



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article November, 2020

Election season. Once every four years we turn our nation on its head and place everything from the last four years in jeopardy, whether we liked it, or not. It's our way of taking part in the practice of our politicians and ensuring nothing ever really gets done, or becomes common practice. I was hoping to have a message to law enforcement this month regarding where we go from here, but as you may have noticed, the November article is a tad tardy, much like the election results. So I have decided to share with you my thoughts on policing moving forward for both candidates.

The presidency clearly has a daily and lasting affect on our jobs in law enforcement. I preach to anyone who will listen that government is important, and even if you do not utilize government services, you are directly impacted by the acts of our government everyday. We are certainly that times a thousand since we are a physical and visible arm of the government. The enforcement arm no less. The part of government that, scholastically speaking, the people have an argument that we should not exist, but logically speaking, could never really imagine a world without us. When they think politics, they think we are the Gustapo. When they think in terms of their loved ones being hurt or victimized, we are the neighborhood rescue. It's no secret to anyone on the job more than a month that what we do is grossly misunderstood by the masses, to include our local and national politicians. There are some who understand. Even some who have donned a badge themselves before seeking office. But the amazing thing about ignorance is it rarely wishes to be corrected, and instead demands it is undeniable correct. Ever try convincing someone they ran the red light and caused the accident? Ever showed them intersection video after the animately denied it over and over again. They still say they just don't believe it. In the case of ignorance on the national conversation of local policing tactics, there is even a bigger dog in the fight. Ignorance is safe guarded by political motivation, and in this particular discussion the evil element of our society. Career criminals are the world's best opportunists. They have joined with the movement to defund police, decriminalize certain offenses, and reduce prison sentences because it's obviously in their best interest to do so. As we see continuing unrest across the country, and especially watch it grow in cities that have mutilated their police forces over the last six months, this should become increasingly obvious, but ignorance doubles down. Our profession is interwound

with politics and at this time has been plunged even more into the center of them all. I try and respect everyone's position and leave politics aside from this article. We are about saving police lives. But we cannot ignore a major facet of our jobs today and claim that we are saving lives. Having difficult and uncomfortable conversations is what saves lives. So the following is the most political I hope to ever get with this article: One candidate knows little about policing, but he also does not pretend to. He does not pass judgment on local policing incidents, instead he calls for the evidence to be presented in a timely manner and appropriate enforcement actions to be taken if necessary in order to quell civil unrest. The other candidate also knows little about policing, but allows that ignorance to bury its evil head and makes policy decision from the position of a topic expert. This is concerning. Can the president actually have the power and authority to implement serious change to policing tactics that further jeopardize our safety and the safety of bystanders? Are academies going to start teaching that using lethal force when presented with a deadly threat can be just as effective in the leg or the arm? That was hard to even write! Are we potentially looking at a future America where police cameras are forbidden from courtroom testimony and only serve to implicate officers? Is that Nancy Regan's intention for them when she began the police dash cam program under the Mothers Against Drunk Driving platform? Policing is always growing and changing. Sometimes the change is positive and sometimes it's not. That pendulum will continue to swing from side to side, as officers make new case law from less than ideal choices, and citizens are victimized in ways that we could not prevent using existing policing standards. What we want to avoid is the pendulum picking up anymore speed or, if you will, gaining weight on one side so it swings further in one direction than it ever comes back to the other.

So what's our roll in all this and how does it pertain to officer survival? It's truly the same as it has always been for many, but it needs to be that for all. We have an obligation to our citizens to be compassionate, regardless of the neighborhood you work in. You are there for the people, not against them. If you in fact are policing your beat to put people in jail, you're doing it wrong. Police to support and protect the innocent, and the bi-product of that is putting bad guys in jail. I know, the two may look the same on paper, but you will treat your citizens different and they will notice with that simple mindset shift. Love your populous, regardless of who wins the presidency. Fight for your community. It is your community whether you live in it or not. You have sworn to protect it, and while it may not be words you uttered on the day you took that oath, you have sworn to love it. Treat the people in your jurisdiction like family and remember that even the most criminally minded amongst them may be a victim one day, and should be treated with all the respect any other victim would get, just the same as if and when they pull a gun on you, they receive the same exact

attention anyone else doing the same would get. We do not pass judgment, but we interpret and enforce laws. Never be personally upset at the offender in your backseat. Your job is simply to enforce laws passed by the masses.

It does not matter who sits in the Oval Office next year. Our jobs fundamentally remain the same and we need to make a conscious effort to love and support the people affected by crime in our communities. By doing so, we can change the image of law enforcement, improve relationships with our communities, and ultimately save not only the lives of police, but offenders lives as well. There will always be the criminals who are of the mindset they won't be taken alive, and currently I believe there are some who choose to fight to the death to further push this narrative against police, and then some who are of the opinion that we may be just gun-shy enough under the current climate that they may have the upper hand. If we can improve relationships, even with the criminal element, we can eliminate those last two categories and possibly even begin to impact the first.

We may not always feel like it's our fault for where the nation is today, but it is largely on our shoulders to fix it.