

Accountability for Dearborn
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10/18/20

FOIA REQUEST FOR POLICE DATA FULFILLED, BUT INCOMPLETE.
Freedom of Information Requests Must Be Fulfilled Within 10 Days, Not 3 Months.

(Dearborn, MI) Accountability for Dearborn (A4D) requested data on citations and arrests disaggregated by racial demographics, and after three months of delay, in flagrant violation of the law, Dearborn Police Department (DPD) responded.

We received a breakdown of all "citation - violations" recorded in the City of Dearborn between 2010 and 2019.

The topline results of our cursory analysis of 3,000 pages of data:

- Black people are overrepresented in the total citations issued and that disparity has increased year-over-year since 2010.
- There exists a consistent trend among virtually all officers of massively disproportionate criminalization of Black people compared to the community's population.
- DPD demonstrates a sustained pattern of criminalizing poverty to target Black motorists.
- DPD aggressively reinforces criminalizing "shopping while Black".

Black residents are 4% of Dearborn's population, and in 2019, 47% of all Dearborn PD citations were issued to Black people. We have no indication if recipients lived in, worked in, or had the bad luck of travelling through Dearborn.

The data include citations issued by each officer, including the racial breakdown. Several DPD officers exhibit a strong pattern of racial targeting. In 2019, one officer issued 26 citations to white people and 506 citations to Black people; **that is 1846% more tickets issued to Black people than white people**. A second officer issued 56 citations to white people, and 611 citations to Black people; again, this is **991% more**. A third officer issued 87 citations to white people and 475 citations to Black people; this is **445% more**. These same officers demonstrate comparable levels of racially biased policing across multiple years with no apparent accountability for reducing these inequities. These are the most blatant cases of racially biased policing, but there exists a consistent trend among nearly all officers of massively disproportionate criminalization of Black people compared to the community's population.

Yearly, the top four citations result from individuals unable to upkeep and document their vehicle. Heavy emphasis on these citation types targets Black motorists. For instance, in 2019, 3,736 citations were written for motorist driving while their license was suspended, revoked, or denied, 74% of which were to Black folks. This same year, 3,068 citations were written for motorists driving with cars identified as having defective equipment, 54% of which were written to Black folks. These violations could be prevented with proactive public workshops and partnerships with local mechanics rather than punitive police stops and citations.

The share of larceny charges brought against Black defendants has had a year-over-year increase since 2014. Chief Ronald Haddad has emphasized his department's "crackdown" on shoplifting since 2007, and while DPD previously issued tickets for shoplifting, Haddad instituted a policy of arresting and imposing \$500 bail on Defendants charged with shoplifting. DPD has dedicated entire precincts to policing commercial areas, particularly Fairlane Mall, and has even made compensation arrangements for increased police presence at Fairlane.

The data omit arrests and the racial breakdown of arrests, distorting potential analysis. A4D is still parsing through the 3,000 pages of data, but have noticed important irregularities, notably the white-Black racial binary that erases how policing impacts Latino and Arab residents and the suspiciously duplicated parking citations which appear to be recorded twice; once as issued to a white individual, and a second time as issued to an individual of unknown race. These incomplete and unvalidated data show that DPD continues to skirt residents' demands for transparency in understanding how 43% of the City's tax dollars are used.

The data do not vindicate DPD from its reputation for bias against Black people. We hope that the information contained in this release can serve as a starting point to diagnosing and remedying anti-Black violence perpetrated by the city, and invite all community members to review, share, and analyze these data.

A4D will host a monthly series of Data Townhalls, starting November 21st to explain the data received, the analysis process, and provide insights into the data's implications. A4D is seeking community partnerships to provide free brake light repair clinics to preventatively address one of the largest causes of citations.

To register for the workshops or to explore the (now) public data, please visit A4D's website --

www.accountabilityfordearborn.org.

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