



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

# PAX 501

Philip J. Cline, *Superintendent of Police*



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## THE TRAFFIC STOP STATISTICAL STUDY

Thank you for all you have done during the last two years to make Chicago a model for how big cities can attack violent crime. You've done this while also continuing to deliver on our commitment to strengthen partnerships with the community. With the help of police officers, residents and cooperating law enforcement agencies, we have made real progress in making Chicago safer.

Last year, the number of homicides in Chicago fell to a level not seen since the early 1960s. The number of shootings declined and overall crime reached its lowest point in more than a decade. We owe our progress to a renewed effort to deploy resources in areas most prone to violent crime and to our continuing commitment to community policing.

We have asked you to work in communities that have experienced gang and drug-related violent crime. We developed specialized units to saturate areas most prone to gun violence. We are moving officers into areas to conduct more proactive patrols. Community response in these areas has been overwhelmingly positive.

During the last year, we have also been operating under the Traffic Stop Statistical Study that requires police officers to record their perceived race of drivers whom they stop for traffic violations. Thank you for your cooperation with complying with this law.

Today, we are releasing the first year of data collected by Chicago Police officers. While the data shows that minorities are stopped at a greater rate in proportion to their estimated driving population, we also know that the majority of our new violence reduction efforts have been directed in areas hardest hit by gangs, guns and drugs.

We also know that data alone cannot indicate whether racial profiling or bias-based policing exists.

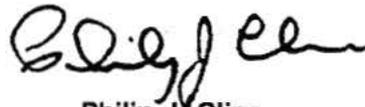
We have worked hard over the last five years to deliver a message to you and to the public that bias-based policing and racial profiling are not effective or legitimate crime-fighting strategies. We do not accept or adhere to these practices. We have delivered this message through our policies, our training and the good work that you perform in the community every day.

The current Traffic Stop Statistical Study law is in effect until the end of 2007. The data released today will serve merely as a baseline for comparison for future years. Meanwhile, we will continue to refine how the process works in an effort to make it as efficient and simple as possible.

Going forward, continue to do your job in the same professional way you have always done. For the overwhelming majority of you, the data you collect reflects only one thing: that you are conducting your job professionally, capably and using the same tools that have guided police officers for decades. If you are basing your traffic stops on violations, probable cause or reasonable suspicion, then continue to use those guidelines. When we do that, our efforts to build and strengthen the level of trust we have established in the community will only strengthen.

However, if any officers are found to be engaging in any form of racial profiling, we will hold them strictly accountable. We do that because racial profiling, whether real or perceived, threatens to erode public confidence in all the good work we have achieved.

Every day you go right into harm's way to serve our citizens and make our community safer. Thank you once again for all of your hard work. Be safe and honor yourself and the Chicago Police Department in everything you do.



**Philip J. Cline**  
**Superintendent of Police**