

I understand that given the total environment that the leader of the Fraternal Order of Police is a natural guest for the program to discuss the views of rank-and-file officers about the Task Force report and other recent developments. It is disappointing (to say the least) that Angelo then gets to use that platform to misrepresent the work of the ACLU.

At one point, Angelo said, for example, that the ACLU is responsible for the language regarding the collection of data about street stops in the new state law on the issue. He called it "heavy" language. We should talk about what was heavy -- we actually want officers all across Illinois to document their stops and searches of pedestrians in order to assure that those stops are consistent with state law and the US Constitution. If that is the "heavy" language that Angelo objects to -- so be it. But the real issue is that he doesn't want any oversight of police when they are on the streets. This bill helps police supervisors review actions that occur on the street and creates a modicum of public accountability. Truth be told, we wanted more stringent language in the state law, but the final version was the product of back-and-forth with legislators of both parties, representatives of law enforcement and others.

Angelo also said that the City lets the ACLU "write the stop form" that has been at the center of discussion regarding the drop in street stops in the City. We didn't write the form. We would have been satisfied with a shorter form, like the one in New York. The City decided to collect information beyond the scope of our agreement, not us. Again, I think that it leaves a false impression to suggest that his complaint is with this form. The FOP has opposed *every* form. You can go back to the early 2000s when the City first began using contact cards and see the same sorts of complaints from the FOP. It is not the form; they simply do not like any kind of oversight.

Angelo also condemns the data in the Task Force which was drawn from our 2015 report on stop and frisk in Chicago. He says the data is incomplete. Problem is, that the City wasn't collecting complete data to do the assessment -- and the FOP (as Angelo explains) opposes data collection. So, which is it? Do they want complete data or not? What he cannot deny is that during the summer of 2014, the CPD stopped 250,000 innocent people - no ticket, no violation -- almost all of whom lived in communities of color. Indeed, if you look at that data in predominantly white neighborhoods, you'll see a relatively small number of stops -- but a high number of people of color. The truth is that what Angelo describes as "proactive" policing is really "aggressive policing" that is visited upon communities of color. It is fostering distrust between police and the public and has been relied upon for too long as a sign of good policing. It is time that it stop.

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