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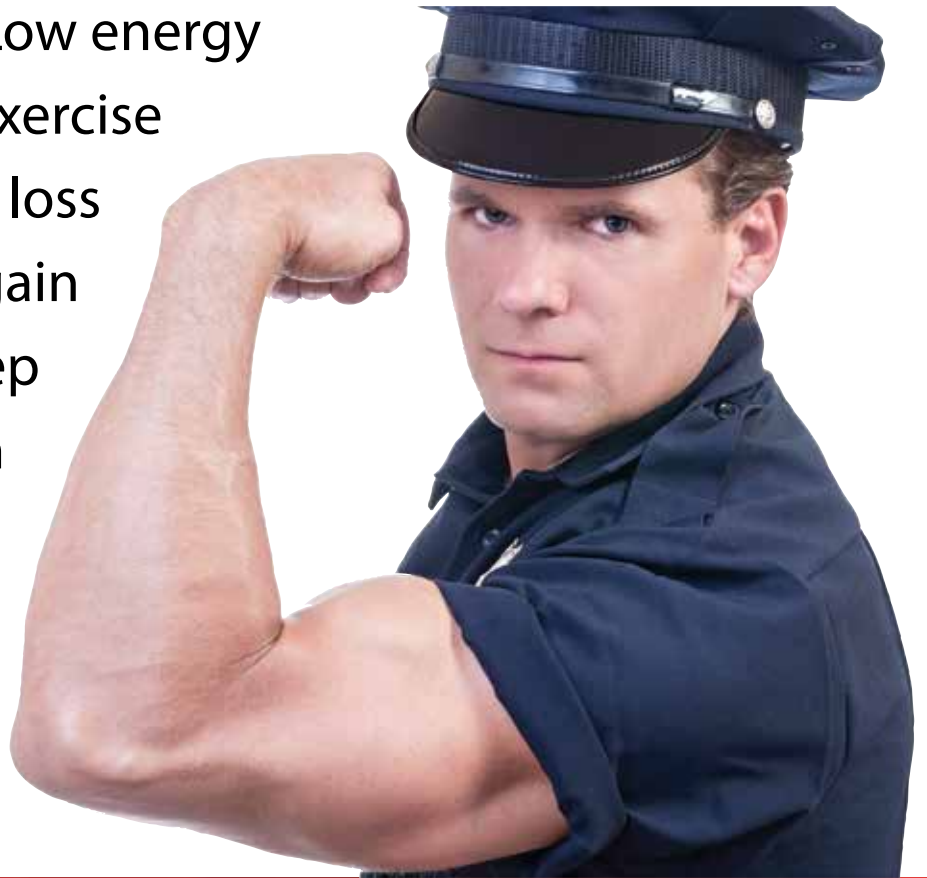
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The Blue magazine is honored to present our latest edition of the national “independent voice of law enforcement.” As always, our acclaimed writers from coast to coast have provided insights as only our stellar team can do. This is independent journalism at its finest by people in the know; most who have real world front line experience to draw from. Unlike so many media sources with “progressive” agendas often based more upon emotion than fact, and too often presented with a rush to judgment, we always keep in real.

Our cover story, written by Sheriff David Clarke (Ret.) reminds us how quickly perceptions of law enforcement can change in the minds of those we serve and how standing strong against thankless politicians will help our cause moving forward. Be sure to take the time to read works by other powerful writers such as Pat Ciser, Kirk Lawless, Chris Amos, Joe Pangaro, and so many more!

For those who would like to submit an article of interest to law enforcement for possible publication we are always welcoming submissions @ <https://www.thebluemagazine.com/submissions>

On the heels of my promotion to managing editor of the Blue magazine, after receiving so many accolades with statements like “law enforcement needs you,” I was reminded of the real truth... **I need law enforcement.** When word slowly spread that I required hospitalization for COVID the outpouring of care, concern, prayers and support was beyond overwhelming promoting my recovery which had been, early on, brought into question by my medical caretakers who thankfully utilized available treatments in a most effective manner. Thank you to all friends and family for your immense barrage of encouragement which in an equally large way helped propel me to overcoming COVID-19.

As we head toward the conclusion of a difficult 2021 for so many, those of us who survived the pandemic and all of the other obstacles faced that put longevity in question must remain united and dedicated to the causes of freedom and justice in honor of our sisters and brothers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. By standing strong together we can work to overcome the many forces working against us. We continue to need one another, as always, to forge ahead in a positive fashion. We will be proven to be on the right side of history and the days of reckoning are surely just ahead. Do whatever is possible to stay strong, healthy and safe and remember “*when the going gets tough, the tough get going.*” Here’s to safety, good health, and a positive turning point on the horizon!



Joel E. Gordon
Managing Editor

The BLUE Magazine Writer’s Spotlight:

Eric Caron & Major Wesley R. Wise (Ret.)



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



A thirty-six-year veteran of the Baltimore Police Department, Wes retired in 2006 as the Commander of the city’s 911 System. While recovering from a stroke in 2014, he wrote two books about his experiences as a Baltimore cop. Wes has also self-published fourteen books for other writers. Need publishing help? Contact Wes at weswise78@gmail.com. A father of two and grandfather of ten, he and his wife of 49 years live near Baltimore, Maryland.

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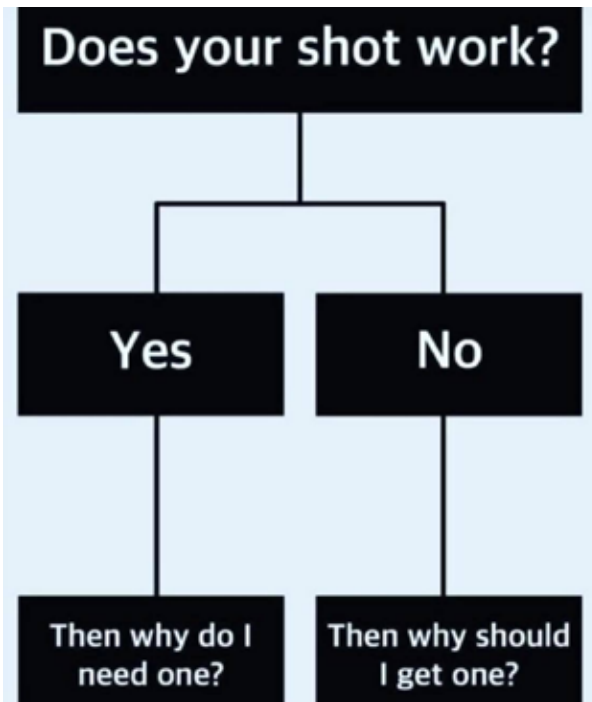
Democrat Tyranny; Let the Lawsuits Begin



Just a year ago unvaxinated doctors and nurses working the front lines were 'heros' ... Now they are 'dangerous' and unemployed.

By Lt. Patrick J. Ciser (Ret.)

One definition of tyranny is this; Dominance through threat of punishment. We are now witnessing tyranny from the likes of Joe Biden, OSHA and most Democratic leaders across the country with their draconian vaccination mandates. How the hell did “Stop the spread” turn into an “iron fist” government mandate from one administration to the next? How the hell did our first responders that we called our COVID heroes become zeros in such a short period of time? Last year, NYC had erected “heroes work here” signs at all of their major hospitals. I'd like to say that politicians were appreciative to all “first responders” but cops, unfortunately, never really felt the love. Between the defund the police movement, allowing rioters to pillage at will, and paint BLACK LIVES MATTER (a Marxist group) on 5th Avenue, Democrat politicians never really saw us as heroes. Bill, “Don't let the door hit you in the ass on the way out” deBlasio had only disdain for the men and women in Blue.





Due to the insanity that we witnessed during the George Floyd riots, including tying our hands, and the politicians making light of someone throwing a Molotov cocktail at a police car, etc. we saw many retirements and even resignations. So, what's better for the city and its rising crime rate than threatening to fire as many as 30% of the rank and file due to vax mandates? Understand that although I have no desire to get the "jab," I'm not against it for others. I'm simply a firm believer that we should all be free to decide either way, without any threats from our government. Brave men and women have died protecting our freedoms in America, just for an overbearing government to step in and rip those freedoms away? Could you imagine if Donald Trump tried pulling this shit? The liberal media would be comparing him to Adolf Hitler! And isn't it the Democrats that keep repeating the mantra, "my body, my choice?" But only when it's politically expedient.

Why also is it that millions across America had COVID, also known as SARS-CoV2, and are now 7 times more protected than everyone who got the jab, yet they are still being threatened into getting inoculated anyway? With approximately 70% of the population getting at least one dose, and the millions that got over it and carry the antibodies, haven't we achieved "herd immunity?" Remember when the wise and powerful Dr. Anthony Fauci said over the summer that if we reach that percentage, we'd achieve that goal. Unfortunately, this bullshit got so political that they keep raising the bar. But it's time to figure in the millions who had it, and beat it as well. Rather than just having "vax" cards, we should issue "antibody" cards, too. We're constantly told to follow the science, but that's exactly what Democrat politicians aren't doing! Don't these bureaucrats read the same studies that we do?

It's time to fight back, people, just like the 27 red states and counting, that filed lawsuits against the Biden administration! NO ONE should be losing their jobs over this! Also,

studies have shown that inoculated people are carriers just like the rest of us. So, don't believe the BS that only we, the uninoculated, are spreading the virus!

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, which are our largest law enforcement agency, are particularly upset with Joe Biden's executive order mandating all federal agencies get inoculated, because "no show Joe" does nothing to stop the roughly 200,000 unvaccinated immigrants per month from coming over the Border. But he's ready, willing, and able to fire these patriotic Americans who serve our country every day. With the administration's open border policy, that they'll of course deny, perhaps they don't mind having a manpower shortage. Turning Texas and Florida into California is the Democrats' goal, this way you'll never see another Republican president. As of this writing, 70 flights of illegals have arrived in Florida, to Gov. Ron DeSantis objections.

Truckers last year were some of our unsung heroes as well, as they delivered food and other needed goods across our country. Today, Joe Biden wants to also force truckers into getting vaxed, with no regard for our food chain supply or Christmas gifts. Everyone agrees that we don't have enough truckers across the country to deliver goods now; imagine if he fires thousands? FIGHT BACK AMERICA, this is OUR country! WE THE PEOPLE!

Nov. 6, The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit "stayed" Biden's vaccine mandate for private businesses with over 100 employees. 🇺🇸

Pat Ciser is a retired lieutenant from the Clifton Police Department, and a 7th Degree Black Belt. He was a member of 5 U.S. Karate Teams, winning gold medals in South America and Europe. He is the Author of BUDO and the BADGE; Exploits of a Jersey Cop (BN.com/Amazon), and is a guest writer for Official Karate Magazine.





THE WAR ON COPS: *Remember The Alamo!*

By Chris Amos

In her book, *The War on Cops*, Heather Mac Donald traces this “war” back to the shooting of Michael Brown by Ferguson Police Officer Darrin Wilson in 2014. Mac Donald specifically points to the false narrative, “hands up, don’t shoot” that spread like wildfire. With full knowledge that this narrative was not true, and in fact Wilson shot Brown while being beaten by the much stronger and bigger Brown, the media fanned the flames of this lie. I was traveling across the country speaking at law enforcement conferences during this time and have picture after picture of very influential people from members of the St. Louis Rams to news anchors of CNN; from crowds in Times Square to even larger crowds in Hong Kong and from actors in Hollywood to performers at the Grammys. In every case, hands were raised, buying into the “hands up, don’t shoot” bogus narrative. This was fake news before the term fake news had been born.

The coordinated attacks on law enforcement we see today may have begun in 2014 with the “Ferguson Effect” but they caught fire on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, MN as the perfect storm unfolded. Unlike Ferguson, in the Minneapolis case there were many credible witnesses, including other police officers, and there was video. The anti-police movement suddenly had what they were previously missing, and we all know the summer of fires, riots, looting and violence that followed. The match had been struck and policing would, possibly forever, be changed.

I want to share, as a retired cop and police shooting survivor, what I see unfolding in this war before ending with a word of hope. Initially, I thought the attacks against law enforcement were a reaction to Trump Derangement Syndrome. I remember hearing stories about the hatred held by many for POTUS Richard Nixon. While Nixon was beyond reach for his detractors, his foot soldiers, our Vietnam

vets, were not. As a rookie cop I was surrounded by these vets and they would share the animosity and hatred they experienced for just doing their jobs. I thought those suffering from T.D.S. would likewise turn their disdain for Trump toward the law and order POTUS' foot soldiers, law enforcement and corrections officers. While I am sure this happened, I failed to see that these attacks were far more coordinated and sinister than T.D.S. No, what we are seeing is an attempt to tear apart America and BUILD it BACK BETTER, into some Marxist utopia. A utopia that exists only in the minds and hearts of those who that want to see America, as we know it, destroyed. How might this be done?

STEP ONE: Demonize the police. This has been the sole calling of many within the media, both legacy and social. Paint every police officer as a racist, trigger-happy thug, just looking to violate someone's civil rights. This is done by taking the actions of a few corrupt and racist cops and applying them to every L.E.O. in the country. And by taking the actions, the policies, the procedures of one corrupt police department and painting every police department or sheriff's office with that same brush. Following the George Floyd incident, EVERY police department in the country was called on to make reforms, whether they were needed or not. My own department in Norfolk eliminated chokeholds almost 20 years before the Floyd incident. About 15 years ago, having been made aware of positional asphyxia, we did away with dogpiling on a suspect, unless needed to gain control and once done the suspect would immediately be placed in a sitting or standing position. I mention this just as an example to demonstrate how not all police officers or departments operate in the same manner. But those in a war against cops do not want to hear that. No, to them ALL Cops are evil, or in the words of Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar while trying to explain the spike in crime in Minneapolis, "the [bad, evil, hateful] police have chosen to not fulfill their oath of office and to provide the public safety they are owed to the citizens they serve." She went on to describe the Minneapolis Police Dept. as "the most dysfunctional in our state and probably in the country." This narrative is needed to ensure step two is attained.

STEP TWO: Defund the police. If all cops and departments are evil, negligent, and dysfunctional then it just goes to reason that we have to stop sending money

their way. NYC defunded the NYPD \$1,000,000,000. That is ONE BILLION DOLLARS! Many other cities across the country followed suit, from rural Asheville, N.C. to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago, just to name a few. So let's take already undermanned, overworked agencies and cut all overtime from their budget. Let's cut all training from their budget. While we are at it let's get rid of their SWAT teams, Vice and Narcotics Division, Harbor Patrol, School Resource Officers, Horse and Bike Units, and whatever else we deem unnecessary. The insanity of such a position is clear to everyone except the Marxists calling the shots right now, or is it? I would argue the people making these decisions know exactly what their actions are doing to their cities, both large and small. The irony is many of them have become victims themselves of this rising crime rate from their cars being broken into, to personally being victims of robberies and assaults. Oh they know what is happening, but if allowing their cities to become dumpster fires are needed to initiate step 3, then so be it.

STEP THREE: Dismantle the police. That is their endgame. They want to see local and state law enforcement agencies dismantled or "abolished" in their lingo. They probably would love to federalize all law enforcement, think Mexico and their Federal Police Force. What could possibly go wrong? The last thing the Marxists want is for law enforcement to answer to their respective local communities. We have seen in just the last few months, duly elected sheriffs go on the record, telling their constituents they would not be taking legally owned weapons from their community members, enforcing mask mandates, rounding up their local "domestic terrorists," AKA, concerned parents speaking out at local school board meetings. Many sheriffs have said they will not be firing professional, experienced, proven deputies simply for refusing to get the COVID vaccine. The powers that be toss and turn at night at the very thought that there exist in this country law enforcement and corrections officers and agencies that refuse to bend the knee in submission to their radical agenda. But they will not give up easily. If vaccine mandate threats do not bring the troops in line, then let's look at eliminating Qualified Immunity as was done for the NYPD. Thank God, the US Supreme Court just upheld Qualified Immunity involving LEOs. Incidentally, no one dissented on the court. So I'm sure

the powers that be took note and have made removing Qualified Immunity a priority. Another tactic is to undercut an officer's authority by advising him he can not make arrests for crimes that are on the books. Another tool being implemented is to place such a heavy burden of the officers, like The Chicago Police Dept's 13-page general order on foot pursuits, that officers just throw their hands up in the air and adopt all of these when combined, lead to a massive Blue Exodus from departments around the country. Nursing shortage? No problem! We will activate the National Guard. Law enforcement shortage? Guess what... the answer is simple enough, we will activate the National Guard.

Now for some good news, I believe the opponents to law enforcement and corrections will be DEFEATED. Every day more and more people are having their eyes opened to what is happening. They see the flagrant contempt for

the law, and the men and women sworn to uphold it. They are seeing and experiencing the consequences of defunding the police. The distant memories of placing their children in bathtubs to sleep at night for fear of being struck by a random bullet are returning. They are reading about security details they, as taxpayers, are providing for the defund the police politicians in office. They are beginning to realize that the men and women in law enforcement and corrections are not evil. They are not villains. No, they are in fact their neighbors. Their kids attend the same schools. They pass unaware in the grocery store or doctor's office. They are cheering for the same teams. They are quite simply, "one of us".

Your part in this chapter is to hold the line. Keep your oar in the water. Keep your shoulder to the plow. Don't give up! Even if that means moving to a state or department that appreciates, supports, and genuinely wants you. I can't help but think of the men who defended the Alamo during its 13-day siege in 1836. These men sacrificed their very lives for something much bigger than the Alamo, or even Texas. General Santa Anna would be defeated soon after the Alamo fell. The last thing Santa Anna would hear as the Texans overwhelmed his army where the shouts, "Remember the Alamo!"

Friends, I'm here to tell you that you are as important to America's survival today as those Texans at the Alamo were to the survival of Texas. Now is the time to double down on your commitment to the thin blue line. I would not be surprised if historians, many years from now, looked back at this moment in history, giving credit to law enforcement officers, corrections officers, doctors, nurses, even those domestic terrorists/concerned parents and write about your sacrificial resolve and commitment in the face of tremendous opposition. 🌐

Chris Amos is a retired officer and former spokesperson for the Norfolk Virginia Police Department. He is currently the pastor at Chr1st Fellowship Church in Norfolk. He is married for over 30 years and is the proud father of three children, two of whom are police officers. He serves as the volunteer Chaplain for Norfolk Police Dept. and Norfolk Sheriff's Office.



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HERE WE GO AGAIN

By David A. Clarke Jr., Sheriff (Ret.) Milwaukee County

Anybody who thought that the War on Cops was coming to an end because there has not been a constant anti-police drumbeat should think again. The defund and even abolish police movement started in earnest after the death of George Floyd. Yeah, he's the guy who did time in prison previously for an armed home invasion burglary where he held a loaded firearm to the stomach of a pregnant woman threatening to shoot her. The same George Floyd who was geeked up on fatal levels of fentanyl while resisting police orders to take him into custody for passing a counterfeit bill. Now do you remember George Floyd?

Ever since his death in custody, there has been a movement afoot to take money from public safety budgets and divert it to some inane idea of replacing cops with social workers to take on crime.

This movement caught fire and began sweeping into the nation's more populated urban cities with some success. The New York Police Department, Los Angeles and Milwaukee Police Departments all saw millions of dollars slashed from their crime-fighting efforts, leading to staff shortages. Violent street crime exploded exponentially to levels not seen in 30 years. This caused politicians who were championing the defund the police slogan to reverse course in fear for their political careers and they walked back the stupidity because it was hurting them politically, unlike in the earlier calls for defund efforts by the creeps of Black Lives Matter, Antifa and other Progressives. The effort did not go away, it went underground and is now being waged in stealth-like fashion. Here is an example.

In Minneapolis, a ballot initiative is being put up for voters who will get to decide whether to add an amendment to the city charter that would, "limit the size, scope and influence of its police department." This at a time of rising violence rates in Minneapolis. It's called the Yes 4 Minneapolis initiative, "where the city's police department would be replaced with a Department of Public Safety, abolishing the city's currently required minimum number of officers per capita and replacing some with social workers, mental health experts and crisis managers effectively defunding the local police by reallocating funds to other city services." One guy running for Minneapolis city council heralded the move and hoped it would pass and impact what other cities do. Let's hope not. This is moronic. Here is why.

Minneapolis has become a dangerous place to live as have many other large urban centers. Murders, non-fatal gunshot victims, and car-jackings have all seen a significant increase in both 2020 and 2021. Crime victimization has residents living in fear. That is a quality-of-life issue. Then there is the issue of unsolved crime. In Minneapolis, the unsolved crime rate has soared to 88% resulting in no arrest. That is a staggering figure. This emboldens the criminal to know that they have a great chance of never being caught and held accountable for committing a crime of violence. This constant barrage of attacks on the policing profession is leading to de-policing. In Minneapolis, traffic stops are down 85%, field interview or Terry Stops are down 76% and business checks are down 76%. It's called visibility. These are the type of police tactics that keep crime in check. Traffic stops in high-crime areas find vehicles containing guns and illegal drugs and people wanted on serious felony warrants. The same can be said of suspicious behavior stops in high-crime areas. When the public sees that police are not being aggressive, it leaves them with little confidence that the city can keep them, their children and their neighborhoods safe. People then withdraw from civil life. This leaves the streets to be controlled by the criminal. It leads to law-abiding citizens not wanting to fulfill their role of community guardians who cooperate with and help. police control and solve crime.

There is a way forward, however, and it won't involve re-inventing the wheel. In 1994, Congress passed a crime bill that led to historic lows in violent crime all across America. The bill was co-authored by none other than Sen. Joe Biden and signed into law by President Bill Clinton. It was at a time that even

Democrats were not afraid to communicate publicly their support for the police. That doesn't exist today. It was at a time when these same Democrat politicians trusted police to use their discretion when enforcing the law. Now they are trying to take certain tools and tactics away thereby preventing them from performing their most important func-

of acting like de facto defense attorneys. When judges get back to punishing crime instead of sympathizing with career violent offenders, then the criminal justice system will cease being dysfunctional and become the institution that it was designed to be, that being a purveyor of the rule of law, law and order and justice for all. 🌐



tion and that is crime prevention and keeping the peace.

It is time to go back to the 1994 crime bill and apply what was done back then such as hiring more police, re-investing in police budgets, getting rid of stupid policies like no bail and locking up career criminals. It is time to stop the revolving door of the criminal justice system. Jails and prisons are an effective crime control tool. They keep repeat offenders from, you guessed it, re-offending. It's going to take a prosecutor's office that takes off their political activist hat and puts their concern for the victims of crime hat back on. and begins again to represent law abiding residents instead

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



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America's Nutty Professor of Anti-White Rage

By Michelle Malkin

Brittney Cooper — sorry, that's Dr. Brittney Cooper — certainly takes the cake for the nation's worst tenured radical (at least for this week, until the next academic nutjob erupts).

Armed with a Bachelor of Arts in English and political science from Howard University and a doctorate in American Studies from Emory University, the Rutgers women's studies and Africana studies professor sure can holler. Cooper made headlines this week after her unrepentant hatred of white people went viral. Among the many dispassionate scholarly observations she shared with attendees of an online critical race theory conference were these:

- "I think that white people are committed to being villains in the aggregate."
- "Their thinking is so murky and spiritually bankrupt."
- "The thing I want to say to you is we got to take these motherf—ers out."
- "White people's birth rates are going down... because they literally cannot afford to put their children, newer generations, into the middle class... It's super perverse, and also they kind of deserve it."

The Root Institute (a confab created to "advance the agenda of Black Americans" by editors of The Root online magazine, whose motto is "The Blacker the Content

The Sweeter the Truth") hyped the rant session as a "healthy dose of reality." The "institute" effusively praised Cooper's "masterful and unabashed ability to speak truth to power." It's amusing, of course, that she's allowed to breathe any word about the Great Replacement, let alone gloat about the demographic decline — while left-wing character assassins at the Anti-Defamation League and Georgetown University Bridge Initiative accuse me of "normalizing white supremacy" or trafficking in "conspiracy theories" for decrying the very same phenomenon.

But that is how the social justice cookie crumbles.

In the interest of bending over

backward to be fair, let's pretend Cooper was just having a bad day or was caught off guard. Perhaps her true academic self is hidden in on-camera interviews and can be found in her published work. Her most recent book, "Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower," was named a "Best Book of 2018" by the New York Public Library and hailed by, um, noted public intellectual Joy Reid of MSNBC as "a dissertation on black women's pain and possibility."

"Dissertation," whoa! Must be some deep-thinking, highbrow research there. I rushed to read the opening lines of Cooper's "Eloquent Rage" and found ... yet more profane spouting and spewing:

"This is a book by a grown-a— woman written for other grown-a— women. This is a book for women who expect to be taken seriously and for men who take grown women seriously. This is a book for women who know s— is f—ed up. ... What I have is anger. Rage, actually. ... Owning anger is a dangerous thing if you're a fat Black girl like me."

I then wandered on over to Cooper's collection of published academic writings on Google Scholar and sifted through titles such as "Slut-Walks v. Ho Strolls," "Disrespectability Politics: On Jay-Z's B—, Beyonce's 'Fly'A—, and Black Girl Blue," and "Feminism for Bada—es" in elite journals such as the Crunk Feminist Collective and Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society.

Cooper touts her rigorously researched work on "representations of Black women in popular culture, including a piece on the representation of the 'baby mama' figure in Hip Hop music and film; the feminist implications of Janet Jackson's 2004 Super Bowl mishap; and the importance of

Michelle Obama in the tradition of Black female leadership." She and two other black feminist loudmouth professors also joined to produce "Feminist AF (that's an offensive slang term): A Guide to Crushing Girlhood" targeting "loud and rowdy girls, quiet and nerdy girls... queer girls, trans girls, and gender nonbinary young people" — published by the once-esteemed book conglomerate W. W. Norton & Co.

Wokeness has made a complete and irreversible joke of higher education. Yet, too many Boomers and their Gen-X progeny continue to push their college-age kids and grandkids into these cauldrons of insanity. "There are some solid schools left in the country," they tell themselves. "The toxicity isn't as prevalent in STEM fields," they insist. "A B.A. degree is still worth it for my children," they rationalize. "If we just wish race-consciousness and racial realities away, America will be OK," they fantasize.

News flash: Anti-white, anti-male and anti-American cancer in academia has reached Stage IV. What more evidence do you need to wake up and walk away? 🌐

Source: www.creators.com

Michelle Malkin is an American conservative blogger, political commentator, author, and businesswoman. Her weekly syndicated column appears in a number of newspapers and websites. She was a Fox News contributor and has been a guest on MSNBC, C-SPAN, and national radio programs. Malkin has written several books. She founded the conservative websites Twitchy and Hot Air. E-mail: MichelleMalkinInvestigates@protonmail.com



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NOT ON MY WATCH:

Detering Crime & Keeping the Peace

By Joel E. Gordon

“A cop has a calling. It’s not about making money. Being a cop is about making communities safe, caring for children, and doing what it takes to stop someone from hurting another person.” – The Wounded Blue

Peter Moskos, a professor at New York’s John Jay College of Criminal Justice and former Baltimore city police officer, recently noted, “There’s an arrogance among academics towards the public I dislike. I guess that’s the game, but academics are often wrong. ‘We know police don’t prevent crime’ was a doozy.”

A police presence can be a deterrent for criminal behavior. My own goal as a community cop was to eradicate criminal behavior on my watch in my area of responsibility. In fact, I was always proud to belong to a shift or agency where crime prevention, to the extent possible, was a number one goal behind staying safe and returning home unharmed at the end of each tour of duty.

One evening just past dusk back in my inner city

policing days, I remember noticing a young teenager standing on a corner near a hardware store. This didn’t look right, as he appeared to be nervous. I did not tip my hand, driving past him and parking out of his sight. He must have either frozen, or maybe I really tricked him into thinking I wasn’t paying

attention, because he failed to sound the customary “5-0” signal verbalizing a police presence (as in “Hawaii 5-0”). Upon my walking back toward the store I saw that the kid was a lookout and his accomplice was chiseling out cinder blocks with a hammer in an attempt to break into the store without activating its



"Do police ever truly prevent crime?"

alarm. Both were arrested before they could gain access to the inside of the store.

In a response to attempt to reduce crime and juvenile mischief later at night, the city had enacted a curfew law for those underage.

Then there was the group of teenagers who were breaking into businesses on my post while I was working midnight shift in the summer of 1982. In Baltimore City, the curfew existed for school age youth past 10 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends where they were not allowed on the street without adult supervision. Numerous burglaries were occurring on my post in ways not easily detected, such as through rooftop ductwork and the like. Mind you, I was very good at "trying up" or checking to see that my businesses were locked up tight. In the winter, supervisors would occasionally meet you to see if you had been out of the car checking by feeling to see if your badge was cold. I would also leave "tell tales" at areas and doorways already checked. A tree branch or Coke bottle would do. If when I spotlighted past these areas the "tell-tale" would have to have been moved for an intrusion to have occurred at that potential point of entry. In spite of this, just about every day of the week, dayshift was getting a call at one of my businesses for a burglary. I stepped up my patrol efforts and began to discover a group of four or five teenagers in violation of curfew, nightly. I would catch them and transport them to the "Best Western" as we would refer to our station. There they would wait for their parents to sign for their future court appearance and pick them up. They were back out before I completed my paperwork on them. After several nights of charging the same kids for curfew violations, my problems with businesses being broken into ceased. Being the most southwestern post in the Western District, the Southwestern District was at the southern and western bound-

ary to my post. The officers who worked on the other side of the street worked off a different radio frequency than I did and reported to a different station for roll call. It was really not much different than if we worked for different jurisdictions. You see the curfew violators got tired of dealing with me and my burglary problem stopped. But the adjacent post of the Southwestern District, to the south of my Baltimore Street boundary, saw a sudden spike in midnight shift commercial burglaries. The police and the criminals know these artificial boundaries and the juveniles just moved their activity to the south. Although I never caught them at it, they were the burglars.

I learned a valuable lesson from this that would later serve me well as a security consultant for an alarm company years later. That is you can't always truly prevent crime but you can move it by taking opportunity away through risk of being caught. This is why signage and a well-placed alarm system reduces your chances of being a victim and increases your unprotected neighbor's chances of a break in.

Do police ever truly prevent crime? Yes, through preventive patrol, arrests, community involvement, treatment and outreach programs, although never eradicated, criminal activity can and will continue to be reduced. 🌐

*Joel E. Gordon 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*



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A CALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICING

By Peter Marina & Pedro Marina

Interested in finding new ways to make law enforcement even better? Do you want police officers to further excel at their jobs? Do you want to foster improved trust between police officers and the community? Is it time to end the “us” against “them” mentality?

While some people talk of eliminating police, such talk carries more bark than bite. Even so-called progressives, who argued for defunding police, actually voted “present” allowing increased funding for the police when it protected them personally.

On the superstitious fear of the mob,

Orwell states:

The educated man pictures a horde of submen, wanting only a day’s liberty to loot his house, burn his books, and set him to work minding a machine or sweeping out a lavatory. ‘Anything,’ he thinks, ‘any injustice, sooner than let that mob

loose (Orwell, 1984)?

Despite the virtue signaling, police are here to stay.

To become the world's best model of policing, we need a standard national human rights police training program that trains law enforcement agents how to apply human rights in their everyday police interactions with community members.

Human rights police training goes beyond virtue-signaling and preaching ideological liberal concepts using vague, poorly defined terms. It goes beyond teaching police officers the culturally correct attitudes and sanctioned forms of thought. It goes against anti-intellectual orthodox views that teach police what to think instead of how to think. It refuses to force police officers to undergo thought correction therapy for ideas questioning the status quo.

Rather, human rights policing teaches police officers the meaning of human rights along with its recent emergence in human history. It requires police to analyze the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights to discuss how it relates to police work. Police officers learn how other officers think about human rights and apply it to everyday policing situations.

Human rights police training teaches police that power derives from institutions, as does trust, and if police want to be trusted, they must restore the legitimacy of law enforcement. It also teaches police officers to use their power, not for use of force, but rather to realize their sense of agency to protect the human rights of the people they serve. Human agency is the ability of human beings to go against the deterministic forces of biology and culture. When police use their agency to protect the human rights of those they serve, they go against the hierarchical logic of power and domination. Rather, they use their agency to save lives and protect people's ability to enjoy the rights that naturally belong to them. In such a training program, police officers discuss new and creative ways to use their agency for the advancement of human rights in the communities they serve.

Human rights police training teaches police how to use the sociological imagination to understand crime as a structural problem that exists within the institutional arrangements of society. They learn that much of what accounts for street crime is a creative, even if destructive, cultural solution to the collectively experienced structural problems people face. Most importantly, they develop the ability to see the world from the actor's point of view, through talking with

members of the community they serve and learning their story. Police officers discuss their experiences talking with community members only to realize that those they police live colorful, vibrant and nuanced lives very much like our own.

Human rights police training involves police officers interviewing members of a community organization, especially those critical of police, to learn their perspectives on how police officers can apply human rights to their community. Police officers learn how people in their community interpret and understand what human rights policing looks like from the points of view of community members. Police officers discuss their findings with their colleagues and reflect on how this might better inform their ability to apply human rights to policing.

Finally, human rights police training teaches police officers how to apply specific rights from the Declaration of Human Rights to a wide variety of real-life policing situations. It trains police to think about all the human rights that belong to people, and how they can allow community members to enjoy the rights that belong to them, even under tough conditions.

Human rights policing can become the focus of police training and the standard model of policing. Police officers can become the leaders of applying the highest standard of human rights in law enforcement.

Human rights remains a concept, but far from a practice in society. Is it possible that police officers can serve as the harbinger towards making human rights a reality?

We say yes.

We can make the world better.

That's why we created the Human Rights Policing Certificate Program offered through the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse's Extended learning Program. 🌍

Peter Marina is an Associate Professor of Sociology & Criminal Justice at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Pedro Marina is a U.N.O. graduate in sociology and a retired police lieutenant from the New Orleans Police Department with thirty years of law enforcement experience in the Big Easy.

Their book *Human Rights Policing: Reimagining Law Enforcement in the 21st Century* is now under contract with Routledge Press.

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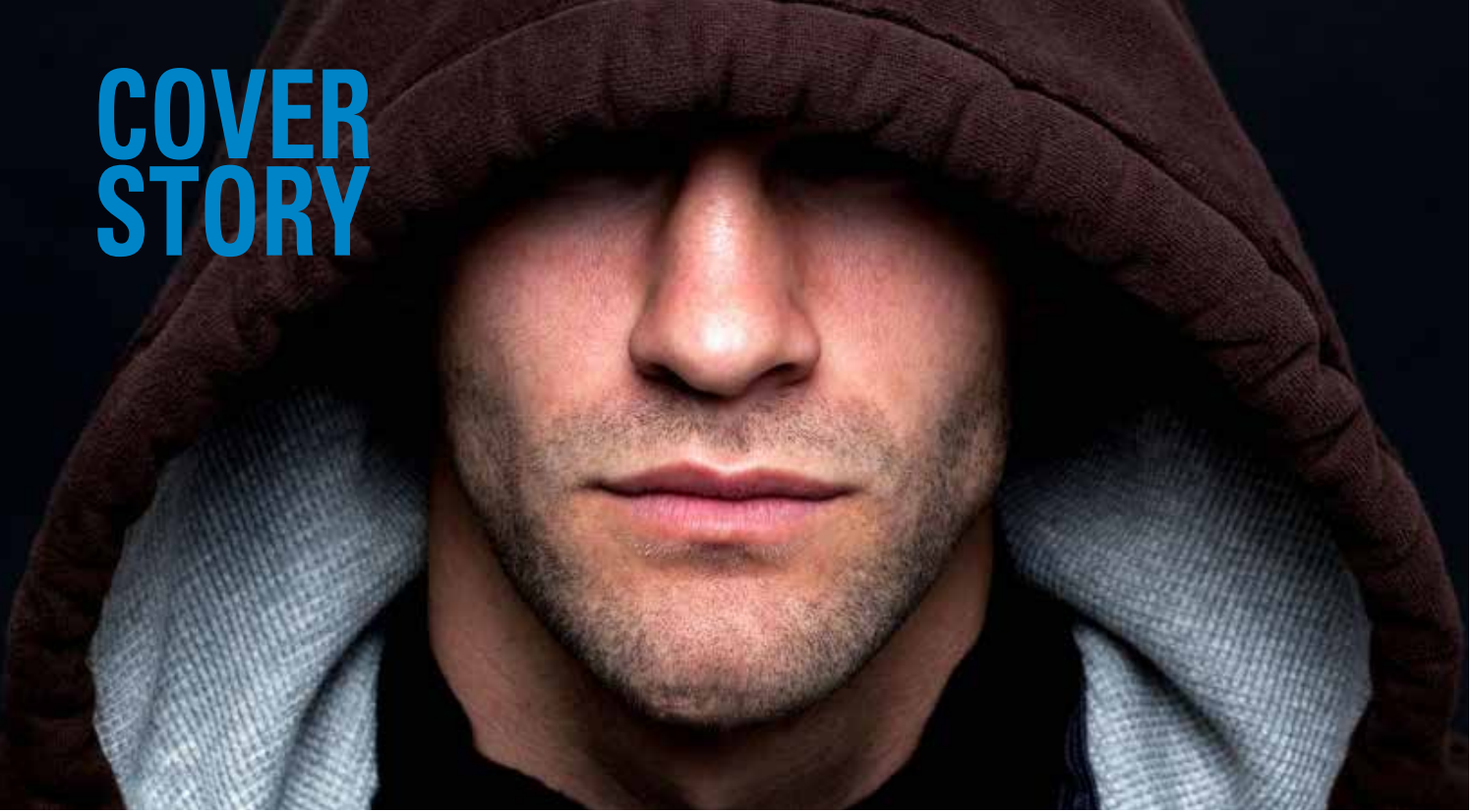
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FORCED VAX ATTACK:

Cops go from Hero to Villain

By David A. Clarke Jr., Sheriff (Ret.) Milwaukee County

In the early days of the Chinese coronavirus pandemic when everybody was running around like chickens with their heads cut off, American law enforcement officers with calmness and courage risked their lives and well-being, and that of their families, when they answered the call to serve and protect. This was at a time when not much was known about the virus or its transmission. This was when Dr. Tony Fauci confidently proclaimed on a top-rated Sunday night news show that he was not worried about COVID and that there was no need for people to run out, buy and start wearing surgical masks. More importantly, it was well before testing was available and keep in mind there was no “vaccine” available. I’ll get to that later.

Nevertheless, our police officers went to work

as other government employees including public school teachers and elected officials locked themselves in their homes and got paid to work from home. In the private sector, businesses were ordered closed, putting private sector employees out of work with no pay unlike government workers. That quarantine-like bubble of protection wasn’t available to police officers. They couldn’t strictly socially distance themselves from crime victims or suspects. You can’t handcuff an arrestee from six feet away. If first aid was required of say a gunshot victim, that could not be done from six feet away. At the time there was no concern about the well-being or safety of police officers. In fact, they were heralded as heroes for their bravery and selfless service.

That was then, this is now.

"First of all, it isn't even a vaccine by medical definition.
A vaccine makes you immune
from getting a virus or spreading it."

Now a so-called "vaccine" has been developed. Bear with me for a moment as I look inside what is being called settled science on COVID. The people using this term have an agenda. There is no such thing as settled science. A Harvard College professor once reminded me that science doesn't prove, it only probes. Keep in mind that settled science once believed that the sun rotated around the earth. First of all, it isn't even a vaccine by medical definition. A vaccine makes you immune from getting a virus or spreading it. It was rushed through clinical trials to market. There is still a lot that is not know about what really is by medical definition a therapeutic. That means you can still catch the virus and spread it and you have to continue to get periodic additional shots to protect you. A recent news report said that several weeks ago, 40% of all COVID-related reported deaths nationally were of people who had been fully "vaccinated". There is still a lot that is not known about this therapeutic like its long-term side effects. Now something called a delta variant has emerged that is resistant to the therapeutic. In addition to this, reasonable people are asking questions like how long will they have to keep getting jabbed and injected with this therapeutic. The bottom line is that we have not been told the whole story about things and it makes people rightfully suspicious. So-called experts keep moving the goalposts. Ok, enough of that.

Then there is the legal question about government's authority to force an individual to inject anything into their body as a condition of employment. I don't care about the efficacy of what is medically best for people. It is still a freedom and liberty issue, and those decisions should be left to the individual to make.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot continues to threaten Chicago police officers with suspensions without pay

and termination unless they take the job. Her order further reduces the ranks of an already depleted force as violent street crime continues at record rates. She had no concern for their health as they continued to perform their duty in dangerous conditions in the early days of the pandemic. Many saw them as heroes. Now their organizations and political class officials are showing their thanks by seeing them as the bad guys in all of this. That is an odd way of thanking them. Making matters more untenable is that feckless police commanders are willing to enforce these city policies. Lightfoot should attack crime and criminals like she does Chicago police officers. Crime rates would drop exponentially. She should attack her useless state's attorney Kimberly Fox, who refuses to charge repeat criminal offenders or ask for substantial bail in these cases.

So now law enforcement officers are at a crossroads between freedom to choose or losing their careers as local government officials are threatening them with the loss of their livelihood if they do not give in to forced "vaccination." Some agencies have already terminated and suspended officers without pay, and some have voluntarily resigned. This makes their families collateral damage as many officers are the primary income source for things like mortgages, putting food on the table and tuition for their children.

Thankfully, police unions are showing resolve in this fight. The Chicago FOP president has told officers to hold the line against these forced injections. In New York, NYPD officers organized a large protest march against forced medical orders. This is a good sign. These labor organizations possess leverage in this fight against these thankless politicians and should start flexing their muscles by using it. 🇺🇸

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





A Veterans Day Like No Other

By Lt Col Jonathon P. Myers (USMC Retired)



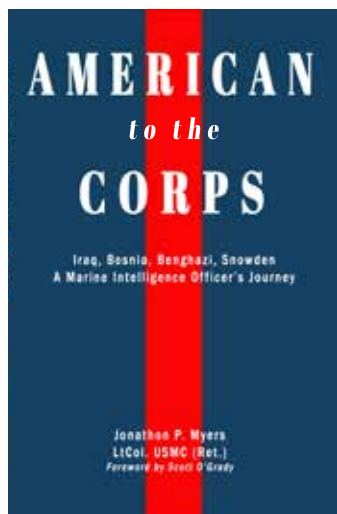
I spent 28 years of my life as an officer of Marines. It was my first job, one that I started at 17 years old as an officer candidate and held until I was 50, working for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs. I transitioned from active duty to the reserves and had other jobs over the years, but being an officer of Marines was and continues to be my life. The War on Terror following the attacks of September 11, 2001, lasted for 20 of those 28 years. My entire career, and the entire careers of countless other service members from every service and every walk of life, was dominated by this war. Some people joined in the days following 9/11 and spent their careers knowing nothing but this war.

Many people believe that with the disastrous withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan there will be a lot of damage to undo, but ultimately they feel a sense of relief that the war is “finally over.” The problem is that it’s not over at all; it’s only on pause. The enemies of the US will use this time to strategically regroup and take inventory of their newfound power, filling the vacuum left by the diplomatic defeat we suffered at home and abroad. We will see our adversaries, including transnational terror groups as well as nations such as China and Russia, emboldened and bolstered by the disenchanted rhetoric of our longtime allies who have lost confidence in this great nation. Despite its apparent end, this war will go on and new wars will emerge; only now it will be our children who will fight them. Maybe next month, maybe next year, maybe in five years. But they will fight, whether they want to or not.

While nearly all Americans agree that we should have left Afghanistan, there is

almost universal agreement that our exit strategy was the most poorly executed of all military withdrawals in the history of our country. As we absorb the impact of this failure, a new generation of veterans is already born, already spending early fall evenings playing until dark on the playgrounds, already engrossed in the new school year, homework and friends. None of them know what awaits them at the dawn of their service. But many of us veterans know full well. It will bring a call to duty, a selflessness that most people never get to experience, and tragedies that most can't even imagine.

This Veterans Day feels more significant than any Veterans Day of my lifetime. Today's generation of veterans needs your support now more than ever. In almost an instant, one bad policy decision minimized every successful combat engagement they executed against inferior forces. The political defeat of the United States in Afghanistan has left between two and three



million veterans of both Afghanistan and Iraq feeling as though their service and sacrifice may have been in vain. Today you will find them actively reaching out to each other, conducting “buddy checks” to make sure their friends and comrades aren't contemplating self-harm or engaging in self-destructive behavior.

Although they have each other, this generation of veterans also needs to be recognized and acknowledged by the general public for the significant sacrifices they have made. When service members choose to serve in the military, they sacrifice many of their own freedoms, time with their loved ones, their physical and mental health and sometimes even their lives. On this Veterans Day, look for ways to thank our veterans for all they have given to keep America safe.

Every veteran of the War on Terror has a story to tell. Traditionally, veterans share these stories only among themselves, locking up their emotions and experiences when they encounter friends and family whom they assume “just wouldn't get it.” Americans owe a debt of gratitude to these veterans, and should seek out, engage, and listen to them whenever possible. It is with the acknowledgment of their service and the listening of the stories that citizens can honor their sacrifices and better understand their struggles, especially during this delicate period. One of the greatest regrets of my life is that I never asked my own grandfather about his experiences in World War II, and he will never know how much I valued



his service. It is for this same reason that I wrote my own memoir of service for my children, so that they will never experience that regret.

On this Veterans Day like no other in recent history, I encourage all Americans to go beyond the now-common homage of, “Thank you for your service.” This year, challenge yourself to actually engage with a veteran, learn their story, draw it out, and begin the process of helping that veteran to understand that their service was not in vain. Lift them up, where they belong. As we give voice to their sacrifices, we will recover as veterans, we will recover our national pride, and America will regain its position of power on the world stage. 🇺🇸

Jonathan P. Myers was born into a family of CIA operatives and high-level intelligence officials. He served 28 years as an intelligence officer, continuing a grand tradition of military service started by ancestors who helped to establish the Jamestown settlement. Lt. Col. Myers was involved in many high-profile national security events from 1990-2020. He resides on a farm in Virginia with his wife and three children.



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UNIQUE QUESTIONS

to ask during investigations

By Lt Joseph Pangaro

Conducting any kind of an investigation requires varying degrees of preparation. A simple shoplifting incident will be covered by the events that led to the on-scene arrest e.g.

- When did you decide to steal the property?
- Was anyone else with you?
- How did you get to the store?
- How many times have your stolen form this store in the past?
- Do you know any employees of this store?
- What were you going to do with the stolen property?
- Do you have an online place to sell items like eBay or Facebook Marketplace?

The idea here is to cover the time before, during, and after the incident and find out if anyone else is involved. Clearly a simple shoplifting as a one-time event can be uncomplicated, but a shoplifting event could also be part of a larger criminal scheme to steal and resell merchandise. Asking the right questions will help you define what you have.

In any investigation, we must always consider the possibility of a larger picture we cannot see, such as an ongoing shoplifting enterprise. We find that out by asking questions.

If you need to investigate a more complex crime such as an economic or what we used to call a white-collar

crime, the preparation will be more intense and detailed.

An economic crime can consist of different levels of planning and action by the criminal. I had a case where a woman, aged 63, with a CPA degree was working for multiple companies as their bookkeeper. She also had access to a specific type of accounting program that she used. The program was unique to the bookkeeping industry and only a few people knew how to run it. The program was very efficient, but it also had a way for the operator to manipulate the activities of the software so she could hide things from the business owner.

What she did was list a business expense such as equipment for truck repairs to keep the company vehicles running. This might be a \$4,000 expense as a line item in the software. If anyone looked at the books, the expense would seem legitimate and not be noticed.

In reality, she could then change the payee on the check that was issued by the software to something other than a supplier of truck parts. In her case it was for a mortgage payment she made on house she bought in the Bahamas. Because she could manipulate the software, no one except her would know who the payment was made to. She did this to several businesses for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The theft was only discovered by the business when they had a tax audit and had to show the checks for their expenses. When they expected to see “Joes Truck Parts” for \$4K, the actual check was to the Bahamas property management company. Since they had no business in the Bahamas, they called the police thinking an outside source had accessed their accounts. In fact, they defended the accountant when I suggested she may be responsible.

When I got the investigation, I looked over the forensic audit report. I was not formally trained on reading forensic audit reports or any kind of bookkeeping other than my own checking account, so it was confusing.

To help me understand they dynamics so I could investigate it properly, I had to get acquainted with the processes. I created a list of questions and spoke to professional accountants and detectives from the economic crime unit of the county prosecutors.

Then questions I had concerned how accounting works and how a check could be made out to one person yet be cashed by a third party, that is not a common financial transaction. What I found was the only way to do this was to manipulate the software that was doing the accounting, check writing and record keeping.

Once I understood that, I began asking:

- Who had access to the accounting software?
- Who actually used the software?
- Who approved the payments?
- Who credited the payments and cash in?
- Who reconciled the accounts?
- And who was authorized to do this?

It was through these questions that I realized I could have a single thief or a conspiracy of thieves. The owner might be involved, or another employee and the accountant could be in with them to defraud the business.

Long and short of it was the only person with the knowledge of the software was the accountant, she did it all. When she prepared the monthly reports, it was with the manipulated information and the CEO signed off on it not knowing he was being defrauded.

This information prepared me to interview the accountant, because I now had specific information to ask questions about. I knew what was real and what was fraud and how I could decipher between the two when she answered my questions.

Her interview responses led me to contact three other companies she worked as a bookkeeper using the same software. In each case she was doing the same thing, her theft was over \$1.5 million from the four companies. During follow up interviews we found her laundering scheme, which was quite inventive, In this case and in many others, the questions we ask should be unique to the case we are investigating. Generic questions are OK, but do not usually lead you to the truth. There are some specific points we search for when asking questions:

- Motive, as this will help us find other witnesses, accused or victims.
- Actual activities, how an act was committed and planned.

In conducting liquor license background investigations, we understand that the motivations for a criminal to get liquor license is almost always the access to a cash business.

A cash business allows you to hide money, launder money, under-report money and use money for other illicit activities. Therefore, asking questions about why a person wants a liquor license, how long they have thought about it and what they want to do with the license can reveal motivations or planning.

You have to figure that running a bar or res-

taurant takes a specific set of skills. Most restaurants fail in the first year, therefore it is a big financial risk. Running a bar has its own concerns as well and the costs are very high. This means the people who do this usually have some experience in the food and beverage industry, or they are just foolish and don't understand how they can lose their investment money.

In our liquor license class, we suggest investigators probe the motives of a buyer by asking questions that go beyond the basic, things such as:

- When did you first decide you wanted to buy a bar or restaurant?
- What is your experience in running a bar or restaurant?
- Who will work in your restaurant?
- What will your food theme be?
- What name have you thought of for your restaurant?
- Who else knows about your desire to run a bar?

These seemingly innocuous questions go right to the heart of motivation. A person planning to use the license for the cash value probably did not consider any of these things, whereas a legitimate buyer almost certainly addressed these concepts and can answer enthusiastically.

In the end, questions, unique questions, outside the norm, without being provocative or offensive can help you see through lies and deception and reveal the real bottom line.

I suggest you get my book- "The Interview" from Loose Leaf Law or on Amazon or Goodreads for more tips on how to enhance your interview skills.

Whether you are a patrol officer, corrections officer, detective or supervisor, our interview skills can make the difference in getting confessions and admissions.

Always seek the truth! 🌐



Lt. Joseph Pangaro retired after serving 27 years at a police department in Monmouth County, NJ, having served as the Lead Training Officer. Pangaro is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickenson University's Certified Public Managers Program (CPM). He's a newspaper columnist who writes about the rigors and joys in law enforcement. Joseph Pangaro is the CEO and President of Pangaro Training and Management, and Pangaro Global Training, an online training company. E-mail at: JPangaro@TrueSecurityDesign.com, www.TrueSecurityDesign.com





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Cancer-Fighting Local Bergen Police Departments Unite For Stricken Mom, Young Son

By Daily Voice Senior Editor Jerry DeMarco



Joanne Bastante-Howard and John (Facebook)



Borough of Beards 2021 HO-HO-KUS PD

North Jersey single mom Joanne Bastante-Howard has worked tirelessly for years to help provide critical resources for kids who, like her young son, have Down syndrome.

Bastante-Howard, a former advertising and marketing whirlwind, is personally responsible for raising more than \$100,000 to help obtain critical medical, education and therapeutic services for those in need through the nonprofit she founded, America's Special Kidz (A.S.K.).

Parents of children with a wide range of circumstances -- including autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy and mitochondrial disease -- have turned to Bastante-Howard for help.

She's always been there for them. It's heartbreaking for many that Bastante-Howard is now the one in need, as breast cancer cruelly tries to take her life.

In an apparently unprecedented move, seven police departments in Northwest Bergen have responded by uniting for a "No-Shave November" to remember.

Not only that -- they're extending the campaign through the end of 2021 and offering "Borough of Beards" T-shirts to anyone who donates at least \$40 to the cause.

Participating police departments:

- Ho-Ho-Kus;
- Upper Saddle River;
- Franklin Lakes;
- Oakland;
- Saddle River;
- Woodcliff Lake;
- Wyckoff.

As cancer continues its relentless punishment, Bastante-Howard, of Woodland Park, continues to exude gratitude for the goodwill of others.

She makes time even while hospitalized to mention each by name in social media posts -- and begs their forgiveness when she can't say "thank you" quickly enough.

She also asks all those concerned to pray for her son, John, 13, who attends the ECLC School in Ho-Ho-Kus, as well as for her parents.

"God knows that caring for them is all that matters to me," Bastante-Howard wrote.


The goal of "No-Shave November" is to "grow awareness by embracing our hair, which many cancer patients lose, and letting it grow wild and free," according to no-shave.org. "Donate the money you typically spend on shaving and grooming to educate about cancer prevention, save lives, and aid those fighting the battle."

It began after eight siblings in Chicago lost their dad, Matthew Hill, to colon cancer. The idea was to raise awareness for cancer patients struggling with hair loss.

Police departments began participating in 2009, and it has grown bigger and bigger -- and even bigger than that -- ever since.

The Hill siblings also created a nonprofit organization, the Matthew Hill Foundation, six years ago to help fund cancer research, prevention and education.

Officers don't have to get hairy if they don't want to. They can personally donate.

So can you. 

source: dailyvoice.com



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YOU ARE NOT ALONE

By Nicholas Ricciotti

For three years, I pushed the limits and boundaries of what I could and couldn't get away with. My actions were fueled by alcohol, which occasionally involved the use of painkillers. Having a valid prescription washed away the worry of ever being subjected to a random urine test from my department. And if I didn't have anything from my prescription, I was able to get them from someone close to me. For short periods of time, I would binge drink, party, stay out late, go home, sleep, go to work and do it all again. Then I would stop. My girlfriend would get sick of the antics and ask me to stop. Or I'd have an off-duty incident involving alcohol, but I was always able to avoid any charge or arrest.

We all know drinking and driving is number one illegal, and two incredibly irresponsible. Anyone who is a first responder has heard the awful story of a drunken driver crashing into another car. While they walk away unscathed

the damage that they caused to other innocent people is sometimes deadly. I knew this could possibly be my fate, but I pushed those thoughts aside. Instead, I got my rush from doing something wrong, knowing there was a good chance I could get away with it. The best way to describe my relationship with alcohol and pills is like a bad ex-girlfriend. You know she's toxic and bad for you, so you cut her off, but every time she comes around you let her in. Then the cycle of insanity continues.

The pill use was hidden from almost everyone, except the people I was doing them with. But the excessive drinking was no secret. It became a joke to the people I worked with. So, what did I do? I played into the joke and downplayed the drinking. Every off-duty incident I got myself into was never kept secret, even from those in administrative positions. Instead of asking if I needed help, I was belittled and scolded. At the time I didn't think anything of it. I have thick skin, so it didn't re-

ally bother me. Looking back, I'm amazed they didn't mandate I get help.

For the longest time, I didn't think my drinking and pill use was an issue. I never became dependent on any substance. I wasn't addicted to the substance, but I was addicted to the adrenaline rush of doing something wrong.

At the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020, I realized I needed help to break the cycle, but I didn't know where to turn. The only help I knew was available to me through my department was to go to Florida and check myself into an inpatient rehab. At that time, I was ready for help, but not ready to tell all my loved ones I had a problem. I also didn't want to be the topic of gossip in my department, so I let the cycle continue.

In July of 2020 my worst nightmare had come true. Through an investigation done by the Prosecutor's Office I was caught via text messages negotiating a purchase for pills. My career was soon to be gone, and my life

"I got my rush from doing something wrong, knowing there was a good chance I could get away with it."

was turned upside down. While I was left in limbo, waiting to see what would happen with my career, I took the initiative and got help on my own. I found a therapist who specializes in addiction and trauma in first responders. Finally, I had found exactly what I needed. As I started seeing her, she was able to direct me to different resources for first responders. Bottles and Badges, and Reps for Responders to name a couple. My eyes were open that I wasn't alone in my struggles, and there were more resources out there than just Florida.

I had stopped the pill use shortly after I was caught, and had my last drink on Oct. 9, 2020. This

was two days after I pled guilty to conspiracy to possess CDS, and agreed to never work in public employment again.

Asking for help is not easy, especially as a police officer. I used to think that asking for help made you soft and weak. I quickly realized how wrong I was. What I learned through all of this is before you help others, you need to help yourself. You are not alone in your struggles. There are way more people out there, first responders, who are going through similar struggles. Know it's OK to ask for help, and it's okay to struggle. In order to be the best cop, firefighter, EMT, husband, wife, son, daughter, you need to be

the best you. 🌐

Nicholas Ricciotti is a former Law Enforcement Officer in the state of NJ. Through professional and personal experi-



ences, he is a strong advocate for physical and mental health. Nick is part of the Reps for Responders team, who help first responders live a healthy life through physical fitness and mental health awareness. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, and is a former Division 2 athlete. Nick is most recently enjoying fatherhood as he and his wife welcomed their first child in February 2021.



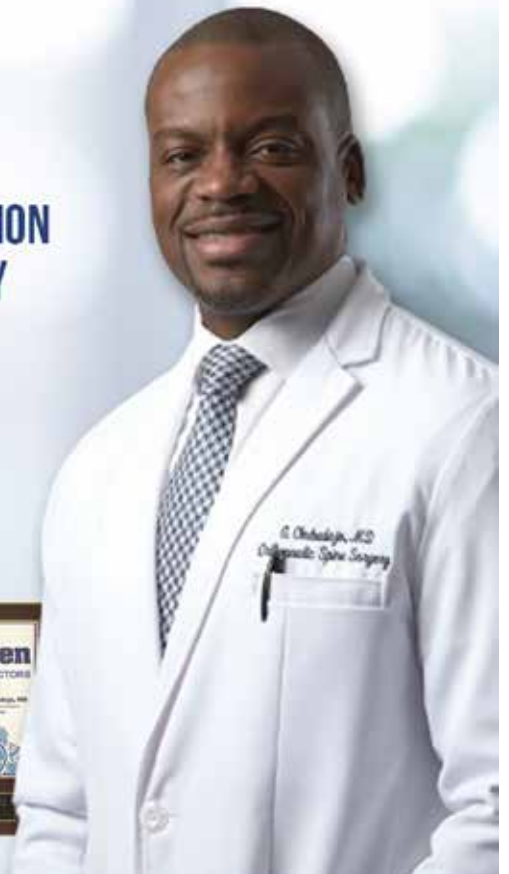
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Are Half Of Harsh Police Encounters Due To Untreated Stress?

By Leonard Adam Sipes, Jr.

Does anyone care about police stress? Have society and cities abandoned cops and their mental health needs? How much of the total number of adverse police-civilian encounters each year are explained by untreated mental health needs among police officers is difficult to determine exactly, but our review of the research suggests it could be large – potentially accounting for up to nearly half (46%) of all police misconduct.

The emphasis of hundreds of negative articles is police misconduct or use of force or racial/ethnic bias. The conclusions seem to be that there is something wrong with cops or policing in general. Polls indicate that policing needs to change. For those of us who have been in policing or the justice system for decades, it's a puzzle. The overwhelming majority of police officers I've encountered seem to be genuinely decent, level-headed people who just want to serve.

Yet there are times when things go south.

Why?

Agencies go overboard to find applicants with the right temperaments. Emphasis is placed on a thorough investigation of friends, family and past employment. We polygraph. We look at all aspects of a person's life. We do psychologicals. We do criminal background checks. We check for any signs of bias.

Departments and cities don't want the multimillion-dollar lawsuits and the endless negative publicity and citizen protests. They try to pick the best possible people to be cops.

We train officers using real-life scenarios and shoot-don't shoot labs. We emphasize using as little force as possible, which is borne out in Department of Justice data where two to three percent of police-civilian encounters involve force or the threat of force, hardly the stereotype presented by critics.

This is accompanied by data indicating that the vast majority of Americans, regardless of demographics, rank police officers highly to

the point where they are one of the most trusted organizations in America. They rank far better than Congress or the media.

Yet it's equally true that we sometimes go overboard or worse. I've seen mild-mannered people explode if provoked enough. I'm told that the pope would become aggressive if he had to go through what cops experience. I watched a suspect during booking tell an arresting officer that he would torture and kill every member of his family. A committed pacifist would want to retaliate against someone swearing that he would kill his family. Cops go through unbelievable events. They comfort people as they die. They see badly abused kids. They witness homicides. They make death notifications. They rush toward gunfire. They are the target of endless negative media accounts.

"If" there is a problem with policing, and if it's connected to stress or PTSD, whose fault is it?

Society says that it wants "guardians" but demands that "warriors" run into a church or synagogue or school when some nutcase opens fire. Society places ridiculously insane demands on cops, yet it wants them to do the right thing in all cases. Is that even possible? Ever chase someone wanted for a crime on a high-

speed pursuit for 30 minutes risking life and limb yet "gently" approach the car and speak to the suspect like he's a wayward child? When it happened to me, I was pissed. The suspect was treated legally but harshly.

Citizens state that they don't want proactive policing when it seems to be the only modality that has a research base for reducing crime. Yet they blame cops for rising crime. America simply doesn't know what it wants from cops, which makes policing impossible which makes the job beyond stressful. America simply doesn't care about the mental health of its protectors, which is why treatment and allowances are almost nonexistent.

University of Chicago Crime Lab:

It is clear that people in more stressful jobs in general

tend to have higher rates of adverse mental health outcomes like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and alcohol use.

We see this for police officers as well, who have symptoms of PTSD at a rate four times higher than that of other working-age adults, and who also have a suicide rate 82% higher.

While the effects of officer wellness interventions are currently not well understood, there is fairly good evidence that mental health interventions can be helpful. Most of the research in this area looks at officer mental health as the key outcome of interest, rather than police misconduct behavior specifically, so by how much existing interventions (if scaled) could change adverse policing outcomes overall remains uncertain.

The Hill (newspaper of



"Society and the media are ridiculously absurd as to what they want from cops."

Congress):

There were 174 officer suicides in 2020, making officers more likely to die from suicide than in the line of duty — even as shootings of officers increase. From April 2020 to April 2021, officer retirements increased 45 percent, a trend that shows no sign of abating. Meanwhile, a Council on Criminal Justice Task Force on Policing brief on officer wellness noted that only 29 percent of police departments have wellness programs or training.

Note: the above articles were first presented by The Crime Report.

USA Today: The Widow of a Police Officer at the Capitol Riot Who Committed Suicide: These officers need to be recognized for the horrors they have seen and protected us from. Their service needs to be respected. Their families should receive the same support and assistance as every other fallen officer's family. Instead, we have been stigmatized, had our health insurance taken, denied even the courtesy of an official burial.

Society and the media are ridiculously absurd as to what they want from cops. Quite simply, it's impossible to be all things to all people. That's why cops are leaving the job in record numbers per endless media accounts.

That's why police recruitment is down 63 percent per the Police Executive Research Forum.

Cops fear the consequences of being proactive. That's why violent crime is skyrocketing throughout the country. We are simply asking too much from too few. Police officers, especially big city cops, need time away from the job. They need programs to help them decompress. They need training as to how to handle stress. They need much better pay. They need a public that appreciates them. In some cases, they need treatment.

They need critical reporters and progressives to put on a uniform and spend a couple of months in the streets. Let's see how they react to what cops see daily.

But many police officers who comment on my articles show signs of stress. I do an article on police public opinion showing that the vast majority of Americans, regardless of who they are, are supportive and want them in their communities, and yet they harshly reject the premise that anyone is sympathetic.

If I provide research supporting what police chiefs are saying about repeat criminals, they heap scorn (i.e., tell us something we don't know).

There is no one more cynical

than big city veteran cops along with big city veteran reporters. Governments and the larger society need to understand that police officers are human. They can only take so much. The violence problem in America is proof that we have unrealistic expectations as to what cops should be and do.

Police officers are precious resources, but they have an expiration date. Those "expired" are leaving per the demands of family and friends and it's mostly the poor and urban minorities that suffer the consequences. 🌐

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 @leonardsipes.com





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How Did We Get Here?

By Major Wesley R. Wise (Ret.)



If written today, what might our obituary say? "The United States of America: born July 1776, died June 2021."

Fathered by George Washington. Proud family members at the time of her birth included Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and many others.

Though King George of England initially opposed the union, he was later quoted as saying George Washington was the greatest man of the age. Citizens of the young republic were nearly unanimous in their agreement with that assessment.

Throughout the more than two centuries of her life, our nation was inhabited by some of the greatest and most inspirational men and women ever to walk the earth: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, Jackie Robinson, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King and scores more. They had their differences, but they never allowed perfection to be elevated to the point of being the enemy of the great.

Things changed in the 1960s. Political assassination, which had always been present in the history of mankind, reached new heights of depravity, taking the Kennedys and MLK. Dissent became weaponized and vile. Our leaders were figuratively, and often literally, spat upon for doing the best job they could.

As we entered the 1970s, we saw needless death at places like Kent State. Most notably, we saw Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein almost single (or more correctly double) handedly transform a once-noble profession into what is now described almost too kindly as "gotcha" journalism. Students of the craft saw that going after leaders for any reason, real or contrived, was the path to fame and riches.

As the next half-century unfolded, we saw many of the individuals who disliked or hated the principles on which this great nation was founded assume positions of leadership — men like John Kerry, who compared our soldiers to Genghis Khan, even if he could not correctly pronounce Khan's name. Kerry rode the wealth of two wives, a good head of hair, a nice speaking voice, and the right set of initials to the U.S. Senate from Massachusetts and on to a candidacy for president; failing that, he became secretary of state. All accomplished by a man who threw his military medals, even if undeserved, over the White House fence.

Moving on, through the end of the twentieth and into the twenty-first century, we saw our educational system devolve into a group of institutions that taught that the United States was a thoroughly racist and corrupt entity. Again, the lack of perfection in our nation was transmogrified into a falsely and malevolently labeled evil.

So here we stand today. We are in trouble, and the evil among us will push back hard on those good men who attempt to do something. But we had better. I, for one, will keep trying. Will you? 🇺🇸

A thirty-six-year veteran of the Baltimore Police Department, Wes retired in 2006 as the Commander of the city's 911 System. While recovering from a stroke in 2014, he wrote two books about his experiences as a Baltimore cop. Wes has also self-published fourteen books for other writers. Need publishing help? Contact Wes at weswise78@gmail.com. A father of two and grandfather of ten, he and his wife of 49 years live near Baltimore, Maryland.





Are we on the verge of WWII?

By Eric Caron

Recently, I heard a homily from a Catholic priest who highlighted the universal adage, “Money can’t buy love or happiness.” Sadly, we now know, with certainty, money alone could not purchase peace in Afghanistan.

Partnering with an international crime syndicate masquerading as a government engaged in pervasive corruption was a fool’s errand... I would say criminal. Tragically, the biggest source fueling the corruption in Afghanistan was the United States via fraudulent U.S. contract activities such as: bribes and/or cash payments to corrupt Afghan officials, drug lords, bankers and thousands of others by our CIA.

How do I know? I was the lead Homeland Security official in Dubai, where most of the money was laundered. Unfortunately, diplomatic pressure on the UAE government from the U.S. State Department & Treasury to stem the flow of dirty Afghan money failed. The United

States government estimates its deconstruction efforts these past 20 years has cost \$300 million per day and nearly 2,500 U.S. military lives. According to the General Accounting Office, the United States also supplied various military equipment to Afghan police and military to include but not limited to: 208 aircraft, 2,000 bombs, 1,400 grenade launchers, 20,000 hand grenades & reconnaissance equipment. A DOD spokesman admitted that the department has no idea where this equipment is currently located within Afghanistan.

On January 17, 1961, President Eisenhower warned the American people in his farewell address to the nation, “Be aware of the military industrial complex...” His main concern was that military industries (defense contractors) would exert an undue influence on government policy to widen profits. Trillions of dollars were allocated and spent for Afghanistan Reconstruction with

little to no positive results.

In a July 30, 2021, a quarterly report was submitted to the United States Congress by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. (SIGAR) This U.S. government agency was/is tasked to be the lead agency to conduct audits and investigations to identify fraud, waste and abuse relating to reconstruction contracts for Afghanistan. Two key findings were reported:

1. “The Risk of Doing the Wrong Thing Perfectly” “That is, programs could be deemed “successful” even if they had not achieved or contributed to broader, more important goals - such as creating an effective Afghan security force and a stable Afghanistan.”
2. “One of the report’s central themes” - “The pervasiveness of over optimism.” The report examines why the Afghan security forces have continued to struggle despite the U.S. assertion of success.



**"Essentially,
the U.S. government
made deals
with the devil."**

It is worthy to note, during this reporting period, SIGAR's criminal investigations resulted in only two criminal informations or prosecutions and two guilty pleas of U.S. citizens. SIGAR's total staff is 174 employees with only five staff members and five Afghan nationals assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. To date, SIGAR's prosecution(s) focuses predominantly on U.S. citizens/officials. In December 2009, while still functioning as the Homeland Security attaché in Dubai, UAE, I was asked to lead a group of Special Agents from Homeland Security Investigations into Afghanistan to train Afghan police, customs and other officials in how to prevent dirty money from being laundered or "cleaned." Within a few years, billions of dollars of cash had been smuggled into Dubai by corrupt Afghan officials, bankers and various organized crime groups involved in smuggling drugs, precious metals/gold and weapons. The expanding cultivation and smuggling of heroin put the entire U.S. and international investment in the reconstruction of Afghanistan at risk, and jeopardized any achievements the U.S. had made related to social issues, including health, education, women's rights and the rule of law.

As I documented in my book, SWITCHED ON - THE HEART & MIND OF A SPECIAL AGENT, I was asked during this training to provide a lecture on corruption and how necessary it was to remove it, or it would metastasize and destroy their country. When I completed my session, one of the highest-ranking customs officials at Kabul Airport raised his hand not to ask a question, but to lecture me through an interpreter. In front of dozens of colleagues, with a voice of General Patton, he stood and stated, "If the U.S. government wanted to stop corruption, we needed to target senior Afghan government officials, not him or his associates in the room." I knew he was correct. Ironically, it was widely reported how the CIA was perpetuating corruption with cash payments to the Afghanistan president's office for over a decade. Then President Hamid Karzai at the time, acknowledged that bags of cash were delivered by the CIA for "various purposes" to his office. Interestingly, Karzai and many other Afghan officials were not just receiving payments from the U.S. but, from Iran and certainly other nations.

Furthermore, after a multi-year money laundering

investigation of Mohammed Zia Salehi, a close associate to then-President Karzai, by Afghan and U.S. officials, a decision was made to arrest him in Afghanistan with the knowledge of Karzai. Unfortunately, within hours he was ordered released by President Karzai. It turned out Salehi was the CIA "bag man" receiving cash for Karzai and others. In twenty years, the Afghan government failed to prosecute any senior government officials for money laundering or corruption.

U.S. administrations throughout this twenty-year period have escalated the war in Afghanistan, and Congress approved billions of dollars for government contracts to support the war efforts. All had promised to crack down on corruption in Afghanistan, but it was all political grandstanding for all parties involved.

Essentially, the U.S. government made deals with the devil (corrupt Afghan officials, drug smugglers, arms traffickers, bankers, terrorists, etc.) We believed these criminals would assist us in the war efforts. We were sadly mistaken and allowed the CIA to hand out hundreds of millions of dollars like drunken sailors to "bad guys" with no accountability keeping the country of Afghanistan in turmoil.

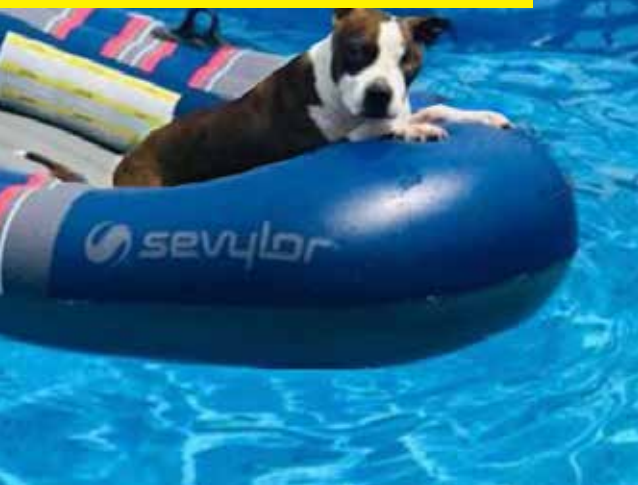
The United States failed to understand that fighting corruption, which we were fueling, was not just a humanitarian cause or hyperbole. Fighting corruption was key to winning the war. Inevitably, lost due to greed and incompetence by senior U.S. Government officials within the White House, DOD, State & CIA.

"Are we on the verge of WWII?" Countries such as Iran, Pakistan, China, and other nations are aligning with the "new" Afghan/Taliban government. Will we now capitulate to the Taliban and other Afghan terror organizations which are now well equipped with sophisticated U.S. military weapons, free to move with impunity with a global terror reach?

I believe that obtaining global peace and security is now jeopardized for generations to come. 🇺🇸

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





A Miracle K-9: The STAR Project is Born

By Charlie Cifarelli

On Aug. 13, 2012 I was sitting at my desk 1,200 miles away from NYC, not knowing what would occur that day would change my life forever. A story that would move even me, a guy who had witnessed some horrible things, to believe in miracles.

I left New York in my twenties for a life in the Midwest, taking my first job at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. I had a great career, though I must admit they kept a close eye on this New Yorker and for good reason; the guys who talked like me and looked like me were the ones in the cells after being picked up for moving drugs across the country or an inmate interstate transfer. Even when I was accepted on the CERT (Corrections Emergency Response Team), they would nominate me as the inmate for the drills. I stayed tough, did my job and the promotions came along. At the end of my career, I was back at the Penitentiary and had the keys to the entire institution. I've always been grateful to the NYPD sergeant who bought me a meal by the Jamaica train station back in the late 1980s. As a matter of fact, if it wasn't for the police, I would've never had any role models growing up or help when I was in

a jam.

I eventually left the department of corrections to start a trash business and I had tremendous success. I built the business solely and eventually sold the business to a larger company, even taking a position as their Chief Operations Officer. I desperately missed New York, and given the free time at my desk I'd scan the New York newspapers to see what was going on. On this day in August, the headlines would read that the NYPD shot and killed a pit bull that was lunging at people in the East Village. The story saddened me, as I had a dog that was a pit bull. When I was down and out living in my van in my early twenties, my dog was my only constant companion.

Luckily, I don't believe headlines

without reading the entire story. Although it looked like the dog had died, I wasn't convinced. I called and spoke to the staff at the New York City Animal Care & Control and after some pleasantries, telling them I was calling from Nebraska wanting to learn about their refuse and recycling, I asked if the dog that was shot by the NYPD was actually dead. I was told she was alive but hanging on to life. Her name was Star.

In the days that followed, the media had to reverse course, and as the New York Daily News reported, Star was making a lightning speed recovery. I immediately started a Facebook page to document the story and her recovery. Star's story, and her Facebook page garnered global attention. Unbeknownst to the public, Star quietly left NYC to begin recovery in Pennsylvania. Although her whereabouts were unknown, I tirelessly tried to find Star. One day, a photo was released of Star with cars in the background. A semi-truck was pictured as well. I put my years of corrections experience and training to good use, as I noticed the cars did not have a front license plate, and the DOT number was visible on the semi-truck. After



many calls and due diligence, I learned where Star was. Several more weeks had passed, and I was granted permission to see Star. When it was time for her to be adopted into a permanent home, I asked my fiancée, Jenn, if we should give Star a home in Nebraska and take this once homeless dog and show her a wonderful life here.

Approximately eight months after Star was shot, I picked her up in Pennsylvania and drove back to Nebraska. Star was a natural with people, a real social butterfly. Having lost a family member to Alzheimer's, we were very much involved in the local Alzheimer's Association and attended the yearly fundraising walks. Star began attending these walks, and the response to her was incredible. In 2015, we started a nonprofit organization, the STAR Project, to raise awareness of dogs in need. One of our first rescued dogs was adopted by a Lincoln, Nebraska police officer. The good that has come out of rescuing a once-homeless NYC dog who almost lost her life from a shooting has turned out to be one of the biggest blessings to come into my life.

Sadly, earlier this year Star passed away from an aggressive form of cancer. She left this world as she lived life - on her own terms. It's import that I keep her legacy alive, as so much good came from such a rough start. 🐾

Charlie Cifarelli is a businessman from Long Island, New York. After rising through the ranks in several maximum-security prisons in Nebraska, he tapped into his entrepreneurial spirit starting his own successful business. Charlie is also co-founder of a nonprofit organization, speaks at various business and social awareness functions, and has been featured in newspaper, magazine, radio and TV regarding animal advocacy.





Effective De-escalation for Corrections Personnel: Tactics for Influencing Uncooperative Inmates into Compliance

By Efren Almodovar and Lou Savelli

Anyone who has worked behind the walls in a jail or correctional facility fully understands the problems and dangers associated with uncooperative inmates as well as the importance of possessing effective de-escalation skills. Being locked in with inmates who have already shown a disdain toward the law, along with gangs and inmates with mental illness, corrections officers though unarmed and outnumbered, must arm themselves with superior communication and de-escalation abilities. However, unlike street police officers, corrections officers may have more information about the inmates and have many opportunities to observe the inmates. With extensive corrections experience, we have dealt with many inmates at their worst and learned to rely more on our communication skills than physical force. Here are our suggestions for de-escalation success when dealing with inmates.

To be a successful resolver of conflict, whether it involves inmate-on-inmate altercations or inmate versus staff, I try to rely on listening skills. Learning from the inmate and identifying what is causing his agitation and combativeness contributes to the creation of a plan of communication and action. Also relying on learning about the inmate's charges, family, and prior is-

ssues in the facility can help greatly. The more insight into the uniqueness of an inmate, the more it will assist with creating a more effective approach to de-escalation.

Along with strong listening skills, it is critical to have effective communication. Inmates, like others, respond better when you speak to them and not at them. Coupled with listening skills, communication becomes more effective and has a better chance of positive responses. A better way of carrying yourself behind the walls, and as I personally prefer, is to be personable. This builds a good reputation among the inmates and causes inmates to be far less resistant when you give them direction and orders. A personable correction officer is more approachable and will often be asked to discuss many topics with the inmates. Since so much time is spent interacting with the inmate population, it is common to be asked advice or legal questions. Other times, corrections officers may have to act like a social worker and help inmates resolve their own inner conflict or deal with issues involving family, depression and the frustration associated with incarceration. This information is valuable for better understanding an inmate and knowing what words and language work best.

The effectiveness of respect can never be overstated. Respect should always be the M.O. (Modus Operandi), of any corrections

officer and it will undoubtedly help de-escalate, and as equally important, prevent situations from becoming more intense. To complement respect, it will help for officers to keep their word. When you give your word, you should keep it. Inmates rely on small promises they look forward to and can be disappointed if the promise is not kept, especially from a respected officer. Some inmates may not have strong support or frequent connection from their families. Therefore, they will be counting on you to follow through. Honesty may seem like a strange word when discussing inmates in a correctional setting, but it can go a long way with furthering respect. When dealing with inmates, even at their worst, I recommend an honest approach and honest answers. When an inmate, or anyone for that matter,



learns you have lied to them, you lose their respect and your credibility.

Accordingly, listening, communication and respect are not the only methods which should be used for de-escalating potentially volatile incidents behind the walls. Simple, yet effective, tactics can be

used to further de-escalation efforts and success. To name only a few, here are my “go to” methods. First, don’t meet shouting and anger with the same. People, even inmates, tend to

tire out from shouting their issues or demands. They also gain fuel from a similar response from an officer. Keep in mind, there is no good reason to try to shout over an irate person. It makes it worse, it escalates the problem, and it makes a professional officer look bad. Second, control your body language. Always be safe, maintain a safe distance, but it is not necessary to get into a fighting stance and exacerbate the situation because the inmate thinks you want to fight. You can easily defend yourself from a non-threatening, tactically sound demeanor and stance. In our training consortium, a group of police officers, corrections officers and other professionals call this tactically non-threatening. The concept, essentially, is defined as looking like you are not threatening or getting excited, but you are immediately ready to defend or go on the offensive effectively. In fact, as mentioned before, getting into a fighting stance can escalate a situation unnecessarily.

More useful tactics, in the furtherance of de-escalating someone or a situation, can include strategically crafted words, phrases or questions. This tactic, taken from our tactical communication techniques, not only works well with inmates in a confrontational mode, but it also fosters a dialogue many inmates want to continue after the incident. For example, asking a highly agitated inmate who refuses to go back to his cell, “Why don’t you tell me what you are thinking right now so you and I can solve this problem?” The inmate expects a confrontational response or a group manpower response to achieve his goal of showing off or proving his courage. By asking the right question and showing your

interest in his feelings, you have a better chance of avoiding resistance and gaining cooperation from the inmate. Yes, there are always going to be those times and those inmates who may have to be defused by force, but force should always be a last resort.

While there are many, many more tactics for de-escalation for corrections officers to use, I will only add one more for this article. This tactic is referred to as the “Subconscious Leverage Tactic” (SLT). The SLT is a question asked of the inmate, or other person, to provoke deeper thought when the inmate is in a resistant mode. The SLT is a combination of a subconscious question asked to the inmate to stimulate his cogni-

tive (thought) processes while your (officer’s) body language changes to a relaxed body language position at the time the inmate starts to respond. This tactic works to influence the inmate to think of the ramifications of his uncooperative or volatile ways while your body language is influencing his body language to relax or become submissive. Most inmates will respond to this technique, making them easier to communicate with and less committed to a confrontation. To illustrate this technique, I will refer to an interview with a highly confrontational and hard-core inmate who refused to sit down in a chair during the interview. The inmate was completely closed off, body

language and verbally to the conversation. One officer asked the inmate, “How could your time in prison go easier and less uncomfortable?” The other officer, standing closer to the inmate, placed himself into the same body language position and mirrored the inmate’s stance, crossed arms, and facial expression. As the inmate fully absorbed the question and subconsciously visualized how he could spend easier time in prison, he would not answer the question. As the closer officer observed the slight change in the inmate’s behavior, he uncrossed his arms and sat down in the chair. The inmate immediately sat down in his chair and his negative demeanor changed drastically. The interview went successfully from that moment on.

Though not every incident can be de-escalated, nor be a win/win, we should always learn from our mistakes and ensure we don’t repeat them. As corrections officers, we have plenty of tools at our disposal and we need to use all that is available to resolve issues peacefully. Our best tools are, without a doubt, people skills and the tactics, among others, discussed in this article. De-escalation is a strategy as well as a technique which involves multiple available tactics. The more tactics you have, the more effective you can perform. Be safe! 🌐



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CIVIL UNREST: IS THIS THE PURGE

By Joel E. Gordon

“The Purge” is an American media franchise centered on a series of films which present a seemingly normal, crime-free America in the near future. But the truth is that the country portrayed is a dystopia which celebrates an annual national holiday known as a pretty terrifying concept called the Purge: one night a year where all crime is legal, where murder, torture, rape and theft are all allowed as a form of a societal safety valve. It seemed farfetched to me that such a condition could ever exist in the United States of America, but are the radical left seeking anarchy toward an actual, more permanent purge?

Frequent civil unrest with many being allowed to riot, loot and burn structures with government officials backing down and allowing unlawful

activity and violence to take place, often with little or no consequence, emboldens the participants. With no bail, bail reform, non-prosecutions and sanctioned prisoner release by an ever-increasing number of George Soros-funded “prosecuting” attorneys, is the Purge coming to a town near you? These realities combined with media manipulation of truth and questioned election oversight and rules violations make law-abiding citizens feel as though there no longer is any rule of law being enforced on any level. Now lawlessness on both sides seems as though it is justifiable in the mindset of an ever-growing portion of our population, seemingly by even those who have “played by the rules” as law-abiding members of society in the past.

Add policing which is largely unrecognizable with stand-downs and poor operational and enforcement choices further fueling the disenfranchisement of many from seeing the need to surrender to authority in their thoughts and actions. And the waters are further muddied with confusion over enforcement of law versus Executive Order “mandates.” Further, serious national security concerns on Chinese influence over our officials and institutions add another layer of doubt and fear.

What are the ramifications? When the late Rush Limbaugh noted that America was “trending toward secession,” he said “I see more and more people asking, what in the world do we have in common with the people who live in, say, New York? There cannot be a peaceful coexistence of two completely different theories of life, theories of government, and theories of how we manage our affairs. We can’t be in this dire a conflict without something giving somewhere along the way. And I know that there’s a sizable and growing sentiment for people who believe that that is where we’re headed, whether we want to or not — whether we want to go there or not. I myself haven’t made up my mind. I still haven’t given up the idea that we are the majority and that all we have to do is find a way to unite and win.”

People from all over the country showed their support, taking part in rallies calling for greater transparency in government and elections moving forward. Many expressed that our election process was being handled improperly, and in some cases fraudulently. Some are optimistic that the tide will turn, however, including some high-profile supporters.

“Courts do not decide who the president of the United States will be,” said former national security adviser Michael Flynn. “We are in a crucible moment

in the history of the United States of America,” he added. Flynn called himself a “product of an unjust system” and said the battle for honest elections “is about the fabric of the Constitution of the United States of America.”

Texas GOP Party Chairman Allen West noted that when the Supreme Court tossed out a Texas election lawsuit which was joined by 17 states, 106 U.S. congressmen and the former president himself over election practices and irregularities that in his view the decision establishes a precedent that states can violate the United States Constitution and not be held accountable.

He went on to say “Perhaps law-abiding states should bond together and form a Union of States that will abide by the Constitution.”

So where is this all heading? Have we forsaken the rule of law in favor of choosing sides with “every man for himself?” Who can you trust when social order collapses? Is this the Purge?

It’s essential that real leaders emerge and step up to curtail our journey on this road less traveled. In the alternative, it appears that conflict will continue on our land in crisis resulting in further chaos. We must act intelligently, admit our past mistakes, correct them and move forward. 🌐

Joel E. Gordon 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



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Jeff Gottesfeld holds the children's book he authored, *Twenty One Steps* in front of a statue that stands in Mitchell Park in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, dedicated to veterans of World War I. The book that honors the tomb of the unknown soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. *Chris Pedota, NorthJersey.com-USA Today Network*



(WASHINGTON, D.C.) FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021 --- Jeff Gottesfeld is an acclaimed writer whose work has won awards from the American Library Association, the Writers Guild of America, and the National Council for the Social Studies. He brings his new, bestselling children's book, *Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier* to our nation's capital, Washington, D.C for the upcoming one-hundredth anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier this Veterans Day. Gottesfeld and his book will participate in the program at the National Archives on November 10, 2021 broadcast coast-to-coast.

The book has topped the Amazon Best Seller list and is currently a top-five title in multiple categories, as well as a featured book for Hidden Heroes Caregiver Community for the

Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and Purple Star Schools. A version of its cover just won the Vantage Point, Veterans Administration Veterans Day 2021 poster contest. That art will be the front piece for the Tomb centennial program this November 2021 for Veterans Day.

Endorsed by the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and prepared with the assistance of many Tomb Guards past and present, *Twenty-One Steps* is an American treasure. An outlier of a children's book in this age of identity, it has captured the hearts and minds of our nation's future leaders and will have an impact for decades to come.

Gottesfeld and *Twenty-One Steps* have been compelling subjects for media outlets left, right, and center. He has spoken to many military families and kids about this book. In addition to

the centennial events, on November 6, he and Tavares were honored by the United Through Reading organization with the Audrey Geisel Friend of Military Children Award, at its annual Storybook Ball.

This November the National Veterans and Military Families Month, and also marks the centennial anniversary of the creation of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It will be celebrated with ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and around the country, as our nation mourns the soldiers interred at the Tomb who represent thousands of others who perished nameless and faceless, defending our country and our freedom. On the strength of *Twenty-One Steps*, Gottesfeld has been asked to be a featured speaker at Tomb Centennial events. He is available for media interviews and book events. 🌐

About the creators:

*Jeff Gottesfeld is an acclaimed writer whose work has won awards from the American Library Association, the Writers Guild of America, and the National Council for the Social Studies. His *The Tree in the Courtyard: Looking Through Anne Frank's Window* was a 2016 New York Times Best Illustrated Book for Children. He has previously written for adult, teen, middle-grade, and picture book audiences. Jeff Gottesfeld is based in Los Angeles.*

*Matt Tavares is illustrator of *Twenty-One Steps*, and the author-illustrator of *Crossing Niagara*, *Henry Aaron's Dream*, *There Goes Ted Williams*, *Becoming Babe Ruth*, and *Growing Up Pedro*, as well as *Zachary's Ball*, *Oliver's Game*, and *Mudball*. He is the illustrator of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *Over the River and Through the Wood*, *Lady Liberty* by Doreen Rappaport, *The Gingerbread Pirates* by Kristin Kladstrup, and *Jubilee!* by Alicia Potter. He is also the creator of the modern Christmas tale *Red and Lulu*. He lives in Maine.*



LOOKING FOR A POLICE JOB?

Decent Pay, Danger, Lots of Hate and Bad Bosses

(Tips to help you enter one of the most toxic professions successfully)

By Kirk Lawless



I could have “chased the money,” but I answered a higher calling, and that was to be a cop. Mission accomplished, and with a career cut short, I decided to use the talents God gave me to help other cops. I keep my finger on the pulse of all things law enforcement related; I speak with recruits at the local police academies, I field phone calls from brothers and sisters in distress (no matter the hour, nor however long it takes). I listen. I don't repeat what is told in confidence. I still give advice when cops who know me (or not) reach out with a problem they think I can help straighten out.

I'm not afraid of anything, especially bad bosses.

If you're a recruit looking for a job, or a newer officer looking to move to another agency, I'll share some important information with you and I hope it helps you navigate the treacherous waters on which I have already sailed. I know thousands of cops. I've been around lots of police agencies (some good, some in dire need of house cleaning).

There's lots of hate in this job and I've been working on my own side of hating things and letting it go, but it's a process. I have already forgiven the ones who have attacked my family and I and I'll say it openly. The apologies will never come. I know that but that doesn't mean I'll be quiet when the backstabbing and attacks come.

Remember, people hate you for three reasons. They see you as a threat.

They hate themselves. Or they want to be you (put that in your back pocket, as it might help you sort some thing out in your career later).

As we say on the job, “fair” is something to take your kids to. You're going to see shit that will leave you shaking your head.

When you find yourself looking for that police job, you need to do your research of the particular department. Don't believe everything you hear and only half of what you see. The rumor mills are in full swing at most departments, and the coconut telegraph spreads news like wildfire. I'll cite some examples of “Red Flags” about departments and bad bosses and you can compare them to your job search. There are lots of good bosses out there (we're not talking about them), but sadly there are a ton of “shit” bosses. I've worked for both kinds and my former department was certainly not suffering a shortage of bossed culled from the turd cart.

If, by chance, the department you are interested in (or they are interested in you) has a seemingly endless record of bad press, whether locally, nationally or internationally, look into them. My former agency has many fine officers, but at the top (the brass) when piled together, probably don't amount to one good street copper. Remember, most of these guys are politicians and the only thing worse than a bad boss, is a bad boss turned full-blown politician. Example: police chief turned mayor. Find out how they got from point A to point B and follow your gut.

"People hate you for three reasons. They see you as a threat. They hate themselves. Or they want to be you."

My former department made international news when an HIV positive teacher took a little boy out of a classroom took him into his own office and sexually assaulted him. The boy told his parents, who took him to the hospital, a rape kit was performed and they were successful in their endeavor to obtain the suspect's DNA.

The police department was notified, a report was taken and that was that. The parents kept after the department and it took three years to investigate the crime. In the interim, the known suspect was not arrested, his DNA was not seized, nothing. Three years! Eventually somebody (after being pestered by the parents) arrested the suspect (his DNA was a match...surprise!). The suspect was offered a "contract" to his cellmate to "erase" the little boy and his parents. No suspect, no crime. A savvy reporter went after the chief of police Tim Lowery, and interviewed him about the crime and the three-year wait for action. The interview is out there. He laughed at the reporter, while saying his office didn't drop the ball, but someone in the department did. There was not much said after that interview, (coincidentally chief Lowery was running for the mayor's seat) and it seemed that maybe the reporter was called off the trail to not have bad press for him before the election. He is now the sitting mayor. The story made it into the London Times in the UK. That's a huge Red Flag!

As mayor he promoted the assistant chief, Tim Fagan, to police chief. The reporter came after the new chief when another sexual and physical abuse of several children that went untouched for several years was uncovered. They didn't care for that. This is usually when the brass looks for somebody to "throw under the bus," and ends in a termination, and both cases presumably morphed into lawsuits. The Mayor turned chief and the new chief were the guys who should have been under the bus, so nothing happened. This is where the lack of integrity comes into play. In my opinion (and of many others) both should have just quietly gone away. But, they weren't going anywhere. They were suckling at the teat of old mother Florissant and they wanted to keep making it until she runs dry. Red Flag!

In Florissant you'd think lots of folks had daddies that were hammerhead sharks, their eyes should be just a bit too far apart, the gene pool at the police department was so incestuous. Favors owed, favors paid, "wonder ponies" were promoted at a hypersonic speed, often without the proper educational credentials to match each promotion and pay grade. My college transcripts were handed over to the office of policing standards after obtaining each degree, but when "guys like me" asked to see the same credentials of the recent promotion recipient, it became a "private personnel issue" and therefore they were never produced. In other states cops and politicians get arrested for this behavior. It's commonly referred to as "theft of honest services," RICO violations, wire fraud such. The feds have the info but for now...crickets. Red Flag!

If the department you're scoping out, buys into an accreditation organization but does not adhere to its own policies that is a huge Red Flag!

If they change the rules and regulations willy-nilly to conveniently suit them and their cronies (and I mean changed from original format to something completely new and then back again within a week, to ensure the "right" person gets promoted. Red Flag!

In my opinion, the standing chief and newly elected mayor threw a young cop under the bus when a doorbell camera captured images of an unmarked car hit a suspect running on foot (I've seen way worse). I'm not sure if the "boo boo" bus took the guy to the hospital. The chief said that the video was "disturbing" (apparently not as disturbing as not investigating the previously mentioned child sex





Chief Tim Fagan



abuse cases for three years). The terrorist group BLM protested and the cop was suspended, terminated and charged quick, fast and in a hurry. Red Flag!

I was at some of the protests and while cops from other agencies were taking bricks, frozen water bottles to their heads and cups of piss to their faces, I have video of a high ranking official sneak out the front door of the PD and literally hide in the bushes while watching the shit show, instead of wading into the fray like a real boss! You don't want to work somewhere that the boss is that fearful! Red Flag!

Most agencies have a memorial wall commemorating the loss of cops killed in the line of duty. My former agency has three: one died in 1963 (way before my time, so I don't know much about it), in 1979 a sergeant was gunned down after curbing a bank robber, getting shot 8 times (he died of cancer caused by his injuries in 2000, with three bullets still inside him, one in his head). What did the department do for him? According to the older cops and family members, not much. And yet another, died in 2009 during surgery after suffering a crippling OTJ injury in 2003. They terminated him in 2004. What did the department do for him for the five years while he suffered? Not a damn thing! Red Flag!

But they, have the "memorial" roped off in the lobby of the PD I see

as a "look at us. We've lost three cops in the line of duty holding the line." It's shameful and it's a disgrace. Now they've taken to placing commemorative plaques invoking the names of the dead cops that I don't believe they give two shits about (but hey, it's a nice photo op). The lobby is reminiscent of a New Guinea headhunter's trophy wall full of shrunken heads. Perhaps it affords the family some pride and comfort, that's a good thing, but the only folks who really cared about the dead cops are their brothers and sisters, not the bosses, and certainly not the politicians. Red Flag!

Remember, it's cheaper to bury us and have a fancy funeral, rather than fix us or help us, especially financially (not everybody gets their turn at the teat). Red Flag!

In October of 2017 a feeble and failed attempt was made to deny me my "retired in good-standing" credentials. Under H.R. 218 "The Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act (I've earned that with 28 years of time, sweat, physical injury, and blood) and they can't take it from me. They slandered me after probably consulting with the city attorney and hearing that trying to pull my credential was a bad idea after providing them to me since 2012, by telling certain officers that I should be watched during qualification because I posed a danger; to who, other cops? That's absurd. Who was responsible? I'm betting it was someone either named Tim or Tim Mayor and Chief. They probably don't know that I know this, but they do now (names, dates, times). Red Flag!

Here's an example of delusional, shameful, and disgusting behavior. On August 25, Mayor Tim Lowery was at a local business speaking with an 85-year-old United States Army combat veteran. His name is not important, but I know him. The two were engaged in small talk and a witness, my son (knowing the Mayor by sight, but the mayor not

knowing him) heard the old “Combat” Veteran ask the mayor if he, himself had served. The mayor’s reply was, “I did. I served Five years in Afghanistan.” My son called him out as a liar and as committing “Stolen Valor” by telling such an outlandish and shameful lie to the veteran and purple-heart recipient. The thing is, you never know whom I know or where I am. Sometimes I’m everywhere (but not Afghanistan) Mayor Lowery needs to make an open apology starting with every city employee who served in the armed forces. I’m sure they’ll be happy to hear of his false exploits. He can do the same with every veteran organization he can find. He has access to a cable channel. That would be a good thing to do, face it like a man instead of hiding like a coward. This wasn’t an “Uh, I misspoke” moment or “He misunderstood me.”

It was lie, a horrid lie. I think it’s just another reason he should just quit and go away. I got confirmation from my friend, the Combat Veteran, who is missing a prominent digit on one hand, courtesy of a Viet Cong bullet. Mayor Tim Lowery said exactly what he said. My friend said that he occasionally runs across a “forked tongue” and doesn’t understand why they tell vicious lies.

If you’re a veteran and this disgusts you, drop the mayor a note: Mayor Tim Lowery 955 Rue St. Francois, Florissant Mo 63031, or call him at 314-921-5700 and tell him what you think about any of these Red Flags!

Chief Tim Fagan can be reached at Florissant PD 1700 N Highway 67, Florissant, Mo 63031, or call him at 314-831-7000 and tell him what you think about the child sex abuse. Red Flags!

If, during your search for a PD to begin a career, you see any of these Red Flags, run, don’t walk and find another place.

My friend still misses his finger he left in the Vietnam jungle, but passed on a chance to go back to look for it!

Feel free to contact me. kirklawless@yahoo.com 🌐

Kirk Lawless is a 28 year, decorated, veteran police officer from the St Louis area. He’s a former SWAT operator, narcotics agent, homicide investigator, detective and Medal of Valor recipient. Off the job due to an up close and personal gunfight, he now concentrates on writing. He’s a patriotic warrior, artist, poet, actor, musician, and man of peace.



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LAWBREAKERS ARE HURTING THEMSELVES: BLAME THE COPS!

By Joel F. Shults, Ed.D

In another upside down world, a man who died fleeing from police is now considered a victim of murder at the hands of the police. In late October of 2020, Washington D.C. officers observed 20-year-old Karon Hylton-Brown driving an electric scooter with no helmet and motoring down a sidewalk, both of which are illegal. The Revel electric moped sounds innocuous and even playful but weighing in at around 200 pounds with a top speed of 30 miles per hour, it is not pedestrian friendly. A quick internet search reveals several deaths of riders or pedestrians related to the whizzing cycles.

Two officers in separate patrol cars took up pursuit of the cyclist after Hylton-Brown failed to stop as required by law. Instead, he led officers on

a circuitous chase which ended when he slammed into another motorist and died despite the medical attention the officers rendered. The rest of the account, as recounted in the federal indictment of the officers, cited a rash of accusations that the officers intentionally obscured and covered up some investigative facts, and violated acceptable pursuit policy.

As a result of the incident, one officer is charged with second degree murder, and both officers are charged with impeding the investigation. If the allegations against the officers, which include failing to make a complete investigation by leaving out witness statements and being deceptive about the details of the event, are proven then certainly they are to be held accountable.

But not murder.

A recent Supreme Court case affirmed that police officers are not required to be mind readers. That case, recently published, concerned officers responding to a domestic violence complaint where a woman call in fear about the appearance of her ex. Officers arrived and contacted the suspect. The suspect moved further away from officers, ignored their commands, and then picked up a hammer in such a way that the officers found it necessary to use deadly force to stop his threat. The officers sought qualified immunity, having been required to respond to the call and facing an uncertain and unpredictable situation within which they had to exercise split-second judgment. Those are the kinds of situations for which qualified immunity was developed by the courts.

Those pressing to hold the officers accountable for the hammer-wielding man's death claimed that it was the officers' decisions and behaviors that caused the dead man's behavior. If true, this would

mean that the person refusing to follow the officers' commands and warnings, blatantly displaying a deadly weapon, and leaving the officers no other recourse was dead because the officers failed to predict how the suspect would react. In other words, maybe the cops shouldn't have even shown up. Or maybe they should have let the hammer fly to see if it would hit its mark.

An important note in much use of force cases is not just the question of whether the officers were in fear for their safety. This is the claim that critics make "All you have to do is say you were scared and you're justified in killing!" This is wrong, factually, on two counts. One is that fear must be reasonable. It is not an entirely subjective claim that must be believed. Secondly, the fear is for the whole potential of the situation. Would the person's throw of the hammer injure an officer in a way that disabled their ability to continue to handle the situation? Would the hammer, if thrown, distract the officers while the assailant obtained another weapon? If the suspect's attack allowed him to escape, would he have injured the 911 caller? It would be foolish to think the police would predict that the suspect would suddenly comply, but also predict that the whole thing is no big deal and nobody is going to get hurt.

Which brings us back to the murder charge for our Washington, D.C. officer where it seems we want our laws enforced until the suspect gets hurt, then it wasn't worth it. We know at least one headline in a blog somewhere is going to say "scooter driver murdered by police". How about scooter driver would be alive today if he'd pulled over?"

A retired police chief Joel Shults is an award winning writer, college professor, trainer, and first responder chaplain. He is the author of several law enforcement related books and numerous articles. He serves as a municipal judge and a coroner's investigator in rural southern Colorado. He can be found on twitter @chiefshults, and online at joelshults.blogspot.com and streetsmartforce.com.



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REMEMBRANCE

Article & Artwork
by Jonny Castro

*Police Officer
Tyler Timmins*

On October 26th, Police Officer Tyler Timmins conducted a vehicle investigation on a stolen truck at a Pontoon Beach gas station. Just as Tyler made his approach toward the vehicle, one of the occupants gunned down the officer. He was airlifted to the hospital where he succumbed to his wounds. His killer was taken into custody at the scene.

Officer Tyler Timmins spent 14 years of his life in law enforcement. He joined the Pontoon Beach Police Department in April of last year after proudly serving with three other agencies throughout Madison County, Illinois. Tyler comes from a law enforcement family. His wife, who he just married in September, is also a police officer. Tyler was remembered as the guy who would give the shirt off his back to anybody, and would do anything he could to help people. He was 36-years old. 🌎

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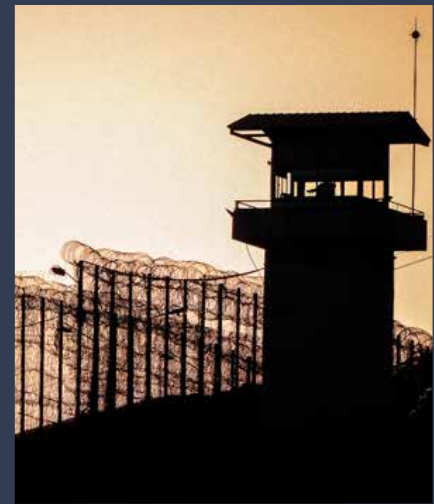
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