TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATE: MARCH 18, 2008 CMR:172:08
SUBJECT: REPORTING OF POLICE DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

This is an informational report and no Council action is required.

BACKGROUND
The City Council and the Human Relations Commission (HRC) have been receiving quarterly demographic data collected from traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian stops since 2003.

DISCUSSION
At its November 8, 2007 meeting, HRC Commissioner Savage requested that the modification of police data collection be agendized. At that meeting, Commissioner Savage recommended that the data collection reports be discontinued due to the amount of staff time that was used in the preparation of these reports. Discussion about the actual usefulness of the reports, the lack of applicable benchmarks and the staff time used took place. The Police Auditor was present at this meeting and gave input regarding the value of the data gathering.

The HRC Commissioners identified a number of concerns:
- Confusing data which is not easy to understand;
- The negative perception the community might if the reporting is reduced;
- There is no effective way to review the data;
- Changes the Police Department has made to address profiling and community relations.

The HRC agreed to continue the discussion to its next meeting and have members of the HRC continue to work with the Police Department on the issue.

At the January 23, 2008 special meeting, the HRC continued the discussion on reducing the demographic data reporting. The Police Department reported that the City Auditor suggested that the demographic data only be published on the Department’s website on a quarterly basis with instructions to the public on how to interpret the data.
After further discussion, the HRC agreed to recommend extra a pilot program that would include quarterly publication of the raw data on the Department’s website and one annual written report to the City Council and the Human Relations Commission, and one annual verbal report to the HRC. The verbal report would include the following information:

- Efforts made to establish better data benchmarks for assessing the demographic data;
- Efforts made in general to make the demographic data more understandable;
- Description of what the department is doing to improve police and minority relations in the community;
- Report listing the questions to the Police Department received online from the community with the official responses to the questions.

The Police Department and the HRC agreed to the pilot program with the aforementioned conditions beginning on April 1, 2008 with a program review by the Police Department and the HRC after one year.

**RESOURCE IMPACT**

Each quarterly report constitutes 200 hours of staff time. The pilot reporting program will reduce staff time by approximately 30 percent.

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