

**From:** [Stephan Foley](#)  
**To:** [Davis, Elizabeth \(OJP\)](#)  
**Subject:** Suggestion for the 2020 Police Public Contact Survey  
**Date:** Saturday, September 21, 2019 11:34:16 PM

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Hello Ms Davis,

I'd like to submit a few things I'd like to see in a police-public contact survey. They revolve around the issue of police handling of traffic stops. The two things I'd suggest to ask respondents are:

- if they felt police were trying to escalate a routine traffic stop
- if a consent search was requested, did they feel they had no choice to comply

I feel both of these fall under "perceptions of police behavior during the contact."

For questioning if a respondent felt a routine traffic stop was being escalated, you can ask such questions as:

- where unrelated questions asked during the beginning of the stop (where are you coming from, where are you going to)
- when giving answers, did you feel the officer was trying to shake your story (repeatedly questioning your answers)
- when concluding the stop (returning ID) did the officer not inform you you are free to go and instead engage in conversation (concluding terry stop and thus becoming a consensual encounter)

For questioning if a respondent felt compelled to submit to a consent search, you can ask:

- did you feel you had choice in the matter
- did you feel the officer had authority over the situation and you needed to submit to authority (uniform, flashing red lights, badge, etc)
- did the officer inform you you could decline a consent search

As for importance, I feel collection of this data is very important. I encourage you to do the survey and more like them.

Thanks,

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