

CORSICANA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Police Contact Data
Annual Report
January 1, 2008---December 31, 2008

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To: Corsicana City Council
From: Randy S. Bratton, Chief Administrator
Subject: Racial Profiling Report
Date: February 17, 2009

The Corsicana Police Department, in accordance with the Texas Racial Profiling Law (SB No. 1074), Art. 2.134 CCP, has been collecting police contact data to comply with the law. Throughout the past year, the Police Department, working very closely with the Municipal Court, has striven to ensure that the numbers reported, via citations, were as accurate as possible. The information reported in this report applies to what is referred to as Tier I information only (stops that resulted in a citation or arrest). Although there are limitations as to the interpretation of the data contained in this report, I am confident that the analysis is as accurate as possible.

The report does not include Tier II information (more detailed information about every traffic stop, every pedestrian stop, and every search regardless of whether a ticket is issued or an arrest is made). The department has met all state requirements allowing it to be exempt from Tier II reporting requirements.

In this report, are several sections, which are intended and designed to provide background information regarding the Texas Racial Profiling Law. Other sections contain information relevant to the policies adopted by the Corsicana Police Department prohibiting the practice of racial profiling among its officers, providing for a complaint system, and requiring the use of video or voice recordings on all traffic and pedestrian stops.

The department, in an effort to ensure that our personnel are not participating in racial profiling practices, adopted a policy in 2002, prohibiting racial profiling by members of the Police Department, implemented a consent search policy in 2004 and began reviewing tapes made by officers of traffic stops. A copy of the Consent Search Policy has been attached to this report and may be found at Attachment 1. This policy has proven effective.

The final components of this report provide statistical data relevant to the public contacts made during the period of 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008. This information has been analyzed and compared to the U.S. Census data (2000) concerning the population demographics of the City of Corsicana. Other analysis compares searches and traffic arrests to the total number of traffic stops conducted over the listed time period.

Assessment of the Data Analysis: The Corsicana Police Department appears to be enforcing the traffic laws of this city and state along the lines represented by the various percentages of the population. According to our analysis, 52.8% (12,933) of our population is white and 46.3% (1,927 of 4,158) of our enforcement activity (citations) was of whites. The analysis shows that Blacks compose 23.6% (5,775) of our population and 24.1% (1001 of 4,158) of our activity. Hispanics comprise 22.5% (5,502) of the population and were 29% (1,208 of 4,158) of our activity. Asians make up .6% (155) of our population and .5% (19 of 4,158) of our enforcement activity. American Indians compose approximately .5% (120) of our population and were 0.1% (3 of 4,158) of our activity. See Chart I and Graph I for details.

It would appear that the percentages of Hispanics stopped versus their relative populations would seem a bit elevated. However, upon further analysis, these numbers, taking into consideration that it is believed our Hispanic population has rapidly escalated since 2000 and those numbers are not reflected in the 2000 census, should not be cause for concern.

A process involving active overview by the Assistant Chief of Police and the Municipal Court Chief Clerk audits the numbers contained in this report, which make up the core of this report. Additionally, independently of this number auditing process, the traffic stops are regularly reviewed to determine if the conduct of the officers performing traffic stops is in accordance with city policy, indicates that the process and the activities meant to be reviewed by this report are reliable.

The total number of stops, where traffic citations were issued or arrests were made (the only numbers that had to be accounted for under the law) was 4,158. In comparison, there were 3,907 stops made in 2007 that resulted in citations being issued or arrests being conducted. Please refer to Chart III for further details and analysis. These numbers do not indicate the number of violations but only the number of people cited. It is possible to file more charges on a person, either by citation or arrest, during a stop, but it counts as one stop. Our numbers also do not include people where the officer was unable to determine what race a person was at the time of the stop. However, this number is so small as to not adversely affect or skew the analysis. Also, traffic stops where warnings were issued are not recorded in our analysis nor are these numbers required for this report under state law. See Chart I for a visual depiction of this data.

Please refer to Charts I, II, and III along with Graphs I, II, and III for further details and analysis.

Summary Statement

The findings indicate that the Corsicana Police Department does not engage in racial profiling practices.

Acknowledgements:

I wish to thank the following individuals for their individual and combined efforts to make this report meaningful, complete, concise, and correct:

Judge James Lagomarsino, Former Municipal Judge for the City of Corsicana
Asst. Chief Ladena Baggett, Corsicana Police Dept.
Sharon Jennings, Municipal Court Clerk, City of Corsicana
Lindy Cooper, Records Manager, Corsicana Police Dept.
Melissa Grimes, Records Clerk, Corsicana Police Dept.
Lela Martin, Community Service Officer, Corsicana Police Dept.

Chart I 2008 Activity

DEMOGRAPHICS:

	Number	Percentage
Hispanic	5,502	22.5%
White	12,933	52.8%
Black	5,775	23.6%
Asian	155	.6%
American Indian	120	.5%
Total	24,485	100%

Numbers obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File

TRAFFIC STOPS:

	Citations	Percentage
Hispanic	1,208	29.0%
White	1,927	46.3%
Black	1,001	24.1%
Asian	19	.5%
American Indian	3	.1%
Total	4,158	100%

Citation count obtained from Corsicana Municipal Court, non-traffic citations removed.

TRAFFIC STOP ARRESTS:

	Arrest/ Result of Stop	Percentage Arrested
Hispanic	66	39.8%
White	50	30.1%
Black	50	30.1%
Asian	0	0%
American Indian	0	0%
Total	166	100%

Numbers obtained from Corsicana Municipal Court records.

Chart II 2008 Activity

SEARCHED:

	Number Searched	Percentage of Total
Hispanic	97	34.0%
White	93	32.5%
Black	95	33.2%
Asian	1	.3%
American Indian	0	0%
Total	286	100%

Information recorded on citations, numbers obtained from Corsicana Municipal Court records.

NOT SEARCHED:

	Not Searched	% Not Searched
Hispanic	1,111	28.7%
White	1,834	47.4%
Black	906	23.3%
Asian	18	.5%
American Indian	3	.1%
Total	3,872	100%

Information recorded on citation, numbers obtained from Corsicana Municipal Court records.

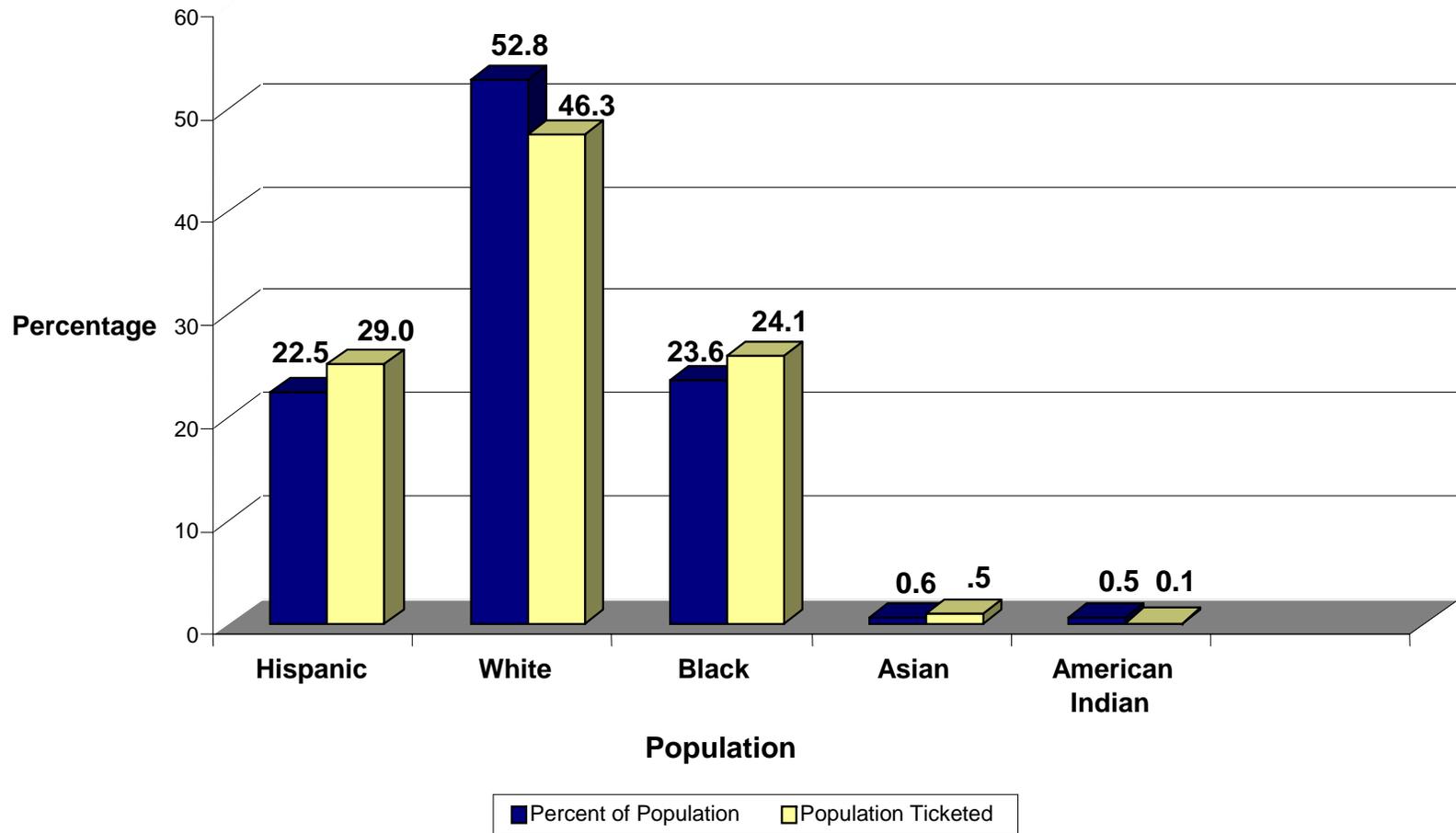
SEARCHED - COMPARISON:

	Number Searched	Consensual Search	Non-Consent/ *PC
Hispanic	97 33.9%	26 29.9%	71 35.6%
White	93 32.5%	27 31.0%	66 33.2%
Black	95 33.2%	34 39.0%	61 30.7%
Asian	1 .4%	0 0%	1 .5%
American Indian	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Total	286	87	199

Information recorded on citation, numbers obtained from Corsicana Municipal Court records.

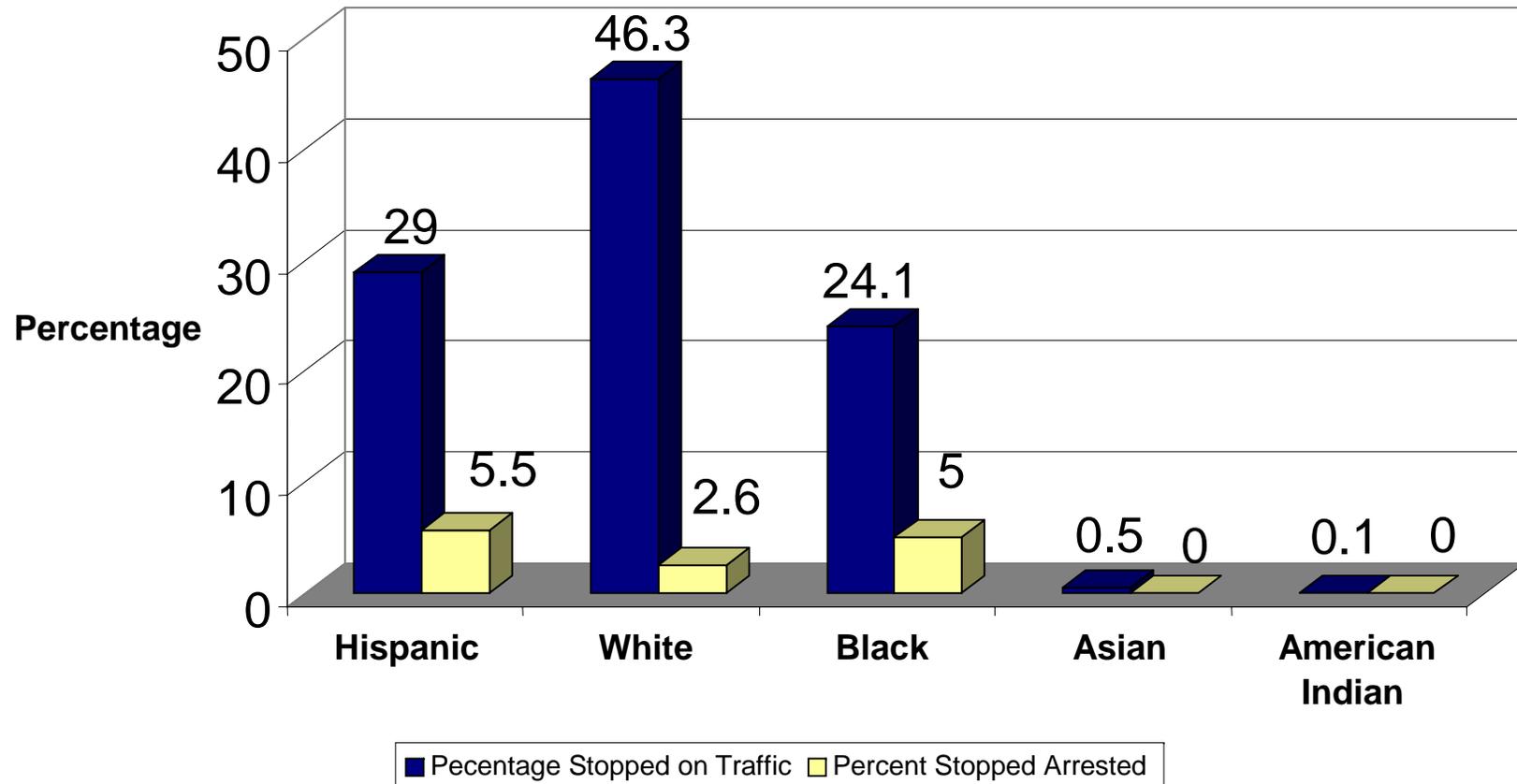
* PC- Probable Cause

Racial Profiling Analysis 2008



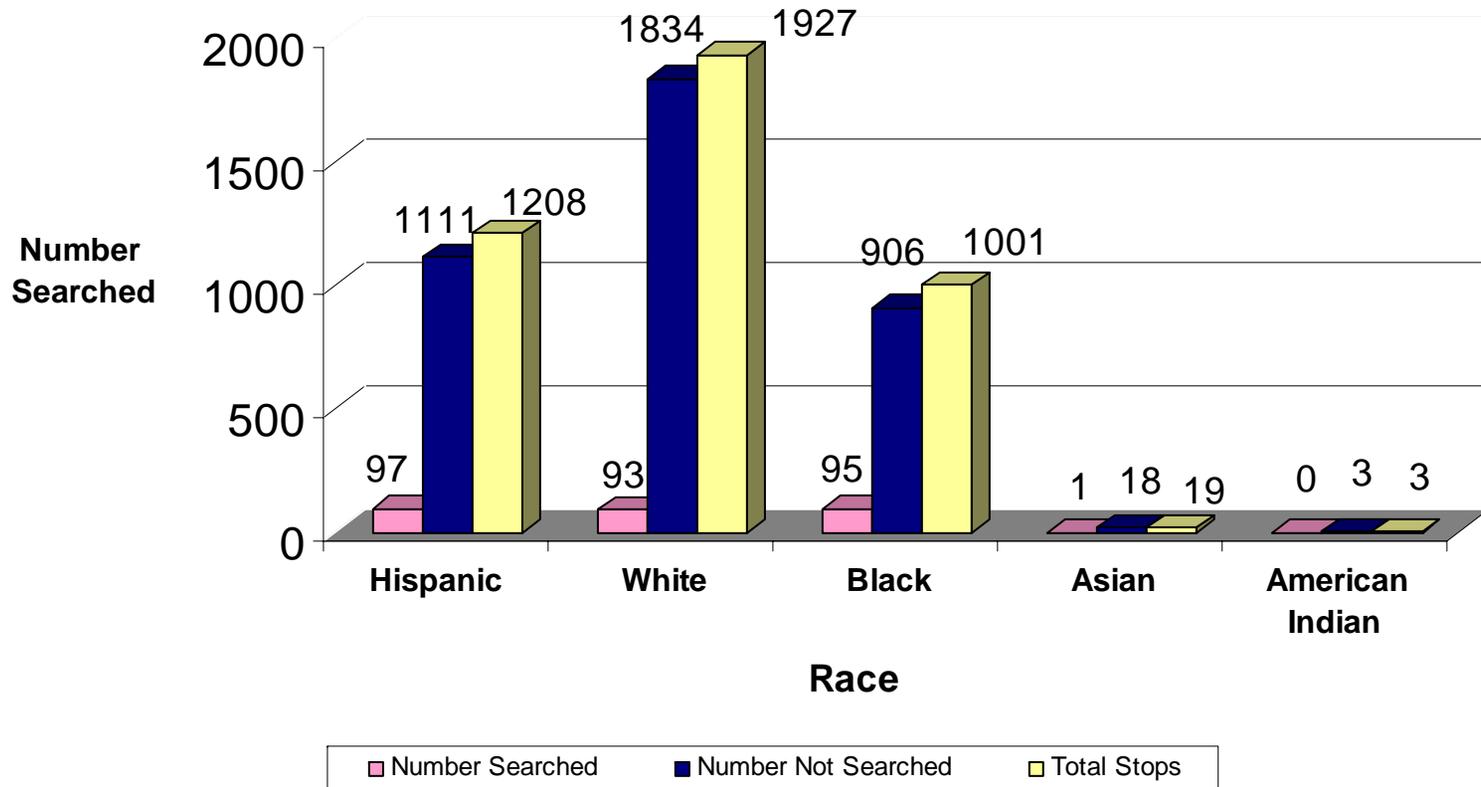
Graph I

Percentage Arrested 2008



Graph II

Search Analysis 2008



Graph III

CHART III
Traffic Stop Comparison 2008 - 2007

COMPARISON	2008		2007	
TRAFFIC STOPS:	Citations	%	Citations	%
Hispanic	1,208	29.0%	1,061	27.2%
White	1,927	46.3%	1,879	48.1%
Black	1,001	24.1%	937	24.0%
Asian	19	.5%	22	.5%
American Indian	3	.1%	8	.2%
Total	4,158		3,907	

II. Police Department's Mission and Value Statements

Mission Statement of the Corsicana Police Department:

The Corsicana Police Department is ethically grounded, community centered, and dedicated to the fundamental duty to protect life and property while understanding that it delivers professional law enforcement and community services.

Value Statements of the Corsicana Police Department:

1. *The Department is committed to high ethical standards and each member is responsible for maintaining the good reputation of the Department.*
2. *The Department serves the needs of the public, with officers and staff performing as professionals, and in a manner acceptable to our customers.*
3. *The Department is committed to proactive enforcement, using planning and problem solving, with community input, to anticipate and identify problems and find solutions.*
4. *The Department members are encouraged to forward their suggestions for changes that would improve services. Their memberships on committees and task forces are essential to the success of departmental, divisional, and unit goals.*
5. *The Department is committed to exploring new methods of achieving departmental goals, recognizing that change is desirable, and that the risks that will accompany these changes are acceptable.*

6. *The Department believes that shared organizational success is borne of interpersonal trust and mutual respect, healthy competition, teamwork, and open communication at all levels of the organization and community.*

III. Responding to the Texas Racial Profiling Law

Informing the Public on the Process of Filing a Complaint with the Corsicana Police Department

(A) Educational Campaign:

In accordance with Senate Bill 1074, the Corsicana Police Department has made significant efforts to launch an educational campaign aimed at informing the public on issues relevant to the complaint process. Special emphasis has been placed on informing community members on filing a complaint relevant to racial profiling practices.

The Chief of Police has spoken at a number of community meetings where community members have been informed on efforts being made by the police department to continue banning racial profiling practices among its officers. In addition, public service announcements have been presented by all outlets of the local media providing information to the public on the department's efforts to educate and inform the public on this very important subject. The department's complaint process has been published on the department's Web page.

(B) Filing a Complaint Based on Violations of the Texas Law on Racial Profiling:

A pamphlet has been designed; printed, and distributed that fully explains the Internal Affairs/Complaint system of the department. The following information is from the pamphlet, the complaint form, and the procedure for investigating complaints received:

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

Once an individual has filed a complaint regarding racial profiling, he/she should expect the following process to commence:

THE INTERVIEW

A police supervisor (rank of corporal or higher) may interview the individual filing the complaint. The supervisor will ask the complainant questions about what happened. It is

possible that the supervisor may be able to explain the officer(s)' actions to the complainant's satisfaction.

If the supervisor is not able to satisfactorily answer the citizen's complaint, they will assist them in filing a formal complaint, if they wish. If the citizen does not wish to be assisted by the supervisor, they will be given a formal complaint pamphlet, and given instructions on completing it.

THE INVESTIGATION

After a formal complaint is filed, the Corsicana Police Department will investigate the alleged misconduct. The assistant chief of police is responsible for investigating all formal complaints and will talk to witnesses and visit the site of the incident.

- The Chief of Police receives all formal complaints, reviews them, logs them into the IA Log and assigns the investigation to the Assistant Chief of Police.
- Although it is impossible to estimate how long the investigation will take, the complainant is advised that they can expect a report as to the outcome of the investigation in about four weeks.
- All officers will be interviewed and witnesses whom the complainant has named will be contacted and interviewed, if they agree.
- A report will then be prepared with conclusions and recommendations.
- The Chief of Police will review the report of investigation to determine if any rule, policy, or regulation has been violated. If it is determined that a violation has occurred it will be the chief's decision as to the discipline that will be administered.

THE FINDINGS

The results of a complaint are called "findings". There are four possible findings:

- **Sustained** - The complaint has been supported: The officer(s) involved acted improperly and may be disciplined.
- **Unfounded** - The investigation found no basis to the complaint filed.
- **Exonerated** - The police officer(s) involved acted properly and will not be disciplined; or
- **Not sustained** - There was insufficient evidence to prove the complaint true or false and no further action will be taken.

The Police Chief will decide on a finding after the complaint has been reviewed. Further, he/she will inform the complainant through an official letter of the final decision, along with the discipline administered, if applicable.

A Commitment to Respond to the Needs of the Community

The Corsicana Police Department has made a commitment to its citizens regarding the following:

1. The department shall accept complaints from any person who believes he or she has been stopped or searched based on racial, ethnic or national origin profiling. No person shall be discouraged, intimidated or coerced from filing a complaint, nor discriminated against because he or she filed such a complaint.
2. Any employee who receives an allegation of racial profiling, including the officer who initiated the stop, shall direct the complainant to a supervisor or offer to provide them with a formal complaint packet. Any employee contacted shall provide to any person a copy of a complaint form or the department process for filing a complaint. All employees will report any allegation of racial profiling to their superior before the end of their shift.
3. Investigation of a complaint shall be conducted in a thorough and timely manner. All complaints will be acknowledged in writing to the initiator who will receive disposition regarding said complaint within a reasonable period of time. The investigation shall be reduced to writing and any reviewer's comments or conclusions shall be filed with the chief. When applicable, findings and/or suggestions for disciplinary action, retraining, or changes in policy shall be filed with the chief.
4. If a racial profiling complaint is sustained against an officer, it will result in appropriate corrective and/or disciplinary action, up to and including indefinite suspension (termination).
5. If there is a departmental video or audio recording of the events upon which a complaint of racial profiling is based, upon commencement of an investigation by this department into the complaint and written request of the officer made the subject of the complaint, this department shall promptly provide a copy of the recording to that officer.

Corrective Action

It is the policy of the Corsicana Police Department that any officer who, after an internal investigation, has been found guilty of engaging in racial profiling, that one of the following series of disciplinary measures is taken (as per the recommendation of the chief of police):

- 1) Officer is retrained in racial sensitivity issues
- 2) Officer is suspended and as a condition of further involvement with the police department is required to undergo racial sensitivity training
- 3) Officer is indefinitely suspended (terminated)

Data on Corrective Action

The following table contains data regarding officers that have been the subject of a complaint, during the time period of 1/1/08---12/31/08, based on allegations outlining possible violations related to the Texas Racial Profiling Law. The final disposition of the case is also included.

Complaints Filed for Possible Violations of S.R. 1074 (The Texas Racial Profiling Law):

Complaint No.	Alleged Violation			Disposition of the Case
0	0			N/A

(C) Training

In compliance with the Texas Racial Profiling Law, the Corsicana Police Department required that all its officers adhere to all Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) training and the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) requirements as mandated by law.

All officers from the Corsicana Police Department have completed a TCLEOSE training and education program on racial profiling, as required by law. A person who, on September 1, 2001, held a TCLEOSE intermediate proficiency certificate, or who had held a peace officer license issued by TCLEOSE for at least two years, will complete a TCLEOSE training and education program on racial profiling not later than September 1, 2003. The department has met or exceeded all training requirements mandated by law.

(D) Community Partnerships

Although the Corsicana Police Department enjoys the support of the community, since January 1, 2002, it has made extraordinary efforts to reach out to community leaders. This effort has been well received by the Corsicana community, particularly, members of the minority community. The Corsicana Crime Commission has served a vital role in not only providing a forum for input, but also an opportunity for the Chief of Police to disseminate vital information and to discuss salient community issues, including racial profiling.

The Corsicana Police Department, through its Public Information Program and local media outlets has kept the public informed of the traffic contact data collection effort. Further, it plans to present the data analyzed, on or before March 1, 2009, to members of the city council. This will be done in an effort to keep community leaders informed on the current practices of the CPD.

Checklist:

The following requirements ***must*** be met by all law enforcement agencies in the State of Texas:

- Clearly defined act of actions that constitute racial profiling
- Statement indicating prohibition of any peace officer employed by the Corsicana Police Department from engaging in racial profiling
- Implement a process by which an individual may file a complaint regarding racial profiling violations
- Provide public education related to the complaint process
- Implement disciplinary guidelines for officers found in violation of the Texas Racial Profiling Law
- Collect data (Tier 1) that includes information on
 - a) Race and ethnicity of individual detained
 - b) Whether a search was conducted
 - c) If there was a search, whether it was a consent search or a probable cause search
 - d) Whether a custody arrest took place
- Produce an annual report on police contacts (Tier 1) and present this to the local governing body by March 1, 2009.
- Adopt a policy, if video/audio equipment is installed, on standards for reviewing video and audio documentation.

For additional questions regarding the information presented in this report, please contact:

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