

April 2, 2012

On the release of the 2009-2010 Assessment of Traffic Stop Data in Chittenden County the following quotes have been assembled.

Robert Appel, Executive Director, VT Human Rights Commission

“The Commission is very pleased to be a part of this ground breaking effort. Now 5 years into its history, the Uncommon Alliance with its law enforcement partners has provided leadership to other Vermont police agencies to more closely assess racial and gender disparities in motor vehicle stops. This unique partnership has served as a catalyst for the entire Vermont criminal justice system to ferret out biases that we all bring to our work. I remain hopeful that the Racial Disparity bill presently in the Senate will be enacted so that this work can be expanded throughout the state and all criminal justice agencies.”

Steve McQueen, Chief, Winooski Police Department

"The Winooski Police Department is committed to the continued high level of professionalism while we adapt to the ever changing demands of our very diverse community. We believe that professional decision-making should never be driven by personal biases and that everyone deserves to be treated fairly and with dignity. Through our participation with the Uncommon Alliance and the race data collection initiative, I believe that we have greatly improved our relationship with our community and we have become more aware of how biases can affect how we police."

Stephanie Seguíno, Primary Author of the Study and Community Member

“This study finds evidence of racial disparities in traffic stops and outcomes. While not all disparities may be due to bias, the size of the disparities in some departments on some indicators is large and reduces the plausibility of solely race-neutral explanations. This study underscores that these jurisdictions reflect similar disparities found in many other parts of the US. We have work to do to reduce and eventually eliminate the role of bias in policing in our area. The participating departments and the community are to be commended for jointly engaging in this work in a collaborative way.”

Trevor Whipple, Chief, South Burlington Police Department

"We are extremely pleased with the community engagement that has evolved during the process of development and refinement of the race data collection tool. Working with the community helps to bring a sense of partnership that guides this process."