statistical data that follows represents the 2020 percentages.

2020 DEPARTMENT SUMMARY

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	*Un-known	TOTAL STOPS
Moving Violations	75.37	16.79	5.00	1.44	1.40	6,123
Equipment Violations	76.44	16.35	4.97	1.28	0.96	624
License Violations	70.11	25.02	3.59	0.77	0.51	1,171
Miscellaneous**	80.32	12.54	4.60	0.63	1.91	630
2020 TOTAL	75.09	17.57	4.77	1.28	1.29	8,548
2019 TOTAL	76.00	17.79	3.81	1.51	0.38	11,943
2018 TOTAL	78.78	15.13	3.77	1.51	0.41	12,686
2017 TOTAL	79.53	15.03	3.27	1.48	0.18	11,414
2016 TOTAL	78.55	14.74	2.65	0.98	2.59	10,468
FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE	77.59	16.05	3.65	1.35	0.97	11,012

*The "unknown" category was attributed to illegal parking or open ignition violations, meaning the vehicle was unoccupied when the contact was made by the officer.

The race of Native American is also included on officer log sheets. It is not used here due to the statistically insignificant number. It does account why some of the totals do not equal 100%.

**Miscellaneous: includes violations such as child restraint, open container, open ignition and ordinance violations, etc.

As a reminder, we do not have solid statistical data for who is actually driving on our roadways. We are left with benchmarking against our own enforcement patterns, which may or may not be reflective of actual demographics on our roadways. We reviewed every individual officer's data in comparison to Department averages.

Consent Searches

Consent searches are a valuable law enforcement tool when applied correctly. In determining whether biased-based profiling is occurring within a police agency, consent searches are a component that must be examined to ensure citizens' rights are being protected. It is difficult to draw mathematical conclusions of equity issues due to the collective low volume of overall waiver-to-search totals. Ideally, analysis would be made of the officers' stop data in comparison with population surveys of non-white versus white motorists on the roadways. Based on the infrequency of consent search requests,

individual statistics are subject to being mathematically skewed and statistical certainties cannot be established.

Capt. Eric McCullough has reviewed the 17 consent-to-search requests in an effort to identify any data that would suggest biased-based profiling might be occurring within our agency. In examining the Department as a whole, the number of completed searches, 17, was again lower than our five-year average of 26.6. There were not an overall disproportionate number of non-white contacts, either male or female, who were asked for their consent to conduct a search. The following charts are excerpts taken from the comprehensive 2020 Consent Search Study:

COMPLETED SEARCHES

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	5-yr. avg.
White	20	24	18	26	12	20
Black	13	4	4	4	4	5.8
Hispanic	0	1	0	2	1	0.8
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	33	29	22	32	17	26.6

Consent searches occur infrequently at our agency, and as a result it is difficult to make conclusions when compared to our population or number of citizen contacts. In 2020, officers conducted 8,548 vehicle stops and responded to approximately 13,604 calls for service, which equates to over 22,106 contacts with people. Of those encounters, only five requests were asked of non-white individuals for consent to search.

The focus of this study has established that officers are following the Department's Written Directives pertaining to consent searches. The data supports the Department's commitment to ensure that citizen's rights are protected, while providing effective law enforcement service to the community.

Citizen Complaints

The Police Department did not receive any complaints lodged against a certified officer this year. This is an incredible achievement considering the high volume of citizen contacts made by officers during the year. The Department had one complaint filed on a Department Civilian employee in 2020 regarding professional conduct (courtesy) and it was *SUSTAINED* by the Chief of Police, meaning the complainant's concerns were legitimate at the conclusion of the supervisory review process.

Use of Force

The Department had seven use of force incidents in 2020. The Shift Supervisor, Division Commander, and Chief of Police reviewed each incident. In every case, officers were found to be *JUSTIFIED* in accordance with Written Directive 1.3.1. Only two of these use of force incidents were with a minority in 2020. The extremely low number of incidents involving the use of force continues to be a testament to the training efforts, professionalism, patience, de-escalation techniques, and discipline of our workforce.

USE OF FORCE HISTORY – 2016 - 2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	5-Year Avg.
White	3	3	2	8	5	4.2
Black	1	2	6	0	2	2.2
Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4	5	8	8	7	6.4

Asset Forfeiture

The Department did not file any forfeiture cases in 2020.

Training/Employee Awareness

In 2020, all employees met with their immediate supervisor and reviewed their individual statistics, which included a comprehensive review of data totals broken down by race/ethnicity. Our supervisors also conduct quarterly video reviews of officer enforcement activity. Command Staff will continue to look for training opportunities to ensure our workforce is properly trained and educated on this topic.

Supervisors continue to discuss biased-based issues with their officers and often review incidents that surface through the media. In addition, supervisors reviewed Department policy during Roll Call and all law enforcement personnel completed online biased-based policing training. Chief Roberson also taught a Cultural Diversity/Implicit Bias class during block training, which included all operational personnel.

Conclusion

We have examined, studied, and analyzed our actions and enforcement in 2020 and have found nothing to suggest that biased-based policing occurred. We remain committed to our voluntary approach of self-examination, and scrutiny to ensure we are providing professional services that are absent of bias. As part of our Departments' commitment to transparency in policing, a Community Advisory Board will begin meeting in 2021. This Advisory Board will review any racial profiling complaints filed against the Department. We are proud to say this report continues to reflect our officers perform admirably in a work environment that is often unpredictable and challenging.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information or be of further assistance.