



NYCLU

NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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BY FACSIMILE AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

April 10, 2008

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Richard Dormer
Commissioner
Suffolk County Police Department
30 Yaphank Ave.
Yaphank NY, 11980

Re: FOIL Request for Police Stop Information

Dear Commissioner Dormer:

On behalf of the New York Civil Liberties Union, we write to request, pursuant to the state's Freedom of Information Law (Public Officers Law, Article 6), that the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD) produce information concerning persons stopped by members of the Department. Specifically, we request that the Department produce the following:

1. A blank copy of any form or forms (be they paper or electronic) completed by members of the SCPD at any time since January 1, 2005 when they stopped any person in a vehicle or on foot. This request does not include forms that are separately completed when members of the Department make an arrest of or issue a summons to a person who has been stopped.
2. A copy of all instructions, guidelines, or directives in effect at any time since January 1, 2005 governing the completion of any forms by members of the SCPD when they stop any person in a vehicle or on foot. This request does not include instructions, guidelines, or directives governing forms to be completed when members make an arrest of or issue a summons to a person who has been stopped.
3. A copy of all instructions, guidelines, or directives in effect at any time since January 1, 2005 governing the retention, compilation, or analysis of information recorded by members of the SCPD when they stop any person in a vehicle or on foot. This request does not include instructions, guidelines, or directives governing forms to be completed when members make an arrest of or issue a summons to a person who has been stopped.
4. In electronic form, a copy of any database created by the SCPD containing information about instances in which members of the SCPD have stopped any

person in a vehicle or on foot since January 1, 2005. To the extent such information is contained in a database that also contains data about other SCPD activity, this request does not seek that other portion of the database. This request expressly excludes personally identifiable information about any person stopped, including name, home address and social security number.

5. To the extent no database exists as requested in paragraph 4, copies of all forms completed by members of the SCPD in conjunction with stops they have made of any person in a vehicle or on foot since January 1, 2005. This request expressly excludes personally identifiable information about any person stopped, including name, home address and social security number. This request does not include forms that are separately completed when members of the Department make an arrest of or issue a summons to a person who has been stopped.
6. A copy of any analyses, reports, or compilations created by or on behalf of the SCPD since January 1, 2005 about instances in which members of the SCPD have stopped any person in a vehicle or on foot. This request expressly excludes personally identifiable information about any person stopped, including name, home address and social security number.

In making these requests, we note that on July 11, 2006, the Associated Press reported, "The Suffolk County police are collecting information on the race of people detained for routine traffic violations as part of a study into the possibility that drivers are being profiled on the basis of race." County Executive Steven Levy was interviewed for the article and confirmed that racial data would be collected. This article is available on the website of the *New York Times* at <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/07/11/nyregion/11mbrfs-001.html>.

We ask that the Department produce the requested records as quickly as possible and by no later than May 16, 2008. Assuming the Department will produce a database, we will need to speak with someone about the specific format of production. And should you or a member of your staff have any questions or concerns about this request, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Christopher Dunn
Daniel J. Freeman



Seth Muraskin
Suffolk County Chapter Executive Director