

**HIGHLAND PARK  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
SAFETY**



**2009 ANNUAL TRAFFIC STOP  
ANALYSIS**

# Highland Park DPS Contact Data Annual Report January 1, 2009 --- December 31, 2009

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**HIGHLAND PARK**  
**Department of Public Safety**  
**Police • Fire**  
**Emergency Medical Services**

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February 23, 2010

Honorable Mayor and Town Council  
Town of Highland Park  
4700 Drexel Drive  
Highland Park, Texas 75205

Dear Mayor and Council:

In accordance with the Texas Racial Profiling Law (S.B. No. 1074) the Highland Park Department of Public Safety has collected law enforcement contact data for the purpose of identifying and responding to concerns regarding racial profiling. The findings of this report will serve as evidence that the Highland Park DPS is in full compliance with our agency's policies and procedures, CALEA accreditation standards, and applicable state and federal law regarding our contacts with all individuals.

During 2009, the Highland Park Department of Public Safety's statistical data remained similar to that of past years with the exception of citations, searches and arrests for Caucasians and Hispanics. This discrepancy is explained in the analysis contained on page 6. Graphs included in this report indicate a stable trend in the Department's Traffic, Arrest, and Search activity for all other Races and Ethnicities.

The Highland Park Department of Public Safety received one complaint for race or biased profiling. A summary of that complaint is contained herein.

The Department continued its use of state-of-the-art digital recording system for patrol vehicles. This allows for continuous reviews of traffic related contacts and the monitoring of officer's conduct. Supervisors conduct random reviews of officer contacts to insure compliance with applicable laws and Best Practices standards.

The Highland Park DPS will continue to collect data regarding citizen contacts as required. We will continue to analyze this data for issues or trends that could become concerns for the public and take action as required, maintaining our status as a professional law enforcement agency.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Vinson".

Chris Vinson, Director of Public Safety



## Tier 1 Data 2009

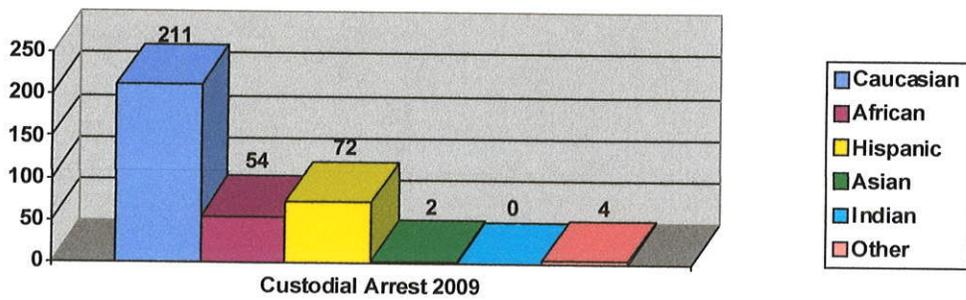
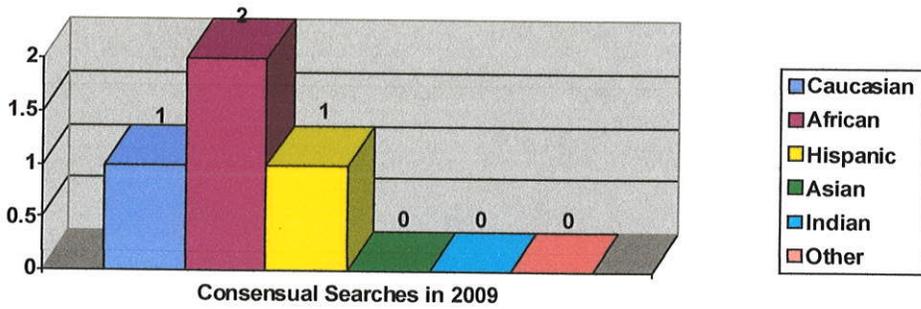
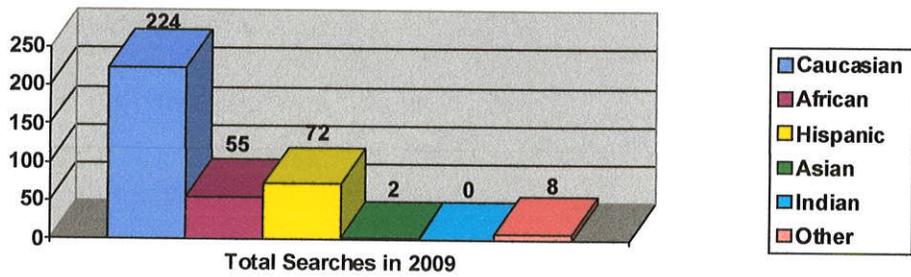
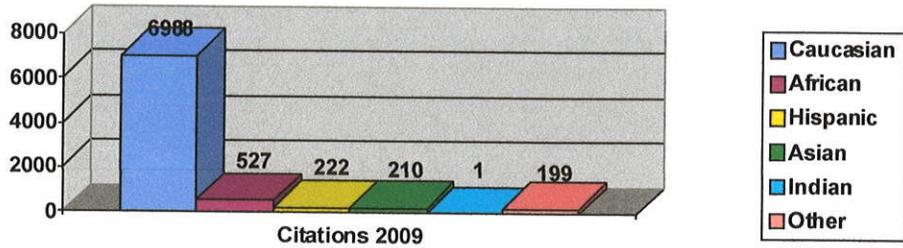
The following information pertains to Highland Park “Traffic” Stops where Citations were issued and where searches were made or where a “Traffic” stop was made and a custodial arrest was made as a result of the Traffic charge.

Table 1. General Demographics of Contacts where Citations were issued and Searches were made.

Race/Ethnicity*	Citations Issued		Total Searches		Consensual Searches		Custody Arrest	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Caucasian	6988	85.7	224	62	1	25	211	62
African	527	6.4	55	15	2	50	54	16
Hispanic	222	2.7	72	20	1	25	72	20.5
Asian	210	2.6	2	1	0	0	2	.5
Native American	1	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	199	2.4	8	2	0	4	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8147</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Race/Ethnicity is defined by Senate Bill 1074 as being of a “particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American”.

# 2009 TIER 1 DATA CHARTS



# HISTORICAL DATA

## Five-Year Tier 1 Data Comparison

Comparison of Five Year Traffic-Related Contact Information (1/1/05-12/31/09)

Race/ Ethnicity	Traffic-Related Contacts					Searches					Arrests					
	(2005)	(2006)	(2007)	(2008)	(2009)	(2005)	(2006)	(2007)	(2008)	(2009)	(2005)	(2006)	(2006)	(2006)	(2008)	(2009)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Caucasian	77.4%	77.6%	79.4%	85%	85.7%	45.8%	49.3%	47.9%	55%	62%	45.5%	48.9%	47.7%	55.5%	62%	
African	6.1%	7.0%	6.6%	6%	6.47%	14.1%	16.0%	16.4%	17%	15%	14.3%	16.1%	15.9%	17.5%	16%	
Hispanic	12.4%	11.5%	9.8%	3.5%	2.7%	38.7%	33.2%	34.7%	24%	20%	39.1%	33.4%	35.3%	24.9%	20.5%	
Asian	1.8%	2.1%	2.4%	2.5%	2.5%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	1%	1%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	1.1%	0.5%	
Native American	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	.02%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	1%	0%	0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.5%	0%	
Other	2.3%	1.3%	1.8%	2.4%	2.4%	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%	2%	2%	0.3%	0.7%	0.2%	0.5%	1%	
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100.0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

\* Race/Ethnicity is defined by Senate Bill 1074 as being of a "particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American".

The Department of Public Safety has chosen to report traffic and pedestrian stop data in the format of a five year comparison. For the previous five years this data has been very stable and indicative of consistently nonbiased activity by the HPDPS officers.

The 2009 data has indicated a noticeable shift away from stop and search activity of individuals of Hispanic origin and towards Caucasian individuals. The following activities are of particular note:

- Total contacts for Caucasians changed from 85.5% to 85.7%
- Total contacts for Hispanics changed from 3.5% to 2.7%
- Total searches for Caucasian individuals changed from 55% to 62%
- Total searches for Hispanic individuals changed from 24% to 20%
- Total arrests for Caucasians changed from 55.5% to 62%
- Total arrests for Hispanics changed 24.9% to 20.5%

Analysis of the above data has identified the possible reasons for this change;

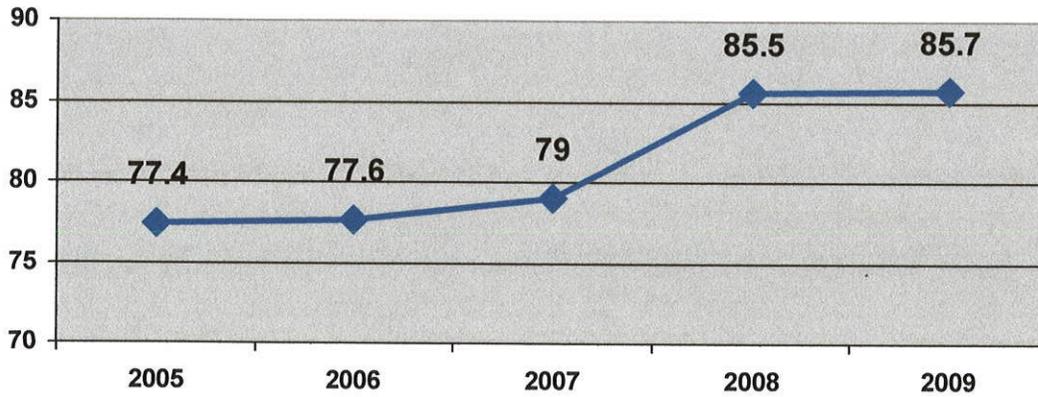
- From 2007 until 2009, traffic related contacts for Caucasians have gone up 6.37%. There is a corresponding drop in traffic related contacts of 7% for Hispanics.
- Searches of Caucasians for the same time period have risen 14% while searches of Hispanics dropped a corresponding 14%.
- Arrests of Caucasians have gone up 14.3% and declined 14.8% for Hispanics.

In January 2008, the Department of Public Safety implemented the Advanced Public Safety "Quick Ticket" electronic citation writing system. Officers swipe the violator's driver's license through a card reader in their patrol vehicle. The system then automatically populates each field including race of the subject, from the Texas Department of Public Safety's, Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications database (TLETS). Unbeknownst to the officers, each time a violator of Hispanic origin was run through this system, the race field automatically populated with "White". This is the reason for the corresponding two year rise in each area for Caucasians and corresponding drop for Hispanics. Currently "TLETS" does not return "Hispanic" on any state returns. This information must be entered on the citation manually by the officers.

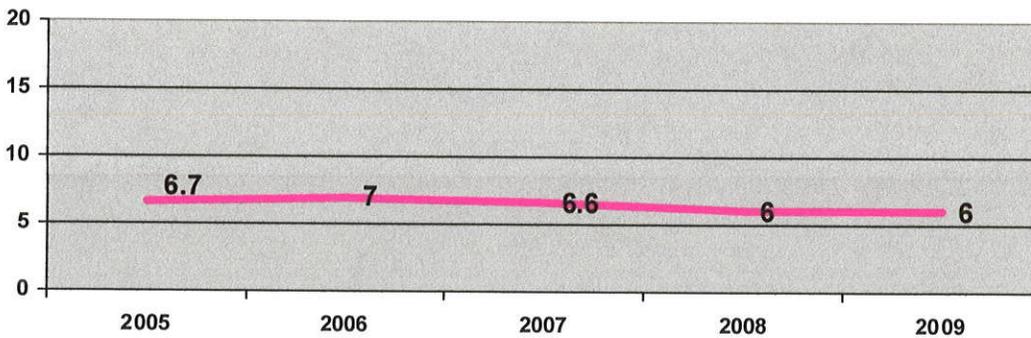
Advanced Public Safety has been contacted concerning this issue. They have stated that they will re-write the software program to no longer automatically fill in the race portion of the citation. Until the new software can be implemented, all officers have been instructed to manually enter the race of each violator that they contact. This should alleviate any issues with data collection in the future.

# FIVE YEAR TREND TRAFFIC RELATED CONTACTS (% of Total Traffic Contacts by Race)

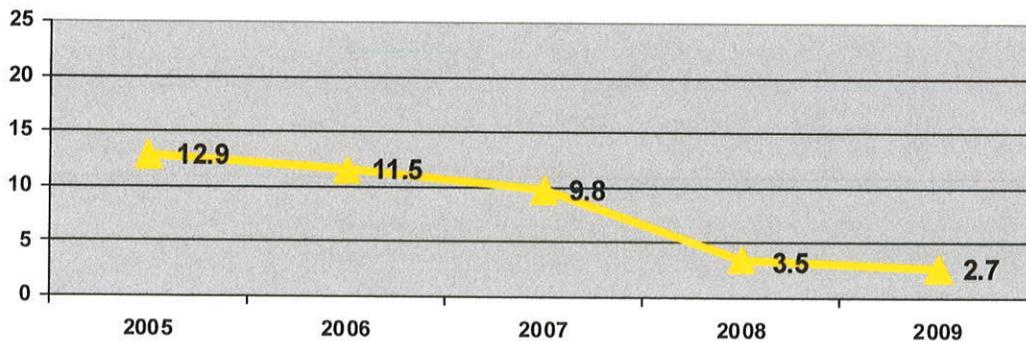
## Caucasian



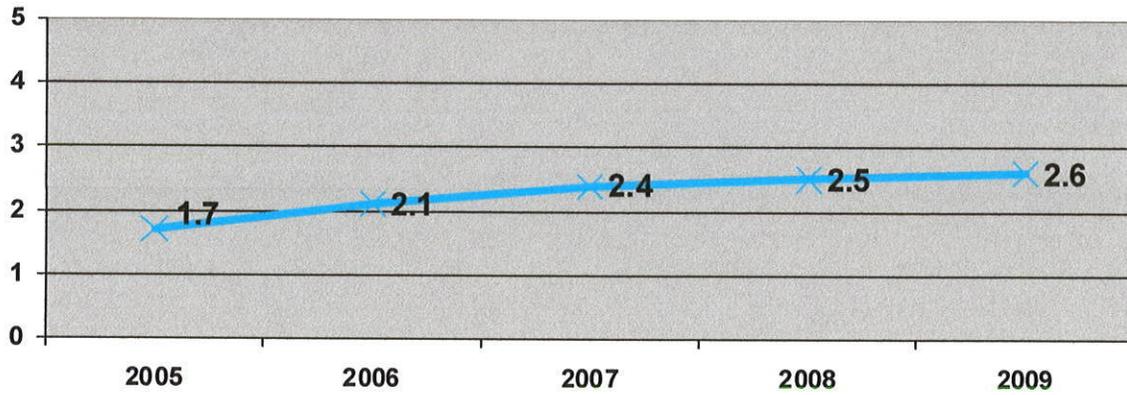
## African American



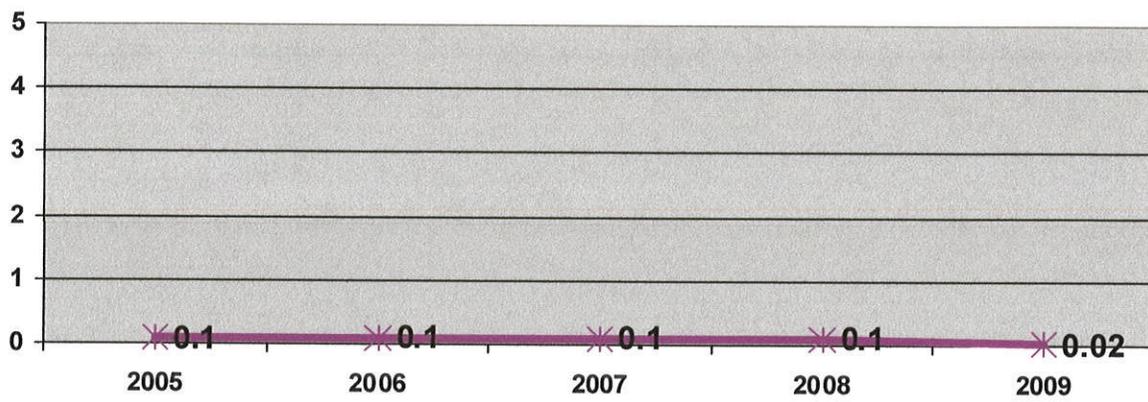
## Hispanic



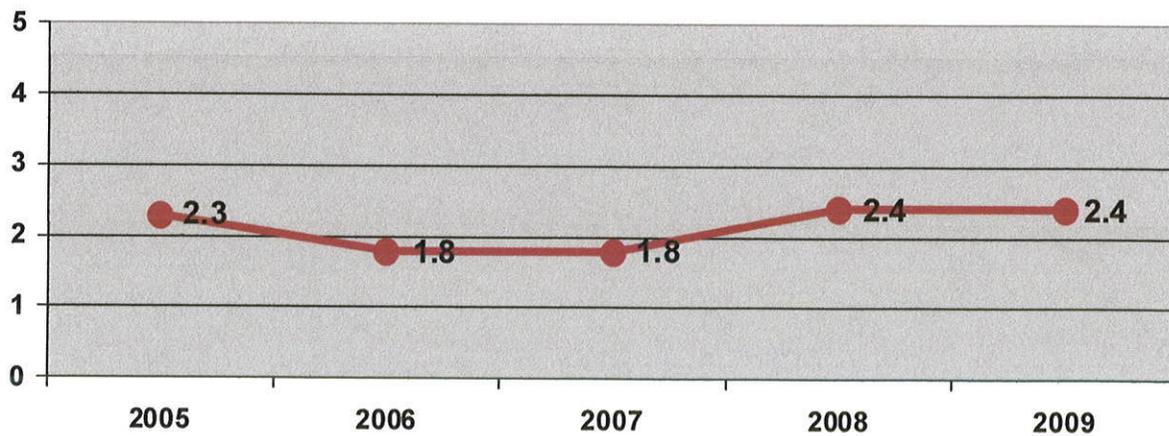
### Asian



### American Indian

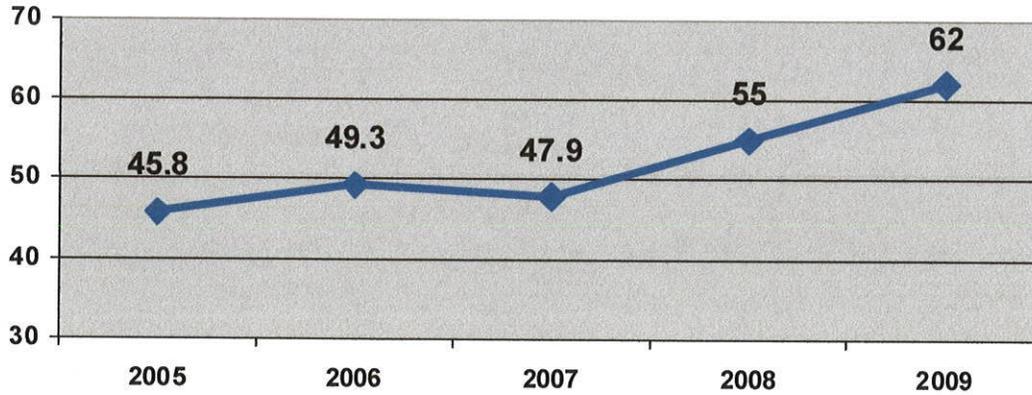


### Other

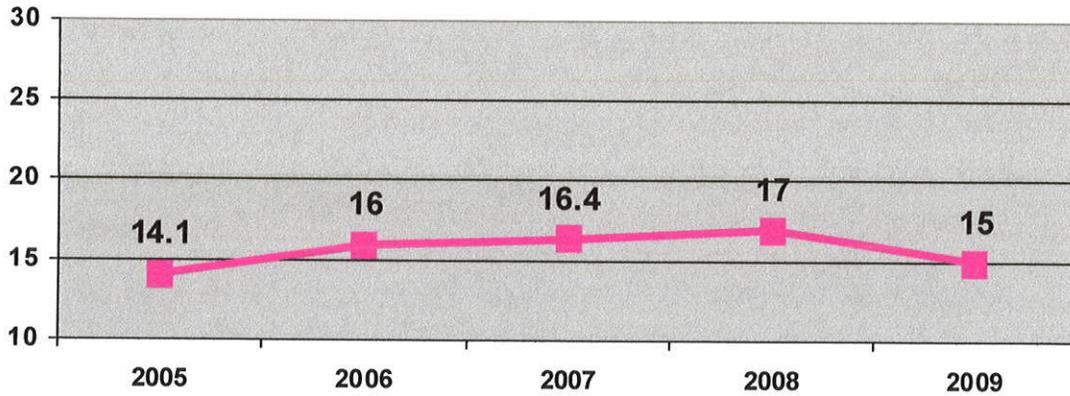


# FIVE YEAR TREND SEARCHES (% of Total Searches by Race)

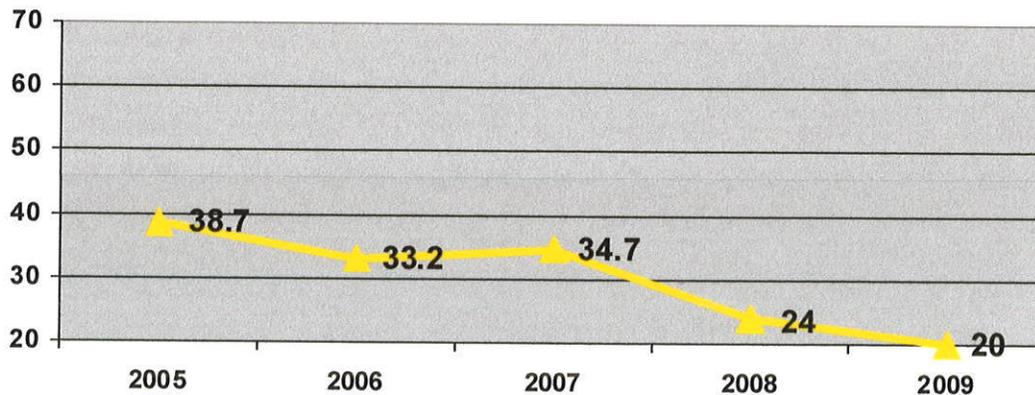
## Caucasian



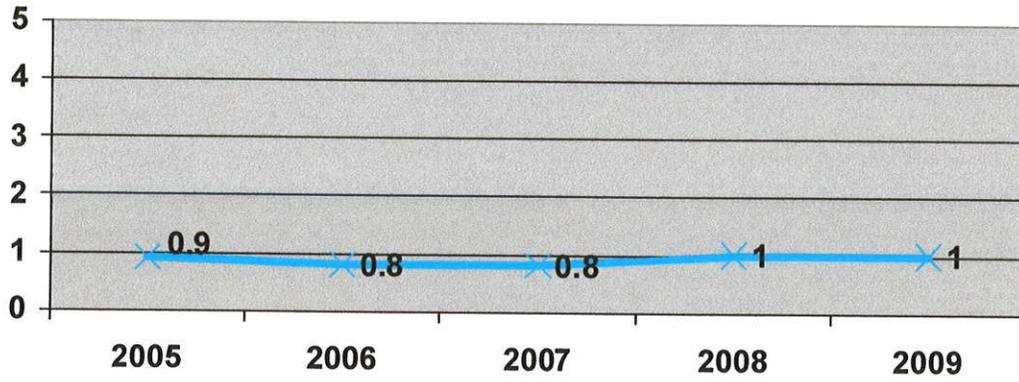
## African American



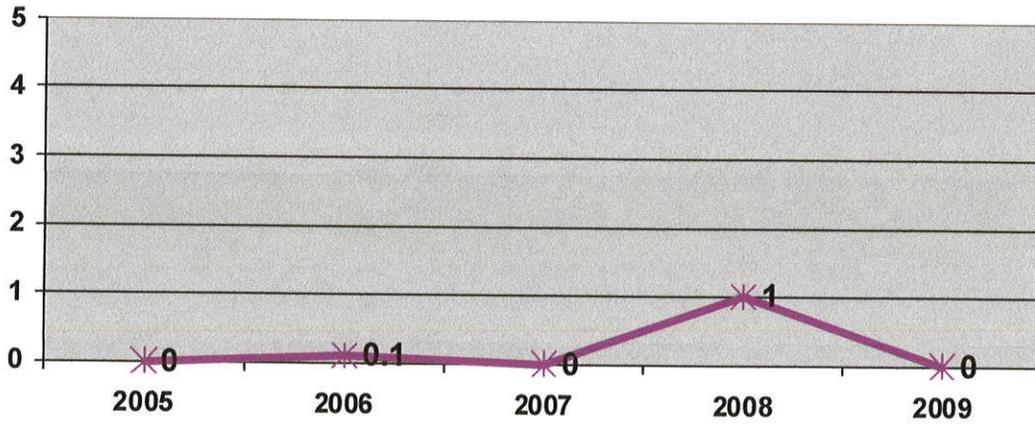
## Hispanic



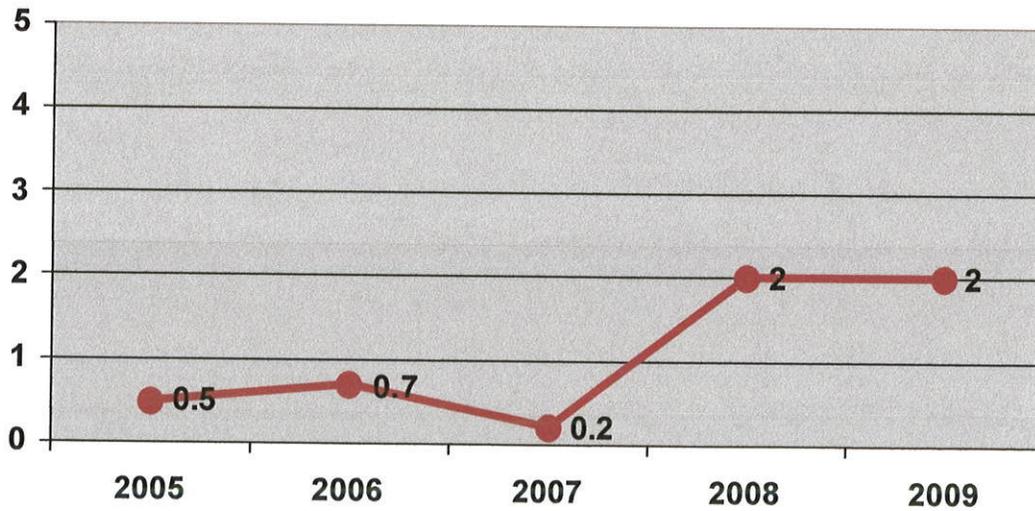
### Asian



### Native American

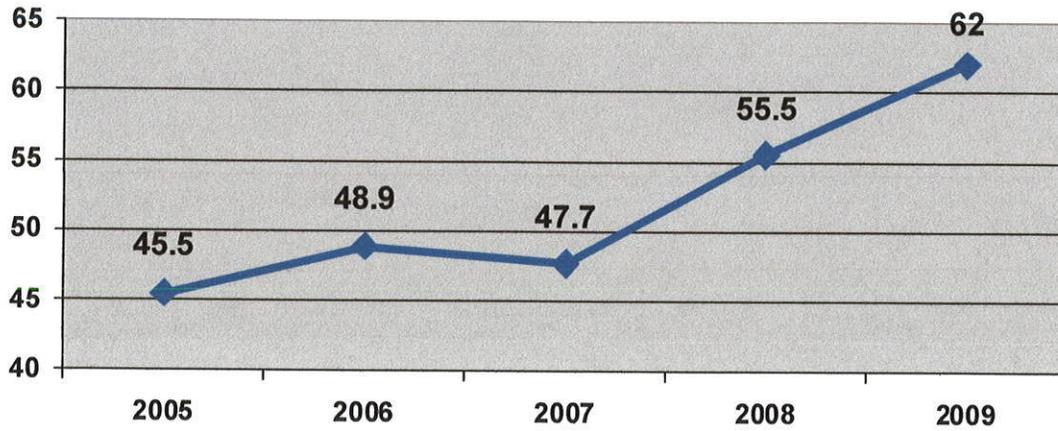


### Other

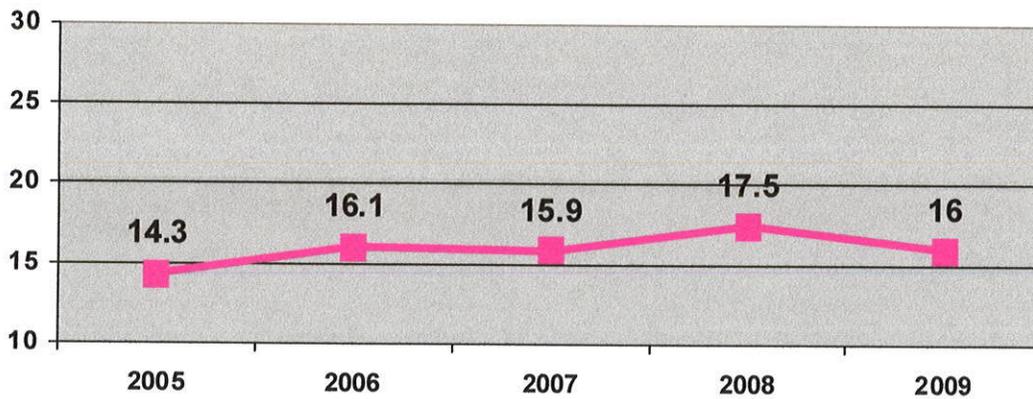


# FIVE YEAR TREND ARREST (% of Total Arrests by Race)

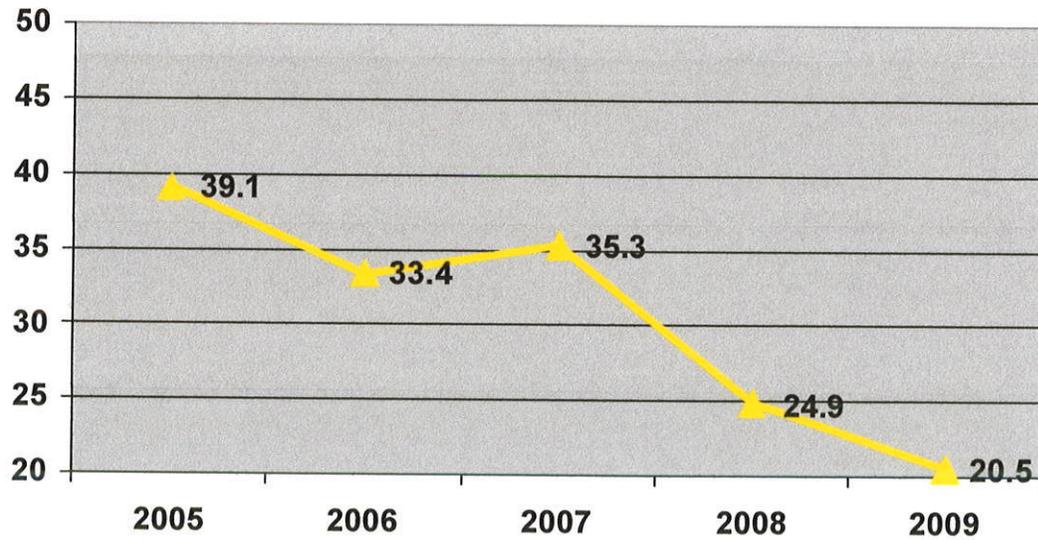
## Caucasian



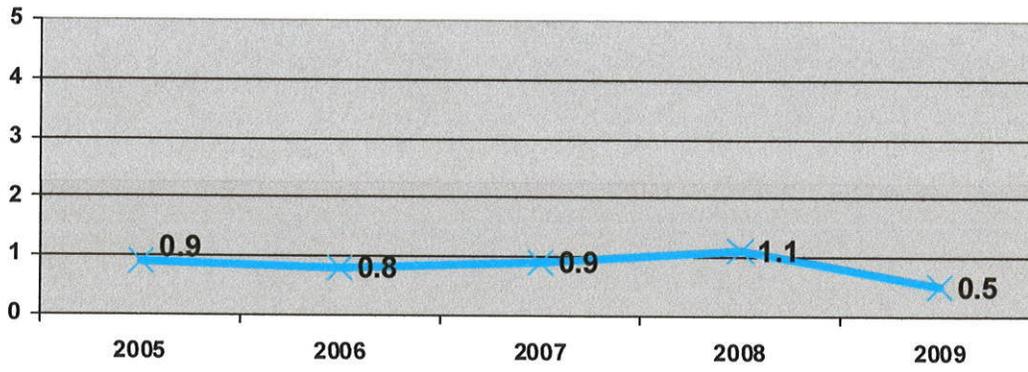
## African American



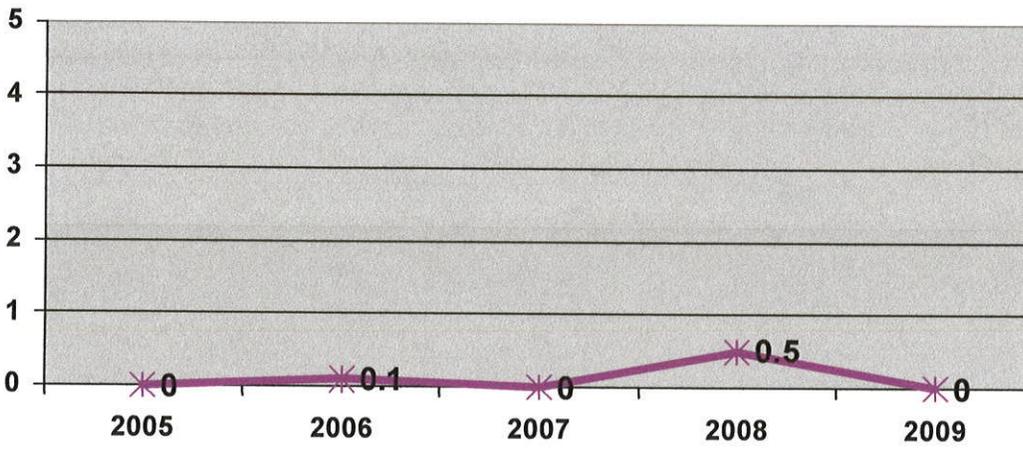
## Hispanic



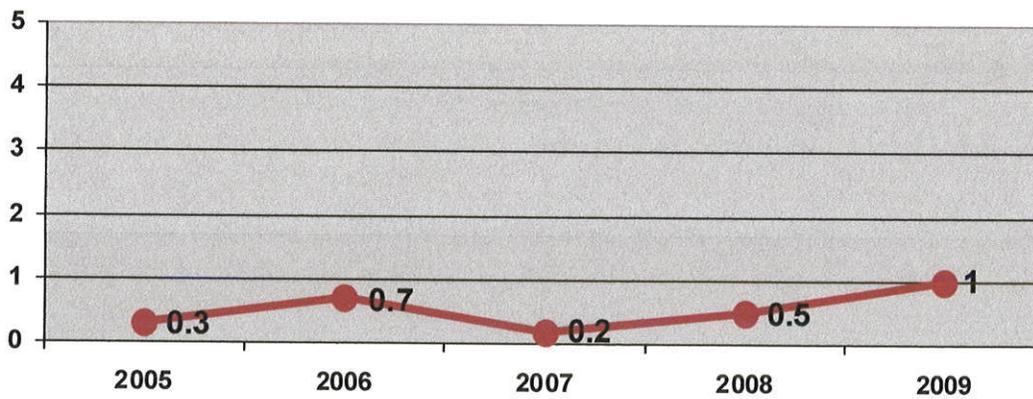
## Asian



## Native American



## Other



## ANALYSIS OF COMPLAINTS

Pursuant to the Texas Racial Profiling Law (S.B. No. 1074) and the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 2.13, the Highland Park Department of Public Safety provides public education relating to the department's complaint process by providing annual training to all operations and support services personnel on complaint procedures, providing Citizen Interaction Forms with instructions in the lobby of the department, as well as providing the form on the Town website. The following information contains data regarding citizen complaints of "bias" or "racial" profiling allegations received during the calendar year of 2009. Pursuant to the Texas Racial Profiling Law and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Inc. Bias Based Profiling Standards, all complaints were investigated and summaries of complaints are contained herein. There was a total of one (1) complaint reported to the Highland Park Department of Public Safety. The Complaint was lodged against two (2) white male employees and one (1) African American male employee. The Complaint was received from an African American Female. The Complaint was received in the month of April 2009. All allegations regarding racial/bias based profiling were investigated pursuant to Department policies. They were first reviewed by the employee's immediate supervisor and then sent to the Internal Affairs Unit of the Department for formal investigation. The complaint was resolved with the complainant recanting her racial profiling claims when contacted by the employee's immediate supervisors. The incident was fully recorded on audio and video media at the time of the initial contact.

### 2009 COMPLAINT SUMMARY

<b>Date</b>	<b>Complainant</b>	<b>Race/Sex</b>	<b>Log Number</b>
04-04-2009	Annie Makula	African American Female	09-01

**Summary:** A white male officer initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle after the vehicle's registration check returned with a stolen license plate hit out of the Dallas Police Department. He made contact with the driver of the vehicle, an African American female, and had her step from her vehicle and handcuffed her. The officer then begins inspecting the vehicle, communicating with the Dispatcher and awaiting "cover" officers.

Upon arrival of the "cover" officers, a white male officer and an African American male officer arrived to provide cover and assist in the investigation. After investigating the vehicle and its identifiers, Dallas PD was contacted and subsequently it was determined that there was a stolen entry on the plate and a failure to remove it once the plate was recovered. The African American female was then released from the handcuffs and advised how to have the stolen indicator on her vehicle license plates removed.

The complainant lodged a complaint the same day and alleged "racial profiling". The complainant was contacted by telephone by the officer's supervisor after reviewing the audio and video recording of the stop and stated to the complainant that she did not see any indication of racial profiling during the stop. On April 7, 2009, the complaint was referred to Internal Affairs and logged as #IA09-01. The Internal Affairs investigator spoke with the complainant regarding her complaint. The complainant stated she felt she was handcuffed "too fast, before the officer knew all the information" and should not have been handcuffed because she had "done nothing wrong and is a good person". The investigator explained that the Officer was following procedure by handcuffing her as he was investigating a stolen license plate on the vehicle, and the possibility it could be used for criminal activities.

During the discussion between the investigator and the complainant, she never indicated that she thought she was being stopped, detained and questioned solely because of her race, but felt it was an insult to her character, especially being handcuffed. The complainant stated that she wished no further action be taken by the Department regarding her complaint.

The subsequent IA investigation was concluded with a finding of "Unfounded".

## HPDPS RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings introduced in this report, the Director of Public Safety, along with command staff, will continue with aggressive tracking and monitoring measures to identify and address potential racial profiling problems by:

- **Adhering to State standards involving training of all sworn personnel regarding bias based profiling.**
- **Continue to monitor officer's video recordings of traffic stops randomly for compliance with Departmental directives regarding bias based profiling.**
- **Post this report on the Department Internet Web page.**
- **Disseminate information to all officers regarding the guidelines of behavior acceptable under the Texas Racial Profiling Law.**
- **Monitor the Department's Early Warning System to determine complaint trends. The Early Warning System is a program intended as a supportive intervention to assist employees that engage in behavior that may have negative consequences.**
- **Respond to any and all complaints in a prompt and efficient manner.**
- **On a quarterly basis, monitor statistical information from citations to insure that current collection of race data is correct for citation, search, and arrest activity.**

**[WWW.HPDPS.ORG](http://WWW.HPDPS.ORG)**