

**Polk County  
Sheriff's Office**

**Annual Racial Profiling Report**

**(2009)**

# **Polk County Sheriff's Office Annual Racial Profiling Report January 1, 2009---December 31, 2009**

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POLK COUNTY

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Chief Deputy**ALENE EDMONDS**  
Adm. Assistant

Since January 1, 2009 the Polk County Sheriff's Office in accordance with the Texas Racial Profiling Law (S.B. No. 1074), has been collecting police contact data for the purpose of identifying and responding to concerns regarding racial profiling practices. It is my hope that the findings provided in this report will serve as evidence that the Polk County Sheriff's Office continues to strive towards the goal of maintaining strong relations with the community.

In this report, the reader will encounter several sections designed at providing background information on the rationale and objectives of the Texas Racial Profiling Law. Other sections contain information relevant to the institutional policies adopted by the Polk County Sheriff's Office banishing the practice of racial profiling among its officers.

The final components of this report provide statistical data relevant to the public contacts made during the period of 1/1/09 and 12/31/09. The recommendations for future areas of research are also included. It is my sincere hope that the channels of communication between community leaders and the Polk County Sheriff's Office continue to strengthen as we move forward to meet the challenges of the near future.

Sincerely,

*Kenneth Hammack*  
Sheriff Kenneth Hammack

*Byron A. Lyons*  
Chief Deputy Byron Lyons

**The  
Texas Law On  
Racial Profiling**

AN ACT

relating to the prevention of racial profiling by certain peace officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Articles 2.131 through 2.138 to read as follows:

Art. 2.131. RACIAL PROFILING PROHIBITED. A peace officer may not engage in racial profiling.

Art. 2.132. LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY ON RACIAL PROFILING. (a) In this article:

(1) "Law enforcement agency" means an agency of the state, or of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state, that employs peace officers who make traffic stops in the routine performance of the officers' official duties.

(2) "Race or ethnicity" means of a particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American descent.

(b) Each law enforcement agency in this state shall adopt a detailed written policy on racial profiling. The policy must:

(1) clearly define acts constituting racial profiling;

(2) strictly prohibit peace officers employed by the agency from engaging in racial profiling;

(3) implement a process by which an individual may file a complaint with the agency if the individual believes that a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling with respect to the individual;

(4) provide public education relating to the agency's complaint process;

(5) require appropriate corrective action to be taken against a peace officer employed by the agency who, after an investigation, is shown to have engaged in racial profiling in violation of the agency's policy adopted under this article;

(6) require collection of information relating to traffic stops in which a citation is issued and to arrests resulting from those traffic stops, including information relating to:

(A) the race or ethnicity of the individual detained;

and

(B) whether a search was conducted and, if so, whether the person detained consented to the search; and

(7) require the agency to submit to the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency an annual report of the information collected under Subdivision (6) if the agency is an agency of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state.

(c) The data collected as a result of the reporting requirements of this article shall not constitute prima facie evidence of racial profiling.

(d) On adoption of a policy under Subsection (b), a law enforcement agency shall examine the feasibility of installing video camera and transmitter-activated equipment in each agency law enforcement motor vehicle regularly used to make traffic stops and transmitter-activated equipment in each agency law enforcement motorcycle regularly used to make traffic stops. If a law enforcement agency installs video or audio equipment as provided by this subsection, the policy adopted by the agency under Subsection (b) must include standards for reviewing video and audio documentation.

(e) A report required under Subsection (b)(7) may not include identifying information about a peace officer who makes a traffic stop or about an individual

who is stopped or arrested by a peace officer. This subsection does not affect the collection of information as required by a policy under Subsection (b)(6).

(f) On the commencement of an investigation by a law enforcement agency of a complaint described by Subsection (b)(3) in which a video or audio recording of the occurrence on which the complaint is based was made, the agency shall promptly provide a copy of the recording to the peace officer who is the subject of the complaint on written request by the officer.

Art. 2.133. REPORTS REQUIRED FOR TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN STOPS. (a) In this article:

(1) "Race or ethnicity" has the meaning assigned by Article 2.132(a).

(2) "Pedestrian stop" means an interaction between a peace officer and an individual who is being detained for the purpose of a criminal investigation in which the individual is not under arrest.

(b) A peace officer who stops a motor vehicle for an alleged violation of a law or ordinance regulating traffic or who stops a pedestrian for any suspected offense shall report to the law enforcement agency that employs the officer information relating to the stop, including:

(1) a physical description of each person detained as a result of the stop, including:

(A) the person's gender; and

(B) the person's race or ethnicity, as stated by the person or, if the person does not state the person's race or ethnicity, as determined by the officer to the best of the officer's ability;

(2) the traffic law or ordinance alleged to have been violated or the suspected offense;

(3) whether the officer conducted a search as a result of the stop and, if so, whether the person detained consented to the search;

(4) whether any contraband was discovered in the course of the search and the type of contraband discovered;

(5) whether probable cause to search existed and the facts supporting the existence of that probable cause;

(6) whether the officer made an arrest as a result of the stop or the search, including a statement of the offense charged;

(7) the street address or approximate location of the stop;  
and

(8) whether the officer issued a warning or a citation as a result of the stop, including a description of the warning or a statement of the violation charged.

Art. 2.134. COMPILATION AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION COLLECTED. (a) In this article, "pedestrian stop" means an interaction between a peace officer and an individual who is being detained for the purpose of a criminal investigation in which the individual is not under arrest.

(b) A law enforcement agency shall compile and analyze the information contained in each report received by the agency under Article 2.133. Not later than March 1 of each year, each local law enforcement agency shall submit a report containing the information compiled during the previous calendar year to the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency in a manner approved by the agency.

(c) A report required under Subsection (b) must include:

(1) a comparative analysis of the information compiled under Article 2.133 to:

(A) determine the prevalence of racial profiling by peace officers employed by the agency; and



(B) examine the disposition of traffic and pedestrian stops made by officers employed by the agency, including searches resulting from the stops; and

(2) information relating to each complaint filed with the agency alleging that a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling.

(d) A report required under Subsection (b) may not include identifying information about a peace officer who makes a traffic or pedestrian stop or about an individual who is stopped or arrested by a peace officer. This subsection does not affect the reporting of information required under Article 2.133(b)(1).

(e) The Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education shall develop guidelines for compiling and reporting information as required by this article.

(f) The data collected as a result of the reporting requirements of this article shall not constitute prima facie evidence of racial profiling.

Art. 2.135. EXEMPTION FOR AGENCIES USING VIDEO AND AUDIO EQUIPMENT. (a) A peace officer is exempt from the reporting requirement under Article 2.133 and a law enforcement agency is exempt from the compilation, analysis, and reporting requirements under Article 2.134 if:

(1) during the calendar year preceding the date that a report under Article 2.134 is required to be submitted:

(A) each law enforcement motor vehicle regularly used by an officer employed by the agency to make traffic and pedestrian stops is equipped with video camera and transmitter-activated equipment and each law enforcement motorcycle regularly used to make traffic and pedestrian stops is equipped with transmitter-activated equipment; and

(B) each traffic and pedestrian stop made by an officer employed by the agency that is capable of being recorded by video and audio or audio equipment, as appropriate, is recorded by using the equipment; or

(2) the governing body of the county or municipality served by the law enforcement agency, in conjunction with the law enforcement agency, certifies to the Department of Public Safety, not later than the date specified by rule by the department, that the law enforcement agency needs funds or video and audio equipment for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Subsection (a)(1)(A) and the agency does not receive from the state funds or video and audio equipment sufficient, as determined by the department, for the agency to accomplish that purpose.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, a law enforcement agency that is exempt from the requirements under Article 2.134 shall retain the video and audio or audio documentation of each traffic and pedestrian stop for at least 90 days after the date of the stop. If a complaint is filed with the law enforcement agency alleging that a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling with respect to a traffic or pedestrian stop, the agency shall retain the video and audio or audio record of the stop until final disposition of the complaint.

(c) This article does not affect the collection or reporting requirements under Article 2.132.

Art. 2.136. LIABILITY. A peace officer is not liable for damages arising from an act relating to the collection or reporting of information as required by Article 2.133 or under a policy adopted under Article 2.132.

Art. 2.137. PROVISION OF FUNDING OR EQUIPMENT. (a) The Department of Public Safety shall adopt rules for providing funds or video and audio equipment to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Article 2.135(a)(1)(A), including specifying criteria to prioritize funding or equipment provided to law enforcement agencies. The criteria may include consideration of tax

effort, financial hardship, available revenue, and budget surpluses. The criteria must give priority to:

(1) law enforcement agencies that employ peace officers whose primary duty is traffic enforcement;

(2) smaller jurisdictions; and

(3) municipal and county law enforcement agencies.

(b) The Department of Public Safety shall collaborate with an institution of higher education to identify law enforcement agencies that need funds or video and audio equipment for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Article 2.135(a)(1)(A). The collaboration may include the use of a survey to assist in developing criteria to prioritize funding or equipment provided to law enforcement agencies.

(c) To receive funds or video and audio equipment from the state for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Article 2.135(a)(1)(A), the governing body of a county or municipality, in conjunction with the law enforcement agency serving the county or municipality, shall certify to the Department of Public Safety that the law enforcement agency needs funds or video and audio equipment for that purpose.

(d) On receipt of funds or video and audio equipment from the state for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Article 2.135(a)(1)(A), the governing body of a county or municipality, in conjunction with the law enforcement agency serving the county or municipality, shall certify to the Department of Public Safety that the law enforcement agency has installed video and audio equipment as described by Article 2.135(a)(1)(A) and is using the equipment as required by Article 2.135(a)(1).

Art. 2.138. RULES. The Department of Public Safety may adopt rules to implement Articles 2.131-2.137.

SECTION 2. Chapter 3, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 3.05 to read as follows:

Art. 3.05. RACIAL PROFILING. In this code, "racial profiling" means a law enforcement-initiated action based on an individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin rather than on the individual's behavior or on information identifying the individual as having engaged in criminal activity.

SECTION 3. Section 96.641, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:

(j) As part of the initial training and continuing education for police chiefs required under this section, the institute shall establish a program on racial profiling. The program must include an examination of the best practices for:

(1) monitoring peace officers' compliance with laws and internal agency policies relating to racial profiling;

(2) implementing laws and internal agency policies relating to preventing racial profiling; and

(3) analyzing and reporting collected information.

SECTION 4. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the commission shall establish a statewide comprehensive education and training program on racial profiling for officers licensed under this chapter. An officer shall complete a program established under this subsection not later than the second anniversary of the date the officer is licensed under this chapter or the date the officer applies for an intermediate proficiency certificate, whichever date is earlier.

SECTION 5. Section 1701.402, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) As a requirement for an intermediate proficiency certificate, an officer must complete an education and training program on racial profiling established by the commission under Section 1701.253(e).

SECTION 6. Section 543.202, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 543.202. FORM OF RECORD. (a) In this section, "race or ethnicity" means of a particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American descent.

(b) The record must be made on a form or by a data processing method acceptable to the department and must include:

(1) the name, address, physical description, including race or ethnicity, date of birth, and driver's license number of the person charged;

(2) the registration number of the vehicle involved;

(3) whether the vehicle was a commercial motor vehicle as defined by Chapter 522 or was involved in transporting hazardous materials;

(4) the person's social security number, if the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle or was the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver learner's permit;

(5) the date and nature of the offense, including whether the offense was a serious traffic violation as defined by Chapter 522;

(6) whether a search of the vehicle was conducted and whether consent for the search was obtained;

(7) the plea, the judgment, and whether bail was forfeited;

(8) ~~(7)~~ the date of conviction; and

(9) ~~(8)~~ the amount of the fine or forfeiture.

SECTION 7. Not later than January 1, 2002, a law enforcement agency shall adopt and implement a policy and begin collecting information under the policy as required by Article 2.132, Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act. A local law enforcement agency shall first submit information to the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency as required by Article 2.132, Code of Criminal Procedure, as

added by this Act, on March 1, 2003. The first submission of information shall consist of information compiled by the agency during the period beginning January 1, 2002, and ending December 31, 2002.

SECTION 8. A local law enforcement agency shall first submit information to the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency as required by Article 2.134, Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act, on March 1, 2004. The first submission of information shall consist of information compiled by the agency during the period beginning January 1, 2003, and ending December 31, 2003.

SECTION 9. Not later than January 1, 2002:

(1) the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education shall establish an education and training program on racial profiling as required by Subsection (e), Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, as added by this Act; and

(2) the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas shall establish a program on racial profiling as required by Subsection (j), Section 96.641, Education Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 10. A person who on the effective date of this Act holds an intermediate proficiency certificate issued by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education or has held a peace officer license issued by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education for at least two years shall complete an education and training program on racial profiling established under Subsection (e), Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2003.

SECTION 11. An individual appointed or elected as a police chief before the effective date of this Act shall complete a program on racial profiling established under Subsection (j), Section 96.641, Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2003.

SECTION 12. This Act takes effect September 1, 2001.

**Outline of Requirements  
Introduced by the  
Texas Racial Profiling Law**

## Guidelines for Compiling and Reporting Data under Senate Bill 1074

### Background

Senate Bill 1074 of the 77<sup>th</sup> Legislature established requirements in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (TCCP) for law enforcement agencies. The Commission developed this document to assist agencies in complying with the statutory requirements.

The guidelines are written in the form of standards using a style developed from accreditation organizations including the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The standards provide a description of *what* must be accomplished by an agency but allows wide latitude in determining *how* the agency will achieve compliance with each applicable standard.

Each standard is composed of two parts: the standard statement and the commentary. The *standard statement* is a declarative sentence that places a clear-cut requirement, or multiple requirements, on an agency. The commentary supports the standard statement but is not binding. The commentary can serve as a prompt, as guidance to clarify the intent of the standard, or as an example of one possible way to comply with the standard.

### Standard 1

Each law enforcement agency has a detailed written directive that:

- clearly defines acts that constitute racial profiling;
- strictly prohibits peace officers employed by the agency from engaging in racial profiling;
- implements a process by which an individual may file a complaint with the agency if the individual believes a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling with respect to the individual filing the complaint;
- provides for public education relating to the complaint process;
- requires appropriate corrective action to be taken against a peace officer employed by the agency who, after investigation, is shown to have engaged in racial profiling in violation of the agency's written racial profiling policy; and
- requires the collection of certain types of data for subsequent reporting.

### Commentary

Article 2.131 of the TCCP prohibits officers from engaging in racial profiling, and article 2.132 of the TCCP now requires a written policy that contains the elements listed in this standard. The article also specifically defines a law enforcement agency as it applies to this statute as an "agency of the state, or of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state, that employs peace officers who make traffic stops in the routine performance of the officers' official duties."

The article further defines race or ethnicity as being of "a particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American." The statute does not limit the required policies to just these ethnic groups.

This written policy is to be adopted and implemented no later than January 1, 2002.



**Standard 2**

Each peace officer who stops a motor vehicle for an alleged violation of a law or ordinance regulating traffic, or who stops a pedestrian for any suspected offense reports to the employing law enforcement agency information relating to the stop, to include:

- a physical description of each person detained, including gender and the person's race or ethnicity, as stated by the person, or, if the person does not state a race or ethnicity, as determined by the officer's best judgment;
- the traffic law or ordinance alleged to have been violated or the suspected offense;
- whether the officer conducted a search as a result of the stop and, if so, whether the person stopped consented to the search;
- whether any contraband was discovered in the course of the search, and the type of contraband discovered;
- whether probable cause to search existed, and the facts supporting the existence of that probable cause;
- whether the officer made an arrest as a result of the stop or the search, including a statement of the offense charged;
- the street address or approximate location of the stop; and
- whether the officer issued a warning or citation as a result of the stop, including a description of the warning or a statement of the violation charged.

**Commentary**

The information required by 2.133 TCCP is used to complete the agency reporting requirements found in Article 2.134. A peace officer and an agency may be exempted from this requirement under Article 2.135 TCCP Exemption for Agencies Using Video and Audio Equipment. An agency may be exempt from this reporting requirement by applying for the funds from the Department of Public Safety for video and audio equipment and the State does not supply those funds. Section 2.135 (a)(2) states, "the governing body of the county or municipality served by the law enforcement agency, in conjunction with the law enforcement agency, certifies to the Department of Public Safety, not later than the date specified by rule by the department, that the law enforcement agency needs funds or video and audio equipment for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Subsection (a) (1) (A) and the agency does not receive from the state funds for video and audio equipment sufficient, as determined by the department, for the agency to accomplish that purpose."

**Standard 3**

The agency compiles the information collected under 2.132 and 2.133 and analyzes the information identified in 2.133.

**Commentary**

Senate Bill 1074 from the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature created requirements for law enforcement agencies to gather specific information and to report it to each county or municipality served. New sections of law were added to the Code of Criminal Procedure regarding the reporting of traffic and pedestrian stops. Detained is defined as when a person stopped is not free to leave.

Article 2.134 TCCP requires the agency to compile and provide an analysis of the information collected by peace officer employed by the agency. The report is provided to the governing body of the municipality or county no later than March 1 of each year and covers the previous calendar year.

There is data collection and reporting required based on Article 2.132 CCP (tier one) and Article 2.133 CCP (tier two).

The minimum requirements for “tier one” data for traffic stops in which a citation results are:

- 1) the race or ethnicity of individual detained (race and ethnicity as defined by the bill means of “a particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American”);
- 2) whether a search was conducted, and if there was a search, whether it was a consent search or a probable cause search; and
- 3) whether there was a custody arrest.

The minimum requirements for reporting on “tier two” reports include traffic and pedestrian stops. Tier two data include:

- 1) the detained person’s gender and race or ethnicity;
- 2) the type of law violation suspected, e.g., hazardous traffic, non-hazardous traffic, or other criminal investigation (the Texas Department of Public Safety publishes a categorization of traffic offenses into hazardous or non-hazardous);
- 3) whether a search was conducted, and if so whether it was based on consent or probable cause;
- 4) facts supporting probable cause;
- 5) the type, if any, of contraband that was collected;
- 6) disposition of the stop, e.g., arrest, ticket, warning, or release;
- 7) location of stop; and
- 8) statement of the charge, e.g., felony, misdemeanor, or traffic.

Tier one reports are made to the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency an annual report of information if the agency is an agency of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state. Tier one and two reports are reported to the county or municipality not later than March 1 for the previous calendar year beginning March 1, 2003. Tier two reports include a comparative analysis between the race and ethnicity of persons detained to see if a differential pattern of treatment can be discerned based on the disposition of stops including searches resulting from the stops. The reports also include information relating to each complaint filed with the agency alleging that a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling. An agency may be exempt from the tier two reporting requirement by applying for the funds from the Department of Public Safety for video and audio equipment and the State does not supply those funds [See 2.135 (a)(2) TCCP].

Reports should include both raw numbers and percentages for each group. Caution should be exercised in interpreting the data involving percentages because of statistical distortions caused by very small numbers in any particular category, for example, if only one American Indian is stopped and searched, that stop would not provide an accurate comparison with 200 stops among Caucasians with 100 searches. In the first case, a 100% search rate would be skewed data when compared to a 50% rate for Caucasians.

#### **Standard 4**

If a law enforcement agency has video and audio capabilities in motor vehicles regularly used for traffic stops, or audio capabilities on motorcycles regularly used to make traffic stops, the agency:

- adopts standards for reviewing and retaining audio and video documentation; and
- promptly provides a copy of the recording to a peace officer who is the subject of a complaint on written request by the officer.

#### **Commentary**

The agency should have a specific review and retention policy. Article 2.132 TCCP specifically requires that the peace officer be promptly provided with a copy of the audio or video recordings if the officer is the subject of a complaint and the officer makes a written request.

#### **Standard 5**

Agencies that do not currently have video or audio equipment must examine the feasibility of installing such equipment.

**Commentary**

None

**Standard 6**

Agencies that have video and audio recording capabilities are exempt from the reporting requirements of Article 2.134 TCCP and officers are exempt from the reporting requirements of Article 2.133 TCCP provided that:

- the equipment was in place and used during the proceeding calendar year; and
- video and audio documentation is retained for at least 90 days.

**Commentary**

The audio and video equipment and policy must have been in place during the previous calendar year. Audio and video documentation must be kept for at least 90 days or longer if a complaint has been filed. The documentation must be retained until the complaint is resolved. Peace officers are not exempt from the requirements under Article 2.132 TCCP.

**Standard 7**

Agencies have citation forms or other electronic media that comply with Section 543.202 of the Transportation Code.

**Commentary**

Senate Bill 1074 changed Section 543.202 of the Transportation Code requiring citations to include:

- race or ethnicity, and
- whether a search of the vehicle was conducted and whether consent for the search was obtained.

## **Section II**

# **Responding to the Texas Racial Profiling Law**

Polk County Sheriff's Department  
Directive

Addressing Racially Biased Policing

And the Perceptions Thereof

Written Directive

Approved by: Kenneth Hammack, Sheriff  
10-01-01

Initiation Date

Review Date: March 22, 2005

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#### PURPOSE

This directive in intending to reaffirm this Department's commitment to unbiased policing, and to clarify the circumstances in which officers can consider race/ethnicity when making law enforcement decisions, and to reinforce procedures that serve to assure the public we are proving and enforcing laws in equitable way..

#### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES:

This Department is committed to protecting the constitutional and civil rights of all citizens. Allegations of "racial profiling" (as defined herein) or discriminatory practices, real or perceived, are detrimental to the relationship between police and the communities they protect and serve, because they strike at the basic foundation of public trust. This trust is essential to effective community based policing. Racially biased policing is an ineffective method of law enforcement and often results in increased safety risks to officers and citizens and the misuse of valuable police resources. Additionally, improper racially biased policing violates the civil rights of members of the public and may lead to increased exposure to liability. This Department does not endorse, train, teach, support, or condone any racially biased policing by its officers. While recognizing that most officers perform their duties in a professional, ethical and impartial manner, this Department is committed to identifying and eliminating any instances of racially biased policing. (Racial Profiling)

#### II. MISSION STATEMENT

a. It is the policy of the Department to:

1. Provide all people within this community fair and impartial police services consistent with constitutional and statutory mandates;
2. Assure the highest standard of integrity and ethics among all our members;
3. Respect the diversity and cultural differences of all people;
4. Take positive steps to identify, prevent, and eliminate any instances of racially biased policing by our members;
5. Continue our commitment to community policing and problem solving, including vigorous, lawful, and non-discriminatory traffic enforcement that promotes public safety and strengthens public trust, confidence, and awareness;
6. To patrol in a pro-active manner, aggressively investigating suspicious persons and circumstances, while insisting that citizens will only be stopped or detained when there is reasonable suspicion to believe that they have committed, are committing, or about to commit, an infraction of the law

inconvenience and maximize officer safety, the officer's perception of race or ethnicity will be used.

3. To indicate the race I ethnicity of a person receiving a citation or being arrested, the following letter codes will be used on the citation:

C - Caucasian  
 B - African  
 H - Hispanic (Latino)  
 A- Asian  
 N - Native American  
 0- Other

## X. COMPLAINT OF RACIALLY BIASED POLICING

### a. Who may file:

Any person may file a complaint with the department if they feel they have been stopped or searched based on that individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin rather than on that individual's behavior or information identifying them as having engaged in criminal activity. No person shall be discouraged, intimidated, or coerced from filing such a complaint or discriminated against because they have filed such a complaint.

b. If an officer on the street is approached by a citizen regarding a complaint alleged racially biased policing, the officer being approached should inform the citizen that his / her complaint should be directed to a supervisor at the Sheriff's Office.

c. Supervisors receiving a citizen's complaint shall determine, if possible, whether the complainant wishes to have the complaint considered as a formal complaint or informal complaint.

d. If the complainant wishes to have the complaint considered on an "informal" basis, the supervisor shall take such action as is appropriate based on the complaint and all attendant circumstances. Upon resolving the "informal" complaint, the supervisor will forward the citizen's complaint, accompanied by a report or document describing the action of the supervisor taken in regard to the complaint, to the **SHERIFF**.

e. If a supervisor determines that the citizen wishes their complaint to be classed, as a "formal" complaint the supervisor should take a written statement from the citizen. The statement along with the signed "complaint against officer" shall be forwarded to the **SHERIFF** for other investigative actions.

### f. Telephone Complaints

1. Citizens making a complaint by telephone should be informed that their signed complaint is requested however, no telephone complaint should be refused or rejected because the complainant does not wish to sign a complaint form or because she or he does not wish to be identified.

2. If the citizen declines to complete the written complaint form. The supervisor receiving the telephone complaint should attempt to determine all relevant information as required on the complaint and report form and record that information on the form.

## Training

In compliance with the Texas Racial Profiling Law, the Polk County Sheriff's Office has required that all its Deputies adhere to all Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) training.

All Deputies from the Polk County Sheriff's Office have been required to complete a TCLEOSE training and education program on racial profiling not later than the second anniversary of the date the officer is licensed under Chapter 1701 of the Texas Occupations Code or the date the officer applies for an intermediate proficiency certificate, whichever date is earlier. 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.

All Polk County Sheriff's Office Deputies are current with their required training. A Cultural Diversity course was offered sponsored by the Polk County Sheriff's Office during 2009. Any new deputy will be updated as soon as possible.

**Racial Profiling Complaints**

The Polk County Sheriff's Office has investigated no racial profiling complaints during the year of 2009.



**Section III**  
**Data and Analysis**



DATE 01/11/2010

RACIAL PROFILING STATS  
POLK COUNTY SO

CLW11

DURING THE PERIOD 01/01/2009 TO 12/31/2009 THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS WERE RECORDED.

African:

STOPS CONDUCTED:	239
REASON - HAZARDOUS:	172
REASON - NONHAZARDOUS:	56
REASON - INVESTIGATIVE:	11
REASON - OTHER:	0
SEARCHES CONDUCTED:	1
SEARCHES WITH CONSENT:	1
RESULTING IN ARREST:	0
RESIDENTS:	80
NON-RESIDENTS:	159
MALES:	152
FEMALES:	87

ASIAN:

STOPS CONDUCTED:	13
REASON - HAZARDOUS:	13
REASON - NONHAZARDOUS:	0
REASON - INVESTIGATIVE:	0
REASON - OTHER:	0
SEARCHES CONDUCTED:	0
SEARCHES WITH CONSENT:	0
RESULTING IN ARREST:	0
RESIDENTS:	1
NON-RESIDENTS:	12
MALES:	7
FEMALES:	6

NATIVE AMERICAN:

STOPS CONDUCTED:	1
REASON - HAZARDOUS:	1
REASON - NONHAZARDOUS:	0
REASON - INVESTIGATIVE:	0
REASON - OTHER:	0
SEARCHES CONDUCTED:	0
SEARCHES WITH CONSENT:	0
RESULTING IN ARREST:	0
RESIDENTS:	1
NON-RESIDENTS:	0
MALES:	0
FEMALES:	1

HISPANIC:

STOPS CONDUCTED:	83
REASON - HAZARDOUS:	47
REASON - NONHAZARDOUS:	32
REASON - INVESTIGATIVE:	4
REASON - OTHER:	0
SEARCHES CONDUCTED:	0
SEARCHES WITH CONSENT:	0
RESULTING IN ARREST:	0
RESIDENTS:	36
NON-RESIDENTS:	47
MALES:	68
FEMALES:	15

CAUCASIAN:

STOPS CONDUCTED:	1,628
REASON - HAZARDOUS:	1,027
REASON - NONHAZARDOUS:	463
REASON - INVESTIGATIVE:	134
REASON - OTHER:	0
SEARCHES CONDUCTED:	23
SEARCHES WITH CONSENT:	21
RESULTING IN ARREST:	0
RESIDENTS:	684
NON-RESIDENTS:	944
MALES:	1,145
FEMALES:	481

DATE 01/11/2010

RACIAL PROFILING STATS  
POLK COUNTY SO

CLW11:

DURING THE PERIOD 01/01/2009 TO 12/31/2009 THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS WERE RECORDED.

## OTHER:

STOPS CONDUCTED:	3
REASON - HAZARDOUS:	1
REASON - NONHAZARDOUS:	2
REASON - INVESTIGATIVE:	0
REASON - OTHER:	0
SEARCHES CONDUCTED:	0
SEARCHES WITH CONSENT:	0
RESULTING IN ARREST:	0
RESIDENTS:	0
NON-RESIDENTS:	3
MALES:	3
FEMALES:	0

TOTAL STOPS COUNTED: 1,967

## Analysis

The data presented in this report contains valuable information regarding Sheriff Department contacts with the public between 1/1/09 and 12/31/09. Despite its value, the raw data does not present much information relevant to racial profiling trends.

Thus, it is felt that further analysis of the data is warranted. As such, data was obtained through the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), via a public information request. The data obtained from DPS included the race and gender of drivers in the area of Polk County during the 2003 calendar year. The decision to obtain DPS data was made since, according to experts, census data presents challenges to any effort made at establishing a fair and accurate analysis. That is, census data contains information of all residents of a particular community, regardless of the fact they may or may not be among the driving population. This has a tendency of inflating the overall figures; thus, providing an inaccurate representation of Deputy contacts with the public. Therefore, it is felt that DPS data is relevant to county residents who reside in Polk County and have come in contact with the Sheriff's Department during a given year, will offer a more accurate representation and provide further insights than other sources including census data.

\*It must be noted that Hispanics were grouped with Caucasians for purposes of this analysis since DPS does not collect information related to the ethnicity of drivers. In fact, according to their own language, DPS considers Hispanics, in their data collection process, as Caucasians.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings introduced in this report the Sheriff along with all employees of the Polk County Sheriff's Office have agreed to adopt the following measures aimed at addressing potential racial profiling problems:

- Provide further racial sensitivity training to its personnel
- Disseminate information to all officers regarding the guidelines of behavior acceptable under the newly adopted Texas Racial Profiling Law
- Keep County Commissioners and other county officials updated on measures being implemented at the Polk County Sheriff's Office concerning racial profiling