

SC Progressive Network Racial Profiling Project: February 2016 Update

Our strategy to establish a public report of “all stops, by all cops” is to get sheriffs and police chiefs to support the reporting that will build community trust and make their jobs easier. SC Progressive Network Co-chair, Rep. Joe Neal, sponsored the original 2001 racial profiling bill that resulted in the Network’s study of racial disparities in our criminal justice system. A watered-down version of our bill, that only records warning tickets, became law in 2005. Rep. Neal filed [H-3993](#) in April 2015, to add all stops and other details to the public contact reports that all 303 police agencies are now required to file on warning tickets.

Before visiting your local police agency: (These meetings should be held in February 2016)

Step 1. Review the [SC Progressive Network’s racial profiling study](#).

Step 2. Select a police agency and review their record [of reporting public contacts](#) at the DPS web site.

Step 3. Review the racial demographics of the agency’s area of responsibility at the [US Census FactFinder](#).

The public contact reports from the Dept. of Public Safety, combined with the data from the census, will give you a percentage, by race, of those given warning tickets by that agency. If needed, contact the Network to explain, or provide, the numbers you need for your meeting with the police.

Meeting with the police agency:

Assemble and brief a small (3-6), representative, contingent of citizens to make the visit and get an appointment with the Sheriff or Police Chief. Remember that in SC, we elect our sheriff’s in years with a presidential election, so politics will influence outcomes. Police chiefs are hired by city councils or city managers. Taking local constituents to see their local law enforcers is preferable.

We need to prioritize visits to the counties that members of the House Judiciary Committee come from, as that is the first hurdle to clear (see list at bottom).

Engage the police in a productive manner

Thank the police for meeting with you to help make their jobs, and your communities, safer. Compliment them if they are current with the public contact reporting, or ask why they are not. If there are discrepancies in the racial percentages of their public contacts, politely ask for an explanation of the numbers. Additionally, explain the deficiencies in the current law and the need for new legislation to report all stops, the reason for the stop, the location of the stop, who made the stop, and if there was a search or arrest. This transparency will prove to the community that racial profiling is not happening, or tolerated, and will make the law enforcement jobs easier and safer.

The initial meeting is not to have the police agency immediately “sign on” to support the legislation (some may be willing to sign on the first meeting), rather it is to establish a rapport for future meetings to get their support for the legislation. You are establishing a relationship that can, and should be, ongoing and empower your community.

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott (D), the incoming president of the State Sheriff’s Association, has given us a letter addressed to “Law Enforcement Chiefs and Sheriffs” urging them to support Rep. Neal’s bill. Leave a copy of the letter with the Chief or Sheriff, advising them you will be checking back to see if they will add their name to the letter.

An [editorial from Richland County Sheriff](#) Leon Lott promoting Rep. Neal’s bill ran in the State Jan 13. Take a hard copy with you on your visits. Lott is the incoming President of the SC Sheriff’s Association.

House Judiciary Constitutional Laws Sub committee: (Rep. Neal is seeking a hearing in mid-March, 2016)

[Bruce Bannister](#) (R-Greenville: Majority Leader – sub-committee chair)

[Greg Delaney](#) (R-Chester/York) : House Judiciary Chair (Rep. Neal already has Chester Sheriff on board, need to get York Co. Sheriff)

[Weston Newton](#) (R-Beaufort/Jasper)

[James Smith](#) (D-Richland) On board

[Walton McLeod](#) (D-Newberry) On board

We also should work the entire Judiciary Committee to get the bill to the House floor.

Here is a link to contact information for the full [Judiciary Committee](#):

This list below connects the Representative with the Sheriffs in the counties they represent. Check with the Network to get local political details, community contacts and confirm that your sheriff, or representative, have not been visited. Please let us know if you are working on a visit and the results.

Rep.	District	County	Sheriff
Gregory Delleneay- R	43	Chester	Alex Underwood*
" "		York	Bruce Bryant
Christopher Murphy -R	98	Dorchester	Luther Carl Knight
Beth Bernstein- D	78	Richland	Leon Lott
Kirkman Finlay -R	75	Richland	Leon Lott
Stephen Goldfinch, Jr.-R	108	Georgeotown	A.Lane Crib
Ralph Shealy Kennedy, Jr. -R	39	Lexington	Bryan "Jay" Koon
Joseph McEachern -D	77	Richland	Leon Lott
Denis Moss -R	29	Cherokee	Steve Mueller
Weston Newton-R	120	Beaufort	P.J. Tanner
Rick Quinn -R	69	Lexington	Byran "Jay" Koon
Edward Tallon, Sr.-R	33	Spartanburg	Chuck Wright
J. David Weeks -D	51	Sumter	Anthony Dennis*
Donna Hicks -R	37	Spartanburg	Chuck Wright
James Smith, Jr. -D	72	Richland	Leon Lott
Bruce Bannister -R	24	Greenville	Steve Loftis
Norman "Doug" Brannon -R	38	Greenville	Chuck Wright
Laurie Slade Furderbunk -D	52	Kershaw	Jim Matthews
Jenny Horne -R	94	Dorchester	Luther Carl Knight
Peter McCoy, Jr. -R	115	Charleston	J. Al Cannon Jr
Walton McLeod -D	40	Newberry	Lee Foster
Wendy Nanney -R	22	Greenville	Steve Loftis
Mandy Powers Norrell -D	44	Lancaster	Barry Faile
Todd Rutherford -D	74	Richland	Leon Lott
Anne Thayer -R	9	Anderson	JohnSkipper
J. Seth Whipper -D	113	Dorchester	Luther Carl Knight
" "		Charleston	J. Al Cannon Jr