

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca stand against racism

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The YWCA supports legislation that bans the practice of racial profiling at the federal, state, and local levels. We believe that all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or gender should be ensured justice and protected equally under the law. This includes policies that eradicate racial profiling. We look forward to working with policymakers to correct patterns of systemic racial bias in policing and its negative and often lethal impact on various communities of color.

In response to the current status of our community as well as the position of the YWCA USA, the YWCA Madison requests an update on the progress of the following recommendations from the 2009 Dane County Taskforce to Reduce Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System. We propose that these recommendations that were created and vetted by a Taskforce of representatives from community and the criminal justice system be revisited and implemented.

Dane County Taskforce to Reduce Racial Disparities Recommendations pertaining to Racial Profiling:

1. Assessment of the racial/ ethnic equality or inequality in the treatment of accused offenders should be built into the routine process of Dane County Criminal Justice Partners. Pg. 12
Encourage all Criminal Justice Partners to provide annual high quality training to prevent racial bias in policing and other areas of the criminal justice system. Such training should include cross-cultural conflict resolution strategies. Provide funding to bring trainings back to Dane County every year, and expand it to include more Dane County law enforcement agencies. Pg. 16
3. Criminal Justice Partners should create an ongoing forum for dialogue on issues around race and culture among staff and members of the community to build bridges and break down barriers of misunderstanding. In doing so, they should collaborate with organizations that work with people of color and invite their participation on decisions that will substantially impact their constituents. Pg. 17
4. Improve and standardize the citizen complaint process for all Dane County law enforcement agencies by creating county-wide complaint resolution guidelines. P. 17.
5. The Dane County Board should appoint a group of citizens and criminal justice system representatives to study best practices in reviewing complaints, including the emerging best practice of the Police Auditor – a permanent external citizen oversight agency that has the authority to audit, monitor, and inspect any aspect of police operations. P. 18
6. Law enforcement agencies, as well as all other decision makers in Dane County's criminal justice system, legislators and chief executives, should routinely develop written racial impact statements prior to implementing needed initiatives, policies or ordinances. P. 20.

7. All Dane County law enforcement agencies should require officers to explain to motorists why they were stopped, and to individuals why they have been stopped and frisked and to always provide them with a business card that includes the officer's name and a contact phone number. Officers should be provided with enough cards to be able to give one to every person they stop or otherwise initiate contact. Pg. 27
8. Law enforcement agencies should implement effective data collection systems for all traffic stops and those pedestrian stops that involve a "stop and frisk," which should include the following criteria:
 - a. Race or ethnicity of the person stopped, Gender of the person stopped
 - b. Location of stop
 - c. Reason for stop
 - d. Whether a consent search was requested
 - e. Whether a search was conducted and if so whether contraband was found
 - f. Whether the person was asked to get out of the car and/ or frisked
 - g. Outcome of the stop Pg. 28
9. Dane County law enforcement agencies should not only collect the necessary data, but should plan and implement independent expert analysis on the data once collected. Pg. 29
10. Dane County law enforcement agencies, individually and collectively, should be encouraged to develop individual and/ or community-wide anti-bias policies. Pg. 29
11. Strongly encourage all Dane County law enforcement agencies to follow the recommendations in this report, in an effort to achieve consistency and sustainability in addressing racial disparity at the front end of the criminal justice system. Present law enforcement related recommendations at the Dane County Chief's Association meeting, and ask the chiefs to adopt the recommendations and create written policies based upon them within their own organizations. Pg. 29
12. Law enforcement officers are the first point of contact with persons who exhibit mental or substance use conditions, and are critical in determining the situation's outcome (whether or not the person will be jailed). We recommend pre-arrest strategies that "rely heavily on helping police become knowledgeable regarding the nature of mental and substance use conditions, and provide tools to de-escalate crisis situations." Pg. 30