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December 3, 2012

Dear Chief/Colonel,

As you all are aware, the State of Rhode Island is engaging in a comprehensive effort to record and manage Traffic Stop Data (Race Data). Perceptions of racial bias, no matter whether they are supported by truth, hurt our State in many ways. First, law enforcement may lose the trust of the people we serve if claims of racial bias are perpetuated. Secondly, assumptions of racial bias can negatively influence public policy that is otherwise in the interest of our citizens, e.g. a Primary Belt Law.

The opportunity to participate in a statewide Traffic Stop Data collection effort affords our State's stakeholders the ability to frame arguments based on objective data, rather than assumptions or personal anecdotes.

Data collected by all of Rhode Island's municipal police departments and State Police will contribute to two reports over the next year. First, a supplemental seat belt-specific report will be completed in February 2013, prior to the beginning of the legislative session. The results of this report will allow our state legislators to base their decisions regarding the Primary Belt Law on fact.

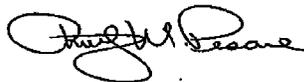
The second report, due for completion in November 2013, will be a comprehensive analysis of Traffic Stop Data in the State. The results of the comprehensive report will not be reported without an opportunity for input from each relevant police department. It is understood that every department may have varying reasons for data results based on the unique circumstances in their municipality or based on state-wide jurisdiction, and for this reason feedback will be solicited.

The project's data analysts, Northeastern University, are currently working with law enforcement representatives, DOT and other community members to develop a reasonable and fair method of analysis.

I would request that all municipal police departments and the State Police continue their Traffic Stop Data collection efforts or begin as soon as possible. Coordination and technical assistance for the study can be obtained by contacting Andrew Koziol of the DOT at andrew.koziol@dot.ri.gov or (401) 222-3024 x 4570 or Michael Everly of Ledgelight Technologies at michaelre@aol.com or (860) 912-2635.

Please see the attachment which provides guidelines for data collection. Thank you for your cooperation with this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony M. Pesare". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "P".

Chief Anthony M. Pesare
President
RI Police Chiefs' Association

AMP/lms

TRAFFIC STOP DATA (RACE DATA) COLLECTION GUIDELINES

- Race is determined by perception only. Choose the race that you believe to be most accurate without inquiring.
- Although Race Data records are only stored electronically, a record must be made whether a citation is performed as an E-Citation or with paper.

In the case of a paper citation, the race module will need to be completed back at the station or barracks.

- “Motorist Assists” do not necessarily need an accompanying Race Data record. Do not create a Race Data record if the assist is executed without incident.

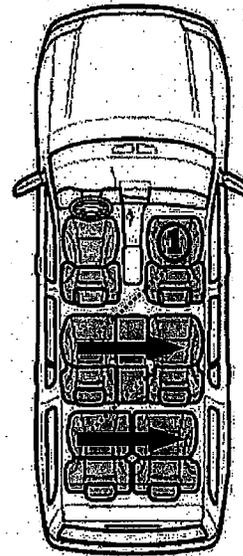
If a Motorist Assist leads to a second action (citation, search, arrest, etc.), it is necessary to complete a Race Data record. The “Basis for Stop” will be “Motorist Assist/Courtesy”, not the violation itself.

- Although it is possible to collect Race Data for up to 99 passengers, this study will limit the collection to the three (3) passengers closest to the driver.

Race identification for passengers is based on observation only. If there are more than three passengers, choose to record data based on the priority system displayed on the adjacent diagram, starting with the front seat passenger.

To add multiple passengers:

In Records RMS, this field shows the current passenger number being viewed. Click the **Note** blank paper icon to the right of **Passenger#** to clear the field to enter a new Passenger. Save the screen with **F10** and click the blank paper icon again to enter the next passenger. To go to a specific passenger, enter the number in the box, change the race code and save the screen. In Dispatch, passengers are entered via a pop-up screen by clicking on the **Passengers** button.



- The “Racial Profile Form Not Applicable” check box can be selected if the vehicle is found without a driver or passenger.
- “Reason for Stop” and “Basis for Stop” refer to the action/scenario that prompted the stop...not the resulting violation/arrest.