



# PRAIRIE VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

BYRON K. ROBERSON - CHIEF OF POLICE

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## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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### Background

Since 2000, the Department has provided an annual Bias-Based Policing Report to the City Administrators and Mayors. The Police Department generates this report to keep the governing body and City Administration up to date on the Departments' citizen contacts. This report contains information on our process for analysis, consent searches, complaints of biased-based policing, use of force, and training. Since a national "benchmark" has never been established, the Department created an internal "benchmark" 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.

### Citizen Advisory Board

The Citizen Advisory Board reviewed two Racial Profiling complaints submitted in 2022 and found no evidence of racial bias during the stops.

### 2022 Officer Contact Summary

The Department mandates all officers document any seizure of a person during a self-initiated contact by recording the data on their daily log sheet. 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. The statistical data that follows represents the 2022 data as percentages.

**2022 DEPARTMENT SUMMARY**

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	*Un-known	TOTAL STOPS
<b>Moving Violations</b>	71.43	18.93	6.81	1.83	0.48	4,421
<b>Equipment Violations</b>	70.77	18.66	8.1	1.58	0.35	568
<b>License Violations</b>	68.89	24.65	4.89	1	0.16	1,903
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	73.49	17.35	7.41	1.17	0.58	513
<b>2022 TOTAL</b>	<b>70.87</b>	<b>20.27</b>	<b>6.46</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>7,405</b>
<b>2021 TOTAL</b>	72.67	18.85	5.62	1.38	1.48	9,725
<b>2020 TOTAL</b>	75.09	17.57	4.77	1.28	1.29	8,548
<b>2019 TOTAL</b>	76.00	17.79	3.81	1.51	0.38	11,943
<b>2018 TOTAL</b>	78.78	15.13	3.77	1.51	0.41	12,686
<b>FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE</b>	74.68	17.92	4.88	1.44	0.79	10,061

\*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 Indian 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%.

As a reminder, we do not have a solid comparison for who is actually driving on our streets. 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. 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.

**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.

Captain McCullough has reviewed the 10 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, 10, was much lower as our five-year average of 22.8. This drop in numbers could be attributed to many factors such as a shortage of officers, inexperienced officers working the street and other environmental changes in society. 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 2022 Consent Search Study:

### COMPLETED SEARCHES

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-yr. avg.
White	18	26	12	21	6	16.6
Black	4	4	4	5	2	3.8
Hispanic	0	2	1	7	2	2.4
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22.8</b>

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 2022, officers conducted 7,329 vehicle stops and responded to approximately 10,536 calls for service, which equates to over 17,000 contacts with people. Of those encounters, only four 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 Department had two complaints in 2022 regarding biased-based policing. Both complaints were investigated internally as well as by the Citizen Advisory Board and were determined to be unfounded. Both complaints involved traffic- stops in residential areas.

### Use of Force

The Department had 22 use of force incidents in 2022. The reason for the large increase over previous years is due to different reporting methods that capture additional acts that could assist in precipitating a use of force such as an officer drawing a weapon on a suspect. The Shift Supervisor, Division Commander, and Chief of Police reviewed each

incident. In twenty one of the twenty two cases, officers were found to be *justified* in accordance with Written Directive 1.3.1. In one of the cases, the officer was found to be justified in the use of the force but was also found to violate policy by the way it was applied to the suspect. Five of the use of force incidents involved a minority in 2022. 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 – 2018 - 2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-Year Avg.
White	2	8	5	3	16	6.8
Black	6	0	2	2	4	2.8
Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10.0</b>

#### Asset Forfeiture

The Department did not file any forfeiture cases in 2022.

#### Training/Employee Awareness

In 2022, 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. 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. Captain Washington conducted training for all personnel on bias-based policing and cultural diversity during the training year. The Department also attended a DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) training session conducted by an outside firm during 2021. Plans are proposed to continue conducting DEI training in 2023.

## **Conclusion**

We have examined, studied, and analyzed our actions and enforcement in 2022 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. We are proud to say this report continues to reflect our officers perform admirably in a work environment that often deals with conflict and misguided perceptions.

Please feel free to contact Chief Roberson if he can provide any additional information or be of further assistance.

BKR:jlw