WORTHINGTON DIVISION OF POLICE

Memorandum

Integrity, Respect, Commitment, Honesty, Professionalism

To: **Chief Robert Ware II**

From: **Lt. Michael Holton**

Date: **February 17, 2020**

Subj: **Traffic Citation Data Review for 2019**

Refer to the table for race and gender information of individuals issued 1762 traffic citations during 6683 traffic contacts in the City of Worthington during 2019.

To maintain the five reporting categories as identified by NCIC and the Ohio Collaborative, the following adjustments were made and included in the "Unknown" male or female category:

- Fifteen citations were issued to females where no race was entered
- Twenty-six citations were issued to males where no race was entered
- Nine citations were issued to male Hispanics (Hispanic is an ethnicity, not a race of people)
- Two citations were issued to female Hispanics (Hispanic is an ethnicity, not a race of people)

Five citations are excluded from the data set as no race and/or gender information was entered:

- One citation was issued to an African American where the gender was not entered
- One citation was issued to a white individual where the gender was not entered
- Three citations did not have an entry for race or gender

Traffic Citations Issued - 2019

Race	Male	Percent of total	Female	Percent of total
White	680	38.70%	431	24.53%
Black	273	15.54%	150	8.54%
Asian	30	1.707%	22	1.252%
Indian	4	.2277%	2	.1138%
Unknown	106	6.033%	59	3.358%
Traffic Citations Issued	**1093**		**664**	**Total: 1757**

Note that these numbers represent only data for traffic citations issued, as the new database for complete collection for citations and traffic warnings will be included in 2020. This new system will identify not only all self-initiated traffic contacts but also allow for the extraction via a pivot table of accident-related traffic contacts to use as a baseline of poor drivers. This is being utilized to avoid the complex variables and address outcomes of conflicted baseline data that might be generated from the 2010 US Census in which we are unable to delineate licensed drivers within the confines of our jurisdictional boundary. Please be aware that we deal with the crossroads of two major federal interstates, two interstate routes, and one US route. By using accident data, we intend to mitigate the evaluation of a data source and establish a benchmark for those who are poor drivers. Without a verifiable benchmark, it is difficult to determine what

percentage of self-initiated traffic stops would indicate racially biased policing. The objective of using a baseline value and thus benchmarking is to understand if there is a causal relationship between a characteristic of the driver (e.g., race and/or gender) and the decision by police to initiate a traffic stop.

The most reliable benchmarks look to develop a profile of who should be stopped within a jurisdiction in the absence of any biased decision-making. We hope that using accident data will serve as viable benchmarks that will be consistent in quality due to various populations being involved. Noting that there are complicating factors, such as the fact that nonresidents may be stopped in the city and we have a large number of nonresidents (commuters) who use our jurisdiction's roads, along with the diverse driving behaviors by various groups (e.g., racial, ethnic, gender, or age groups).

Effective January 2021, the Ohio Collaborative requires that law enforcement agencies wishing to obtain certification from the Ohio Collaborative collect and document race and gender information on all traffic contacts. In anticipation of the new Ohio Collaborative guidelines, effective July 14, 2019, the Worthington Division of Police began collecting race and gender information of individuals issued written traffic warnings as well as traffic citations.

It is a requirement that the sex and race category be completed. They are identical to the categories defined by NCIC. The definitions from NCIC are listed below:

Value	Definition
I = Indian	American Indian or Alaskan Native – a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Americas and maintaining cultural identification through tribal affiliations or community recognition
A = Asian	Asian or Pacific Islander - a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent or the Pacific Islands
B = Black	Black - a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa
W = White	White - a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East
U = Race is unknown	Unknown