

Washington County Sheriff's Office Latino Advisory Commission
March 2, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present: Olga Acuña, Maria Caballero-Rubio, Pat Garrett, Daniel Guzman-Catarina, Joann Hoffman, Fernando Lira, Ricardo Moreno, Pablo Valenzuela

Commission Members Absent: James "Mitch" Coley, Nansi Lopez, Fernanda Pantoja

Guest Speaker: Chief Deputy, Al Roque

Held via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Garrett called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The members present constituted a quorum. Commissioner Valenzuela made a motion to approve the February 2, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Moreno seconded and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

No public comments

DEI Reflection

Co-Chair Garrett opened the discussion by acknowledging during the February meeting he had heard the LAC's recommendation for DEI training to be held each year. Co-Chair Garrett supports and will bring that up with training staff.

Commissioner Moreno suggested DEI training be kept in line with other on-going training. Commissioner Rubio-Caballero agreed and added it would be good to consider integrating DEI with other training. It's a good beginning and good to bring awareness to each training. She also said it was a good idea to have all SO staff get out of the office and spend a day out in the communities to bring awareness, experience and to have community engagement.

Co-Chair Acuña agrees with what Commissioner Moreno said about the need for continued training and exposure on a consistent basis. She was happy to see that there was an SO specific DEI team. She was impressed by how the objectives are written around awareness and understanding and what it should be like to add a racial equity lens to the DEI training. Co-Chair Acuña did make note that the language was different between the county presentation vs the Sheriff's Office training presentation and suggested that the language be universal and more aligned with each other. Sheriff Garrett said there is increasing alignment with the county's EDI office and

anticipates the training language will likely align naturally as our team and the county's EDI office work more closely on future training.

Commissioner Caballero-Rubio suggested that DEI go beyond training and into all aspects of the organization.

STOP Data

Chief Deputy Roque joined us to show the STOP Data presentation.

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) has been tasked with capturing the STOP data since House Bill 2355 passed in 2017.

The STOP program uses three analysis techniques:

Veil of Darkness Analysis

This is based on the assumption that it is easier for an officer to discern race/ethnicity during the day when it is light versus the night when it is dark.

Predicted Disposition Analysis

What happens after the stop?

KPT Hit-Rate Analysis

This compares relative rates of successful searches across racial/ethnic groups.

The WCSO showed no disparities for the Veil of Darkness or Hit-Rate Analysis.

"KPT" refers to the last name initials of the three researchers who developed the calculations for the Hit-Rate Analysis.

The WCSO has nearly 240 certified patrol deputies (including all ranks) with nearly 19,000 stops from July 2020 to June 2021.

Commissioner Caballero-Rubio asked if the STOP Data is based on the demographics of Washington County. Chief Deputy Roque explained that the CJC does not use demographics. Sheriff Garrett added that the CJC wrote a paper showing the use of demographics was not the best way to show statistical analysis. For example, the CJC uses the windows of dawn and dusk as opposed to all daytime vs all night time hours. Noting that the dawn and dusk hours shift considerably in the state of Oregon. Sheriff Garret will share the link to this report after the meeting.

The next slide showed The top Reason for Stops being:

Basic Rule (speed)

Speed Limit

Required Lighting

Failure To Obey Traffic Control Device

Municipal traffic (this shouldn't be used, as the Sheriff's Office does not generally cover municipalities, and will be cleaned up for next report)

Fail to drive Within Lane

Commissioner Valenzuela asked how deputies decide "race" when writing a citation. Chief Deputy Roque said it is based on what the deputy's perception of what race the person is. Commissioner Moreno also added that the point of the data is to show that there is no disparity based upon what the deputy's perception is, not necessarily what the person's race actually is. Commissioner Caballero-Rubio asked why the law is that the officer perceive the race as opposed to asking the driver to identify their race? Sheriff Garrett recalls when the house bill was written, the drafters took that question into account and concluded that having an officer ask the question of race would frustrate and likely exasperate an already stressful situation.

A video of a traffic stop was played to show how quick a stop happens and how it is nearly impossible to see the driver.

After the traffic stop (KPT Hit-Rate Analysis), they are looking for how many stops lead to searches. According to the analysis used by the CJC there are no disparities for the WCSO. Current policy requires the WCSO to inventory the contents of a vehicle if the vehicle is towed. This could be shown as a search. For the purpose of this analysis, having a high number shows that the officer is using objective criteria to search a vehicle.

In the category of Predicative Disposition, the CJC shows the predicted vs actual stop rate shows a disparity for the WCSO within the Latino population. According to the CJC, Blacks and Hispanics are cited most for speed violations as opposed to whites, who are cited most for mobile device violations.

Stops by location show close numbers to actual demographics and show no disparities.

Chief Deputy Roque ended with the idea that he would like to show the connection between reason for stop and result for stop.

Sheriff Garrett has reached out to our legislative specialist with the Oregon State Sheriff's Association to find a legislative partner to begin a bill to create driver's training that is culturally specific to Spanish speakers. They suggested that the WCSO work with the Oregon Department of Transportation. This meeting has been scheduled with the intent to help DMV up their driver's education training.

Commissioner Caballero-Rubio showed her appreciation for our work with diversion and other programs, pointing out the need to assist people in obtaining their driver's license. Chief Deputy Roque said that the need for insurance is the next need in program education.

Sheriff's Updates

The WCSO is planning a community workshop to discuss the results from the independent review of Sheriff's Office use of force policy, training, and review. The workshop is scheduled for April 5th from 5 – 7 pm. Sheriff

Garrett is inviting LAC Commission members to attend and would like to have two LAC Commission members as part of the workshop. Please communicate with the co-chairs if you would like to join.

Due to time constraints, the rest of Sheriff Garrett's updates will be sent via email.

Next steps

The co-chairs will provide a few minutes at our next meeting to review today's STOP data information.

The co-chairs ask that we email future agenda items to them for consideration.

Commissioner Caballero suggests that we put together a report of LAC accomplishments to bring to a Board of County Commissioners Meeting.

Commissioner Moreno suggests we discuss the POLIS report and their recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 PM