



TOWN OF HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021 Biased Free Policing Report

To: Police Chief Michael Mason

From: Lt. Mitchell Kuc

Re: 2021 Biased Free Policing Report

Chief,

Pursuant to our Biased Free Policing Policy, the following is the required administrative review.

Internal Affairs:

No citizen complaints of biased policing were received in 2021.

Traffic Contacts:

Race Data:

Black- 161

Asian/Pacific Islander- 45

Hispanic- 221

American Indian/Alaskan Native- 1

Middle Eastern or East Indian- 20

White- 1025

Race Missing-

Total- 1473 citations/warnings

Gender Data:

Male- 902

Female- 572

Citation Totals:

Arrest- 126

Civil-279



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Criminal Complaint- 175
Warning-887

Of the citation total, 8.5% of the citations were for arrests, 11.92% were for criminal complaints, and 60.64% resulted in warnings.

Without analyzing each citation, it should be noted that as the court liaison, I am aware that a majority of the criminal citations (non-arrests, or summons) were for arrestable offenses, mainly, unlicensed and suspended license, as well as some incidents of negligent/reckless driving. I believe that this shows that our officers use their discretion and allow motorists who could have been arrested to be released with a summons more often than not.

Additional factors make this data difficult to interpret accurately are as a result of differences in Race Code in our records management system vs. the US Census. Additionally, census data is self-reported and traffic citation data is the officer's best guess.

Field Contacts:

Field Contacts that rise to the level of a threshold inquiry are documented in the Computer Aided Dispatch by call number and descriptive information is collected for computer database inquiries. Field Contacts that result in arrest, summons, or Protective Custody are reported here.

Arrest Statistics

Total Physical Arrests- 126

Black-22

Asian/Pacific Islander- 1

American Indian/Alaskan Native- 0

Middle Eastern or East Indian- 0

White- 103

Race Missing- 0

23 arrestees reported Hispanic decent.

Total Summons- 248



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Black-36

Asian/Pacific Islander- 7

American Indian/Alaskan Native- 2

Middle Eastern or East Indian- 0

White- 201

Race Missing- 2.

59 arrestees reported Hispanic decent.

Total Protective Custodies (impairment by Alcohol/Drugs)-9

Black-1

Asian/Pacific Islander- 0

American Indian/Alaskan Native- 0

Middle Eastern or East Indian- 0

White- 7

Race Missing- 1

Zero reported Hispanic decent.

Gender Data Entry for Physical Arrests and Protective Custodies- 137 Total

Male-110

Female 27

Gender Data for Summons-246

Male- 167

Female- 79

Conclusion;

When reviewing traffic and arrest race data compared solely to the demographics of the Town of Hadley, there may appear to be disparities in some data.

There are a number of outside variables that change the daily demographics of the Town of Hadley; mainly, the geographic relation (central) to the Five-College area, as well as between Interstate 91 and UMass/Amherst, and the commercial density of the Town of Hadley.

Being located central to the Five College area draws in student population from UMass Amherst, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, Hampshire College and Amherst College, which draw students from the US and abroad. Students at these schools and residents of Hampshire County find in Hadley the closest



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Target store, one of the two of the closest Wal-Marts in the County (closest for 4 of the 5 colleges), the closest Aldi's store and the only Whole Foods in Western Massachusetts, Home Depot and Lowes (the only community in Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire County to have both in the same town), and the only Trader Joes west of Worcester. Additional stores and locations that have limited or no other locations locally are Old Navy, Panera Bread, Marshalls, Michaels, Dicks Sporting Goods, Harbor Freight, and JC Penny to name a few. There are also seven hotels, and the only indoor shopping mall in Hampshire and Franklin County.

Being home to many of these retail establishments bring in many people from all over Western Massachusetts to seek out the services from these establishments, as well as significant retail theft crime attracting crime rings from all over Western Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Additionally, UMass Amherst is considered a top party school in Massachusetts, known as "zoomass". Our location between Interstate 91 and UMass Amherst bring in significant traffic from the Springfield and Hartford Metropolitan areas; not to mention the amount of rental properties that house UMass students.

Lastly, UMass via the Mullins Center, McGuirk Stadium and other fields for sporting events attract people from all over New England for sporting events such as UMass Football, Hockey, Basketball, and also host large scale Lacrosse Tournaments. The Mullins center also attracts regional audiences for music concerts, comedy shows and other events.

With all of these variables in place, I feel that these impacts can vastly affect the appearance of race related data.

Prior to the publication of this year's report, a report submitted by Salem and Worcester State Universities for the year 2020, sought by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as required in the **Chapter 122 of the Acts of 2019, An Act Requiring the Hands-Free Use of Mobile Telephones While Driving**, highlighted the Hadley Police Department as stopping more non-white motorists during the daytime as opposed to at night, under the "Veil of Darkness" Theory. This theory suggests that because officers stop more non-white drivers during the lighter periods near dawn or dusk, that those stops were more likely to have been initiated because the officer saw that the driver was non-white. As quoted from that report "Researchers caution that this statistical significance could stem from several factors beyond the scope of the data, including whether the stop was discretionary or due to a radio call, motorist behavior, or the triggering offense". Of several factors that we note about the study is that both the timeframes highlighted, the "inter-twilight periods", encompass both major commuting times, or rush hours. These periods not only are when we have the most traffic in town, it is also when we receive the most calls for motor vehicle crashes, the most traffic complaints from residents, as well as from other motorists about other motorists. Because of this, directed enforcement is generally during these timeframes. Furthermore, the town also participates in numerous state-funded traffic



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enforcement grants, such as for OUI, Seatbelt, and Aggressive Driving enforcement. The enforcement timeframes all include the evening rush hour times. Additionally, factors like weather, speed, and window tint, to name a few are not considered in the state's report.

We have reviewed the report and analyzed our own data to find that not only for the Veil of Darkness stops, but also all stops for Non-White Drivers, that almost all drivers were given warnings, reduced fines, and summons instead of arrest. We also discovered that in some instances, civil citations were issued and warnings were given for criminal or even arrestable offenses. Additionally, information from our body camera system shows that where traffic enforcement is conducted is almost identical to crash locations on the major routes through town.

Based on the information contained in this report, as well as the regular bias free and cultural competency training that the department regularly receives, I have no recommendations for procedural changes within the department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Mitchell J. Kuc
Lieutenant of Operations