



Media Release City of Temple

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Police Chief Presents 2012 Bias-Based Policing Report to City Council

TEMPLE, TX – February 21, 2013– At the regularly scheduled City of Temple City Council meeting this evening, Gary O. Smith, Police Chief, presented the 2012 Bias-Based Policing Report. The report indicated that the department has been operating in a manner that is fair and consistent with the diversity in our community.

“The police department will continue to collect information as we evaluate the work of our officers,” said Chief Smith. “Our goal is not only to work within the law, but to provide our citizens, and others, with the highly professional and courteous service that they deserve. I am pleased to report that there is no evidence that bias is used by officers to make enforcement decisions,” continues Smith. “This is further supported by the fact that during 2012 there were no citizen complaints of racial profiling by officers.”

The Temple Police Department, in accordance with the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP) Articles 2.131 through 2.138, has collected police contact data from motor vehicle stops for the purpose of analysis. As part of the review of this data, the department is required to determine if racial profiling exists and to respond appropriately if such a determination is made. Chief Smith believes the findings in this report serve as evidence that the Temple Police Department continues to strive toward the goals of maintaining strong relations with the community and providing open channels of communication between citizens and the department.

The law requires that Temple Police Department report on all traffic stops, and the report

must include information on: traffic citations; arrests arising from motor vehicle stops; whether the person's race was known prior to the stop; and, searches conducted during motor vehicle stops. This information is then categorized by the racial groups specified in the statute. This includes a traffic stop for any violation of the law that results in citation and/ or arrest. The stops are then further tracked by the races identified in Texas statute.

Complying with the Law on Racial Profiling:

- ✓ Maintain a written policy defining/prohibiting police use of bias
- ✓ Have a process for the public to complain about police conduct
- ✓ Educate the public on how to make complaints
- ✓ Take corrective action if an officer engages in bias-based policing
- ✓ Present a report to the municipality's governing body
- ✓ Use video/audio recorders in vehicles primarily used for vehicle stops
- ✓ Conduct periodic reviews of video/audio recordings

Stats for Calendar Year 2012

Traffic Stops: 24,248
Citations: 14,014
Temple Residents: 6,261 citations
Non-Residents: 7,753 citations (55.3%)
Total Arrests: 4993
Arrests from Vehicle Stops: 1249

Break-down of race of persons cited during a traffic stop:

RACE/ETHNICITY	# of Citations	% OF Total	2010 BELL COUNTY CENSUS	Comparison
HISPANIC**	2,672	19.1%	21.6%	- 2.5%
CAUCASIAN (Non-Hispanic)	8,548	61.0%	50.7%	+10.3%
AFRICAN	2,477	17.7%	21.8%	- 4.1%
ASIAN	277	2.0%	4.1%	- 2.1%
NATIVE AMERICAN	20	0.1%	1.0%	- 0.9%
MIDDLE EASTERN	20	0.1%	Unknown	Unknown
TOTAL	14,014		*Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau Census does NOT equal 100%	

**Hispanic is considered a race according to the Texas Racial Profiling Act. However, the U.S. Census does not use this same distinction. The U. S. Census recognizes Hispanic as an ethnicity that can be related to any race.

Traffic stop leading to arrest:

DESCENT	# of arrests	% of Total
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HISPANIC	321	25.7%
CAUCASIAN (Non-Hispanic)	509	40.8%
AFRICAN	418	33.5%
ASIAN	1	0.1%
NATIVE AMERICAN	0	0.0%
MIDDLE EASTERN	0	0.0%
TOTAL	1,249	

Race Known Prior to Stop:

Texas law requires the department to report whether an officer knew the race of an individual prior to conducting a stop. It is unreasonable to assume that a police officer, especially in an urban setting, would never know the race of the person being stopped prior to making a decision to stop a vehicle. In fact, officers may even know the actual identity of a person being stopped prior to or simultaneous with a decision to make a motor vehicle stop.

Action	Yes	No	Total	% Known
CITATION	289	13,692	13,981	2.1 %
ARREST	266	950	1,216	21.9%
CITATION & ARREST	5	28	33	15.2 %
TOTAL	560	14,670	15,230	3.7 %

The information drawn from the motor vehicle stop data shows the department operates in a fair and consistent manner with the diversity within the population.

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