

# **Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission**

## **Resolution Requesting an Ordinance to Continue to Collect and Make Publicly Available Traffic-Stop Data**

(Resolution accepted unanimously by the Human Rights Commission on March 9, 2022)

WHEREAS, the City of Ann Arbor has charged the Human Rights Commission with the responsibility of advising City Council and the City Administrator on equity issues, combating discrimination, and upholding the civil and human rights of all residents;

WHEREAS, police officers in the United States pull over more than 50,000 drivers every day, making the traffic stop the most common encounter people have with law enforcement and the interaction that will govern their perception of law enforcement;

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies use vehicle stops to issue tickets for moving violations; to identify vehicles that may not meet operating codes; to investigate criminal activity, to intercept drugs, to make arrests, and to deter crime through increased officer presence;

WHEREAS, the transparency of traffic-stop data can provide the Ann Arbor community with essential information not only about transportation safety, but also about any potential bias that might exist in how traffic policies are implemented and/or enforced;

WHEREAS, multiple studies show that African American drivers across the country are stopped more often than white drivers and that African American and Hispanic drivers are more likely than white drivers to have their vehicles searched;

WHEREAS, searches and arrests committed pursuant to a traffic stop can serve as a pipeline into the criminal justice system that reduces economic and career opportunities, especially for those without the resources required to successfully navigate the requirements of the legal system;

WHEREAS, disproportionate traffic stops place an unjust burden on individuals and communities of color, including suspended drivers licenses, lost time, money, and transportation and can result in instability in families and in the workplace;

WHEREAS, disproportionate traffic stops place an unjust burden on communities of color that includes the over-surveillance and mistreatment as well as the damage done to their members;

WHEREAS, in a number of public forums in recent years held in conjunction with the HRC, Ann Arbor residents have raised concerns about bias towards themselves and others “driving while black” and called for changes in traffic-stop practices;

WHEREAS, traffic-stop data can help the HRC and others identify what practices are working well to maintain public safety and which, if any, indicate bias and may result in unjustified stops and intrusive actions that risk causing damage to the targeted drivers. Analyses of this kind can also help the city assess whether resources can be safely directed to strategies that are less likely to cause unintended damage;

WHEREAS, there are civil rights, transportation safety and policing issues, these data are relevant to the Human Rights Commission, to the Transportation Commission and Independent Community Police Oversight Commission.

RESOLVED, the Human Rights Commission requests an ordinance be developed to require the AAPD to collect the following data on the traffic stops that are conducted in the city of Ann Arbor:

- The date, time, duration and GIS location of all stops
- The area to which the police officer was assigned at the time of the stop
- The reason for the stop
- The year, make and model of the vehicle
- The driver's perceived ethnicity and gender identity
- The number and ethnicity of passengers, if any
- Any police action taken, including but not limited to whether a warning or citation was issued
- Specific citations, if issued
- Whether any occupant was frisked or searched
- Whether the vehicle was frisked or searched
- Whether consent to search was sought, and if so, whether it was provided
- Whether any occupant was arrested, and if so, any and all charges
- Whether the vehicle stop resulted in recovery of contraband, delineated by specific type
- A unique identifying number of the officer
- Any other relevant information necessary for effective monitoring and oversight of traffic stops.
- The Ann Arbor police department shall not report the name, address, social security number, driver's license number or other unique personal identifying information of persons stopped, searched, or subjected to a property seizure, for purposes of this section.
- Notwithstanding any other law, the data reported shall be available to the public;

RESOLVED, that the data be housed in an electronic database that will make it easy to retrieve digitized, non-confidential information for all vehicle stops and that this database be made accessible for analysis;

RESOLVED, the AAPD develop procedures and policies to reasonably ensure that information in the database is complete and accurate;

RESOLVED, that the AAPD regularly collaborate with the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission to ensure nationally recognized best practices are implemented to mitigate bias and disparity in vehicle stops and in the use of evolving technologies that may perpetuate racial bias;

RESOLVED, that the AAPD transmit an annual report detailing AAPD enforcement of such an ordinance and identifying any best-practices policy changes that were implemented over the preceding year to the Chairs of the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission, the Human Rights Commission and the Transportation Commission.