

**Department of Public Safety – Position Summary**  
**Position on H.546 – An Act Relating to Racial Justice Statistics**  
**Updated January 25, 2022 and based on the bill draft on that date**

**I. Position Summary**

The Department of Public Safety is supportive of robust and publicly available data for analysis. Our position is consistent with our initiative to modernize policing. We believe that providing transparent, public facing data is essential to community trust, particularly those communities that have been historically marginalized or harmed by policing. This approach would include facilitating access to raw data for purposes of analysis. To this end the department has recently implemented a statewide computer aided dispatch and records management system designed, in part, to enable the future creation of public data dashboards and access to raw data through open data systems.

**II. Operational Concerns**

Data stored in criminal history and records management systems are subject to confidentiality on a number of levels including but not limited to Federal law and regulation and Vermont law. Most importantly, any personal identifying information needs to conform to current criminal justice agreements, including federal regulations, for access to such information.

**III. Safety Concerns**

It is important to structure any open data systems in a way that acknowledges and insulates against the data being used for nefarious purposes. For example, listing detailed personal or address information could be used by some who seek to exploit that data for personal gain, profit, or even criminal enterprise such as fraud, identity theft, etc. Put simply, we have an obligation to ensure that our data is not used to exploit others.

**IV. Data Collection & Reporting Concerns**

We have concerns about access to personally identifiable information. We want to ensure that all data used for collection purposes maintains the level of confidentiality established by regulation and agreements currently in place.

**V. Other Concerns**

None noted at this time.

**VI. Suggestions for Improvement**

Our concern related to personal identifying information can easily be obviated by ensuring that personal identifying information is not within the scope of data analysis. All data collected through law enforcement systems will retain the level of confidentiality noted within the access agreements for data access/storage.

**VII. Attachments**

None