

Public Safety & Homeland Security
Houston Police Department
Safe Roadways Initiative
Public Forum
July 15, 2021

1. I would like to learn more about the available research or examples from other cities [and what these examples] can tell us about reductions in cases of road rage?

Anecdotally, we have seen reports of an increase in incidents of road rage across the country. However, because of the inconsistencies in how road rage incidents are categorized and reported, it is difficult to compare one jurisdiction to another.

We recently had a discussion with Arlington Police Department who advised us they are trying a hotline for non-emergency road rage incidents. They will then mail certified letters to the registered owners of vehicles for whom a complaint has been made through the hotline with the same tips we are providing the public through our Safe Roadways Initiative. Arlington PD is unsure what impact the hotline is having, although they have reported that since its inception they have received 1253 calls and mailed 737 letters.

2. What is a city that has implemented these strategies successfully and what changes took place?

It is difficult to determine what impact various road rage strategies have had because what never occurred cannot be counted. Thus, a program could be implemented, have a positive impact, and the jurisdiction for which it is implemented still see an increase in the number of incidents. Without the program, the increase in incidents may have been higher.

Our strategy with the Safe Roadways Initiative is to combine education, messaging, enforcement, and investigations to slow down the increase and ultimately reduce these incidents of road rage.

To date, through our collaboration with our regional partners, we have conducted over 800 traffic stops as it relates to this initiative. Additionally, we have arrested 93 individuals and taken 9 firearms off the streets. Each one of these incidents was a potential road rage incident that was prevented from occurring.

3. How does the illegal gun issue relate to the road rage issue? How do they connect?

This year, through the month of May, the Houston Police Department has had over 1500 reported cases involving a type of weapons law violations. These could include unlawfully carrying a weapon, felon in possession of a firearm, and stolen firearms to name a few. When

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these firearms are taken off the streets, they are unable to be used in future firearms related offenses, including those involving road rage.

- 4. For the stats that were shared in terms of the 20% reduction in road rage cases last weekend, what is that compared to? The 4th of July weekend? This time last year? Or a few days before?**

The 20% reduction in road rage cases was a comparison to the weekly average for the Month of June (the previous month).