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Office of the Executive Director

TO: Representative Matthew Birong, Chair, House Committee on Government Operations
Senator Brian Collamore, Chair, Senate Committee on Government Operations
Representative Martin LaLonde, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary
Senator Nader Hashim, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Xusana Davis, Executive Director, Office of Racial Equity

FROM: Christopher Brickell, Executive Director, Vermont Criminal Justice Council

RE: Traffic Stop Race Data Collection Report

DATE: December 10, 2025

Introduction: Title 20 V.S.A. § 2366 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2366. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING POLICY; RACE DATA COLLECTION (4) The data provided pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be posted electronically in a manner that is analyzable and accessible to the public on the receiving agency's website and clear and understandable. The receiving agency shall also report the data annually, on or before **December 1**, to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, the Senate Committee on Government Operations, the House and Senate committees on Judiciary, and the Executive Director of Racial Equity. The report shall detail how the data is collected, how the data is accessible, how the data is used by the law enforcement agency, a review of the data to determine if additional data criteria is needed, and any recommendations to improve data collection and use.

Background: T20 V.S.A. §2366 (e)(1) every State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency shall collect roadside stop data consisting of the following:

- (A) the age, gender, and race of the driver;
- (B) the grounds for the stop;
- (C) the grounds for the search and the type of search conducted, if any;
- (D) the evidence located, if any;
- (E) *the date, time, and location of the stop; and*
- (F) the outcome of the stop, including whether physical force was employed or threatened during the stop, and if so, the type of force employed and whether the force resulted in bodily injury or death, and whether:

- (i) a written warning was issued;
- (ii) a citation for a civil violation was issued;



- (iii) a citation or arrest for a misdemeanor or a felony occurred; or
- (iv) no subsequent action was taken.

(2) Law enforcement agencies shall work with the Executive Director of Racial Equity, the Criminal Justice Council, and a vendor chosen by the Council with the goals of collecting uniform data, adopting uniform storage methods and periods, and ensuring that data can be analyzed. Roadside stop data, as well as reports and analysis of roadside stop data, shall be public.

The Vermont Criminal Justice Council (VCJC) had previously worked with a chosen vendor, with the goal of collecting uniform data, adopting uniform storage methods and periods, and ensuring that data can be analyzed. ¹Roadside stop data, as well as reports and analysis of roadside stop data continue to be made public on the VCJC website. While the data was collected and reported, easy access by the general public to understand the data continued to be problematic. Efforts were made by multiple stakeholders to provide the data in a way that was easily accessed and analyzed.

After a bidding process the Vermont Criminal Justice Council entered into a contract on October 1, 2021, with the National Police Foundation, later known as the National Police Institute (NPI). NPI collected the traffic stop race data, engaged with numerous stakeholders, and reviewed data collection and analysis methods to better understand and report on the identified topics. The contract was funded through VCJC's role as a subgrantee of the Agency of Transportation (AOT) under the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) program. In 2022, NHTSA lost its Section ²1906 grant funds, leaving the Council without resources to continue analyzing traffic stop race data.

A variety of researchers and subject matter experts from NPI peer-reviewed the report, the methodology, and the analyses, offering critiques that required revisions. An initial report provided recommendations and sparked discussions at the Council level about future pathways. The NPI report emphasized both systemic improvements (data integrity, uniform data collection systems, and training to law enforcement) and practical challenges (lack of or missing data, flawed submissions) that must be addressed for meaningful progress.

Feedback from the Vermont Criminal Justice Council highlighted various needs around traffic stop race data collection and analysis. First, missing or incomplete data makes analysis challenging; if there is problematic data coming in, then there will be problematic data coming out. Second, the need for qualitative data collection is crucial. Qualitative data provides context to raw numbers and without it, it is difficult to grasp and understand the societal impact behind the statistics. Community involvement and benchmark experiential data make it possible to glean the true core information that impacts individuals and community members.

¹ For this report, the term "Traffic Stop Race Data" will be utilized to refer to "Roadside Stop Data."

² Grant funding program that supports States to collect and publish driver race/ethnicity traffic stop data and supports outreach, training, and initiatives to reduce disparities in enforcement.



Looking Ahead:

Currently, the Vermont Criminal Justice Council is not contracting with NPI or any other vendor to conduct the collection and analysis of traffic stop race data, due to grant funding that no longer exists, as well as the lack of resources provided by the State. The Council continues to collect the data and post it on its website, ensuring that all submissions from agencies and constables who are required to submit data have in fact submitted the data. **As a result, all agencies, including all known constabularies, are in compliance with the 2024 traffic stop race data reporting requirement.**

Despite lack of funding and resources to support proper traffic stop race data collection and analysis, the Vermont Criminal Justice Council is committed to fulfilling the legislative mandates regarding traffic stop race data. The VCJC is grateful for its relationship with the Office of Racial Equity (ORE). The Division of the Racial Justice Statistics under the ORE continues to analyze the Council's traffic stop race data and provided meaningful research and analysis depicting disparities and trends.

The ORE is currently completing a justice technology assets inventory, per its statutory mandate under 3 V.S.A. §5012(4). This inventory will catalogue the technological platforms used to collect and store traffic stop data, and illuminate the state's technological strengths, shortcomings, and opportunities. The Council looks forward to assisting in this effort as it progresses.

The Vermont Criminal Justice Council continues to make traffic stop race data a priority. VCJC's Community Inclusion Director is prioritizing data strategies, including researching grant opportunities and connecting with statewide and community partners. Additionally, VCJC's Fair and Impartial Policing Instructor will be identifying training methods and resources to ensure Vermont Law Enforcement is collecting data accurately, ensuring highest standards of reliability and validity to interpret outcomes.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Brickell

Executive Director

