

Racial Profiling and Crime Reporting

NEIGHBORS **FOR** RACIAL JUSTICE
(N**4**RJ)

DEFINITIONS

- RACIAL PROFILING:

- Refers to the discriminatory practice by law enforcement, private security patrols, and community members using an individual's race or skin color alone to make on-the-spot assumptions of possible criminal behavior.

- INCOMPLETE/HARMFUL CRIME REPORTING:

- Reporting a crime using only the person's skin color or perceived race as descriptors, *which casts a wide net that encompasses innocent neighbors, family members, friends, and visitors of that same skin color or race.*

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Post in Crime & Safety

suspicious car? 19 Jun 13

J from Redwood Heights

At around 8:30 Wednesday morning I saw a car driving slowly through the neighborhood, slowing down at a few places and then going slowly on. A recycling scrounger lady said she had seen it driving all over the neighborhood. It was near the intersection of Vale and Thompkins. Beige-ish mid-sized sedan. license # **XXXXXX--two young African American males.**

Shared with Redwood Heights + 15 nearby neighborhoods in Crime & Safety



What profiling is NOT:

- Reports of concerning behavior that begins with a detailed description of that *behavior*
 - Walking up and down driveways
 - Looking in all neighborhood car windows
 - Pulling on all neighborhood car door handles
 - Opening all neighborhood mailboxes
 - Stepping onto and searching all neighborhood porches
- **and** includes vehicle information, number of offenders, identifying characteristics (height, weight, age, identifying marks and tattoo, clothing, perceived gender/race/ethnicity)

Effective Crime Reporting:

- A crime report that begins with a description of specific behavior
- A crime report that includes **several** identifying descriptors which avoids casting a **wide** net

Black Male in Hoodie or Three Black Teenagers is not a detailed report.

- Detailed reporting does **not** use perceived race/ethnicity as the **only** physical descriptor

Detailed Reporting

On the corner of Lyman and Waterhouse, about 15 minutes ago, I watched a man peer into the window of 5 or 6 vehicles on my street. He also tried to pulling on the door handles. Last seen he was headed toward Waterhouse rd.

He is approx. 5'10 short fade haircut, wearing white t-shirt with cut off sleeves, dark blue jeans cuffed, red and white checkered slip on shoes. Goatee. Carrying a gray duffle bag.

Appears to be in his 30's. Perceived race, African American.

NOW WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?



How does racial profiling show up in neighborhoods?

Examples:

- Surveillance and suspicion of neighborhood or visiting teenagers of color, specifically black teenagers
- Listserv “**alerts**” that target not specific behavior but rather black and brown skin color - *e.g. **Black male driving by slowly***
- Neighbors of color are watched, questioned and stopped by police, private patrols, or community members while on their own property or jogging or taking a walk
- Neighbors of color gathering in cultural rituals at popular community spots are harassed and attacked
- Visiting people of color, who are engaged in no wrongdoing, must endure the burden of proving their innocence to suspicious neighbors.

Examples of how listserv racial profiling shows itself

[Post in Crime & Safety](#)

[Navy \(DARK\) Blue - VOLVO12 May 14](#)

[C from Oakmore](#)

My boyfriend just noticed two AA Men in a Dark Blue Volvo driving around Tiffin & Whittle - They pulled a U-Turn right in front of him and then drove up and pulled over on Tiffin.

They seems to be looking around - just thought Id bring more attention to them , just in case.

Shared with Oakmore + 13 nearby neighborhoods in [Crime & Safety](#)

.....
[Attempted Robbery21h ago](#)

[A from Glenview](#)

Watch out for a 1997 to 2000 Dark Green 4 doors Honda Accura, LICENSE Last 3 digits ; XXX

On 13th ave between Park Blvd and Excelsior at 9:30 pm as I was unloading groceries, this automobile suddenly pulled over, the passenger jumped out and began pretending to talk to me, then I ran shouting I'll call the police ! Then they sped away towards Park Blvd.

Both were between 19 and 23 years old, African American.

OPD has a complete description of them

Consequences of Racial Profiling

- Undermines human dignity through lack of social inclusion
- Polarizes the community out of mistrust/alienation/outrage
- Harassment/degradation and possible emotional/physical/legal harm to our innocent neighbors of color.
- Deepens and perpetuates negative racial stereotypes, discrimination, racism
- Profiling is *Inefficient*:
 - Noticing only race takes attention off of behavior, focuses it on appearance and predicts nothing
 - Diverts and misuses scarce law enforcement resources
- Destroys relationships between local law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Description: *Black man, 25-30 walking by slowly looking at houses. Watch out.*



Innocent Black man arrested



Damage to:

- Personal life
- Work life
- Name
- Dignity
- Reputation
- Psychological well being

There is not one 'bad neighbor' who profiled and killed a Black youth carrying a bag of skittles.

There is not one 'bad cop' who violently slammed a Black student from her desk.

There is not an 'isolated incident' where people of color drumming in public spaces are questioned, harassed and dehumanized.

There is a historical system of embedded policies, procedures, and operations in place that alienate, marginalize, ignore, silence and harm peoples of color.

This system churns out racial inequities, discrimination and brutality as is seen in acts of Racial Profiling and Police Brutality.

Change does not come from tossing out 'one bad apple' but rather from disrupting a system of violence as Black Lives Matter is doing, as the Ella Baker Center is doing, as former activists have done, as our ancestors have done.

Working together as neighbors to challenge racial profiling, we can begin to mend divisions among our diverse communities and create greater safety for peoples of color, which in turn creates safety for all.

For numerous studies, facts, and more information on Racial Profiling

www.civilrights.org

www.aclu.org

www.ellabakercenter.org

(Keyword: Racial Profiling)

Also see N4RJ flyers

www.neighborsforracialjustice.org

~NEIGHBORS *FOR* RACIAL JUSTICE~

