



## Sheriff's Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes September 14, 2020

### Attendees:

Ozzie Knezovich (SCSO)      Rob Sherar (SCSO)      Rich Gere (SCSO)      Wade Nelson (SCSO)  
Leigh O'Neill                      Mike Davisson              Andy McGee              Brian Standow  
Verne King                          Tom Mackenzie              JT Ramsey                  Russ Andres  
Guest/Potential New Member: Amber McLeod

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM

Minutes were approved for the July 13, 2020 meeting.

### New Business:

#### Sheriff discussion:

- Past and current state of training.
- His new training program status and proposed timeline
- He is NOT shortening the training program, the hours are actually increasing
  - 720 hours to 1197 hours
  - Savings of ~\$750K

Use of Force, Phase II by Lt. Rich Gere (220-6404), Defensive Tactics Use of Force Expert & Det Wade Nelson, DT Instructor

- ~300 Use of force used annually
  - Low level 1
  - No weapons
- Vascular Neck Restraint used 3 time in 2020 thus far,
  - Level 2, Intermediate
  - Graham v. Conner 490 US 386 (1989)
    - US Constitutional Standards
    - Object reasonable
      - Severity of crime
      - Immediate threat
      - Actively resisting
- Use of Force Calls:
  - 2017    275 out of 82,810      .33%
  - 2018    336 out of 109,574      .30%
  - 2019    317 out of 107,841      .29%

Elections were tabled until the October meeting.

Old Business:

The citizens complaint case (Sawtelle) will be sent out electronically for the CAB to edit and comment.

Topics for Next Meetings:

October – Air One / Elections

November - IA / Complaint Statistics

11.9.2020: Added as an addendum to these minutes is the “Initial Data Analysis of the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office Race and Contact Data Document” which was discussed in part by the Sheriff during the September meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7.50 PM

Next Meeting:

October 12, 2020

5:30pm – 7:30pm

@ Air One Hanger – 5505 East Rutter

Minutes Submitted by  
Leigh O’Neill, Secretary

**Initial Data Analysis  
Of The  
Spokane County Sheriff's Office Race and Contact Data**

Edward I. Byrnes, Ph.D.

Eastern Washington University

School of Social Work<sup>1</sup>

Kurtis Robinson, President

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Spokane Chapter

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<sup>1</sup> Please feel free to contact Ed Byrnes at [ebyrnes@ewu.edu](mailto:ebyrnes@ewu.edu), or by telephone at 509-359-2294.

## Background

During September of 2019, Spokane NAACP President Kurtis Robinson wrote to Spokane County Sheriff Knezovich, with a list of actions for him to engage in toward improving relations between the Sheriff's Office (SCSO) and communities of color in Spokane. Among these actions was sharing data about civilians' race and contacts between Sheriff's Deputies, and the outcomes of those contacts. Sheriff Knezovich agreed to share these data with Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Ed Byrnes of Eastern Washington University (EWU).

During October of 2019, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Byrnes met with SCSO Senior Data Information Analyst Sonya Aebischer. During this meeting, Ms. Aebischer described the data that the SCSO is currently collecting that could be used for analyzing the relationship between civilians' race and contacts between Sheriff's Deputies, and the outcomes of those contacts. Ms. Aebischer allowed ample time for discussion, and agreed to collect and share these data with Mr. Robinson and Dr. Byrnes by late autumn.

During November of 2019, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Byrnes received the data, and a detailed description of the data elements, from Ms. Aebischer, and Dr. Byrnes began the process of organizing, cleaning, and analyzing the data. During this meeting, Ms. Aebischer also informed Mr. Robinson and Dr. Byrnes that the SCSO was now using the data collection tool that was developed by Dr. Byrnes and Capt. Brad Arleth of the Spokane Police Department, and will be able to provide detailed data about deputy-initiated contacts in the future.

During December of 2019 and January of 2020, Dr. Byrnes completed the data analysis, which is the content of this brief report.

## Method

There were four data sets provided by the SCSO, which were originally delivered to Dr. Byrnes in Excel™ format. To calculate the frequencies and proportions reported here, the data were imported into the Access™ relational database software application, which was used to remove duplicated cases, and determine the extent of overlap between cases within the data sets. Further data analyses were conducted by Dr. Byrnes using Excel™ and SPSS™ software packages.

The specific data sets provided by the SCSO included:

1. All calls for service and contacts, as recorded by computer assisted dispatch (CAD) system, with a total of 271,007 calls or contacts occurring between January 1, 2017 and July 31, 2019;
2. Unduplicated calls or contacts resulting in a case number, with a total of 10,045 (3.7%) cases;
3. Unduplicated calls or contacts resulting in an arrest, with a total of 10,281 (3.8%) cases;
4. Unduplicated calls or contacts resulting in a ticket, with a total of 1,852 (0.7%) cases.

These frequencies and percentages are displayed in Table 1, Frequencies and percentages of categorical outcomes.

As one can see in Table 1, the data about arrests had the highest percent of cases (97.5%) in which the civilian's race was known within a data category, and within the total number of calls or contacts (3.8%). The data sets on arrests and cases both had high percentages of civilians whose races were identified.

Additionally, there was a substantial overlap of individual civilians who were identified in the case and arrest data sets. Since the arrest data included the most civilians whose race was known, the remaining analyses reported here are based on the arrest data.

**Table 1.** Frequencies and percentages of categorical outcomes.

| Data Set                          | N            | Percent      | N Race Known | Pct Race Known In Subset | Pct Race Known Overall |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| CAD Raw                           | 271007       |              |              |                          |                        |
| Unduplicated Case in CAD          | 10045        | 3.7%         | 9786         | 97.4%                    | 3.6%                   |
| <b>Unduplicated Arrest in CAD</b> | <b>10281</b> | <b>3.8%</b>  | <b>10026</b> | <b>97.5%</b>             | <b>3.7%</b>            |
| Unduplicated Ticket in CAD        | 1852         | 0.7%         | 1756         | 94.8%                    | 0.6%                   |
| Arrests - Tickets Overlaps        | 2619         | 25.5%        | 2546         | 97.2%                    |                        |
| <b>Case - Arrests Overlaps</b>    | <b>9806</b>  | <b>95.4%</b> | <b>9570</b>  | 97.6%                    |                        |
| Case - Tickets Overlaps           | 2628         | 24.5%        | 2503         | 95.2%                    |                        |

### Analysis

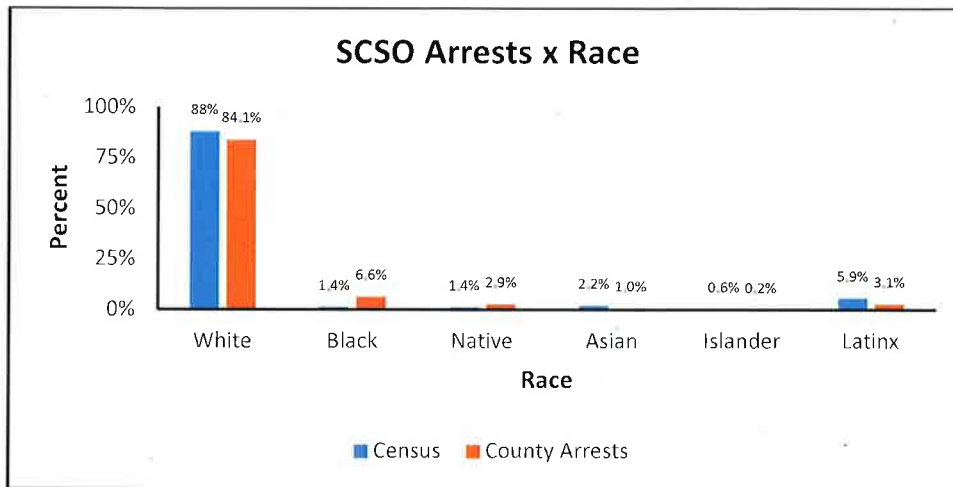
The data analysis in this report asks this research question, about White, Black, Native American, Asian, and Pacific Islander civilians – What is the relationship between race and the probability of being arrested by a SCSO Deputy?

Before discussing the results of this analysis, it is important to point out that arrests are a very limited subset of interactions between SCSO Deputies and civilians in the community, making up only 3.8% of all contacts. Therefore, the results of this analysis cannot be legitimately generalized to any contacts that do not involve an arrest. Additionally, since the race of civilians who had any other contact with SCSO Deputies cannot be reliably ascertained from the data provided, the benchmark for comparing proportions of each race in the arrest data was from the U.S. Census Bureau, which may not reflect the racial composition of civilians who had contact with SCSO Deputies. The reader is advised to read these results as preliminary, and the beginning of future efforts that will be more in depth. Table 2 displays the percentage of racial groups by county census and county arrests, and Figure 1 offers a visual display of these data.

**Table 2.** The percentage of racial groups by county census and county arrests.

|                       | White        | Black       | Native      | Asian       | Islander    | Latinx      |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Census</b>         | <b>88%</b>   | <b>1.4%</b> | <b>1.4%</b> | <b>2.2%</b> | <b>0.6%</b> | <b>5.9%</b> |
| <b>County Arrests</b> | <b>84.1%</b> | <b>6.6%</b> | <b>2.9%</b> | <b>1.0%</b> | <b>0.2%</b> | <b>3.1%</b> |

**Figure 1.** The percentage of racial groups by county census and county arrests.



As one can see from the data displayed in Table 2 and Figure 1, civilians who are Black, or Native American, were arrested at a percentage that is greater than their representation in the general county population. This disproportionality was at a level beyond what random chance would predict for Black civilians<sup>2</sup>.

### Conclusion

This analysis and report would not be possible without the SCSO making a good faith effort at data sharing. The Sheriff should be credited with making this effort, and opening the door to data informed conversations about racial disproportionality in Spokane County law enforcement contacts with civilians. As another indicator of good faith, the SCSO has begun using the contacts data collection tool that the SPD has been using for the past six years, which will provide considerably more detail about contacts, searches, arrests, and uses of force. This is an important development, since arrests are not the same level of event as contacts, and occur in a fraction of contacts, hence collecting data specifically about race at the level of contacts will create a more complete and accurate picture of the extent of racial disproportionality and who it is effecting.

Given that the SCSO has made this commitment to data collection, and to analysis and reporting, some lessons learned from our SPD experience can maximize the likelihood of a successful effort. These lessons include:

1. Designate a staff member who is clearly responsible for regular, quarterly, monitoring of data collection efforts, and have that be a standing part of their work. SPD Officers root this recommendation in our experience of substantial fluctuations in data collection about officer-initiated contacts.
2. Have either a designated SCSO staff member to conduct annual data analysis, or engage in consistent outsourcing of data analysis, using Spokane County procurement procedures. This recommendation is rooted in the fact that although Dr. Byrnes has done a substantial amount of pro bono work with the SPD, and now with these data from the SCSO, his EWU responsibilities

<sup>2</sup>  $z = 5.44, p = .0002$ . A set of six z tests for proportions were conducted on the data, with a resulting  $.05/6 = .008$  criterion for statistical significance.