

Traffic

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stopping them.

Information obtained from the survey will be presented to the current Legislature, which began its session this week.

The report indicates black drivers stopped were generally younger than whites, and that compared to whites, "were more likely to have had two or more persons in their vehicles." It says blacks were more likely than whites to be handcuffed, and that African-Americans "were arrested at more than twice the rate of white drivers."

McCorkle's data says blacks were even more likely than whites to be stopped for non-moving violations.

Of a total 399,771 stops, data from 13,350 incidents was not used because data reflecting race was invalid, but what numbers were included in the report are sure to create a stir in Southern Nevada, where McCorkle says of disparities found at Metro: "the difference was more marked." Kallas, however, contends the study "validates law enforcement's position," saying it "indicates we're out doing police work."

Data from Metro indicates of 182,828 stops, 15.5 percent were black drivers, though African-Americans are just 8.8 percent of the Clark County population. 55 percent of Metro's stops involved white drivers, who, in fact, make up 64 percent of the local driving population.

Blacks were handcuffed 6.2 percent of the time, whites only 2.8 percent, arrested 4.5 percent of the time compared to 2.2 percent for whites, and were also more likely to be searched.

New Clark County Sheriff Bill Young, calls to whom were not returned, denies Metro engages in racial profiling, as did Jerry Keller before him. Kallas said, "I think those numbers are so small they don't validate any claim that there's racial profiling going on."

"Then how in the hell do you get those particular numbers?" Neal exclaimed on Wednesday, speaking from Carson City. "I don't know what you would call it," he said, angrily.

In Henderson — where the story of racial profiling is just beginning to be told — of 13,949 stops, African-Americans were involved in 7 percent, though they are only 3.6 percent of the population. Blacks were handcuffed in 3.7 percent of the stops in Henderson, compared with just 2.4 percent of whites, and African-Americans were arrested 3.2 per-

cent of the time, whites only 2.1 percent

Of 15,603 stops in North Las Vegas, where blacks are 18.4 percent of the population, African-Americans were involved in a whopping 30.9 percent them. African-Americans were handcuffed 13.7 percent of the time in North Las Vegas while only 6.8 percent of whites were, and while whites were arrested in only 4.6 percent of stops involving them, blacks were arrested twice as often,

at 9.2 percent.

The Nevada Black Police Association says it is "alarmed and concerned." Its executive director, D. C. Toney, says the group "has long felt that these conditions existed within our department, but this is the first time that we have empirical data to support our conclusions."

"In every category," Toney continued, "the numbers speak in such a way that they cannot be cast aside or viewed as a flaw in the study."

Although black drivers' cars were more likely to be searched, it seems seizures were less likely, according to the data, which also indicates drugs were more often found in the vehicles of white than black motorists. The study went on to say that black drivers "were less likely to receive a citation than drivers of other races," and were "more likely to be warned."

Kallas called the study "incomplete," and, as for identifying the cops making stops,

said, "No, I don't think their names are significant. What's significant is whether (racial profiling is) occurring in this community."

Among those who strongly disagree are ACLU of Nevada Executive Director Gary Peck, and the head of the black police association.

"Without those officers' names, those cards are worthless," Toney says, "because we can't identify who is the problem. I would suggest they

add the names," he said yesterday, "my organization suggests they add the names."

And, Toney believes he knows how to solve the problem of racial profiling in the valley. "First of all, (it) has to be acknowledged by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department," he explained. Meanwhile, the black police association "will explore with our national organization leadership," said Toney, "other means available to correct the problem."

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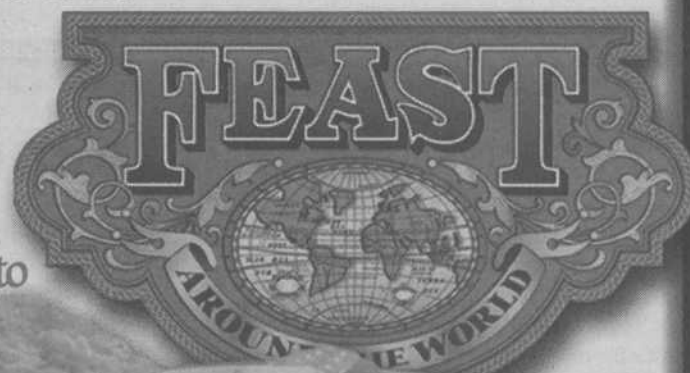
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