

Sheriff



Eric Aden, *Okaloosa County Sheriff*

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To: Sheriff Eric Aden

From: Captain Robert Wagner

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be "RW", is written over the name "Captain Robert Wagner".

Date: March 29, 2024

Subject: Annual Administrative Review of Traffic Stops

This review is provided in accordance with General Order 2.06 – Bias Based Profiling and the Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation standard 2.06 Bullet E. Information documented in this report was derived from the research of agency traffic stop data, traffic citations/warnings, arrests, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Research of data for deputies involved in traffic stops, traffic warnings, traffic citations, and arrests were determined to be unremarkable except for the disparity between the percentage of citations and warnings issues to Hispanic/Latino drivers during traffic stops. The review of the data is as follows:

2023		White	Black	Asian	Hispanic	*Other
County Diversity		71.8%	10.6%	3.3%	10.5%	3.8%
Traffic Stops	8384	61.7%	17.9%	1.8%	16.4%	2.2%
Citations Issued	4883	57.3%	18.1%	1.7%	20.9%	2.0%
Written Warnings	3501	67.8%	17.7%	1.9%	10.2%	2.4%
Arrests	3466	64.5%	21.4%	1.0%	12.1%	1.1%
*Includes other, unknown, and unidentified						

The above numbers generated a question about the rate of which Hispanic/Latino drivers were issued traffic citations in relation to the number of warnings they were given. The data listed below explains this disparity. More than one third of all citations issued to Hispanic/Latino drivers were for driving without ever having received a driver license. This is a criminal citation and much less likely to be handled by issuing a warning.

Percent of Total Citations for Driving without a Driver License						
2023		White	Black	Asian	Hispanic	*Other
No DL		1.5%	6.7%	2.4%	34.7%	5.1%



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate.

There were seven documented citizen complaints wherein vehicle drivers asserted they were stopped because of their race and/or to be harassed. Thorough investigations and body worn camera videos of the traffic stops showed the complaints were unfounded.

A review of General Orders 2.06 – Bias Based Profiling and 22.01 – Traffic law Enforcement found them to be in compliance with Florida Statutes.