

2023

# Racial Profiling Annual Report

2023 RACIAL PROFILING DATA AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS  
PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PASADENA, TEXAS | 1201 Davis St



## **Executive Summary**

The Pasadena Police Department is presenting the following information to the Pasadena City Council regarding our compliance with the State of Texas Racial Profiling Law. This report contains data and analysis related to motor vehicle stops for the calendar year 2023. In 2023, Pasadena Police Officers made a total of 44,502 motor vehicle stops. The number of motor vehicle stops reflects an increase of 17,202 from 2022. The increase can be attributed to multiple factors: several academy classes added officers to patrol who are also eager to work and volunteer for overtime traffic enforcement programs, targeted enforcement efforts in problem areas increased overall contacts, and an inaccuracy in the data provided by the electronic ticket-writer system was identified and corrected.

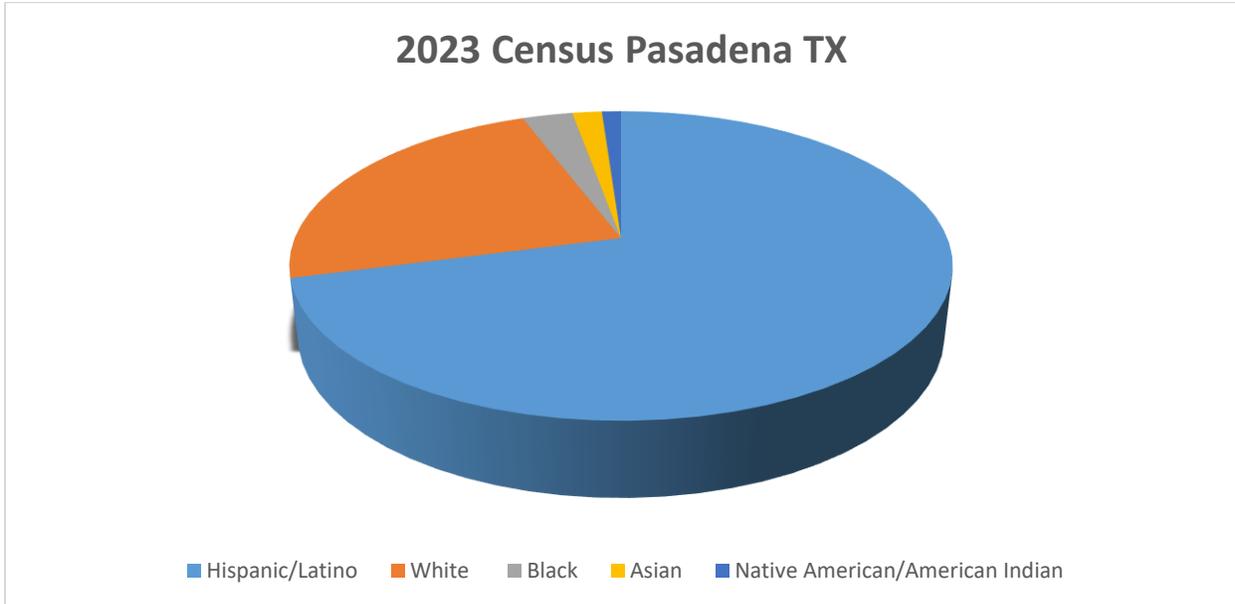
Traffic enforcement is a primary function of the police department in order to proactively reduce collisions which protects our citizens and their property from harm. Highly visible traffic enforcement is also widely recognized as a way to deter other crimes, particularly in the area of enforcement activities. All police vehicles routinely used for traffic enforcement are equipped with mobile video recording (MVR) equipment to protect both the public and the police officers and allow supervisors to quickly review any complaints or concerns. Officers making traffic stops as part of their routine duties are equipped with body-worn camera systems to ensure accountability and transparency for both the officers and the citizens. Supervisors also conduct mandatory random reviews of officers' traffic stops on a routine basis to ensure compliance with policies and procedures and state law, including biased-based policing.

The Pasadena Police Department is committed to ensuring our traffic enforcement efforts are bias-free, and that officers are not engaging in racial profiling, or making traffic stops solely based on a person's race. Texas law prohibits police officers in Texas from engaging in any form of racial profiling. Article 2.132 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure mandates police departments, among other requirements, to:

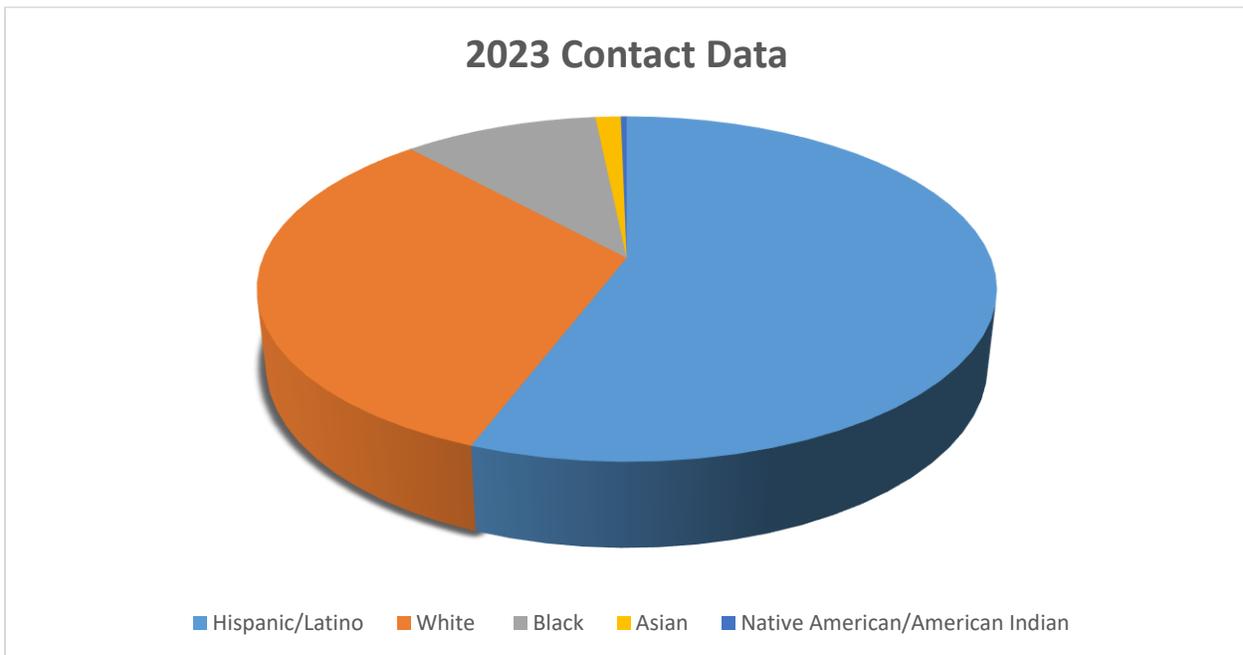
- Have a policy prohibiting racial profiling (see Attachment B),
- Provide training to their officers in prohibiting racial profiling, and
- Collect and report data related to motor vehicle stops each calendar year to both the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) and the government body that oversees the particular agency (Pasadena City Council)



The included data indicates that Pasadena Police Officers are contacting motorists of different races at the following rates, with the City of Pasadena population data provided by the United States Census Bureau ([www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/pasadenacitytexas/PST045222](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/pasadenacitytexas/PST045222)):



“U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Pasadena City Texas; UNITED STATES.” Census Bureau QuickFacts, United States Census Bureau, [www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/pasadenacitytexas/PST045222](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/pasadenacitytexas/PST045222)





Notable Statistics:

- **“White” comprised 23.2% of the population and 32% of stops.**
- **“Hispanic” comprised 70.4% of the population and 55% of stops.**
- **“Black” comprised 2.9% of the population and 10.6% of stops.**
- **A search was conducted as part of a stop in .4% of stops.**
- **A citation issue was the only result of a stop in 66.7% of stops.**
- **Physical force resulting in injury was used in only 17 out of 44,502 stops, or .038%**

Accompanying this report (Attachment A) is the information for the comparative analysis of the data collected for motor vehicle stops, citations issued, and vehicle stop arrests. State law (Code of Criminal Procedure Article 2.132) requires this data to be collected and analyzed to determine if any racial profiling or other forms of bias-based policing exists in the Pasadena Police Department. The findings then must be submitted to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) database via their website.

**Summary of Practices**

The Pasadena Police Department is actively engaged with the community in an effort to enhance public trust, expand our relationships with community members, and demonstrate our commitment to public service. The Pasadena Police Department focuses considerable effort and resources toward community services, outreach programs, and educational events. The department also engages with the community through social media in both English and Spanish.

In 2002, the Pasadena Police Department began collecting police contact data in accordance with Texas Racial Profiling Law (Senate Bill 1074) which took effect September 1, 2001. Senate Bill 1074 required the collection of a violator’s race, whether a search was conducted, and whether the person detained consented to the search on all traffic stops in which a citation was issued or an arrest made. In 2017, Texas Legislators passed Senate Bill 1849, known as the “Sandra Bland Act,” which requires additional reporting of police motor vehicle stops. Senate Bill 1849 removed any exceptions to the racial/ethnicity data collection and reporting from motor vehicle stops, in addition to requiring the collection of additional data and a mandate to provide those stopped with certain information. Subsequently, House Bill 3389 of the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature



of the State of Texas requires the reporting of racial profiling data for the previous calendar year to TCOLE by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

The Pasadena Law Enforcement Manual, Chapter C4.91, Racial/Bias Based Profiling Policy prohibits all bias-based policing. This Procedure has been reviewed and is in compliance with state law and current best practices. Racial Profiling is a law enforcement-initiated action based on an individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin rather than on the individual's behavior or on information identifying the individual as having engaged in criminal activity.

Article 2.133 of the Code of Criminal Procedure requires certain information to be recorded each time a police officer stops a motor vehicle for an alleged violation of a law or ordinance regulating traffic. Pasadena Police Department currently has two means of tracking the required data; electronic ticket writers and the Racial Profiling Tracking module in the department Report Management System (RMS). Officers who utilize an electronic ticket writer capture this data at the completion of their traffic stop. Officers who elect to issue paper citations utilize the RMS module. This information is collected, combined, and analyzed at the start of the next calendar year.

The Pasadena Police Department began to equip all marked police vehicles with in-car video recording systems (MVR) in the early 2000s. This tool has been used consistently for the collection of data on all vehicular and pedestrian stops, and the Pasadena Police Department is constantly upgrading its technology to stay current with the times. The current wireless Body Worn system allows greater storage capacity, instant recording capabilities, and ready access to any supervisor's desktop computer to review recordings.

Finally, the Pasadena Police Department traffic citations and arrest reports comply with state mandates that require the proper information to be collected to capture data regarding racial profiling issues.

**According to data collected according to our current reporting structure, there is no indication that racial profiling is occurring in the Pasadena Police Department.** In 2023, there were no complaints regarding any officers engaging in bias-based policing. This is a testament to the excellent training and quality of officers the Pasadena Police Department is hiring and retaining.

**The Pasadena Police Department has complied with all requirements of the Texas Racial Profiling Law including officer training and distribution of information to the public on the complaint process.** An online system is available to provide citizens



with a convenient and low-pressure avenue to address complaints. All sworn officers have received training specific to Racial Profiling, and the current policy was reviewed department-wide in 2023.

**The attached data provides a statistical summary for the year 2023 that affirms that the Pasadena Police Department has not experienced any instances of racial profiling practices.**

It is important to note that police-related contacts do not always occur between the Pasadena Police Department and a citizen of the City of Pasadena. For example, the City of Pasadena shares common borders with the City of Houston. Available census data for the City of Houston reflects a population that is 22.4% Black and 44.8% Hispanic/Latino, and 23.6% White, and citizens cross jurisdictions to work and shop. State Highway 225 and the Beltway 8 toll road also allow thousands of people to travel through Pasadena every day. The data obtained throughout the 2023 calendar year demonstrates professionalism and fairness across the spectrum from officers employed by the Pasadena Police Department when contacting people of all races and ethnicities.

By submitting, the chief administrator affirms that the agency has a policy in place in accordance with:

Texas Code of Criminal Procedure §2.132 and that the policy:

- (1) clearly defines acts constituting racial profiling;
- (2) strictly prohibits peace officers employed by the agency from engaging in racial profiling;
- (3) implement a process by which an individual may file a complaint with the agency if the individual believes that a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling with respect to the individual;
- (4) provide public education relating to the agency's compliment and complaint process, including providing the telephone number, mailing address, and email address to make a compliment or complaint with respect to each ticket, citation, or warning issued by a peace officer;
- (5) requires appropriate corrective action to be taken against a peace officer employed by the agency who, after an investigation, is shown to have engaged in racial profiling in violation of the agency's policy adopted under this article;
- (6) requires collection of information relating to motor vehicle stops in which a ticket, citation, or warning is issued and to arrests made as a result of those stops, including information relating to:



- (A) the race or ethnicity of the individual detained;
  - (B) whether a search was conducted and, if so, whether the individual detained consented to the search;
  - (C) whether the peace officer knew the race or ethnicity of the individual detained before detaining that individual; and
  - (D) whether the peace officer used physical force that resulted in bodily injury, as that term is defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code, during the stop;
  - (E) the location of the stop; and
  - (F) the reason for the stop; and
- (7) requires the chief administrator of the agency, regardless of whether the administrator is elected, employed, or appointed, to submit an annual report of the information collected under Subdivision (6) to:
- (A) the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement; and
  - (B) the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency, if the agency is an agency of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief J.M. Wright