

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



CLEVELAND SPRUILL
Chief of Police

JEFF CLARK
Deputy Chief of Police

MICHAEL HUNSINGER
Deputy Chief of Police

CHRISTOPHER W. NICHOLS
*Lieutenant,
Professional Responsibility*

BARBRA FORTSON
*Senior Police Officer,
Professional Responsibility*

RONNIE NORRIS
*Senior Police Officer,
Professional Responsibility*

To: Chief Cleveland L. Spruill, Sr.

From: Lieutenant Christopher W. Nichols

Date: June 28, 2019

Re: Bias-based profiling review for 2018

The intent of this review is to identify enforcement trends that may be of concern to the Department and the community. Bias-based profiling is prohibited by the ACCPD. Bias-based profiling is defined as the practice of using race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, age, cultural group, or some other identifiable common trait of a group as the sole reason for stopping, detaining, searching pedestrians and motorists, and in asset seizure and forfeiture efforts. The ACCPD does not condone the use of bias-based profiling, as it may lead to constitutional rights violations against the citizens we serve.

This bias-based profiling report is based on information obtained from the Municipal Court and quarterly bias-based profiling reports from the uniform patrol shifts and the NE Georgia Drug Task Force. The report also includes the training on bias-based profiling provided to personnel during the year.

The biased profiling reports were reviewed for all quarters of 2018. The reporting supervisors reviewed video, audio, and conducted on-scene observations of personnel assigned to their respective commands for indications or complaints of bias-based profiling. There were two complaints of bias-based profiling received in 2018.

The following table describes the complaint data:

Complainant Gender	Complainant Race	Officer Gender	Officer Race	Disposition
F	A	M	W	Unfounded
F	W	M	B	Unfounded



Bias-based Policing Memo

June 28, 2019

Page 2 of 2

In 2018, the Career Development and Training Unit provided four courses of Fair and Impartial Policing. There is a four hour block of instruction on bias-based profiling during this course. This course was available to all personnel and required of newly sworn employees. It was also mandated that all sworn officers take one of the following GPSTC online courses which covers bias-based policing and community oriented policing: Fostering Positive Community Relations, Police Legitimacy, Procedural Justice and Community Relations, and Cultural Awareness. In addition, the ACCPD provides classes on traffic stops, search and seizure, and other topics during the New Officer Basic Course.

A request was made to Athens-Clarke County Municipal Court for citation and warning data specific to race and gender. Municipal Court was unable to provide race or gender information for citations issued. Municipal Court does not record warnings issued by the department. According to Municipal Court, the ACCPD issued a total of 19,614 uniform traffic citations and county ordinance violations during 2018.

Based on the details of the reported complaints and the limited number of complaints, no pattern of bias-based profiling is apparent.

During 2018, the ACCPD changed internal records management systems (RMS). Because of the transition and problems directly related to the entry and merging of RMS data, the ACCPD did not record citation or warning information. Because it is not available department-wide, only a few, select officers use the Tyler Technologies Brazos Electronic Citations software.

The policies and procedures of the ACCPD prohibiting bias-based profiling remain sufficient; however, further investigation into the recording of uniform traffic citation (via direct entry or the Brazos Electronic Citations software) and county ordinance data into the Tyler Technologies New World Public Safety Solutions software may be beneficial.

Reviewed:

Chief Cleveland L. Spruill, Sr.

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



CLEVELAND SPRUILL
Chief of Police

JEFF CLARK
Deputy Chief of Police

MICHAEL HUNSINGER
Deputy Chief of Police

JERRY SAULTERS
Deputy Chief of Police

CHRISTOPHER W. NICHOLS
*Captain
Criminal Investigations*

To: Chief Cleveland L. Spruill, Sr.

From: Captain Christopher W. Nichols 

Re: Addendum to Biased-based profiling review for 2018 dated June 28, 2019.

Date: August 7, 2019

Of the two bias based complaints made by citizens, both were investigated and unfounded. No corrective measures were needed in 2018 for the bias based complaints reported.

