



WORTHINGTON DIVISION OF POLICE

Memorandum

Integrity, Respect, Commitment, Honesty, Professionalism

To: **Chief Stephen Mylett**

From: **Lt. Michael Holton**

Date: **January 9, 2025**

Subj: **Traffic Citation & Traffic Warning Data Review for 2024**

Refer to the below-listed table for race and gender information of the 2782 individuals who were issued traffic citations and/or written traffic warnings during 2901 self-initiated traffic contacts in the City of Worthington in 2024. (Writer's note: Some violators may have been issued a written traffic warning and a written traffic citation if they had committed multiple traffic offenses. Some violators may not have been issued either a written warning or written citation.)

To maintain the five reporting categories as identified by National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the Ohio Collaborative, the following adjustments were made and included in the "Unknown" male or female category:

- Twenty-nine (29) males were issued traffic citations where race was not identified
- Thirty-four (34) males were issued written warnings where race was not identified
- Nine (9) females were issued traffic citations where race was not identified
- Thirty-six (36) females were issued written warnings where race was not identified

Traffic Citations and/or Traffic Warnings - 2024 01-01-24 through 12-31-24

Race	Male	Percent of total	Female	Percent of total
White	1123	40.37%	680	24.44%
Black	497	17.86%	281	10.10%
Asian	59	2.12%	33	1.18%
Indian	1	0.04%	0	0.00%
Unknown	63	2.27%	45	1.62%
Individuals Issued a Traffic Citation and/or a Traffic Warning	1743		1039	Total: 2782

These numbers represent data for 2782 individuals who were issued traffic citations and/or written traffic warnings during 2901 self-initiated traffic contacts between 01-01-24 and 12-31-24. The new database for collecting traffic citations and written traffic warnings commenced in January 2020. This is being utilized to avoid the complex variables and address outcomes of conflicted baseline data that might be generated from the 2020 US Census data in which we cannot delineate licensed drivers within the confines of our jurisdictional boundary. Please be aware that we deal with the crossroads of two major federal interstates, two interstate routes, and one US route. Without a verifiable benchmark, it is difficult to determine what

percentage of self-initiated traffic stops would indicate racially biased policing. The objective of using a baseline value and thus benchmarking is to understand if there is a causal relationship between a characteristic of the driver (e.g., race, gender, and/or age) and the decision by police to initiate a traffic stop.

The most reliable benchmarks look to develop a profile of who should be stopped within a jurisdiction without biased decision-making. Noting there are complicating factors, such as the diverse driving behaviors of various groups (e.g., racial, ethnic, gender, and age groups) that travel our roadways. Additionally, nonresidents (commuters) travel on our jurisdiction's roadways, are involved in traffic crashes, and are stopped by police officers for traffic violations.

Effective January 2020, the Ohio Collaborative requires law enforcement agencies wishing to obtain certification from the Ohio Collaborative to collect and document race and gender information on all traffic contacts. In anticipation of the new Ohio Collaborative guidelines, effective July 14, 2019, the Worthington Division of Police began collecting race and gender information of individuals issued written traffic warnings and citations.

It is a requirement that the sex and race category be completed. They are identical to the categories defined by NCIC. The definitions from NCIC are listed below:

Value	Definition
I = Indian	American Indian or Alaskan Native – a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Americas and maintaining cultural identification through tribal affiliations or community recognition
A = Asian	Asian or Pacific Islander - a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent or the Pacific Islands
B = Black	Black - a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa
W = White	White - a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East
U = Race is unknown	Unknown