Bias – Based Profiling Data and Traffic Stops

(MIDDLETOWN, CT – June 28, 2023) – In August of 2018, the Connecticut State Police (CSP) identified the falsification of some traffic stop data within the State Police NEXGEN system. At that time, State Police Command initiated Internal Affairs investigations into four troopers suspected of producing the false data. The data was located within the State Police NEXGEN system and no one from the public received any fabricated ticket in connection with any false pretenses.

Pursuant to these investigations, two of the four troopers involved separated from the State Police in November of 2018. The two remaining troopers were found to have falsified the data and were disciplined in accordance with Connecticut Labor Laws and the Union Contract.

Additionally, at that time an audit of traffic stop data for multiple troops was conducted and discrepancies were identified which were believed to be associated with technology and training issues rather than intentional falsification. To reduce future discrepancies, State Police Command provided guidance to help the troopers in the field to properly report traffic stop data.

In June of 2022, the Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board (CTRP3) learned of the described incident through reporting in Hearst Connecticut Media. With the full cooperation of the State Police, the CTRP3 conducted an audit of all State Police traffic data from 2014-2021. In approximately 5% of cases, that audit revealed continued discrepancies between the data reported to the CTRP3 and official ticket data maintained by the Judicial Branch. The causes of those discrepancies—whether falsified, technological, or training issues—require further investigation to determine.

The number of discrepancies decreased significantly over time. However, even one discrepancy is too many. The State Police are deeply committed to ensuring the integrity of Connecticut’s racial profiling data and to maintaining public confidence in the essential public safety services our troopers provide each day. As a result, the State Police have been working internally and with the CTRP3 to further reduce discrepancies. The CTRP3’s recommendations and the State Police’s plan of action follow:

Recommendation 1: The serious nature of submitting false or misleading traffic stop records can have consequences beyond the Alvin W. Penn law. CSP should immediately reinforce to all current troopers and constables the consequences that exist under state law for those found to be submitting
unsubstantiated or fictitious records intended to mislead either supervisors or the racial profiling data review system.

Last week, CSP issued Training Bulletin 2023-07 to reinforce that it is imperative for Connecticut State Police personnel to report traffic stops in an accurate and consistent manner, remind troopers of the standard procedures to be followed when entering a traffic stop and corresponding racial profiling record, and introduce policy and technological changes intended to further reduce discrepancies. CSP has referred the issues detailed in the CTRP3 audit to the Chief State’s Attorney for investigation. Once that investigation is complete, the Internal Affairs Division of the CSP will also conduct its own investigations. The potential consequences of submitting unsubstantiated or fictitious records are detailed in CSP’s Administrative and Operations manual under Chapter 14.2.2b, Disciplinary Offenses, and determined pursuant to Labor Relations and the NP-1 Contract.

Recommendation 2: Timely supervisory review of records submitted by troopers is the key to assuring the continuing accuracy of traffic stop records. The expectations for troop commanders and supervisory staff must be reviewed regarding the importance of record accuracy for all those under their supervision. Supervisors must ensure that all personnel meets agency standards for the accurate reporting of information.

Supervisors now conduct a monthly review of traffic stops in the NEXGEN system to ensure compliance with required reporting of data and truthfulness of all records submitted.

Recommendation 3: An independent record of all traffic stops communicated to dispatch should be retained in the dispatch log.

CSP agrees with this recommendation and is working with the technology vendor to confirm the NEXGEN computer-aided dispatch and records management systems can be modified to implement it.

Recommendation 4: The CSP command staff should reevaluate how case numbers are issued.

CSP believes proper review by supervisors pursuant to Recommendation 2 is a better way to ensure compliance and accuracy of data reported. CSP staff are available to discuss this recommendation further with the CTRP3.

Recommendation 5: Whenever troopers or constables enter a traffic stop into the system that results in an infraction, the infraction ticket number should also be part of the data entered in the NexGen records management system.

CSP is implementing this recommendation, which requires technological changes to the NEXGEN system. CSP is discussing those changes with the vendor. Once the change is implemented, all sworn personnel (troopers of all ranks, constables, and task force officers) will receive updated training to include the infraction number with their reports.

Recommendation 6: Provide clear guidance and training to troopers regarding the proper reporting of stops made involving a commercial vehicle.
The training bulletin published and disseminated to all sworn personnel on the topic of bias-based profiling and traffic stop information entered into the CAD/RMS system reminds troopers of the definition of a traffic stop for purposes of bias-based profiling data collection, which includes commercial motor vehicle stops and commercial vehicle inspections. CSP is working with its technology vendor to ensure that NEXGEN requires completion of a bias-based profiling data report for commercial vehicle stops.

**Recommendation 7: The advisory board should consider having CTRP3 staff conduct an annual audit of CSP data for at least the next three calendar years.**

CSP appreciates the CTRP3’s assistance and will cooperate with yearly reviews by the Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board regarding the racial profiling data. CSP will also work with CTRP3 to develop, evaluate, and implement any future recommendations.