



Groups working to document Iowa racial profiling

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DES MOINES, Iowa -

Three nonprofit organizations announced Tuesday that they are launching a project to document racial profiling incidents in the Des Moines area.

The groups said the effort is designed to hold law enforcement and policymakers accountable.

A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy, the Iowa National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa are teaming up to organize interviews with people who said they have experienced racial profiling.

"With this project, we hope not only to document the experiences that people of color in Des Moines have had of racial profiling, but to actually map where it is occurring, when it is occurring, and identify problem officers with repeated racial profiling complaints," said Executive Director of the ACLU of Iowa Ben Stone said.

Stone said everything from stopping drivers for no apparent reason to stopping pedestrians for questioning or searches for no apparent reason will be examined.

The groups said "racial profiling refers to the discriminatory practice by law enforcement officials of targeting individuals for suspicion of crime based on the individual's race, ethnicity, religion or national origin."

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