

**Highland Park
Municipal Court
and
DPS Sandra Bland
Compliance (2020)**



**DEL CARMEN
Consulting, LLC.**

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERTS

HP Court Assessment Objectives

The objectives of the Highland Park Municipal Court Analysis are as follows:

- Review and assess current policies to determine the need to replace, add, or remove court policies.
- Review and assess the current web-based information to the public in order to identify areas where the content and dissemination of information could be improved.
- Review the case-processing system in order to identify areas of improvement.
- Assess the current information/data being collected and make the necessary changes
- Analyze the court related data and provide relevant findings while making the appropriate recommendations.

Summary of Findings

- The cases filed are mostly related to White defendants; this was followed by Hispanics and Blacks, respectively.
- The cases that were closed by the court, dismissed by the prosecutor and dismissed by the judge, seem to be proportionally distributed among Caucasians, African Americans and Hispanics.
- Cases involving juvenile or minor offenders seem to be based mostly on White defendants.
- The cases dismissed at the window and those dismissed via U.S. mail also seemed to be proportionally distributed among all races and ethnic groups.



Summary of Findings (cont.)

- A significant percentage of cases by all races/ethnicities were disposed through the payment of fines to the clerk.
- The data also shows that there were various methods of disposing cases by all racial and ethnic groups. While no specific pattern was identified, it is clear that disposition of cases ranged from driving courses being completed, to paying fines and providing proof of insurance.

Summary of Findings (cont.)

Blacks seemed to show the least significant percentage of cases disposed. A deeper dive on the data revealed the following:

- In 64% of cases pertaining to Blacks, no attempt was made by the defendant to call, email or mail the Court regarding the citation issued.
- This compares to 28% of Whites, 43% of Hispanics, 15% of Asians, and 23% of Native Americans.



Impressions and Recommendations

- The findings suggest practices of fairness across the board regarding court-related matters.
- An effort should be made to increase efforts on behalf of the Court to continue to reach out to all defendants in order to settle their pending cases.
- A particular effort should be made to defendants who are not native English speakers in order to provide information in their native language regarding court rules and protocols.
- Continue to monitor court data collection and processing.

Questions?



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Highland Park DPS Annual Contact Data (2020)



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Report on Complaints 1/1/2020—12/31/2020

The Highland Park DPS reports no racial profiling complaint filed in 2020.

**RACIAL
PROFILING**

Informing the Public

- HPDPS is in compliance with Senate Bill 1074 and the Sandra Bland Act
- HPDPS posts in the lobby on how to file a complaint on a racial profiling violation
- HPDPS informs the public (on qualifying contacts) on how to file a compliment or complaint including the department's telephone number, mailing address and email address

Tier 2 (2020)

Motor Vehicle Contact Analysis

The trends on contacts were as follows:

- Most contacts were with Males
- Most were contacts with Whites
- Officers did not know the race/ethnicity prior to the stop
- The most frequent reason for a stop was “moving traffic violation”
- Most stops took place on “city streets”

Tier 2 (2020)

Motor Vehicle Contact Analysis

- Most stops did not result in a search
- Of those searched, the reason cited the most was “inventory”
- Most searches resulted in contraband being discovered
- The contraband most frequently found was “drugs”
- Most stops resulted in a “citation”
- Most arrests were based on “violation of the penal code”
- In no instances, force was used which resulted in bodily injury



Fair Roads Standard Analysis

The percentage of Hispanics and Asians who came in contact with the police in motor vehicle related incidents in 2020, was lower than the percentage of Hispanic and Asian DFW households with access to vehicles.

Fair Roads Standard Analysis

With respect to Blacks, Whites and American Indians, the data suggested that the percentage of Blacks, Whites and American Indians that came in contact with the police in 2020 was higher than the percentage of Blacks, Whites and American Indians in DFW with access to vehicles.

A photograph of a police car at night, viewed from the rear passenger side. The car is white with a blue and red light bar on the roof. The word "POLICE" is printed in large, dark letters on the side of the car. The background is dark, suggesting a nighttime setting.

Search Analysis

- Most of the contraband found, originated from searches made on Blacks.
- This was followed by searches made on Whites and Hispanics.



Complying with the Sandra Bland Act

- The Department has also:
 - Revised its racial profiling policy to meet the new requirements of the law.
 - Engaged our firm in performed objective and external quarterly data audits.
 - Collected the enhanced version of Tier 2 data.
 - Engaged our firm in analyzing the data.
 - Informed the public, when making a contact, on how to file a compliment or complaint, as required by law.

Recommendations

1. Collect and analyze data on searches.
2. Foster partnerships with organizations representing minority interests.
3. Commission quarterly data audits in order to determine the validity and reliability of data collected/reported in 2021.
4. Train all police officers on the new data requirements (Sandra Bland Act).
5. Provide training to all of HPDPS police officers on implicit bias.

Questions

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