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**C**ritical thinking is self-guided, self-disciplined thought which attempts to reason at the highest level of quality in a fair-minded way. To think critically, you need to be able to put aside any assumptions or judgments and merely analyze the information you receive. Unfortunately, in our current era, when an exchange of ideas is attempted it is often met with prejudiced ideologies and those attempts become devoid of any openness to a critical thought process.

Imagine if we could replace cancel culture with critical thinking. We would have conversations of value instead of emotional reactions which are often filled with toxicity and hate.

Here at BLUE Magazine we are committed to truth, justice, and honest dialogue for a healthy exchange of viewpoints from a variety of perspectives of interest to our readers. We believe this is the foundation in our base of knowledge and is conducive to growth through maximized understanding of the world around us.

Our writers come from a variety of backgrounds both in civilian life and within the criminal justice and law enforcement world. While we may share common experiences and observations our perspectives are often varied shedding light on a multitude of views.

In this issue Professor Peter Marina explores overcoming wokeism and cancel culture in *Police: Can You Forgive the Wokeists?* Chief Ron Camacho continues to share his leadership wisdom with *Mentorship and Coaching: A new tool for recruiting and retaining law enforcement personnel*. And don't miss our COVER STORY interview. Out front is our interview with thoughts of interest from NewsMax's Greg Kelly. Keep watch for more interviews of national significance that we are working toward!

As our never ending mission of gathering useful knowledge through learning proceeds, perhaps Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said it best when stating *"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."*

Reach out to us. We are always here for you as we continue to push forward, always improving, learning, and looking out for our fellow humankind. Be careful and stay safe as we all have so many who are counting on us.

Joel E. Gordon Managing Editor

*The Blue Magazine and Moment of Silence proudly welcome recently retired Wayne Police Officer Rick Vanderlock to the Blue team. Rick's 25-years' experience working in law enforcement, his loyalty and support for the men and women in blue, and his enthusiastic resourcefulness fit perfectly with our mission of helping those who put their lives on the line every day.*



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# Have We Forgotten 9/11 Accountability?

By Bernard Kerik

In the aftermath of the attacks on America on Sept. 11, 2001, there were two days that I recall feeling a sense of pride unlike anything I had experienced in my lifetime.

On that Friday, Sept. 14, then-President George W. Bush came to what had become known as Ground Zero and told the world that those responsible for attacking New York City, and Washington, D.C. would be held accountable.

No one doubted his words.

Six days later, I joined first lady Laura Bush at the U.S. Capitol as President Bush addressed Congress with an unprecedented message of unity, and again, in a voice heard around the world, committed to hunting down those responsible for the horrendous attacks on 9/11, and bringing them to justice.

I believed him, as did New York City's first responders, as did the family members of those lost in the attacks, and as did, anyone else who was listening.

Close to 22 years later, that unity is long gone, as is the desire to hold those accountable that were responsible for the most substantial terror attack in world history, and supporting global terrorism.

That became evident recently as Majid Khan, a Pakistani national walked out of Guantanamo Bay, on his way to Belize after spending 20 years in captivity.

"Today, I feel like I am reborn. I have reentered the world... I'm in a little bit of shock because I have been waiting so long to be free, and I can hardly believe it has finally happened." Khan said in a statement.

Khan had actually grown up in Maryland and returned to Pakistan to join al-Qaida after the Sept. 11 attacks.

He was subsequently captured close to 20 years ago and was sentenced in 2021, to 10 years in prison with time served, for allegedly cooperating with U.S. authorities in the war on terror.



---

"Nearly 3,000 people died on 9/11;  
thousands more have died since,  
both first responders in New York City,  
and in our armed forces abroad."

He pleaded guilty — conspiracy to commit murder, spying and "providing material support for terrorism."

In a 2014 U.S. Senate report, that documented the CIA's enhanced interrogation program, Khan was mentioned as being one of the detainees that was subjected torture techniques used on prisoners, at their facilities.

It is reported that Belize has a program that prepares terror prisoners from Guantanamo for resettlement into their country, supposedly for humanitarian reasons.

Really? Why?

Knowing that horror and devastation of the attacks of 9/11, Khan then decided to join al-Qaida, and conspired to murder Americans, and provide al-Qaida with intelligence and support for their jihad against the United States.

Nearly 3,000 people died on 9/11; thousands more have died since, both first responders in New York City, and in our armed forces abroad.

Khan and his comrades were responsible for those deaths, yet allowed to walk out of Guantanamo Bay, and trot off to the resort country of Belize.

What happened to being held accountable?

What happened to insuring those responsible could never carry out these acts again.

Back in 2001, then Sen. Joe Biden talked a good game. He was Mr. United! "We will not rest... we'll never forget," and "we'll never give up," but he has.

Allowing Khan and others like him to be freed, to return to the evil for which they were initially captured, is the ultimate betrayal, and for that, he should never be forgiven. 🌐

*As New York City's 40th Police Commissioner, Bernard Kerik was in command of the NYPD on September 11, 2001, and responsible for the city's response, rescue, recovery, and the investigative efforts of the most substantial terror attack in world history. His 35-year career has been recognized in more than 100 awards for meritorious and heroic service, including a presidential commendation for heroism by President Ronald Reagan, two Distinguished Service Awards from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, The Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and an appointment as Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.*



# In The News ... AGAIN

*By David A. Clarke Jr., Sheriff (Ret.)*

Periodically there are several newsworthy incidents that occur at the same time that beg for comment and as a result it causes me to cover several stories in the same column. The first such incident might sound familiar.

Los Angeles Police Department Chief of Police Michel Moore is the latest law enforcement executive to capitulate to the cop-hating crowd by issuing a departmental order that bans the display of the Thin Blue Line flag at public events and in police station lobbies. The LAPD joins a growing list of departments whose chief executive refuses to stand strong against an evil movement. Other departments that previously did it

include the Milwaukee Police Department, the Niles, Illinois Police Department, the University of Wisconsin Police Department, the Chardon, Ohio Police Department and the Golden Minnesota Police Department. Yes, here we go again. Wokeness wins out. This is an act of cowardice at a time when morale is at all-time low among front-line officers. Here was an opportunity for Moore to display strength and support for the 9,000 men and women who put on the uniform of the city of Los Angeles to protect and serve. Instead, Moore genuflected and paid homage to a domestic terrorist mob because they claim that the U.S. flag with a blue line as one of its stripes is offensive.

My initial thought was who complained and how many people complained and who are they? This is a United States flag we are talking about. The description of the complaint in an article by the news service, NewsNation, was that the flag was, “a symbol of far-right ideology and white supremacism” is repulsive. Moore said that displaying it in the lobby of police stations can be divisive and calls it a tool of extremism. This claim by Moore is putrid.

This is boilerplate language that every law enforcement executive who abandons front-line officers uses in their statement as to why they are banning what is a sacred symbol. They all have said the same thing and used the same

---

## "They claim that the U.S. flag with a blue line as one of its stripes is offensive."

excuse. They talk about building more trust between citizens and police. That useless endeavor has been going on since the '60s with no marked improvement. There has been no improvement in certain communities because this is a political construct where left-wing agitators don't ever want trust to happen. It is a perpetual grievance tool.

This flag represents the line between good and evil. It represents the service, the courage, the commitment and the sacrifice officers display when they go out to protect and serve. Many law enforcement executives have forgotten where they came from. This is reprehensible. It's a disgrace. That thin blue line is the only thing that protects law-abiding citizens in a civil society. No one else does. Politicians can't be counted on to be that force.

The people behind this move are nothing more than the mask of Black Lives Matter. Chief Moore associates the flag with the Proud Boys group. He's lying. That's a convenient excuse. Moore is unfit to lead front-line officers. He has abandoned the first rule of servant leadership, which is to put yourself second. He should focus instead on lowering crime rates and improving the quality of life in the ghetto that has become Los Angeles. He should focus on getting his officers more resources. But that is heavy lifting. To the officers of the LAPD, know this. Moore doesn't have your six, as they say. You are on your own.

A second story of a law enforcement agency succumbing to wokeness emanates out of Madison, Wisconsin. A story from a news source Empower Wisconsin indicates that information put out by police about a carjacking incident failed to indicate the race of the perpetrator in the suspect description even though it was known. Department Public Information Officer Stephanie Fryer told Empower Wisconsin that, "it would have to be super descriptive and necessary to solve the crime for race

to be included." What the hell does that mean? She further indicated that including the race in the suspect description could fit so many different people and that it could lead to jumping to conclusions. What? She said that after talking to community activists that the Madison Police Department wanted to be mindful, "that releasing the race of a suspect could lead to targeting of some audiences and people in our community." What? This is garbage and they know it. Here again I will ask, what are these community activists. They are nothing more than criminal apologists. Enablers. The same ones who want police defunded, no bail and jails shut down. That Madison police executives are kowtowing to these agitators is downright despicable.

This is ludicrous. You could say the same thing about releasing the gender or height and weight of the suspect or even the clothing. Listing the race among other indicators actually narrows the field of potential people police might want to stop and question. Clothing and facial hair are also important and relevant information to give out not only to officers but to enlist the help of the public in capturing the perpetrator. Now it's the opposite. Our country is definitely upside down.





This policy actually increases the possibility that cops will be unnecessarily stopping white, Hispanic and Asian people who might be wearing similar clothing that the suspect was wearing. Is that what we want, to be harassing people who definitely weren't involved? Is that the equity left-wing activists are trying to achieve?

The former police chief from the Madison Police Department, Mike Koval, who is not in favor of the policy, issued the following statement. He said, "Crime fighting, criminal investigations and law enforcement require facts and, often the public's help. The facts may be inconvenient but in Madison the victims of serious violent crime are frequently people of color and the suspects they describe are just as frequently people of color." Can I get an Amen please for what former Chief Koval told the news source?

Let me comment on this policy change. Is this about keeping crime under control or is it about social engineering experiments? Do they want to catch crooks or not? Do they want to reduce crime victimization or not? Police officials are always beg-

ging for the public's help in solving crime, but then won't give them all the pertinent information that is known about suspects by police at the time. This makes policing a one-way street and it makes you wonder why law-abiding citizens should even get involved in helping. And what about identifying the suspect in court? Is the race of the suspect relevant then? Have these idiots thought about the ramifications of these misguided woke policies?

God help us. 🌐

*Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. is former Sheriff of Milwaukee Co, Wisconsin, President of Americas Sheriff LLC, President of Rise Up Wisconsin INC, Board member of the Crime Research Center, author of the book Cop Under Fire: Beyond Hashtags of Race Crime and Politics for a Better America. To learn more visit [www.americassheriff.com](http://www.americassheriff.com)*



A large promotional graphic for a show called "STRAIGHT TALK!". It features a close-up portrait of Sheriff David Clarke wearing a cowboy hat. In the bottom left, there is a stylized star logo with red, black, and blue colors. In the bottom center, the text reads "STRAIGHT TALK!" in large, bold, red letters, with "WITH DAVID CLARKE" in blue and "AMERICA'S SHERIFF" in red below it. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code with a red border and the text "SCAN ME" in white on a red background.



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# **ACTIVE SHOOTER**

## **WHEN EVERY SECOND COUNTS!**





# MEMPHIS LESSON: Character Content is Most Important

By Joel E. Gordon

*I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. - Martin Luther King, Jr. (1963)*

In my effort to resist any rush to judgment and in the spirit of due process and "innocent until proven guilty" I have been reticent to comment on the Memphis case involving the death of Tyre Nichols as recorded in the viral video beating he received at the hands of five Memphis police officers. As facts continue to be exposed, it is my most sincere hope that justice is served for all involved. But the question remains...

How have we strayed away from Dr. King's wise open-minded philosophy? The "LEFT" today says we need to hire Black cops to police Black neighborhoods. In reality, color shouldn't matter ... how about hire cops with great moral character? The goal should be good, law-abiding cops — irrespective of race. All five officers charged in the beating and death of Tyre Nichols in Memphis are Black, as is Tyre Nichols, but this isn't about race but rather it is about character and standards.

Did the Memphis PD lower

standards to hire these cops for "diversity" and/or because cops are now maligned as "systemically racist" — resulting in early retirements, fewer applicants and therefore lower hiring standards to maintain manpower?



According to a source within the Memphis PD, not all of the five charged officers were hired through the customary PD structured hiring process. City leaders felt the existing process was too strict and kept certain individuals from getting jobs at the department. City leaders then began their own hiring process and pushed new hires into the agency bypassing the rigorous and time tested background requirements and testing procedures in place at the department in order to fill va-

cancies. "They would allow just pretty much anybody to be a police officer because they just want these numbers," said Alvin Davis, a former lieutenant in charge of recruiting before he retired last year out of frustration.

The department phased out requirements to have college credits, military service or previous police work. All that's now required is two years' work experience — any work experience. The department also requested state waivers to hire applicants with criminal records. And the police academy even dropped timing requirements on physical fitness drills and removed running entirely because too many people were failing.

Many young officers, before ever working with more experienced colleagues, were assigned to specialized units like the high-crime strike force involved in Nichols' arrest. It was reported that some young officers who transferred back to patrol didn't even know some basics such as how to write a traffic ticket or respond to a domestic call. "They don't know a felony from a misdemeanor," Davis said. "They don't even know right from wrong."

---

## "It's not a career for them like it was to us. It's just a job."

Police Director Cerelyn Davis, who took over in June 2021, has said supervision of less-experienced officers is an urgent need, questioning why a supervisor failed to respond to Nichols' arrest despite a policy that requires a ranking officer to go to the scene when pepper spray or a stun gun is used.

According to an Associated Press report, of the five officers now charged with second-degree murder in Nichols' beating, two had only a couple of years on the force and none had more than six years experience.

One of the officers was a former tight end on the Bethel University football team and appeared to have had at least one arrest, according to files from the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, a state oversight agency. But the date and details of the case had been redacted.

The section for arrests in the agency's file for another officer who worked at a Shelby County Corrections facility before joining the force was also redacted from the state records. He was sued for allegedly beating an inmate there, which he denied,

and the case was dismissed because papers had "not been properly served."

This is not about training any more than it is about race, but it is about character, mindset and decency as prerequisite qualities in the evaluation of those under consideration for hire. At its core it's not a police culture issue but criminal culture one. By opening the hiring process to those who are potentially a product of the inner-city drug gang culture, where the value to human life is often seen as diminished, it would seem the lower hiring standard increases the chance for bad decisions, incompetence and misconduct.

"I asked them what made you want to be the police and they'll tell you it's strictly about the money," Davis said, adding that many recruits would ask the minimum time they would actually have to serve to keep hiring bonus money. "It's not a career for them like it was to us. It's just a job."

Why the superficial diversity goal of "cops who look like the community," especially if it means lowering standards? Why should it be a benefit to hire, promote, assign or retain officers from an expanded pool based upon gender, skin color or cultural diversity rather than being based upon candidates of the highest personal character, skill set and potential for success? To maintain integrity and fair and just application of our laws by those given the responsibility for enforcement merit, above all, must be our primary guide. 🌐

*Joel E. Gordon, Managing Editor of BLUE Magazine, is a former Field Training Officer with the Baltimore City Police Department and is a past Chief of Police for the city of Kingwood, West Virginia. He has also served as vice-chair of a multi-jurisdictional regional narcotics task force. An award winning journalist, he is author of the book Still Seeking Justice: One Officer's Story and founded the Facebook group Police Authors Seeking Justice. Look him up at [stillseekingjustice.com](http://stillseekingjustice.com)*



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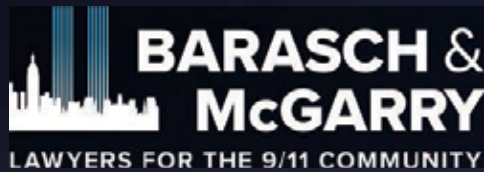
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# Oh... Those Life-Sized Cutouts!

By Dale Gabriel

**N**o matter where you are, a party, doing a program at a school, meeting people for the first time, they always ask the same question, "Did you ever shoot someone?" As a police officer, you hope than answer is no. If you are forced to shoot someone, you are trained to shoot to "stop the threat." This is something that no police officer ever really wants to do. Most of us never have, but a lot of us have come close.

We all know of the dangerous situations that police face; traffic stops, domestics, warrant service, gang incidents and it is getting worse every day. One of my least-favorite calls was a residential alarm. More often than not, they are nothing, but you never know. You cannot assume that. You always have to be ready for absolutely anything.

So, on this particular midnight shift, my partner and I respond to an alarm at a residence in a pretty high-income area. Upon arrival, I immediately notice the front door open slightly. This is always a bit of a no-win situation. Are the owners home? If so, am I going to scare the crap out of them? Are they going to be armed and think someone is intruding? Did someone break in? Did they see me pull in? Are they inside, watching me, waiting for me? A thousand thoughts go through your mind. I had been in this situation many times before and ended up scaring families and children, oftentimes in bed. Before making entry, you try to go through every

scenario in your mind. Probably the most important factor in being a police officer is the ability to make quick decisions and immediately react to what happens.

So, this is a location in the middle of a rural area, a housing plan with this residence at the end of a cul-de-sac. It's a huge two-story house. It is going to take forever for us to clear it. No other police departments were close by. It's just my partner and me. We enter, guns drawn. We slowly proceed room to room. It's a dark night. Not much lighting, except a little bit on the front of the house from a street light. This is one type of incident that makes me think. I have to use my flashlight to look around, but that makes me a sitting duck, if someone is hiding, or laying in wait. They are going to see me before I see them.

So, we clear the first room. Nothing. And the second, and third. I make my way down a long hallway to a room in the front corner of the house. It is so tough going into rooms like this and having no idea what you are going to find. I motion to my partner that I will check this room out. The door is open a couple feet. I peek inside. From the glow of the street light, I can see a figure. Someone standing there near the window. He was probably standing there watching us the entire time. I motion to my partner to come over. He peeks in and sees the same thing. I wanted to double-check. Sometimes in situations like this, your mind plays tricks on you.



## "Did you ever shoot someone?"

We step back for a minute and quietly discuss the situation. Make a plan of attack. Did he know we were right outside the door? Are we going to have the element of surprise when we enter the room Or, did he know we were there, and he was waiting for us? Was he armed? Only one of us could go through that door at a time. The second had to be ready and have the first guy's back, but you also had to be wary of crossfire if something happened. You have to be ready to respond to any and all situations.

We decided we were ready to go. We will identify ourselves, and then proceed accordingly with regard to how he reacted. I got closer to the

door where I had a decent view of him. I called out. "State police; identify yourself." Nothing. A second time, with a little more "colorful" language. Still nothing. You get a lump in your throat. Your heart starts pounding in your chest, so hard that you think others can hear it. You get a massive "pucker factor." You get an adrenaline rush. I whisper to my partner, "Be ready. I'm going in."

Gun drawn with flashlight ready to go, I think of my wife and daughter for a few seconds. I say a little prayer, asking God to protect me. Then, I am off into the room quickly, as least as quickly as a fat guy in a big bulky uniform can be. I shine my light and

come as close to killing anyone as I had ever done in my career to that point. That life-size cutout of Joe Paterno was nearly a goner! 🙏

*Dale Gabriel is a retired patrol and community services officer with the Pennsylvania State Police. After 25+ years of service, in retirement, he has been working on a book of his many PSP memories. He also coaches a baseball team in a Miracle League for those with special needs. He holds a communication degree with English minor from Saint Vincent College in Western Pennsylvania.*



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# NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK IN ACTION

By Michael D. Boll

The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) is a mobile outreach team that aggressively seeks out veterans in need. For our charity to be successful, we need to have teammates who love our veterans the same as we do. Both Joe Motes, owner of the Red Cadillac Restaurant, and Paul Carvalho, owner of Paul's Garage, are two men who have always put others first and constantly help our veterans live a better way of life.

Joseph Montes has been with the NJVN since its creation. I met Joe in 2014 and have worked with him and the Red Cadillac ever since. Joe and the members of the restaurant are a family that treats people like they are a part of the family. Joe has so much respect for our veterans that he feels obligated to host regular feeding events for the men and women who have served our great nation.

For the last few years, Joe and the Red Cadillac family have hosted various feeding events for disabled veterans from nearly all the VA shelters and memorial homes. Also, they delivered food directly to disabled veterans who were unable to get to the restaurant. Providing food is not the only thing that Joe and Red Cadillac do for our veterans; they have purchased numerous pieces of equipment for our recreational therapy activities. Over the years, Joe has hired veterans and has helped them get through some difficult times. Our charity is blessed to have the Red Cadillac in our family.

Paul Carvalho joined the team in the beginning as well. I met Paul when he reached out to me about donating a newer car to a disabled veteran. Paul and his employees have been providing car repair assistance to veterans for a long time. They have always gone out of their way to help veterans and show them gratitude for serving our country. However, Paul and his staff have done a lot more for veterans by hosting fundraising events and donating money for our recreational therapy activities. Paul also has hired veterans and treats his entire staff like family. The NJVN couldn't be happier to be a part of this family as well.

Even though both Joe and Paul aren't veterans, the NJVN is fortunate to have teammates like this who step up and help our uniformed heroes live a better way of life.

If you are interested in joining the team, please send me your name, email and phone number to [NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com) or call us at 973-332-1556. 🌐

*Michael D. Boll is a retired police sergeant in NJ. He previously served as a United States Marine and is a Gulf War veteran. He is the founder of Operation Rebound Racing Team, a nonprofit organization that helps wounded veterans and first responders enjoy a better quality of life.*





# NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

## WHAT WE DO

New Jersey Veterans Network is a group of volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live a better life. The mission of NJVN is to create a system of Community Veteran Liaisons (CVL) whose role is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs.

**DEDICATED TO HELPING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES LIVE BETTER LIVES**



## OUR MISSION

Our charity is comprised of members from the NJ PBA, NJ FOP, NJ FMBA, NJ American Legion, NJ VFW, and various other military and first responder organizations. We are endorsed and backed by numerous state and local elected officials. NJVN relies solely on motivated volunteers. The most important contribution is to have people become a part of the charity. We are always looking for volunteers and are more than happy to make our network even bigger.

## CONTACT INFO

[www.NJVN.org](http://www.NJVN.org)  
[NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com)  
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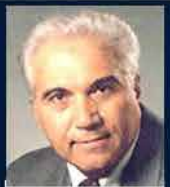
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# DEPARTMENTAL CULTURE:

## Maintaining Integrity

By Monica Eaton

**A**s a young police recruit, I remember being terrified of the background investigation process. Wracking my brain to make sure every piece of information was in the packet, the location and municipality of my first speeding ticket as a 16-year-old driver, every single address I ever lived at, and any type of office supply I had ever mistakenly taken home and not returned. I was terrified that anything could disqualify me from the job of my dreams.

Recruits go from being terrified to make a mistake or get their academy “smoked” with conditioning to figuring out how to be lazy and cut corners. One will sit in a parking lot watching Netflix, while another stays “tactically 10-6” all shift but magically appears on every in-progress call. Many will be inconvenienced by regular in-service training and fail to do more than the minimum to get by.

Granted, this does not dismiss the officers who keep their integrity and hard work and continue to do the right thing. But in light of the recent events that call officer integrity into question, how do we go from one extreme to the next? I’d like to propose a theory: the work environment. Another thing we take note of as recruits are the stories of officers from the past: The one who had sex

on duty and never got punished. The one who continuously talks himself out of taking reports and is rarely heard on the radio. The one you get told to leave alone because he doesn’t like to be bothered. The one who got away with some questionable tactics but was seen as the badass who caught the bad guy anyway.



Recruits come in the new starry-eyed little brothers to the many new big brothers they look up to and want to be like. They get enmeshed in the culture of the department, who show them how to do things, and what things you probably shouldn’t do, but might get away with anyway. The administration often reaffirms some of the norms by sweeping some punishable things under the rug for the well-liked “good old boy.”

It’s all fun and games until someone gets hurt. Due to a lack of training or often a slippage of department integrity, an officer, civilian or suspect gets hurt or killed. The media storm swirls yet again into questions of the people behind the

badge and who we really are. How do we stop the cycle? We speak up.

We speak up for the good and well-intentioned officers who do this thankless job daily and always to the best of their ability. We speak up to continue to serve and protect the people we took an oath for. We speak up to encourage and maintain positive work environments that encourage continued training and punish the misconduct equally and fairly. We speak up to help weed out those who lack integrity and who should never be there in the first place. At the end of the day, we can only control what we do. Will you be the next to speak up, or will you sit back and watch the storm continue? 🌪️

*Monica Eaton is the owner/CEO of Five-0 Fierce and Fit which creates online nutrition and fitness programs designed to help female first responders lose fat, gain strength and take back their confidence in 90 days because “your family depends on you to be fit for duty.” Using her six-year Oklahoma law enforcement experience along with her 15-year background in fitness and nutrition she helps female first responders reach their full potential in life and career. Look her up on Instagram @five0.fierce.and.fit.*



# BLUE

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

## BACKING THE BLUE: NEWSMAX'S GREG KELLY

*By Daniel Del Valle, George Beck, Ph.D.  
and and Rick Vanderlock*

*Image courtesy of Greg Kelly*

The BLUE Magazine recently spoke with NewsMax broadcaster and author Greg Kelly. He is the son of former NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly. In this intriguing cover story interview, we discuss his latest book *Justice for All: How the Left is Wrong About Law Enforcement*, the current status of law enforcement in modern society, growing up the son of a law enforcement icon, his military service, spirituality and much more. In this candid interview, you will find that Greg Kelly's passion, humbleness, and support for law enforcement are unmatched. Thank you Greg Kelly and NewsMax for standing up for law enforcement and the rule of law.



Here are some highlights of our discussion...

**The BLUE Magazine: We wish to congratulate you on your newly released book *Justice for All: How the Left is Wrong About Law Enforcement*. Let's begin. Who is Greg Kelly?**

**Greg Kelly:** Well, thanks for asking. Greg Kelly is a broadcast journalist based in New York City, married, father of two girls, ages three and one. I have been in journalism. I call myself actually a talk show host, not a journalist, quite frankly, for a number of reasons. I've been doing this for 23 years. Prior to that, I was a Marine Corps officer for nine years — active duty, flew Harrier jets, deployed all over the world.

I grew up in the suburbs of New York City with my mother and father. My father, of course, Ray Kelly, is the longest serving police commissioner in New York City history. And that's a little bit about who I am. And I am very grateful to God for putting me in a position where I can pursue the truth without fear.

**What was it like growing up in a law enforcement family?**

My father wasn't strict. Some people have this idea that a cop is going to be really strict in an authoritarian type figure. He wasn't. He was very funny and we all had a great time. I write in the book about how I was only vaguely aware of what he did until I saw him in action one day take out his

gun pursuing a purse snatcher. It was like the wildest thing I had ever seen, and I thought he was the coolest guy in the world. And I was especially impressed that by the time he got home after this episode, which I still remember, and he was done talking about it, I mean, he had moved on to like, you know, do we need milk? So it was a very small part of his life. I was proud of him and I was very intrigued by his line of work. It's interesting, it was somewhat looked down upon at the time.

**What led you to journalism?**

I was always interested in current events. I always would as a form of escapism, really, just not escapism from anything negative. But it was an adventure. Read



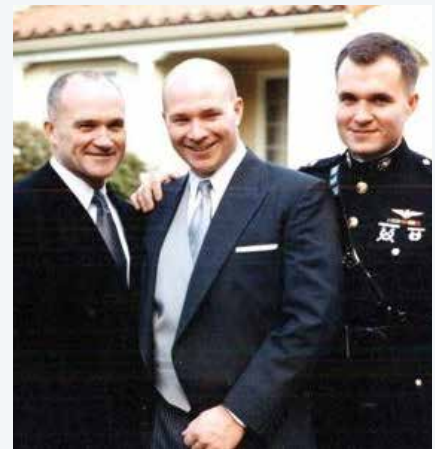
"I learned very early on that most of the time the information out there is wrong about almost anything. And I learned this firsthand."

about things in faraway places and watch TV and things outside your scope and outside your world. And I was just drawn to it. It was very interesting and I thought maybe I could do that myself someday. But it seemed very silly to pursue journalism as a 22-year-old and sit there asking questions when you don't know anything. You haven't lived life, and too many people in media have just spent their time kind of critiquing and judging and shooting their mouths off without ever having been responsible for anything. And so I went into the military and I'm very grateful that I did. I got so much out of it.

**Law enforcement officers often feel like they're involved in a strict censorship where active duty officers can't say much in terms of**

**opinion. Officers really have to toe the line and be real careful with what they say. As a journalist, have you experienced censorship and are people trying to actively censor your opinions?**

Well, anybody who works for anybody is an employee, and that has to be respected to a certain degree. I understand that you can't have everybody or you shouldn't have everybody out there just saying things online and that kind of thing. I feel like Facebook and Twitter present real challenges to law enforcement management. I don't know what the benefit is really to have everybody sounding off like that. Look, censorship is alive and well. We all know that. And people are scared and cancel culture is real and that's very un-Amer-



ican. Now, having said that, let's face it, 30 years ago, 40 years ago, cops, citizens, you know, we weren't writing letters to the editor all the time. You know what I mean? We just weren't, like only certain individuals do that — it's become so easy to express your opinion. So there is censorship and it is wrong. But it's very easy to put your opinion out there more than ever before. And sometimes some of those opinions probably should have been maybe curated or honed a little bit.

**Tons of misinformation. We see that all the time with social media, even in the aftermath of law enforcement events — right away, misinformation usually dominates all the feeds. And then we release body camera footage or a public information officer or the law enforcement executive comes out front trying to scale some of that back. Misinformation is a real problem. How do you get around it without curtailing free speech?**



Images courtesy of Greg Kelly

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You know, it's always been a problem, though. Like I remember watching the news with my father and sometimes being on the inside of a story where he knew something and just shook his head. So I learned very early on that most of the time the information out there is wrong about almost anything. And I learned this firsthand. I was interning for Rudy Giuliani in 1989 when I was in college, and I was on his campaign when he was running for mayor, his first losing campaign for mayor. And I was just amazed at how often the media just had it totally wrong. They did not know what they were talking about. And also just about all of their stories were about who's up, who's down. You know, a poll came out, this endorsement, that endorsement. It was not about policy. It was not about substance. It was all horse race. So they've been wrong and superficial and dumb mainstream media for a very long time.

**Speak directly to the police officers who are going to read your book. Tell them what your book is about.**

Directly to the police officers. I would say, number one, thank you for your consideration. Thank you for your service. I would say I'm heartbroken by the moment that we're in the middle of right now. Society has completely lost its way. All of the problems are being put on the backs of cops. It's ludicrous. It's been done for cynical political advantage. It's been around for decades. But the person who put it into overdrive was Barack Obama, somebody I actually voted for in 2008. I admit that.

**Where do you see law enforcement headed in, say, the next five years from where we've been?**

Where are we going? They know that defund the police is not a catchy slogan. Nobody likes that idea. But their policies are still very much in line with defund. And what happened in Memphis not too long ago has renewed what had been a somewhat moribund kind of movement. They are the instruments of a racist authoritarian state, white supremacy. The



*Images courtesy of Greg Kelly*



Image courtesy of Greg Kelly



fact that they were black cops gave them even more of an opportunity to say, huh, the entire system is racist and must be dismantled. And they are embracing really crazy groups. They're being a bit more sophisticated in how they articulate it. They don't say defund, but if you look at the fine print, it's about defund. I don't know what's going to happen short term. I'm very pessimistic. Long term, I'm somewhat optimistic. But law enforcement, as you know, has been essentially delegitimized in the eyes of a very powerful interest in America. And I don't know what's going to happen next.

**What's your advice to some law enforcement executives considering our current climate?**

I was asked a similar question recently. And, look,

I'm not a law enforcement professional, but I would speak to the political leadership and that they must remain committed to appointing the very best people for these positions. And I have seen the opposite and optics, racial politics, all this stuff about, you know, it would be nice to have a woman, it would be nice to have this. It would be nice to have that. I think that shortchanges everybody. If you focus on the exterior, you miss the important stuff. And I see a lot of people being put into senior roles in law enforcement that don't belong there.

**Any reason why you didn't choose to join the force?**

I thought about it rather seriously. By the time I was eligible, my father had already been a two-star chief and he was already really making a name for himself. To go into that career I thought would be tough with him as such a star, you know? And I was also really intrigued by the Marine Corps. And once I was in the Marine Corps, I realized my dad had actually joined the police department before he joined the Marine Corps. It was almost too late for me. And so I followed his footsteps into the Marine Corps, but not into the police department. It was basically that I needed to kind of cut my own path.

**The safety of the New York City is a big topic lately. We speak to a lot of officers and they'll tell you that things are getting out of control here and many cities across the country. Let's say Greg Kelly is now the mayor of the city. How does he fix this?**

Well, number one, I'd get the right police commissioner and I would talk to my father about that. I think you need a police commissioner with a great deal of administrative managerial experience for a city this size. I think you have to have somebody, possibly a lawyer.

"I would say that all your answers are available.  
God wants to help. And he's right there.  
And the most powerful, the ultimate force knows you,  
knows all of your problems, knows exactly  
what you're going through."



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"Society has completely lost its way. All of the problems are being put on the backs of cops. It's ludicrous. It's been done for cynical political advantage. It started, it's been around for decades."

**Are you going to run for mayor one day here in NYC?**

So, look, I was seriously thinking about it. Here's my why I probably won't. I feel like the mail-in voting — the systems are such that post-2020, they're rigged. I mean, an up or down vote on one day in November with a year and a half lead up mano a mano — Greg Kelly versus Eric Adams, I could beat him. But in this culture where you send out the ballots to everybody. You can't, you can't compete with that. I mean, that's just so it's kind of a shame.

**How do you prepare yourself on a daily basis to be resourceful, to actually do what you do every day?**

I just spent a lot of time thinking and reading, thinking, thinking

**About?**

Kind of everything. I mean, it's a lot of thought. It's a lot of thought, and it's a lot of wondering, to be honest.

**Do you ever do the wrong thinking? And then you take it back. Do you ever**

**add things up wrong?**

Every now and then, I think I missed an opportunity. Or maybe I should have thought more about something. For instance, COVID, I kind of like, went along with the restrictions. I came here every day. I worked through COVID, so I didn't feel the pinch. It wasn't like I was home not working. If I was, I think I would have been really fired up. So I didn't have that. The vaccine. My wife said, you should take it. I took it. I had a horrible reaction to the first one. I mean, really bad. She's has a degree in microbiology. I trusted her and I think that's something I could have possibly gotten more involved in and I could have been more skeptical of it. I asked Fauci, though, a very key question. Early on, Fauci was telling everybody that this was nothing to worry about. And I got him to basically say that on January 28th of 2020, I said, we don't have to worry about this one, right? And he said, no, you really don't. Actually, Greg, it's we have it well in hand. He said that. So yeah, I arguably I missed the boat on COVID. I wish I was a bit more vigilant.

**Many officers are taking their lives,**



Images courtesy of Greg Kelly

Images courtesy of Greg Kelly



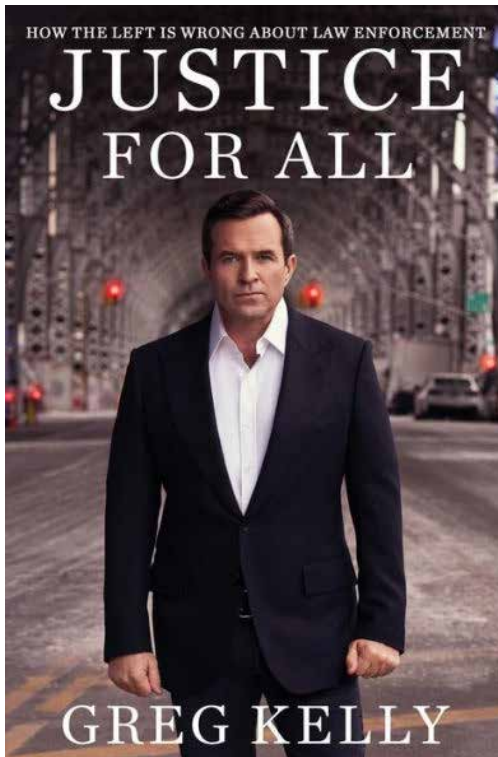
**and if they're not taking their lives, a lot of them are living unhealthy lives — domestic violence, depression, PTSD, though some are not as drastic as others — but we have seen that many are living unhealthy lifestyles today. And if the next step after that usually will become suicide, what would you tell the cop today facing these challenges?**

Well, get help right away, number one. If anyone's obviously suicidal, don't do it, make the call. But I was living a very unhealthy lifestyle not very long ago, six, seven years ago. I was drinking way too much. I was eating terrible, terribly. I was just going from one casual situation to the next. But I started reading the Bible out of the blue. Quite frankly, somebody had given me a Bible 10 years earlier. I'm like, whoa, what's this? I don't need this. When did you become such a church lady? I felt I was insulted that they gave me the Bible. And long story short, I started reading it. And out of curiosity, and it's like just your miracles started happening. And I realized, like, God is real. He's talking to me. And he'd been trying to get my attention for a very long time. And I had been ignoring him, going my own way. So I would say that all your answers

are available. God wants to help. And He's right there. And the most powerful, the ultimate force knows you, knows all of your problems, knows exactly what you're going through, knows what you've been—knows the good stuff you've done and the bad stuff you've done. He still loves you, wants to help. So that's what I would say, get into the Bible.

### **What would you want your kids to remember you for?**

It's my primary concern and wish that they get close to God, that they don't make the mistake that I made the mistakes thinking I could do it on my own. He makes everything easier, everything better, and He's right there. And it's so easy to listen to the world and say, well, that's not cool or that's not fun, I don't want any part of that. I know that part of their lives are going to have to go through that—it's just human nature. Maybe that will make their faith stronger one day. And I just hope I, I hope they love me and I hope they also like me, you know. 🌍







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# BLUE

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## ANCHOR OF HOPE

*By Daniel Del Valle, George Beck, Ph.D.  
and and Rick Vanderlock*



# COVER STORY

Blue Magazine recently spoke with Rabbi Abe Friedman — a well-revered police chaplain for multiple agencies. Over the past two and one half decades, Rabbi Friedman has done extensive work for the law enforcement community. What unfolded from our conversations is a story like no other here. Blue Magazine salutes Rabbi Friedman for his selfless life of service to others. We appreciate you.

## The BLUE Magazine: Tell us about your work as a rabbi working with the law enforcement community?

**Rabbi Friedman:** So, my late father, who passed away 10 years ago, was a chaplain for law enforcement. I grew up in an environment where chaplaincy was the life and the fabric of my family helping out law enforcement. I grew up in upstate New York, and I've seen my father in action helping law enforcement. Today, I think the law enforcement community knows how beneficial it is to work with a chaplain, work with a rabbi, work with a pastor or a clergy or a community leader. I watched my father and he was my mentor and role model as to how you need to make a mark in this life by helping others. Because of the mission that my father started, changing people's lives for the better is something that I will do, hopefully till my last day.

## Very intriguing. Tell us more.

**Rabbi Friedman:** So, for example, a chaplain's role is from praying with somebody before he passes away until officiating at a police officer's funeral, making sure that the family members are notified correctly upon a death of an officer is another very difficult and challenging duty that a chaplain has. Chaplains have been on the forefront when a crisis happens. Obviously, law



All Images Courtesy of Rabbi Abe Friedman

"I'm not 100% perfect and I'm not 100% talented.  
And I can't resolve and solve the world's problem on my own.  
We all need to work together to do so."



"I was trying to think about why would a person, an African American agent or officer or a Christian or any other faith reach out to a rabbi. And I think the answer is that sometimes they feel even more comfortable to reach out when you go through something difficult."

enforcement are very engaged and involved. And in solving a crime, investigating a crime, handling a situation, traffic control and many other duties and obligations. But the life of a chaplain and the duties of a chaplain sometimes get very difficult after the investigation is over. For example, going to notify a family that their loved one passed away in a car accident or in a shooting, that's one of the most difficult and challenging things to do as a chaplain. So that's one of our roles. Second thing is chaplains are called upon by many officers or agents who go through difficult things in their life. Suicidal thoughts. Domestic violence troubles at home. Alcohol addiction. Many other difficult situations

that chaplains are called anonymously.

**So what's your reach like? Obviously you're in a state level, the federal level, like what is kind of work are you doing in terms of your reach as a chaplain?**

I started in a small police department in upstate New York, a sheriff's department that my father was a chaplain for a long time. And I helped my father visiting the inmates and praying with inmates that asked for prayer services. That's how I started this going back 25 years ago and ever since. With the help of God, I think that law enforcement on all levels, federal, state and local levels, have realized the benefit of having a chaplain on board. So I've been





dealing with agencies such as on the federal level. I work with the U.S. Attorney's office, with the FBI. I'm a chaplain with the Department of Justice. And I work with my local police department or the NYPD. Also, New Jersey State Police, which is statewide. I also work with many correctional facilities as a chaplain where I get invited to a sensitive situation to speak to an inmate that has issues or speak to an officer or a deputy that's going through a hard time

**Let's continue on that idea of officers who are going through some difficult times or some maybe have stresses at work, either from on the job or personal situations.**

My proudest accomplishment that I can say stand here today in front of you and say that I, with the help of God, saved 241 individuals from committing suicide over the past 20 years. I think it's God's calling.

**How does you being a rabbi affect the relationship with an officer who is not Jewish?**

It's funny you ask that, because if I had to make a survey in my head over the past 20 years on the percentages of the culture or the background that I helped in law enforcement, I can say that 80% of the officers — law enforcement members I helped were not from the Jewish faith. And I was trying to think about, why would a person, an African American agent or officer or a Christian or any other faith reach out to a rabbi. And I think the answer is that sometimes they feel even more comfortable to reach out when you go through something difficult. You feel you feel you're on your lowest stage in your life and you would not want to open up to somebody of the same faith perhaps thinking that



they will look upon him or her as a failure? So by having another faith such as a rabbi deal with the problem, I think that gives the officer some comfort level.

**So you would encourage anyone even from different faiths to reach out to you?**

Absolutely. And to be quite frank, me as being a Jewish chaplain, a rabbi, I've reached out to pastors and imams and asked for guidance myself. I'm not embarrassed. This is God's calling. We're all children of God. We're doing God's work and we all are on one team. I'm not 100% perfect and I'm not 100% talented. And I can't resolve and solve the world's problem on my own. We all need to work together to do so.

**Blue magazine with our partner nonprofit Moment of Silence has hosted many events where our main goal is to combat blue suicide. From your perspective, what is it regarding the spiritual component that can change an officer's**

**direction, somebody who's heading down toward a very dark despair, possibly ending their life?**

Great question. Have you ever realized that inmates or someone who is incarcerated all of a sudden discover God. Does it make sense? He's in jail for murder or killing a baby — God forbid. Or his own wife. My God... right? I think that's going to answer your question. Spirituality sometimes comes when you are on your lowest level in life — when you have nothing else to hold on.

Obviously, me being a person of faith I pray and embrace God every single day. I know that God is leading me. And I pray that he should lead me every single day. When you get to a level in life before you pass away, you can see if you watch these horrific plane crashes, you see everybody prays, regardless who you are, regardless if you believe in God or not, why there's not one person in that situation that sits and says, hey, I don't believe in God, why should I pray? Because you get to a level in life that all you can do now is pray and



surrender — surrender to God. So the answer to your question is spirituality when you are in some level in life that we should never be, you really feel sometimes that all you have is God. That's the only way that someone can ever get out of a bad situation and get lifted up. It's the only way.

And for those members that seemingly don't believe in a God, I always say, be your own guy — be you, pray and speak to yourself. Sometimes people need to reconcile themselves and say you know what this is the situation I am in. And let me lift myself up. Let me bring myself, my soul, into a peaceful place in life. And you could do this in many different ways. Pray. Exercise. Do something that will bring your body, mind and soul and heart and soul to a place that you feel at peace and you feel that you can get lifted up. So, regardless of your faith, regardless of who you believe and don't believe, find peace in your life. And it's so, so important that everyone, even, you know, a person of faith like me, I go through challenges. Sometimes prayer does not help me get lifted up. But you know what helps? Just thinking of my situation. Thinking of my life. Obviously positive thoughts help bring positive thoughts. And count your blessings and that will lift you up.

**Picture an officer today who is going to end his or her life in that deep, dark despair. Take the opportunity right now to speak directly into that officer's mind. What exactly would you say?**

Two most important things that help me. And every situation is different. Obviously, one, bring your mind, your thought process out of the dark place and think about all the positive things in life. And every person can find something positive that happened to them. Even if you're in a dark place, even let's say it's true that you're a failure, you can still find something to bring hope. You have a beautiful wife, you have children, you have grandkids. Your parents bring memories in your brain that's going to put you in a place in life that's going to bring you joy. That's the first thing you need to get your brain out of the situation. Think of the consequences you're going to put not you but what your family through after you're gone. If you continue to do the horrific decision that you're about to do, is that fair to your loved ones, to your father, to your mother, to your brother, to your son, to your wife or your daughter? How will they remember you?

And most of the time, 99% of the time, again, there are situations that unfortunately, you're dealing with severe mental damages and mental illnesses that an officer or a member of law enforcement needs to overcome and needs professional medical help. But for the most part, somebody that has that temporary thing that didn't go well for them and all of a sudden they want to end their life, I really highly encourage them to look at the positive things and count our blessings that will take them out to a better place. We need to buy time in these difficult moments. Time is our biggest victory of those moments.

**Chaplain, you mentioned you go through challenges. What are some examples of challenges you go through?**









"Spirituality sometimes comes when you are on your lowest level in life-when you have nothing else to hold on to."





The two biggest challenges for me as a chaplain, I can't speak for others, but I think others can probably attest to what I'm about to say. First, dealing with a lot of pain, a lot of suffering and sadness — hearing people cry, hearing and seeing families suffer and go through hard times, sometimes takes a big toll on me. So that's challenge number one. The second challenge is being rejected. That hurts a lot. Sometimes the rejection of hey, you know who needs a rabbi? Why is a rabbi here? You know, rabbi, you're not an officer. And that rejection knocks me down and knocks me down badly. So those are the two challenges that challenge that a chaplain.

**You said that you saved 241 police officers from committing suicide, which is amazing. Thank you for what you've done. Often time officers feel intimidated to speak. Officers are worried that their administration is going to find out that they're having troubles. Do you keep everything that's spoken to you confidential?**

The first thing that you need is trust. If you don't have trust, you lose. A rabbi, a pastor, and an imam knows a lot more than your own family member about you and you need to remember that if I will even once go to a superior, let's say a trooper will call me that he has trouble and potentially considering committing suicide. God forbid, if I go and leak that out or I go for even for rightful reasons, tell his colonel or his captain or his chief, that's going to spread like wildfire. And then there's no way I can be a rabbi sitting with you here after 25 years. and the community still trusts me if I didn't keep everything confidential. So I want that officer to understand that if I don't have that trust, I have absolutely nothing — that I'd lose everything that I ever worked for. So the officer can trust me that I'm on his or her side. All I want is to get them through it. And the worst thing for me to do is to go and speak to their bosses and then potentially destroy their career or make it worse. That's not my mission.

**What are your personal goals? What would you like to see accomplished?**

My mission is to spread kindness. Build bridges between the communities and the law enforcement and then stand united against hate. Unfortunately, every community, regardless of your faith, suffers from hate crime, hate and bias crimes. And I think that is a lot now because of COVID. People lost jobs, people lost loved ones, and they're not mentally stable. And the first thing they would do is turn against somebody who's different, different faith of you. And that's why I believe there's a huge increase



in hate crimes all over the country. Anti-Semitism is on the rise. I think last year, 2022 was recorded one of the highest numbers of incidents against the Jewish faith. So my mission is to stand united against hate, to root out hate, because those who hate one faith hate all. They don't discriminate. They don't like an African American more than they like a Jewish rabbi. If you have hate, haters will hate and will hate equally. So if we can stand united, one voice, regardless of your faith, that would be one of my proudest marks and missions in life — to work together with all faiths, to make it a better place, a place to live, and obviously spread kindness, help out people, and help out those members of law enforcement in need. And I'll be very happy if I can. Just those two or three missions accomplished the rest of my life will be very happy. Very productive. 🌍





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# POLICE:

## *Can You Forgive the Wokeists?*

By Peter Marina, Ph.D.

The dark specter of “wokeism” is upon us, serving to further divide the American people from developing the solidarity needed to take back control of our country.

We’ve reached an end stage of modernity where corporate oligarchy has finally secured power and control over our entire society. The American people, largely disenfranchised from the decision-making processes that shape our lives and future, are impotent to impart real material, structural change. Years of media propaganda, culture wars and identity politics further aggravate divisions among the people and prevent any form of class consciousness that can challenge our political and economic elites from arising.

“Wokeists” take their frustrations out on those who can be a helping hand, like police officers, in advancing a better world built on the 1948 U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

As the last remnants of our democracy vanish, the elite on both sides of the political spectrum collude with their corporate masters to secure endless wealth, profit and power. These clever elites’ preferred strategy to secure endless power is class division — with ever newer and more creative ways to divide us.

Wokeism is their useful and divisive ideology, along with their other ill-conceived concepts like diversity and inclusion (which are almost never truly diverse nor inclusive). Those who refuse to submit to their secular gospel get censored and banished to purgatory.

Many privileged media pundits and woke, liberal, feminist academics (who are usually neither woke, left nor feminist) serve as the tools of corporate oligarchy — “useful idiots” who exacerbate class division.

In what public intellectual Chris Hedges calls “woke imperialism,” identity politics and diversity serve as “gimmicks” mainstream journalists and academics use

to further their careers exploiting the suffering of “black” and “brown” people while doing “boutique activism” that never solves our structural problems and furthers division among the people. As Hedges states:

The militarists, corporatists, oligarchs, politicians, academics and media conglomerates champion identity politics and diversity because it does nothing to address the systemic injustices or the scourge of permanent war that plague the U.S. It is an advertising gimmick, a brand, used to mask mounting social inequality and imperial folly. It busies liberals and the educated with a boutique activism, which is not only ineffectual but exacerbates the divide between the privileged and a working class in deep economic distress. The haves scold the have-nots for their bad manners, racism, linguistic insensitivity and garishness, while ignoring the root causes of their economic distress. The oligarchs could not be happier.

Among the American people, including police officers, we have an “us against them” mentality that is real but misplaced. We’ve learned to resent or distrust our own brothers and sisters based on concepts like race, gender, sexual orientation, sex, ethnicity, documentation status, political affiliation and so forth. While the political and corporate elite pull the strings, wokeists happily play their tune.

Many universities (especially within the humanities and liberal arts), that once stood for debate and critique, now cower to power, evade real debate and refuse to confront the great challenges facing our civilization while they descend into the emptiness of identity politics and cancel culture. According to the great banished scholar Norman Finkelstein, identity politics lacks intellectual substance, and further, prevents class solidarity from emerging that unites people to create real structural change. In his latest book on cancel culture, Finkelstein



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argues that Barack Obama and his “obedient followers” serve as the quintessential example of identity politics’ final product, that is, standing for nothing except skin color and a hip veneer (and an ingenuine, plastic smile, I might add) while supporting the “corrupt status quo.” This status quo is the support for those political and economic elites that Adam Smith calls the “masters of mankind,” who abandoned the American people.

While identity politics serve as a tool to divide us, our real enemies are those political and economic elites who use these tools to wage class warfare against the American people. They seek endless profit, war, power and domination — whatever the cost.

Working — and middle-class Americans are on the same team. We need to put aside our relatively petty differences and unite under common causes that advance our collective interests.

Journalist Glenn Greenwald explains what became of our mainstream journalists — an explanation that can be further applied to mainstream academics:

They have insufficient talent or skill, and even less desire, to take on real power centers: the military-industrial complex, the CIA and FBI, the clandestine security state, Wall Street, Silicon Valley monopolies, the corrupted and lying corporate media outlets they serve. So settling on this penny-ante, trivial bullshit — tattling, hall monitoring, speech policing: all in the most anti-intellectual, adolescent and primitive

ways — is all they have. It’s all they are. It’s why they have fully earned the contempt and distrust in which the public holds them.

It’s unfortunate, and breaks the heart of this romantic liberal arts scholar, but many of my fellow academics have fallen into these sophomoric, churlish acts of “tattling, hall monitoring, speech policing: all in the most anti-intellectual, adolescent and primitive ways.” They do this in the most cowardly fashion behind the backs of their own colleagues, just like they do to the police who protect them. As English philosopher Aldous Huxley stated: “The surest way to work up a crusade in favor of some good cause is to promise people they will have a chance of maltreating someone. To be able to destroy with good conscience, behave badly and call your bad

behavior ‘righteous indignation,’ the height of psychological luxury, the most delicious of moral treats.”

Attacking police and unorthodox scholars have become the delicious moral treats wokeists devour. In their performative, sacramental rituals and chants, they want to force their “wokeist” secular faith on the masses and cast out the demons who challenge their dogma and orthodoxy. But we will not waver until personal belief meets objective reality.

While I’ve personally, as an unconventional scholar and Cuban American, experienced this passive-aggressive, cowardly, “behind your back” bullying and maltreatment, I know that so-called wokeists are not my enemy; indeed, we are on the same side. They are my brothers and sisters, too, in class solidarity. They are our brothers and sisters.







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## "I believe police officers can spread their wings to usher in meaningful change in the world."

Wokeist liberals, a misnomer, attack real leftist and unorthodox academics, Trump supporters and conservative scholars, as well as their favorite targets today: police officers and conservative Americans. They attack anyone who does not agree with their political orthodoxy, identity politics, anti-intellectual ideology and virtue-signaling.

Police officers, while these wokeists might be annoying, and perhaps worse, they are not our real enemy. They, like many of us, have lost control of their ability to shape the world beyond their cultural milieu and the private orbit of their own lives. They, too, are concerned about an uncertain future where nothing is guaranteed. They, too, fight desperately to hold on to all the fading securities and promises many of us once enjoyed.

I've forgiven the wokeists for their unwarranted attacks and baseless accusations. I believe police officers too must forgive and find common ground with the people — including those you police and the wokeists scapegoating you — to develop a sense of solidarity to confront the challenges of an increasingly uncertain world. You can rise above their pettiness and serve as examples of what true solidarity looks like in this age of discontent. With class unity, we can put aside our differences and fight together against our true oppressors to create a world in our collective image.

I've been working on the idea of transforming policing from mainly an institution of social control to a human rights organization that protects and serves the American people — all of us. I believe police officers can spread their wings to usher in meaningful change in the world. Just like the best teachers do the hard work of giving the youth life-changing, mind-blowing critical educations that foster new ways of thinking, the best police officers can lift up their communities while keeping people safe and protecting their human rights from those who seek to prevent the enjoyment of these rights.

My message is to forgive and lead through example.

We must rise above identity politics to understand that diversity means nothing when used as a tool against the people. As Hedges states, "Diversity when it serves the oppressed is an asset, but a con when it serves the oppressors." Let's not fall for the con. Let's forgive our wokeist brothers and sisters and extend a hand in solidarity to solve structural problems that cause crime, homelessness, addiction, domestic abuse, inequality and exclusion. They might still attack us with their misguided, anti-intellectual views (indeed, they show little desire to reduce the gap between their personal beliefs and objective truth), but eventually, with effort and strong example, they may one day join us in solidarity. Remember, people are verbs, highly fluid, constantly changing and always able to become more. If we lead by example, perhaps they will put down their cancel culture and identity politics, and all the "tattling, hall monitoring, speech policing" and, perhaps, they will become serious adults and join us in doing the business of making the world better for us all. I don't ask what I'm not willing to do myself. I will join you in solidarity, and for this humble scholar, my belief in you is unwavering. Our promised land is human rights and solidarity is the path.

Police officers, can you forgive and become exemplars of unity? If so, we can end division, and together, unite the people to the promise land. 🌐

*Dr. Peter Marina is a sociologist and criminologist at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. Along with his father, (retired) Lieutenant Pedro Marina, he teaches human rights policing to law enforcement professionals throughout the United States. He is author of the Human Rights Policing: Reimagining Law Enforcement in the 21st Century with Routledge Press (2022).*



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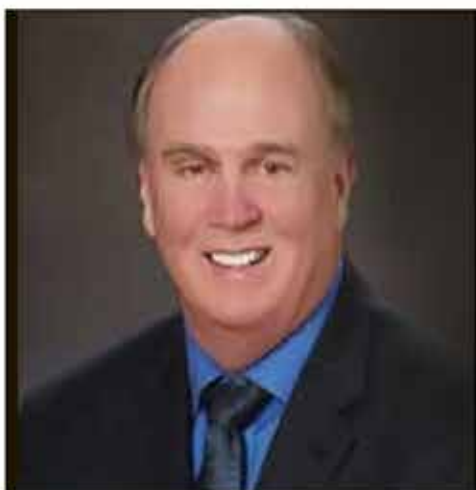


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# Slavery Aided by the “U.S. Welcome Patrol”

By Eric Caron

**T**he fight against human trafficking is one of the greatest human rights causes of our times, and our civilization is truly under attack. As far back as humanity goes, people have bought, sold and enslaved other people for various reasons. Naively, Americans believe slavery ended hundreds of years ago.

Shockingly, as you read this article, over **two million** people globally are being trafficked and over **30 million** people worldwide are trapped in “modern slavery.” Yes, slavery is still alive, and humans are being exploited for labor (products we buy) and the sexual exploitation of mostly women and children.

Human trafficking only happens with the collusion of corrupt and inept governments around the globe, including the United States, which has renamed the U.S. Customs & Border Protection to

the “U.S. Welcome Patrol.” Washington, D.C., is currently aiding and abetting transnational organized crime (TOC) groups to include human trafficking. A smoke and mirrors approach to U.S. border security has caused the deaths of thousands globally and has earned the human trafficking and terror groups that are also involved over \$300 billion last year. It is one of the most profitable crimes in the world.

Over the last few years, I’ve personally traveled to East Africa (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia) mentoring prosecutors and other officials on how to combat transnational crime. During my time on the ground in these countries, I discovered that human trafficking is much, much more sinister than the human mind could ever imagine.

These transnational organized crime (TOC) groups for years have been trafficking or “harvesting” organs, babies, and are involved in ritualistic human



sacrifice killings (witchcraft) and even cannibalism. Due to widespread corruption, “shadow” wars in over 20 African nations and poverty, these unthinkable crimes are ongoing in most of Africa.

Recently, the U.N. stated that one out of every three human trafficking victims worldwide is from Africa and the World Health Organization reported 10,000 kidneys were illegally harvested - one every hour. Currently, 62 doctors in Uganda are under investigation for illegally harvesting organs for transnational crime groups. Today, in Nigeria alone, over 10,000 children are missing or kidnapped for their organs, labor, sexual exploitation, soldiers or human sacrifices.

In March 2023, I met with a senior Ugandan police official who helps manage the “Human Sacrifice Task Force.” In 2021, this task force reported 46 murders and, in 2022, 72 murders. In addition, Ugandan police recently discovered nearly a dozen babies in an apartment who were smuggled from South Sudan. The target was and is operating a “nonprofit” in South Sudan for homeless women and children and has ties to the president of South Sudan. It’s alleged that these babies were to be sold into



the Middle East but were recently returned to South Sudan. No arrest has been made. The target denies the allegations and is still operating the nonprofit center. In the Gabon Republic which borders the Congo, police arrested three Chinese nationals “in the act” of killing over a dozen African workers for their tissue. Social media reports corroborate the barbaric images received which confirms that human flesh is a “lucrative business in China” since human tissue is a “delicacy.”

Human trafficking is more than a violation of human rights; it is also a threat to global security and to our civilization as highlighted. To ensure the U.S. remains a leader in the movement to end human trafficking, we must implement a comprehensive global response on the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic. A war against an unseen enemy that was defeated. 🌐

*Eric Caron is a Special Agent (Ret) with 25 years of service. He is the author of "Switched On - The Heart & Mind of a Special Agent." His website is: Switchedonlife.com*



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# Solutions to the Tragedy of Baltimore's Violence Problem

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By Leonard Adam Sipes, Jr.

I grew up in a working-class neighborhood in Baltimore. It was clean with good schools and relatively low crime. As a child, I was able to travel miles through adjacent neighborhoods on my bike without incident. Beginning at age 9, I hopped on a streetcar on my own to visit my meat cutter father at Baltimore's famous Lexington Market, a trip of 10 miles. Fear of crime was minimal.

It all ended when a next-door neighbor screamed for help while being robbed. My father ran to his assistance and had a gun pointed at his head. He stood on our front porch roof and pointed out the assailants as police arrived. Within a month, he told us that we were moving to a rural area of Baltimore County.

After a progression from being a cop to going to college to being the senior specialist for crime prevention for the U.S. Department of Justice's National Criminal Justice Reference Service, and then becoming the director of informational services for the National Crime Prevention Council, I became the director of public information for the Maryland Department of Public Safety for 14 years and was inserted into the crime discussion in Baltimore hundreds of times.

## CRIME AND COPS

With a population of around 600,000, Baltimore ranked second in the country for homicide per capita in 2021. The murder rate in Baltimore is 58.27 per 100,000.

Baltimore Police officials have reported the department is down 455 sworn officers. In 2022, the department hired 103 new officers; however, 277 sworn officers left the department. Baltimore residents are complaining of a lack of a police presence. I'm told that hundreds of additional cops are contemplating leaving over a lack of support from residents and officials.

## CRITICS

It takes a certain amount of audacity to make observations and suggestions about urban crime and violence. Criminologists will correctly tell you that there is no consensus as to urban crime, why it increases, and what we can do. There is little from the researchers at the U.S. Department of Justice as to a specific game plan. What I suggest will create strong disagreements and criticism. Regardless, there needs to be a strategy and a list of considerations. There needs to be a starting point that the U.S. Department of Justice is unwilling to provide.

## PROGRESSIVE PUNDITS AND COMMENTATORS WILL SAY THAT BALTIMORE:

- Must address its social problems and income inequities through good schools, meaningful jobs, drug treatment and social services.
- Should embrace common-sense gun control.
- Must emphasize moderation as to the justice system. The city cannot arrest itself out of its crime problems. Incarceration simply exasperates social inequity.
- Needs prosecutors more in line with alternatives than harsh prosecutions and incarceration.
- Must back off of "failed" aggressive crime policies. Arrests and enforcement fall on mostly low-income people, further punishing the powerless.
- Needs to make its police officers community-oriented protectors rather than warriors.
- Must make its police department responsible for improving police-community relations and lowering crime.
- Should use former offenders as violence interrupters as a primary focus of crime control.

The result of these strategies has left the city I love as being world-renowned for violence and dysfunction. I watched a BBC television program where an actor was complaining about U.K. crime. Another stated with vigor, “Well, at least we’re not Baltimore.” Residents claim to live in war zones. Businesses and jobs are fleeing. School scores are abysmal. Poverty is climbing. People are leaving. Children are traumatized.

Yet well-funded and numerous progressive groups will insist that the way out remains economic and social development and social workers or former offenders acting as violence interrupters and cops who are protectors rather than warriors.

From a data-driven, methodologically sound, replicated (multiple research projects leading to a conclusion) point of view, there’s little evidence offered by the U.S. Department of Justice or any well-known independent research organization confirming any of the progressive policies above as being effective. National advocacy groups will tell you otherwise.

Understand that citizens control crime. This is criminology 101. Without citizens taking the lead, there is little law enforcement can do to establish a safe city.

Every community has the right to the kind of policing it wants; it’s why elected sheriff departments control many of the nation’s law enforcement agencies. Citizens voting for sheriffs get the right to express their views on their crime control policies every four years. Why shouldn’t this philosophy be extended to urban residents?

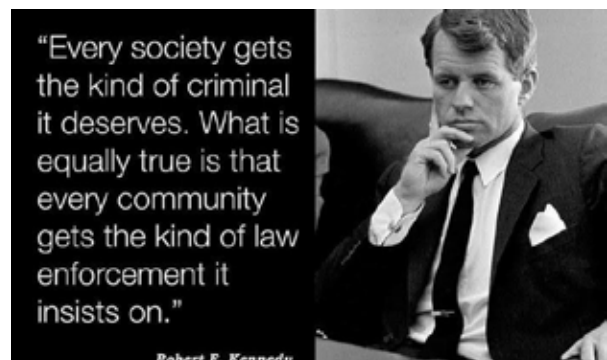
There are demands from citizens to city halls to “fix” crime problems. That’s not how it works. Every community should decide for itself what kind of policing it wants and to do the heavy lifting as to crime policies.

## WHAT BALTIMORE NEEDS TO REALIZE:

- The city needs to dramatically increase police salaries and hire hundreds of additional police officers. Baltimore’s reputation for protest, progressive values and unsupportive citizens will be a challenge.
- The city needs to bring in paid, off-duty officers from other jurisdictions to supplement police numbers (if they are willing to come).
- The city needs to hire police officers based on a limited five-year time commitment like the military, with benefits after service.
- Every citizen needs to be supportive of the police

officers who patrol their communities. There is nothing beyond the public’s support holding police officers in place. They don’t have to be in your community when they can easily transfer to jurisdictions wanting and embracing them and probably paying them more.

- The city needs to invest in innovative technologies (i.e., drones responding to all sounds of gunfire, putting all released from prison on GPS monitoring, shot spotters, facial recognition, DNA and rape kit analysis).
- There should be publicly available lists of current violent offenders (i.e., those on parole and probation) in communities.
- Hire prosecutors who will hold criminals accountable for most charges. It doesn’t mean jail or prison or parole and probation or even guilty verdicts for all, but accountability is a must to send the proper message. Note that traditionally, urban prosecutors dismiss charges for approximately 20-30 percent of arrests for a wide variety of reasons. The federal government can dismiss up to 50 percent depending on the category. Prosecutors have the power to dismiss charges and expunge records for minor crimes and for those without an extensive criminal history in exchange for community service.
- Hire retired cops to review unsolved crimes.
- Do podcasts and create blogs on unsolved crimes.
- Enlist the assistance of the true crime community to help solve unsolved crimes. Publicize their findings.
- The state should offer Baltimore drug and mental health treatment on demand. Citizens need to realize, however, that treatment strategies rarely work or work quickly and must be repeated multiple times, thus becoming very expensive.







- Parole and probation agents are underutilized resources. They know who the criminals are and what they are doing. They should be embedded with law enforcement daily. City police officers should have a computerized system where they can poll parole and probation agents daily as to possible suspects.
- There needs to be weekly or monthly polling of Baltimore communities as to their perceptions of policing and crime and suggestions as to what the city could do. Results should be published immediately and analyzed over time.
- There should be numerous apps or text messages or anonymous crime reporting opportunities.
- Child abuse and neglect is the primary root cause of crime and violence. Baltimore through the state needs to create social workers and nurses to intervene early for family and child welfare.
- Bail reform should have provisions as to the level of violence involved and the offender's criminal history. If you beat your wife with a frying pan and have physically assaulted her several times, you have lost your right to presumed release without bail.
- The state should fund a victim and witness protection program to make sure that people can safely report what they know.

In conclusion, the citizens of the city of Baltimore need to understand that they control crime, not the police department or any other aspect of the justice system. Without personal involvement in keeping communities clean and orderly and

without setting community standards for what's acceptable behavior, crime control will not happen.

People may suggest that I ignored the root causes of crime beyond child abuse. There are correlates of crime like poverty or drug use that cannot be easily remediated. But I am unaware of any jurisdiction in the country that was able to eliminate social and economic inequities. But regardless, what I suggest remains valid. The city needs to hold offenders accountable. Citizens need to take control of their communities. Proactive policing needs to return. Citizens need to openly support law enforcement officers and make them feel welcome in their communities. Citizens need to decide for themselves the kind of law enforcement they want or are willing to tolerate.

Without citizens and communities taking the lead, and without sufficient funding, the unbelievably high rates of violence in Baltimore and elsewhere will continue for decades to come. 🌐

*Leonard Adam Sipes, Jr. is a retired federal senior spokesperson. A former Adjunct Associate Professor of Criminology and Public Affairs - University of Maryland. Former advisor to the "McGruff-Take a Bite Out of Crime" national media campaign. Past police officer. Aspiring drummer. Operator of CrimeinAmerica.net. His book based on thirty-five years of criminal justice public relations, "Success with the Media: Everything You Need to Survive Reporters and Your Organization" is available at Amazon and additional booksellers. He can also be found @leondardsipes.com*





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# I Retired for This?

By Kimberly Stratman

Did I work 30 years for this? Did I leave a job I loved for this? Did I leave my friends and coworkers for this? Did I leave a respected position for this? Did I turn in my uniform for this?

I loved being a lieutenant in the Dallas Police Department patrol. It was by far my favorite assignment, but the admin or support assignments mattered too so I always gave it my best. Committee appointments were good and bad; nothing worse than “solving” the same problem over and over. I enjoyed being part of the Baker to Vegas Women’s Relay Team back in the day. Running with the DPD Women’s Running Team and then the DPDNPW 5k Team was both exciting and emotional.

Witnessing my officers promote was awesome. They have so much talent, passion and dedication.

Leading classes at the Academy, in-service and basic, was an honor. I always wrote my personal cell number on the board and made the promise that I would help anyone who called me, and I did. Sometimes it was a serious situation that required additional support. Sometimes the officer just needed someone to bounce ideas off. Sometimes they needed a, “What the heck are you thinking? You know better! Let’s fix this.”

But, rookies younger than my boys were on the streets. I was being called, “ma’am” off duty by folks who didn’t know who I was. That last

footchase at 50 years of age was a bit rough. The cameras and other technology were intimidating. My back was hurting more than it wasn’t. The losses were getting harder to compartmentalize. It was exhilarating being at the same scene with my SWAT husband! But only after I knew he was OK. Does that even make sense? Apparently not to my gut, because that was getting a bit stressful too.

One of the classes I was invited to lead at the Academy was “Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace” and included Chris Hogan’s “Retire Inspired.” We all must retire someday, so I put emphasis on the “Inspired.” As I interacted with the weekly class members over the two-year TCOLE cycle, I noticed that some officers had a plan and were excited. They had ideas of how to spend their time after they retired. Others expressed a feeling of concern and even overwhelm, while others stated they couldn’t even think about retirement. When leading this same type of class for officers/employees of various agencies, I saw the same reactions. Which group seemed most likely to retire confidently? I decided to have a plan. It was time.

What did I want to do if I wasn’t a cop? I wanted to do our oil business full time. I wanted to work with plants. A solid workout schedule was a must! I wanted to attend a ladies’ daytime Bible study. I wanted to build and strengthen relationships with other women. I wanted to read for fun and garden.

Even with some great opportunities, and with great pay, I knew I did not want to put on another uniform. I did not want to drive in rush hour traffic.

My plan came together rather organically. Sharing my ideas came naturally because I was excited! Valuable advice and suggestions were offered.

I retired! The pandemic and the riots proved that I was not in control. But my plan was still solid. It was not a rigid schedule but more a list of, "I want this in my life."

Even when "life is good," things change. Who knew that I would find the need and the time to do more? I added Yin Yoga to be still and slow down my brain. I enrolled in various online classes to challenge myself. I realized I missed a more active role in

servicing others. Seriously missed servicing others. While I didn't miss the Job, I missed my people.

Again, an organic plan fell into place once I identified/acknowledged what I wanted to do. I am a Certified Life Coach and a Certified Retirement Coach specializing in Retirement Longevity.

What? Yes! I help first responders, and others, retire confidently so they can live the life they worked for. Topics discussed include health, hobbies and fun, relationships and support systems, career, future endeavors, an action plan and more. I am called to this service because life after "the job" can be, should be, full and rewarding. We can each find our purpose, no matter what that might be.

Should you approach retirement

with a well-thought-out plan that focuses on your mind, your body and your spirit? I would strongly suggest you do so.

Yes, I did retire for this. 🌍

*Kimberly Stratman retired as a lieutenant from the Dallas Police Department after an exciting and fulfilling 30-year career. She and her husband, an active SWAT officer, have two grown sons and two dogs that get lots of attention. Kimberly is the owner of To the Point Coach, a Certified Retirement Life Coach and Certified Life Coach service that focuses on first responders. Her goal is to ensure our law enforcement community thrives. She can be reached @tothepointcoach.org.*



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# Mentorship and Coaching:

## A new tool for recruiting and retaining law enforcement personnel.



By Chief Ron Camacho

**A**lmost all police departments across the United States have recruiting issues; many have trouble retaining their officers. Consequently, a new industry revolving around police recruiting was created by enterprising marketing executives who brought their expertise to policing through courses and conferences. Attendees of these events listen intently to the presenters hoping to learn that nugget of information that will solve their recruiting and retention needs. However, no magic bullet exists to solve our recruiting and retention issues. Law enforcement organizations are working with marketing firms, offering sign-on bonuses, using geo fencing advertising and other imaginative methods to attract quality candidates. One idea gaining traction is to develop a positive work culture through mentoring and coaching programs.

Recently, I spoke with a human resources director working for a hospital system and asked what the main reason employees gave for leaving their jobs was. Without hesitation, she said, “The employee had a bad relationship with their supervisor or management.” A lack of growth opportunities and advancement came in second, with a desire for a higher salary a distant third. These reasons are also mirrored in law enforcement. A respected professional colleague who works with police departments across

Pennsylvania shared that his practice was seeing a mass exodus of officers from larger departments. Those officers took massive pay cuts to escape the harmful and toxic environments surrounding their former agencies. While police executives and supervisors do not have the authority to address salary demands, they can influence boss-to-employee relationships and limited growth opportunities. Creating a robust mentorship or coaching program is an effective way to achieve that goal.

Entrepreneur and podcaster Patrick Bet-David described a mentor as an inspirational person who saves you time and frustration in your career by sharing advice and guidance. Essentially, they provide a “cheat code” to follow on your way to a successful career. Mentors tell you about their mistakes and illustrate what happens when you step on a career “landmine.” More importantly, they share their success stories and lessons learned during their careers. Mentors freely share their knowledge with those who seek and understand its worth. It is up to the mentee to follow the mentor’s wise advice and make the correct career decisions.

It is always possible to find a mentor. I was in my early 40s when I found my first one and was fortunate enough to find another two to help me round out my professional well-being. I can say unequivocally that my

career would have taken a downward spiral without the guidance of these important figures. Simply put, they changed my life. My mentors freely shared their wise words and vast experience with me. Their advice helped me rededicate myself to the craft of leadership. I followed their examples and took heed to avoid replicating their missteps. In their separate and unique ways, they each inspired me to push myself and strive for goals I did not think were possible. I now pay it forward by mentoring several police officers of all ranks, from rookies to chiefs. I take great pride in seeing their careers flourish and only ask that they also pay it forward when they can.

So, you may ask yourself, what does this have to do with recruiting and retention? As police leaders, we must invest more time and effort into developing our officers if we want to keep them. Additionally, to attract recruits, we must create an organizational culture that respects and cares for our troops by setting them up for success. Building a mentoring program or finding coaches for our officers is a start. Coaching addresses two reasons people leave an organization: lack of personal career growth and bad leaders. If we tackle these two areas, factors that we have the power and authority to influence, we can attract good candidates and keep officers from leaving the organization.



A coach is there to improve employee performance through a supportive process emphasizing trust and accountability. Unlike a mentor, a coach is not there to advise the employee but to help them discover a positive course of action. Coaches ask the right questions to help the employee gain self-awareness. This process often results in the employee seeing an issue they are working on from different viewpoints and developing positive solutions from within

with diverse and varied backgrounds. With how specialized policing has become, an officer can search the pool of talented coaches for one with shared experiences or interests. While the coaches come from different agencies and career paths, they all have one common goal; to help officers reach their fullest potential in their careers and life. Coaching is the perfect strategy to build a positive, caring workplace culture. You provide a program that will

and mentoring also address the need for employee growth within the organization as well as improving the officer's ability to lead. These positive and distinctive coaching and mentoring aspects should be prominently displayed in any departmental recruiting literature, website or video. Remember, we are all competing for the same recruits; highlighting your coaching or mentoring programs is the first step to attracting that quality candidate.

Coaching and mentoring programs are an enormous gift for the organization, officers and the community. Your organization has a tremendous marketing tool to recruit and retain officers. Present and future officers belong to an agency that cares about their careers and wants to see them succeed. Finally, the community benefits significantly with improved and motivated officers possessing the tools necessary to police in these challenging times effectively. 🌐



to solve the problem. Coaching fulfills the employee's need for personal growth and helps build an individual's leadership capacity. Happy, fulfilled employees who become better leaders, supervisors and managers sounds like the ideal environment every police executive wants to create within their agency.

Coaching has now entered the law enforcement profession with positive, tangible results. Companies like Performance Protocol (<https://performanceprotocol.com/>) offer coaching services for police officers of all ranks. Officers can access hundreds of vetted, trained coaches

improve officer excellence by developing the tools they need to think critically and problem-solve at a high level.

Coaching and mentorship programs can significantly enhance an organization's recruiting efforts with the right marketing. The first step is to advertise how your organization, by prioritizing a future officer's success, differs from other agencies. Additionally, implementing a coaching program demonstrates that your agency "talks the talk and walks the walk," possessing the tools to support an officer's fruitful and triumphant career. Coaching

*Chief Ron Camacho is an accomplished law enforcement executive who spent time as an advisor in Afghanistan and Mexico. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, has a master's in criminal justice from Liberty University, and is the chief of the Chambersburg Pennsylvania Police Department. He is the owner of Camacho Consulting LLC, a leadership and management training company. [Camachoconsulting.net](http://Camachoconsulting.net)*





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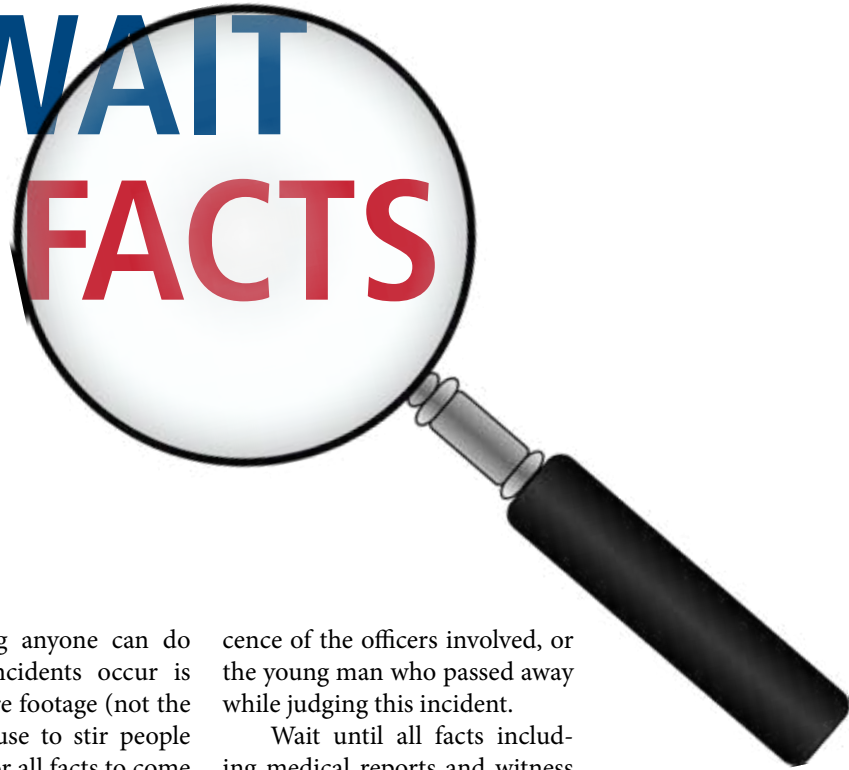
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# *A Rush to Judgment?*

## PLEASE WAIT FOR THE FACTS

By Deon Joseph



**T**here are many people asking me to comment on a recent in-custody death. I want to so badly to dispel disinformation. But I can't because it happened on my agency, and I have to wait until the investigation is complete.

But what I will say is this; have we not learned across this country from previous incidents about falling for carefully selected portions of videos, activists who exploit dead Black people, clout-chasing celebrities who try to emotionalize the incident to put more credit on their "woke card," politicians looking to score political points with their voter base by aligning themselves with activist groups, ambulance-chasing lawyers who want to try the case in the court of public opinion only to try to get the biggest payday they can and biased media personalities fanning the flames for ratings?

My friends, the most revo-

lutionary thing anyone can do when these incidents occur is watch the entire footage (not the part you can use to stir people up) and wait for all facts to come out before vilifying the officers or the person they contacted.

It is beyond time for us to think critically and objectively when these things occur.

I literally cannot wait to talk about this incident based on my training, experience and observations over 27 years. Many who know me are aware that I'm not afraid to say when cops are wrong, and will also stand up for them when they are justified no matter how controversial it may seem to people with no experience in policing. Unfortunately, I have no choice but to wait as policy dictates. But you can do several things:

Think objectively.

Don't allow anyone to emotionally exploit you or guide you to a thought on the guilt or inno-

cence of the officers involved, or the young man who passed away while judging this incident.

Wait until all facts including medical reports and witness statements come out.

Stop sharing edited or carefully selected portions of the incidents, and at least share the whole video without captions that paint anyone involved in an unfair light. 🌐

*Deon Joseph is a 27 year veteran of law enforcement in Southern California - 23 of those years working in*



*the homeless community to create an environment conducive to change for those in recovery, as a Lead Officer. He's been recognized for his work locally and nationally, and news stories and documentaries surrounding his work in crime fighting and community relations, featured him. [www.deonjoseph.org](http://www.deonjoseph.org).*





# THE BREW CREW

By Sgt. Jeff Stewart

The Boilermaker Brew pop-up coffee shop is not just about selling coffee, it is about empowering special needs high school students and preparing them for life after graduation. The program, which is a collaboration between the Garfield School District's LifeSkills program and the Garfield Police Community Affairs Division led by Sgt. Jeff Stewart, allows students to gain hands-on experience in the food industry while also learning valuable life skills such as financial literacy.

The program was entirely funded by grants and community members, and volunteer George Leles of Arabica Coffee Co. helped the students source beans, experiment with flavors and roast the coffee. The students even had the opportunity to create their own logos and take lessons on financial literacy provided by a local TD Bank branch office.

The Boilermaker Brew pop-up coffee shop is

located at the Century Field House kitchen, located at 60 Elizabeth St. in Garfield and operates in spring, summer and fall. During the winter, it moves indoors to the local YMCA located at 33 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ, with winter hours of operation on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:15 am. Both the Century Field and the YMCA host the students free of charge.

The coffee shop has received positive reviews, and cups sell for \$2 small and \$3 large. The second year of the program has been fully sustainable by coffee sales, and the goal is to one day have a brick-and-mortar location.

The coffee shop has received positive reviews, and cups sell for \$2 small and \$3 large. The second year of the program has been fully sustainable by coffee sales, and the goal is to one day have a brick-and-mortar location.

The Boilermaker Brew pop-up coffee shop is a shining example of what can be achieved when the community comes together to support special needs students. The Garfield Police Department, Police Chief Rich Uram and the Garfield School District should be commended for their innovative approach and for the positive impact they are having on the lives of these students. We hope that other communities will take note of this program and be inspired to create similar opportunities for their special needs students.



Sgt. Jeff Stewart  
 City of Garfield Police, New Jersey  
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# REMEMBRANCE

Article & Artwork by  
Jonny Castro

*Police Officer  
Geoffrey Redd*

On Feb. 2, Memphis police officers responded to a public library around 12:30 p.m. regarding a man who was causing a disturbance inside. Officer Geoffrey Redd was a Field Training Officer and was training his rookie partner when they received the call. Just as the pair attempted to talk to that individual inside the library and de-escalate the situation, he pulled out a gun and shot Officer Redd. The rookie partner returned fire and killed the gunman. The suspect was identified as a career criminal who had been arrested over 30 times in the past. The wounded officer was transported to the hospital in critical condition. For 16 days, he hung on and fought for his life sadly succumbing to his wounds on Feb. 18.

Officer Geoffrey Redd was a 15-year veteran of the Memphis Police Department, and had proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. He also worked as the director of security at his church. A few years ago, Officer Redd was struck by a vehicle on a traffic stop. He was thrown into the air and landed on his face, nearly losing his eyesight. His injuries were so severe that he had to learn to walk again. Despite all of that, he overcame the odds and recovered, returning to the job that he loved. Officer Redd leaves behind his wife, who he just married a few months ago, three daughters and four grandchildren. He was 49 years old.



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*Charlie and Lydia  
SGT Chris Bond NJDOC*



*"Monty" and K9 handler Donahue  
New Castle County Police  
Delaware*



*Hazy and (Ret.) Officer Gold  
Schuylkill Township PA*



*In loving memory  
of "Jax"  
08/18/2014 -  
10/30/2022  
Officer D. Boone  
NJDOC*

*Missing him  
everyday*

*If you and your dog would like to be featured  
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*Joseph Celentano*



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