

**[DRAFT]**

## Kenosha County Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission

### Report Concerning Arrests and Race

TO: Kenosha County Board,  
Executive Committee

DATE: January 19, 2023

We make the following factual findings based on data gathered and furnished by the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department<sup>1</sup> and recommend that the Kenosha County Board take the following actions:

**FINDING: Law enforcement has a sustained record of disproportionately arresting Black adults** . In 2021 -- the most recent year for which data was available -- Black adults were almost 7 times -- 6.82 x -- more likely to be arrested than were White adults. In 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017, Black adults were 6.4, 6.9, 5.8, and 5.7 times more likely to be arrested than were White adults.

**FINDING: Law enforcement also has a sustained record of disproportionately arresting Black juveniles, ages ten through seventeen** . In 2021, Black juveniles were 5.5 times more likely to be arrested than their White counterparts. In 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017, Black juveniles were 4.8, 5.7, 5.1, and 3.9 times more likely to be arrested than were White juveniles.

**FINDING: Whether the product of racial animus, the appearance of disparate impact based on race in law enforcement is a serious community problem which requires immediate, consequential action by government** . Even the appearance of racial animus by law enforcement undermines comity and effective law enforcement.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Kenosha County should promptly retain, fully fund, and robustly support a qualified independent consultant with prior relevant experience in the law enforcement context to (i) investigate the reasons for this apparent disparate impact, (ii) propose measures to eliminate any of its impermissible causes and to otherwise substantially reduce it, (iii) prepare a written report to the Kenosha County Board which describes its work, findings and proposals.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Beginning in 2023, Kenosha County should implement record-keeping which tracks the race, color, and gender self-identification of arrested persons and, beginning in 2024, should make such data publicly available.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of that data is attached to this Report as **Exhibit 1** and is incorporated by reference.

