


TRUMBULL POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY

	POLICY TITLE Racial Profiling		POLICY NUMBER 2.5.2
	EFFECTIVE DATE October 1, 2011	REVISION DATE(S) February 4, 2015	
	APPROVAL AUTHORITY SIGNATURE:		

I. PURPOSE:

Traffic stops are a valuable law enforcement tool. They encourage compliance with traffic laws, minimize traffic accidents and help to ensure public safety and create a high visibility of law enforcement and can aid in the deterrence and detection of criminal activity. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines prohibiting racial/ethnic profiling and ensuring the documentation and reporting of motor vehicle stops conducted by officers of the Trumbull Police Department. It should be understood that the prohibitions of this policy and the Connecticut General Statutes also pertain to non-consensual officer/person contacts.

II. POLICY:

Connecticut law mandates that all police departments in the State of Connecticut provide statistical data concerning motor vehicle stops. In accordance with this Act, it is the policy of the Trumbull Police Department to operate within the guidelines of the state law and to prohibit the stopping, detention, or search of any person when such action is solely motivated by considerations or perceptions of the person's race, skin color, age, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. The preparation of search warrants, arrest warrants and asset seizure and forfeiture efforts shall also be governed by this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Racial Profiling: The detention, interdiction or other disparate treatment of an individual solely on the basis of the racial or ethnic status of the individual.

Traffic Stop: For the purpose of this policy as defined by the Connecticut Office of the Chief State's Attorney is "a situation when an officer approaches a moving vehicle, and as a result of his interaction with the driver, the vehicle stops." Such traffic stops shall conform to this policy as well as procedures published in the Connecticut Law Enforcement Field Officer's Manual.

IV. PROCEDURES:

Motor vehicle stops have long been acknowledged as a necessary part of the law enforcement process. Motor vehicle stops must be based on a reasonable suspicion that a specific crime has been committed, and that the suspect is in the vehicle. No member of the Trumbull Police Department will engage in racial profiling. The race or ethnicity of an individual shall not be the sole factor in:

- Determining the existence of probable cause to place in custody or arrest an individual;
- Constituting a reasonable and articulate suspicion that an offense has been or is being committed;

- Justifying the detention of an individual or the Investigatory stop of a motor vehicle.

Officers may only take into account the reported race, ethnicity or national origin of a specific suspect or suspects on credible, reliable, locally relevant information that links race, ethnicity or national origin as a descriptor linking a person or persons of a specific race to a particular criminal incident. Race cannot be the sole factor in establishing reasonable suspicion or probable cause but can, in the restricted circumstances described above, be one component of the “totality of the circumstances”.

A. Motor Vehicle Stop Procedures

1. Officers must notify Communications of all motor vehicle stops as soon as possible and request a case number for each stop.
2. Officers will complete the "Connecticut Traffic Stop Statistics" form for every motor vehicle stop made whether or not a citation was issued or other enforcement action taken.
3. Officers will also complete the Racial Profiling cards and provide to the operator

B. Traffic Stop Statistical Information Requirements

Officers are to ensure that the traffic stop form is filed out completely and contains the following information:

- The number of persons stopped for traffic violations;
- The characteristics of race, color, ethnicity, gender and age of such persons. The identification of such characteristics shall be based on the observation and perception of the police officer reporting the stop. The information shall not be required to be provided by the person stopped;
- The nature of the alleged violation that resulted in the stop;
- Whether a warning or citation was issued, an arrest made, or a search conducted as a result of the stop;
- Any additional information that may be appropriate to the case.

C. Reporting Procedures

1. Complaints received pursuant to this statute shall be investigated in accordance with departmental rules and regulations. The Office of the Chief State's Attorney and The Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project (CTRP3) of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University shall be provided with a copy of each complaint received, along with written notification of the review and disposition of such complaint. No copy of such complaint shall include any other identifying information about the complainant, such as the complainant's operator's license number, name or address.
2. Profiling Statistical Data is automatically transmitted by the Records Division through LEAS to the state of CT.
3. The department will prepare an annual administrative review of agency practices related to bias and profiling, including citizen complaints. This report shall be prepared by an administrative chief as designated by the chief of the department.