



NEIA CONNECTIONS

Volume 4, 2017



MCCA/FBI NEIA/PERF CONFERENCE

October 19 – 22, 2017
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown.

This conference continues to be a well-attended event involving meeting, discussions and highlighting topics from Customs and Border Protect, Homeland Security and Analysis, Technology for Front Line Officers, Police Leadership Challenges with Technology, the MS13 Gangs, as well as some of the Infamous Mass Shootings, and tackling the Opioid Epidemic. PERF’s Town hall meeting highlighted concerns over Gun Violence and Mass Shooting, the Increasing Crime Rates, Managing Large Scale Demonstrations, Mental Illness, and Immigration.

Friday’s Opening Session was addressed by Director Christopher A. Wray, the Nation’s newly appointed head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Saturday’s first speaker was U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Kudos to FBI NEIA President Chris Burbank and Executive Director Dick Ayres for our organization’s reception. During an IACP Conference there are a variety of ongoing receptions throughout the event. I know I am biased, but ours was a classy event, and one of the best that we had ever had. The FBI NEIA reception at the IACP October Conference in Philadelphia drew large numbers of law enforcement executives from federal, state and local agencies nationwide. The reception provided a unique opportunity for members of the law enforcement community to network, mentor, and share executive leadership experiences. FBI Director Christopher Wray’s appearance as the guest speaker and his willingness to interact with those in attendance provided an additional opportunity for building effective relationships. Our sponsors, ecoATM, Outerwall, and Motorola Solutions, graciously partnered with us in making this first-class event possible.

MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION (MCCA) SELECTS RICHARD MYERS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MCCA President and Montgomery County, MD Chief Tom Manger announced today that the Board of Directors has selected Richard W. Myers as the new MCCA Executive Director. Myers is currently the Chief in Newport News, VA.

Myers brings 40 years of experience in policing in six different states and 33 years as a police chief in six cities including Newport News, VA, Colorado Springs and Appleton, WI. He also served as interim chief in two cities including spending 11 months in Sanford, FL following the death of Trayvon Martin.

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He has been a member of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies board since 2009 and was elected as Chair/President in 2015.

Myers will begin working with MCCA on September 18 and will assume the Executive Director role on November 1, 2017.

Many of the FBI NEIA Board and graduates remember Richard Meyers when he was Chief of the Colorado Springs Police Department. Dick was viewed by many as a thoughtful law enforcement Executive. President Burbank and Executive Director Ayres look forward to working with MCCA's newest Executive Director.

KIRSTJEN M. NIELSEN SWORN-IN AS THE SIXTH HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY

WASHINGTON – Ms. Kirstjen M. Nielsen was sworn-in as the sixth Secretary of Homeland Security. Secretary Nielsen was joined by White House and Department officials during a brief swearing-in at the White House. Secretary Nielsen is now the first former Department of Homeland Security (DHS) employee to become the secretary.

“It is my greatest honor to serve as Secretary alongside the remarkable men and women of DHS,” said Secretary Nielsen. “Our nation faces a complex threat landscape that is constantly evolving. I will do my utmost to ensure that the Department meets the threats of today and tomorrow, and to ensure our frontline personnel have the tools and resources to accomplish their vital missions.

“I am humbled by the trust placed in me to lead our Department. I want to thank Deputy Secretary Elaine Duke for her exceptional leadership over the past four months - especially her work leading the response during the destructive Atlantic hurricane season. I look forward to continuing this Administration’s work to raise the standards for the security of our homeland in all areas - including securing our borders, protecting Americans from terrorist threats, and securing our cyber networks.”

FBI NEIA, MCCA, PERF Joint Training Conference

Nashville, Tennessee
May 29 to June 1, 2018

Registrants will be welcome to attend any and all meetings, sessions and events sponsored by NEIA, MCCA, and PERF during the meeting.

Where: | Renaissance Nashville Hotel
| 611 Commerce Street
| Nashville, TN 37203

Breakfast will be provided Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. Registration will be done through the Major Cities Chiefs website. **Please remember to register as an NEIA Member**

Please follow the link to register: <https://mcca.wildapricot.org/event-2744338>

Registration will be \$400 for attendees who register before March 1st and \$425 for attendees who register on or after March 1st.

Registration is open to NEIA members, staff members from MCCA agencies, PERF members, federal partners and other invited attendees. Guest registration is available for family members at a fee of \$125 per guest. We have reserved a block of rooms at the Renaissance Hotel at a special rate of \$229/night plus tax.

To make hotel reservations, please visit <https://aws.passkey.com/e/49533866> and select “Attendee” on the guest type drop down box, or call toll free 877-901-6632 / local 615-255-8400.

Room rates are guaranteed until May 4, 2018.

WHAT ARE OUR MEMBERS SAYING OR DOING

Richard Ross is the police commissioner of Philadelphia. He has something to say, and with few words, he has nailed it.

Richard Ross, For Philly.com

Gun violence ravages many neighborhoods across this country. Many in large cities like Philadelphia are frustrated by the scourge of gun violence that claims too many young lives and profoundly affects so many others. Entire neighborhoods are traumatized by gunfire that occurs far too frequently. Children in some of these neighborhoods witness incidents that no one should ever see. For them, the looming threat of trauma shapes their view of life. Philadelphia police officers routinely rush young men to trauma centers with gunshot wounds, which is something that is not done in many cities. And because video footage has become such an integral part of criminal investigations, detectives are placed in the unenviable position of viewing footage of violent incidents over and over again. These experiences take a toll on all of us.

Because of advances in policing and trauma care, homicides have been reduced significantly in this country over the last 30 years. Most departments employ intelligence-led policing strategies to reduce the incidence of retaliatory shootings that can often perpetuate the cycle of violence in many neighborhoods. The willingness of police leaders to be open to new strategies, and to use evidence based policing methods, are helping to make cities a little safer every year.

While police do play a vital role in reducing gun violence, the ability to make a sustainable impact on this problem will require more than just elaborate policing strategies. Significant and sustainable progress is made when we impact contributing factors that transcend policing. There are cities in this country that are confronted with social ills such as staggering poverty and unemployment rates, segregated or polarized neighborhoods, mental illness and drugs, all of which are intensified by the proliferation of handguns.

In order to have a long-term impact on this intractable problem, we must realize that gun violence touches all of us and take some responsibility in its demise. Although some people may not recognize the direct impact, we all are affected in some way. Gun violence impacts our safety, our sense of safety, our businesses, our schools, our stability, and surely our future. Gun violence affects us all.

While many things need to be done to eradicate this problem, it is imperative that we break the cycle of poverty, as well as disparities that sometimes exist in schools, job opportunities, and the criminal justice system. These disparities, as well as countless others, impact generations of young people in this country. All of us should work to make a difference in young lives before they are caught in the throes of gun violence. The nurturing and guidance from a parent, teacher or mentor is vital in a child's development. Compassionate treatment in daily life is critical for healthy development in youth. These are things some of us take for granted. Equally important is providing economic opportunities thru apprenticeships and other job training programs. When we realize as a nation, that gun violence impacts all of us, maybe collaborative efforts will be made to put an end to the carnage. Published: November 6, 2017 —

Suffolk Police Commissioner Timothy Sini handily defeated Republican Ray Perini in the race for Suffolk district attorney on Tuesday 11/7/17, promising to restore integrity to the office.

“Together we have ushered in a new era of criminal justice in Suffolk County, an era of integrity, fairness and doing the right thing,” Sini told nearly 200 supporters at his campaign headquarters in Hauppauge. “We are going to return the office to the honorable institution it once was.”

Sini campaigned as a reformer, pointing to his experience as Suffolk police commissioner and 4 1/2 years as a former assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District. He had promised to make sweeping changes to a district attorney's office that had been run for 16 years by Democrat Thomas Spota, who was indicted in October on charges of interfering with a federal investigation.

Los Angeles Sheriff Jim McDonnell is running for reelection. For a guy with his vast law enforcement success and experience within the Southern California community, he somehow manages to bring a youthful image to the task. I am sure his retired colleagues and peers will be supporting Jim's bid for reelection.

While many of our friends in law enforcement are continuing to serve in law enforcement, my longtime friend from New York City has decided to retire from his present position as Special Commissioner of Investigations for The New York City School District. In 1957, he started patrolling the streets of Brooklyn successfully moving through the ranks. In addition to a number of years in the corporate sector as Chief Security Officer with Paine Weber, Dick dedicated 44 years of public service that included appointments as First Deputy Police Commissioner and subsequently Police Commissioner. Commissioner Condon also served as Deputy Coordinator of Criminal Justice Services for New York City and Director of Investigations for the Special Prosecutor for the NYC Criminal Justice system under Mayor Koch. In addition, Dick dedicated three years of service to New York State as Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice's services under Governor Marion Cuomo. In the city's press release Dick's service was aptly defined "as a trusted public servant, a respected watchdog and too many of us personally, a good friend. He is to be congratulated for his commitment to public service and share a deep gratitude for the distinguished legacy he leaves".

The announcement that Kathleen O'Toole is departing at the end of the year served as a reminder of the important role of the Chief: It was O'Toole who in June 2014 took over the department and turned it around as it was still struggling to comply with a federal consent decree, signed in 2012, requiring it to remedy a history of excessive force and biased policing. Mayor Jenny Durkan and O'Toole expressed high regard for each other, with O'Toole saying she agonized over whether to remain with a mayor who wanted to retain her. O'Toole called her decision to step down "more of a personal decision for me than a professional decision"; her husband, Dan, is recovering from serious health problems. Her departure is consistent with her professional life. O'Toole has spent much of her career as what she calls a "change agent," working with police agencies in the U.S. and Ireland to carry out reforms, rather than as a long-term leader.

I was sad to hear from Shelly Zimmerman, Chief of San Diego, that she will be retiring from the job within the next six months. If you have ever dealt with Shelly, you found someone who loved her job and conscientiously applied herself to fulfill her responsibilities. Chief Zimmerman was one of the first to volunteer to participate in FBI NEIA's "Unthinkable" table top exercise. I look forward to hearing about Shelly's next service opportunity.

Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis has asked the FBI to take over the investigation into the death of Detective Sean Suiter. Davis made the request in a letter submitted Friday to FBI Director Christopher Wray in Washington. An FBI spokesman had no comment on whether the agency would agree to the request. Davis announced his decision at a news conference Friday, saying it was prompted in part by a lack of information about a federal police corruption probe in which Suiter was scheduled to testify the day after he was shot. Davis has said Baltimore police weren't told of Suiter's pending testimony for nearly a week after his death. He said he fears his detectives are in the dark.

NYPD Commissioner James O'Neill said that he won't join Mayor de Blasio in marching in June's Puerto Rican Day Parade that honors pardoned terrorist Oscar López Rivera. "I usually do march in most of the parades with the fraternal organizations, but I am not going to be marching this year," said O'Neill, who referred to Lopez Rivera as a "terrorist." O'Neill, however, said he would likely be at the parade overseeing thousands of cops stationed there. Rivera, 74, had his 70-year sentence commuted by outgoing President Barack Obama in January. He had spent nearly 36 years in prison on conspiracy charges for his ties to the Puerto Rican nationalist group the FALN, which was responsible for more than 100 bombings in the 1970s and '80s — including a 1982 blast at NYPD headquarters that left an officer maimed and a 1975 attack that killed four at Fraunces Tavern in the Financial District. As I recall, President Clinton pardoned others who had renounced terrorism. Rivera, a bomb maker, was responsible for planting a device that blinded a New York City police officer.

Milwaukee police chief to Congress: Invest in home visits for at-risk mothers and improve public safety.

-Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Milwaukee's police chief and a former executive at A.O. Smith called on Congress to act quickly and re-up funding for a home visiting programs for at-risk mothers. Chief Edward Flynn and David Romoser urged federal lawmakers to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program on Tuesday. "The research is on our side: high-quality home visiting programs decline child abuse and neglect," said Romoser, a former senior vice president at A.O. Smith. That has an important implication for public safety because research has shown childhood abuse and neglect have an active impact on future criminality, Flynn said. "There's no way around it," he said. "It's a tragic truth."

Chicago Police: Murders, shootings down for 9th straight month

CBS Chicago

For the ninth-straight month this year, Chicago saw a reduction in gun violence in November, the police department announced early Friday. There were 193 shooting victims last month, compared to 390 victims in November 2016, marking a decline of more than 50 percent, according to Chicago Police statistics. There were 147 fewer shooting incidents - 168 in November 2017, compared to 315 in the same month last year - representing a 47 percent decline.

Dallas chief's decision to demote top brass shocks rank-and-file police

Dallas Morning News

Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall has demoted several high-ranking officials, including two popular chiefs who were finalists this year for the job she now holds. The chief's decision to pare down her leadership staff - from several assistant chiefs to three and an executive assistant and more than a dozen deputy chiefs to seven - is an about-face from Chief David Brown's expansion of the command staff during his tenure. It was expected that Hall would have to demote some people to fit her smaller command staff, but the names tied to those demotions came as a shock to many former and current officers.

Chief Ed Flynn Announces Retirement

Right before publication, we were made aware that Milwaukee Police Chief Ed Flynn has announced his retirement after 10 years as Chief. He will be missed, as he was one of the outspoken members of the Major City Chief's and offered great insight. We will let you know if subsequent newsletters if we find out anymore about Ed's future plans.

IN DEFENSE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

It's time for law enforcement leaders to push back on the momentum of anti-police sentiment. Assessing police use of force has become much too selective. Statistics are often used to fit biased agendas using sometimes partial, not officially assessed videos to press their point. Are there bad cops? A few, yes. Are there predatory teachers and clergy, negligent doctors, embezzling lawyers and drunk pilots? Despite efforts to screen, train, and regulate personnel, every field of endeavor has a few who should not be.

There will always be a need for change in the huge realm of criminal justice, but those pushing for police reform overlook a number of major factors.

Every single day in this country, thousands of potentially deadly confrontations with police are resolved without injury or death. Interrupting burglaries, stopping stolen cars, serving warrants, drug raids, scuffling with arrestees, mediating domestic quarrels, drawn weapons not fired; all a testament to police professionalism in a culture where most must be presumed armed, and too many prone to resist. Force is only necessary when someone won't comply with officer demands, and there are many social forces influencing this adversity.

Law enforcement has been reforming for decades. Standardized training, professional certification, improved information sharing and technology, and internal policing processes are now commonplace. And, all kinds of innovative approaches, i.e., Broken Windows, community relations efforts, gun buy backs, New York City's Compstat, Outreach, mentoring, and minority recruiting, Police Athletic Leagues, are examples of police efforts to improve the quality of service across the U.S. For every episode of excessive force broadcast on social media there are dash cam videos of officers being shot, many for exercising too much restraint. Another truth ignored is when someone without a weapon physically assaults an officer they are no longer unarmed. Incidents of officers killed with their own gun can validate this perspective.

Unfortunately the reality of police work has an undercurrent of hostility and mistrust few seem to consider, and even less done to address. Statistics show over 57,000 reported assaults on officers last year that don't capture greater numbers of insolence and non-verbal animus directed at them by elements of the public they serve. It can beget cynicism in many that can show up in less than cordial interactions on occasion. Law enforcement is a worthy and satisfying career, but it is also an adversarial job and always will be. And yet, police are the first to come your aid and risk their lives on your behalf.

Add to this the incredible weaponry citizens can acquire amidst an undertone of cultural violence that is formidable. From cartoons, video games, TV, movies, music, sports, to advertising and political debate there is constant messaging of bravado, confrontation, incivility, and murder. While gun control and mental health initiatives may help, nothing is being done about the impetus for monstrous acts from vulnerable minds over indulging radical agendas, gratuitous gore, sexual depravity, and diabolical ideas readily accessible in our print, electronic, and cyberspace media. It is amazing how everyone sees the correlation between the internet and ISIS to radicalize young susceptible minds, but ignore the quid pro quo between our own violent media to likewise influence atrocious acts and incivility. Hollywood denouncing police while awarding Oscars to its own purveyors of gore, violence, and misinformation.

Where's the "investigative" journalist or politician exposing or reporting on those who purposely sow discord between police and the community for personal or political gain? "What do we want? Dead cops!" Where's the expose' of social forces fueling family disintegration, youth disenchantment, truancy, gang membership, and an epidemic of black on black violence - and the specter of dangerousness it creates. Ignoring inconvenient truths that certain groups commit crimes or use gun violence more than others only hinders dialogue and effective solutions. Who speaks for those barricaded behind locked doors, unable to walk free or help solve crimes for fear of their lives from peers in high crime areas? Athletes kneeling while internecine shootings rage in communities they claim to represent? Proactive policing to address excessive murder among young men of color should show their lives DO matter and not ignored as a more systemic bias would infer.

Lockdown and active shooter training, metal detectors, police in school hallways, a growing use of SWAT, thicker body armor, and a need for greater fire power are all symptoms of long neglected societal ills that heighten anxiety and defensiveness in tense situations. It's law enforcement that bears the brunt of this dysfunction and hypocrisy.

Where are the statistics for lives saved, helped, or comforted by police officers, property recovered, disarming offenders peacefully, or officers hurt for being overly cautious? Why aren't they at the forefront and part of the national discussion as well? Where's the bigger picture input to help balance the selective assessment of police use of force in America today? Hats off to Las Vegas for confronting the National Football League over an erroneous and inflammatory tweet by one of their stars.

It is time for police leadership to be more vocal defending their profession and officers in the right. Doing so is not meant to mitigate or condone any blatant use of excessive force, but to highlight a larger state of police professionalism that may always need improving, but is constantly striving to do so, too. We can't let a few on both sides smear the value and good intentions of so many in the larger picture of this or any other issue.

The author is Arthur Meister a 40 year veteran of laws enforcement having served 24 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He rose to become Chief of the FBI's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime in Quantico, Virginia. After retiring in 2002 he consulted on workplace violence, managing problem employees, and

remained active in FBI matters with the Society of Former Agent's Information Committee. He is the author of a book, "The Bottom Line: A Management Primer for first Line Law Enforcement Supervisors, published in 2016. He can be reached at apmeis45@gmail.com

Editor's Note: I would like to follow up on the sentiments of FBI Chief Arthur Meister.

Regarding one's feeling about whether the media's portrays this issue as a one sided argument on Police shootings, my observation is there is a lot of "Unspoken Conversation" as to what is the appropriate response on the part of law enforcement, the media and the political environment. It is a serious issue worthy of a national debate, but it is also a serious challenge to police leadership. It is not my intention to counsel current chiefs on how to do their job. I have been out of the loop for too long. However, after 60 years in the Public and Private Protection Sector, I reserve the right to care about the profession that I have served for so many years. With that caveat, allow me to put my two cents in!

Some former MCC and/or FBI NEIA members have contacted me raising a perceptual concern that it appears that there is a lack of appropriate response from many of the major law enforcement organizations to what they feel are unsubstantiated and unwarranted attacks on this nation's policing. Given the respective political and diverse cultural environments in which police chiefs have to function, some reticence and discretion may be an understandable part of the process. It's suggested that most law enforcement executives are heavily invested in specifically dealing with their respective communities. That may well be the case. Individual efforts are no longer the issue as our critics have captured the national interest and the attention of many well-meaning community members. Their narrative is the narrative. Taking the historic view, I suspect that the police responses are generally viewed as more reactive than proactive. Policing, as a general rule, doesn't seek to make waves nor create undue controversy. We don't need to stir the pot, Usually, we find ourselves in it.

That may have to change given that society's mode of communication has not only accelerated to 24x7, but how people process their news has also been radically altered. Young people, in particular, receive and process news through Facebook, Google, Twitter, and any new forms that appear on the horizon. Unfortunately, greater communications doesn't mean greater conversation. Further, major broadcasting news services, including cable, all have adopted an "entertainment" portion to news. And it must be fed every hour around the clock. We are told that "Gotcha" News Journalism is the road to the Pulitzer Prize. Increasingly, there is little or no pretense of Journalistic objectivity or even police bias. If the previous statement is accurate, I suspect how the media process its news isn't going to change. It's possible it might accelerate. Some friends of mine in the advertising sector tell me we have a great message to give but it needs a better narrative. Again, if they are right, we may have to review we role we play in making news.

Unlike the firefighters' community, policing could be described as somewhat of a "contact sport" given that often we are enforcing a behavior on one individual(s) at the request or complaint of other members of the community. Hence, the police response could prove to be minimally 50% negative. The United States is the third largest country with a population exceeding 320 million. Reportedly, we have 2 million, 200 hundred thousand incarcerated in our prisons. Enforcement played a role in putting them there, but we only carry out the legislative and governing body and hopefully the will of the people. But I suspect, particularly in the minority communities, police carry the visual burden of responsibility. If my analogy carries some weight, these unfortunate beliefs tend not only to be self-perpetuating but passed on for generations. Given today's diversity and political divisiveness accompanied by a 24x7 media drumbeat, simply responding to each crisis may not be the solution. Implementing additional rules, regulations, or even policy after a controversial event may lower the volume of the complaint. But it's only temporarily.

We function in an imperfect society. Where possible, we have the presence of the best police leadership, the most effective identification and recruitment of the most qualified personnel and best training and supervision, but still we can only lessen the impact or even reduce the number of controversial events. Police critics, well-meaning and not so well meaning, can and will still cherry pick the events and create a narrative to fit their agenda. Maybe that's why I am not amazed how a fairly small number of celebrated

police related deaths largely involving individuals some of whose actions often placed them in harm's way, could jeopardize the reputational capital of this country's police. We can't ignore the public impact of media televising so called "Street Witnesses" because their lack of truth most often never makes it to trial. They had their day of "testilying" within 24 hours of the police incident while we have to wait to tell our story. We have observed ample evidence of two eyewitnesses seeing the same incident and drawing two different conclusions. As a young cop, I recall the cliché that "Rumor and falsehood is half way around the world while 'Truth' is just putting on its pants."

Words not only have consequences but today they often serve as weapons. We have a duty to recognize that our actions can accompany deadly consequences. And we have to be held accountable. The discharge of a firearm or excessive use of a baton, not only has deadly consequences, but often the outcome is irreversible. That awareness must be part of the social contract we make early in our career. What we should no longer accept is that an accident, a mistake or simple poor judgment are part of a sick conspiracy to harm people because of race. Worse, that police organizations allow its personnel to abuse people for no other reason than race. Nor can we permit a small lunatic fringe of haters to be the centerpiece of public dissent. The street activist, the agitator, individuals and organizations with political agendas dedicated to stirring the racial pot should not be allowed to have an unchallenged pathway in their broad-based attacks on the police. Unsubstantiated allegations may be prevalent, but they shouldn't become acceptable. We must be more proactive than reactive. If we are to seize an opportunity, that is to reframe an incident to its proper perspective, we must first prepare for that opportunity. Statistically and in most police shootings and related deaths, we can make the appropriate case that we continually strive to ensure the highest standard of personal accountability. We need a more responsive narrative, warts and all when confronted with the effects of Ferguson, Staten Island, Baltimore, Chicago and other incidents where the Rule of Law is asked to go into the tank and bend to protesting street mobs amidst accusations and denunciations of the criminal justice system by prominent members of local, state and federal government justice. Critics who should know better. Few questioned that highly publicized circumstances, numerically small continue to capture the spotlight questioning the rule of law. Despite a second bite of the apple, subsequent federal prosecutions were unable to proceed due to the lack of evidence and circumstances. Still, Law enforcement didn't win, it merely got a reprieve.

Why? Because much of the public isn't made aware of the implications of such findings. Politicians have short attention spans; often show little interest in the unintended consequence of politically motivated actions. If they can't defeat a legal decision, they pursue extra-legal remedies. Critics claim it is to reform the Justice system. We can agree that some policies and practices need to be revisited to conform to modernity. The police may only be a portion of that system, but our mishaps stroke the fires and create the spotlight that our critics relish.

Having spent 8 years in the Health and Hospital sector let me restate an interesting statistical comparison. It is reported annually that 90,000 to 100,000 deaths in hospitals are attributed to medical negligence, improper care, error and omissions and hospital induced infection. I have read reports listing the number of doctors in the US at 800,000. Ironically, that is the same population figure for police officers. While I have great admiration for the medical profession, American policing needs a better narrative. We need to tell a better story. I am afraid that unchallenged the anti-police movement will continue to gain traction probably aided by the media and even people of good will who want the world to be so much better despite the efforts of some of its occupants who have little or no use for the rule of law and the people it serves.

A good example of the need to keep a drumbeat similar to our adversaries Departments around the country can make a similar case just not as dramatic as New York City. Despite the following reduction in crime statistics, local government and other organizations continue to push legislation that has hamstrung its police to fulfill its responsibilities. Homicides -2,262 in 1990 to 330 in 2016; Robbery – 100,280 in 1990 to 15,195 last year. Burglary -. 122,055 in 1990 to 12,743 last year; Overall Felonies -527,257 in 1990 to 99,823 last year.

What are the facts relating to police related “killings?” There are two studies this newsletter published in the past. It might be time to rehash them. The first study was based on FBI statistics, U.S. Center for Disease and Control and believe it or not, a U.S. Mortuary report which records all reported deaths. It was a nine-year study which reflected an approximate annual average of just under 500 deaths, of which 125 related to black males. These 1 out of 4 stats were compiled indicating police response interventions involving armed robbery, burglaries, and serious assaults dangerous weapons and responding to crimes in progress. Based on a 13% black population, a statistical, presumption suggests we have 21 million of which are black males. The percentage rate of crime among black males unfortunately has been listed at twice its population. I suggest it is somewhat unreasonable to state that on average annually 125 police related deaths of black males comprise some systemic homicide attack on black males. The percentage rate of homicides of police officers by blacks was 44%.

The second study was done by the Washington Post, a daily newspaper involving a similar study but for one year only. Their statistical metric was twice as high but the statistical percentage by race was the same. In other words, 3 out of every four killed by police were non-black. Therefore, the narrative that could be positioned is that the array of police criticism appears to be factually misdirected. Future police narratives should consider in any educational approach that emotionally and as part of their legacy, for some it is more difficult to embrace facts that contradict what groups have been continually told or observed in some anecdotal fashion.

Possibly a more telling example of failure to distinguish from fact and fiction would be the NYPD’s 2014 police reports. In the world’s most diverse city, with a population of 8 ½ million of different ethnicities, races, culture and religions. It is a city that is 50% black and Hispanic and policed by a similar percentage. I have listed the effective crime control measures that have been implemented over the years. We had a police department of 35,000 handling some 11 million calls annually, arrested over 430,000 and only discharged a weapon 79 times that year resulting in the death of 8 individuals, 4 of whom were black and were part of a population pool of 1.1 million black males. Even in such a diverse population with such a record of police restraint, much of the political process, numerous public service and activist organizations continue to advocate an anti-police narrative.

I am concerned that many police chiefs particularly in the larger diverse jurisdictions will continue to be constantly challenged, in some instances appropriately so, on the subject of police misconduct. Quite likely, the charging rhetoric will neither be fair to the chief’s administration, nor the officer(s) involved. If the circle of deceit, opportunism and exploitation by either side of the political spectrum is not confronted with truth and courageous leadership, trust is lost, meaningful communication is eroded, and everyone loses. Improving race relations is not simply a change in operating policy but also in attitude accompanied by educating both sides of the aisle. Today’s communication is quite different than conversation. Let’s have a national debate; our current divisiveness suggests it is necessary. Both sides of the issue must not forget that. Let’s take a seat at the table where our experiences can be shared, our voices and opinions heard and hopefully given the respect that such police stewardship deserves.

-Respectfully, Charlie Connolly

Deroy Murdock is an African American Manhattan-based Fox News contributor. He is not a new kid on the block. He writes for the Daily News and other liberal publications as well.

If the Black Lives Matter crowd is correct, bloodthirsty, racist cops are blasting black men like clay pigeons at a shooting range. The pace of this alleged slaughter is breathtaking. “Every 28 hours, a black person is murdered by police,” Black Lives Matter activist Cherno Biko told Fox News Channel’s Megyn Kelly. “It feels like we’re in a war.” If true, killer cops are rubbing out some 313 innocent, law-abiding blacks annually. Rise Up October asserts that there are “over 1,000 people a year killed by police.”

Wrong! And more than doubly so. University of Toledo criminologist Dr. Richard R. Johnson examined the latest data from the FBI and Centers for Disease Control. From 2003 through 2012, law-enforcement officers killed an average of 429 people per year in “legal interventions.” These include a relatively small number of innocent people killed by cops and many more who died due to reasonable use of force.

When a bank robber thrusts a loaded Glock into a teller’s neck, that’s a really good time for the police to kill him. Anti-police protesters chant the well-known names of several black males who lately have died at the hands of cops: Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Tamir Rice and Walter Scott.

Some cops (such as Darren Wilson, who shot Michael Brown) have been exonerated, even by Obama’s Justice Department. Others face trial — such as Officer Michael Slager, who shot Walter Scott in the back in North Charleston, SC, and the three white and three black Baltimore cops in whose custody Freddie Gray died. What this controversy sorely needs is a strong dose of facts. Actual crime data reveal that this movement is based on mythology.

Thanks to the Ferguson Effect, blistering anti-law-enforcement rhetoric and sometimes fatal attacks on police have made cops timid, if not terrified. The result? A murder explosion that, ironically, is killing the very black people whom Black Lives Matter claims to champion. Year to date, homicides are up 8.3 percent in New York, 19.2 percent in Chicago, 51.5 percent in St. Louis and 52.5 percent in Baltimore.

On average, 4,472 black men were killed by other black men annually between Jan. 1, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2012, according to the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Reports. Using FBI and CDC statistics, Professor Johnson calculates that 112 black men, on average, suffered both justified and unjustified police-involved deaths annually during this period.

This equals 2.5 percent of these 4,472 yearly deaths. For every black man — criminal or innocent — killed by a cop, 40 black men were murdered by other black men. The, at most, 2.5 percent of the problem generates relentless rage. And, yet, it is rude-to-racist to mention 97.5 percent of the problem.

As America’s largest police force, one would expect the NYPD to be a major player in this alleged mass murder of innocent blacks.

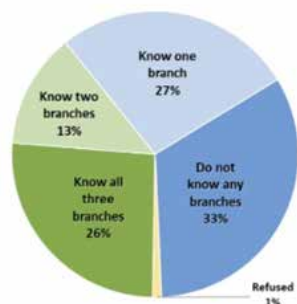
Wrong again! The supposedly trigger-happy, bigoted NYPD killed a whopping eight people last year, according to its meticulous, 73-page “2014 Annual Firearms Discharge Report.” Of these, four were black. All of them were armed with cutting instruments (scissors, a hatchet, a boxcutter and a knife) and wielded them when they fatally were shot. Rather than NYPD gunfire, the high-profile Eric Garner case involved a police chokehold that may have given the overweight Garner a lethal coronary. Still, these five deaths (at least four of them justified) total last year’s NYPD “genocide” against black men. They equal 4.95 percent of Gotham’s 101 black-on-black murders in 2014. Other blacks are 20 times deadlier to black New Yorkers than is the NYPD.

Yes, some police are overzealous, twitchy-fingered and — surely — racist. NYPD Officer James Frascatore’s heavy-handed takedown of tennis player James Blake outside a Manhattan hotel in September confirms that some cops need leashes. But the notion that America’s cops simply are gunning down innocent black people is one of today’s biggest and deadliest lies.

Deroy Murdock is a Manhattan-based Fox News contributor.

How Can We Protect Our Rights When We Don’t Even Know Them

% of people who can name the three branches of government



Source: Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey, August 9-13, 2017. Annenberg Public Policy Center

“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be,” wrote Thomas Jefferson in 1816. America’s third president was passionate about education, not only from a personal love of learning, but also from a conviction that civic ignorance imperils democratic liberties.

Two centuries later, such ignorance is distressingly easy to find.

In its latest national survey, the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania confirms once again that most Americans have only the feeblest understanding of our system of government and of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

The survey found, for example, that only 26% of respondents could name the three basic branches of the government (executive, judicial, and legislative). An astonishing 33% couldn't even name one. This in a country where three-fourths of the public can identify all Three Stooges.

Respondents in the Annenberg survey were asked: "Can you name any of the specific rights that are guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution?" Less than half (48%) knew that freedom of speech is a First Amendment right, and far fewer could name any of the other rights: 15% mentioned freedom of religion; 14%, freedom of the press; 10%, the right of assembly. Only 3% cited the right to petition the government.

And a shocking 37% — nearly 4 in 10 — could not identify a single freedom protected by the First Amendment. Are we really OK with this?

As every naturalized immigrant knows, newcomers cannot become US citizens without first demonstrating a grasp of basic civics. Foreigners applying for citizenship are tested on their knowledge of government and the Constitution. Some of the questions: How many amendments does the Constitution have? Who makes federal laws? Why do some states have more Representatives than others? What is the capital of your state? Who is the commander in chief of the military?

The questions are fairly simple, and more than 95% of immigrants applying for citizenship pass. Yet to judge from the Annenberg Center data, at least one third of native-born Americans would flunk.

Democratic norms are not self-perpetuating. If they aren't taught, they will not endure. "The first duty imposed on those who now direct society," wrote Alexis de Tocqueville in his magisterial study of American life and culture, "is to educate democracy." If that's no longer a priority in this country, we might as well kiss our liberties goodbye.

NATIONAL NEWS

This is an example of two individuals, one liberal the other conservative who can have a rational discussion. They can disagree without being disagreeable.

Actor Richard Dreyfuss and Fox News Host Tucker Carlson were midway through a debate Friday night over funding for sanctuary cities when Dreyfuss left Carlson all but speechless. Dreyfuss was telling Carlson that he believed no President had the power to withhold funding, as President Donald Trump has threatened to do, because that power rests with Congress. But that was not what was uppermost in his mind. Instead, Dreyfuss needed to get something else off his chest. "I want to mention one thing," Dreyfuss said. "You were talking about the speakers on university campuses. And I am totally, incontrovertibly on your side about this." Dreyfuss said that not only is freedom of speech essential, regardless of the consequences, but free speech and education are the only ways to address America's collective ignorance about the foundational principles of the nation enshrined in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

"I think any intrusion into freedom of speech is an intrusion into freedom of speech. And when one of the presidents of one of the colleges said, 'This is a school, not a battlefield,' I said, no, it is a battlefield of ideas and we must have dissonant, dissenting opinions on campuses and I think it's political correctness taken to a nightmarish point of view," Dreyfuss said of Coulter's Canceled Speech.

He then talked about deeper principles. "I am a constitutionalist who believes that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights must be central and the parties must be peripheral," Dreyfuss said, noting that few Americans have ever really studied these documents in school. "Civics has not been taught in the American public school system since 1970. And that means everyone in Congress never studied the Constitution and the Bill of Rights as you and I might have," he said. Dreyfuss said knowing the basic of government is essential to being a functional American citizen. Ignorance of the basics "is a critical flaw because it's why we were admired and respected for so long, it gives us our national identity, it tells the world who we are and why we are who we are, and without

a frame that gives us values that stand behind the Bill of Rights, we're just floating in the air and our sectors of society are not connected," he said. Dreyfuss said each side has to quit trying to silence the other. "What's really important is that the assumptions of the left and the right are all skewed wrong," he said. "We have to find areas of agreement and areas that we share. And we do share the notion that education accomplishes certain things. One, it turns students into citizens. And, two, it teaches students how to run the country before it's their turn to run the country. And, three, it teaches the values of this nation," he said. The obligations, responsibilities and workings of American democracy are essential parts of education, he said.

New York's cop-bashers are standing up for gangs

By New York Post Editorial Board May 20, 2017 | 8:15pm

The cop-bashers just won't be happy until the NYPD quits fighting crime altogether. They rallied at City Hall last week against police crackdowns on violent gangs. That's right: gangs. The demonstrators called on NYPD Inspector General Philip Eure to probe the department's anti-gang tactics and its criteria for adding names to its databases. In a letter, some two dozen groups — including the Legal Aid Society, Black Lives Matter and NYC Shut It Down — particularly complain about "military-style gang raids" at public-housing sites. The raids regularly nab suspects already indicted by prosecutors or wanted by cops. Why would anyone object to their arrest? Sadly, such nonsense sometimes winds up imposing new restrictions on policing: The IG (and a court-appointed monitor) don't answer to any democratic institution, and much of the City Council is always up for new laws limiting the NYPD.

Indeed, court rulings have already hamstrung cops in patrolling public housing. All this, when the NYPD has abandoned stop-and-frisk, with stops down some 98 percent from their peak in 2011. And when decades of innovative policing have massively reduced the number of New Yorkers sent to jail and prison by preventing crimes from being committed in the first place. One core NYPD crime-reduction strategy is Broken Windows policing — focusing on addressing low-level disorder in order to create an environment where major crime becomes less likely. Fewer crimes has meant fewer convicted criminals and far fewer prisoners — yet the critics still ignorantly tie Broken Windows to "mass incarceration."

Much of New York's remaining violent crime is linked to gangs: An NYPD spokesman says more than half of all city shootings are gang-related. And gangs are a particular problem in the projects. As then-Commissioner Bill Bratton noted in 2015, many shootings come in "conflicts between groups of young men who happen to live in different New York City Housing Authority developments."

By targeting gangs (police cite 100 major takedowns last year, netting some 1,000 thugs), the NYPD has driven shootings to a record low, 998 in 2016 and likely lower yet this year. And the public supports the cops. "Finally, we're going to be able to sit outside with our children ... without having to worry," said local resident Donna Fischer after a huge gang bust last year at a public-housing site in The Bronx. "We're getting our development back from these criminals." If anyone's out of touch with the community, it's the cop-bashers. Note: This is not simply a New York problem. Other cities are considering such measures.

New Virginia law to prevent identification of juvenile murder victims catches police by surprise, adds to their workload

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Releasing the names of murder victims has been a standard practice for the police in informing the public about what happened. But Henrico police did not release Jaishaun Wells' name to the public. The reason is a state law that went into effect July 1. It says police may not release the name of a juvenile murder victim without written consent of next of kin. The law caught police agencies by surprise and adds to their workload.

'Ghost guns,' homemade and untraceable, face growing scrutiny

New York Times

Buying a fully assembled gun is a process subject to a host of regulations and restrictions, especially in states like California that tend to be more stringent. But anyone can make a gun at home. The do-it-yourself route is often favored by gun enthusiasts, including hobbyists and competitive shooters. It can also be a path to gun ownership for felons and people with mental illnesses or those who have been convicted of domestic violence. The Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, part of the gun safety group founded by Gabrielle Giffords, the former representative from Arizona who survived an assassination attempt in 2011, is calling on two internet service providers to disable websites that sell materials and tools to create homemade weapons. Such weapons, often referred to as ghost guns, were used in a mass shooting in Northern California this month.

Here, heroin spares no one, not even the sheriff's wife

Clermont County, OH

At first, Sheriff Robert Leahy could not understand why his wife had let herself become an addict, why she had made that choice. But as he watched her struggle for years to stay clean, his knowledge of addiction matured. He began to see it as a disease in need of treatment and compassion. More than a decade later, as Ohio grapples with one of the deadliest drug epidemics in American history, the state's criminal justice system has undergone a similar transformation. Local officers and judges know that they can no longer treat all addicts like criminals. To stop an epidemic, they have to think like medical professionals.

Note: Sheriff Leahy has our sincere sympathy for the loss of his wife. My family went through a similar experience involving the loss of a daughter.

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/08/06/health/ohio-heroin-opioid-crisis-morgue-full/index.html>

Trump deportations lag behind Obama levels

From Feb. 1 to June 30, ICE officials removed 84,473 people - a rate of roughly 16,900 people per month. If deportations continue at the same clip until the fiscal year ends Sept. 30, federal immigration officials will have removed fewer people than they did during even the slowest years of Barack Obama's presidency. The lower rate of deportations doesn't mean Trump has embraced a hands-off approach to immigration enforcement. But it may mean that deportations are lagging behind arrest rates or removal orders, which by all accounts have soared since Trump took office.

2017 is on pace for the second-lowest crime rate since 1990 - and near-record low murders

Preliminary analysis of crime data from the nation's 30 largest cities released by the Brennan Center for Justice suggests that 2017 is on pace to have the second-lowest violent crime rate of any year since 1990.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/politics/wp/2017/09/06/2017-is-on-pace-to-have-the-second-lowest-crime-rate-since-1990-and-near-record-low-murders/?utm_term=.147868da5062

Tucson ends policy on destroying guns

In the end, only one number really mattered when it came to Tucson stopping its policy of destroying guns in city possession - \$57 million. That is the amount in annual state-shared revenues the city would have to forgo if it defied a ruling by the Arizona State Supreme Court that the practice conflicted with state law. Specifically, the ruling affirmed that surplus property must be auctioned to the highest bidders.

http://tucson.com/news/local/tucson-ends-policy-on-destroying-guns/article_1b97150a-3a1c-5c31-b0fc-f23993894641.html

The new war on drugs

There has been much discussion of criminal justice reform in the past several years. And there has been a lot of talk about treating the opioid epidemic - the deadliest overdose crisis in US history - as a public health, not criminal justice, issue, unlike past drug crises. The cliché about the crisis, said by both Democrats and Republicans, is that “we can’t arrest our way out of the problem.” Yet the rhetoric doesn’t tell the whole story. In my own investigation, I found at least 13 states that passed laws in recent years that stiffened penalties for opioids painkillers, heroin, or fentanyl - largely in response to the epidemic. In sharp contrast to all the talk about criminal justice reform and public health, these laws risk sending even low-level, nonviolent drug offenders - many of whom are addicted to drugs and need help for that addiction - to prison for years or decades.

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/9/5/16135848/drug-war-opioid-epidemic>

‘We see them at their worst’: How L.A. County’s mental health team is working to end a stigma

New York Times

On any given day, Los Angeles Sheriff Deputy Rene Gonzalez and other members of the Mental Evaluation Team units could be called anywhere across Los Angeles County, at all hours. They could be pulled into the West Hollywood station, to help calm down an inmate in the jails during a psychotic episode. They could be called to Temple City, where a young woman has threatened suicide. They are spat on and cursed with racial slurs. But the deputies’ job is to be calm, to be unoffended, to understand when to step back and let a mental health specialist step in, or another deputy that has more rapport with a person.

BY Stephen Rex Brown NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Sunday, November 12, 2017, 12:52 PM

An NRA-backed bill to make it easier to carry guns across state lines would result in “hundreds of thousands more concealed weapons” flooding the city, Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr. warned Sunday. The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act pending in Congress would require states to recognize concealed carry permits from other states, similar to the way officials recognize an out-of-state driver’s license.

Vance said the legislation would undermine efforts to combat gun violence in New York City.

“The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act could very dramatically affect in a negative way security in New York City,” Vance told radio host John Catsimatidis on AM 970.

“If that act passes — and it is the No. 1 legislative priority of the NRA — I think, we realistically are going to be looking at perhaps hundreds of thousands more concealed weapons coming into New York City...It will affect major urban areas in a negative way dramatically.”

The NRA has said the bill is one of its top priorities. “Americans’ Second Amendment right to bear arms doesn’t end at their states’ borders,” the NRA says. There are 38 states that require a permit to carry a concealed weapon. Twelve states do not require a permit.

Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C., told USA Today on Friday that House leaders are committed to bringing the bill to a vote by the end of the year. Hudson said mass shootings in Las Vegas and Texas only reaffirms the importance of permitting citizens to carry firearms for self-defense.

There is a serious mental health component to any serious issue involving gun control

Note: Unlocking the key to a sensible and reasonable gun control process is a serious issue facing our nation. But creating the safest and humane way to deal with the mentally ill should be a partner to any gun control debate. I don't believe we have a national program examining the issue of deinstitution of mentally ill persons in the 1970's. The obvious difficulty of mainstreaming these individuals into group homes was not that they were always in a disturbed state but once living outside institutional life, as soon as the medication taken daily improved their ability to function, they chose not to take their medication. Sadly, they reverted back to some form of emotional disturbance. The next article describes such an individual who apparently had a legal right to firearms ownership. Such legality cost the lives of two police officers.

Even though Everett Glenn Miller was sent to a mental-health facility under the state's Baker Act last month, his guns weren't seized at the time or when he was released three days later. That is because the state's involuntary commitment law does not allow law enforcement officers to take any weapons unless a crime was committed or a court order was issued, experts say. On Aug. 18, police say Miller shot Officer Matthew Baxter and Sgt. Richard "Sam" Howard in Kissimmee, Florida. Baxter died at the scene, and Howard died in a hospital the next day. Miller was arrested about two hours after the shooting in a bar. He was carrying a 9mm gun and a .22-caliber revolver. A Kissimmee police spokeswoman did not have any information about whether Miller owned the guns or had a license to carry them. Vicki Garner, executive vice president of operations at Aspire Health Partners, said the Baker Act is limited to what happens during a specific mental breakdown. It does not deem whether someone is mentally ill, she said. Predicting someone's ability for future violence is kind of hard to do," Garner said. "Psychiatrists" are really evaluating what's happening in the here and now."

Doctors can petition the court to prevent someone from buying a firearm, but that is rarely done at Aspire, the 200-bed facility where most Baker Act patients in Orange County are sent. Garner said the petitions also don't address any weapons the person may already have. It is not clear to which facility Miller was taken. Garrett Griffin, clinical director of care coordination for Park Place Behavioral Health in Kissimmee, said once patients are deemed mentally fit for release after a 72-hour Baker Act admission, it refers the patient to therapy services and case managers. The incident, walking down the street in his boxer shorts holding a rifle which several friends and family described in detail, led to Miller being held for three days on Florida's Baker Act, which is used to voluntarily detain. Deputies responded to the scene but did not find him. A family member took Miller to the Osceola County Jail, and he was then taken to a mental-health facility. "Because Miller was not charged with a crime, and he did not have a gun in his possession, we could not take the weapon,"

Griffin said we often work with family members to encourage the person to remove weapons from the home, but removal is still up to the patient. "That's where the contention is — we take someone's right to own a firearm, but at same time we are saying they are no longer a threat to themselves or others," Griffin said. "It can be perceived as a dichotomy." Even if someone is deemed mentally ill by a doctor, the person can buy a firearm at a gun show or from a private seller, said Tom Gillan, a psychiatrist and founder of the Police Stress Unit Crisis Management and Training Group. "There are so many loopholes in the law," he said. Some law enforcement agencies are hesitant to take someone's guns without a pending criminal case because they are concerned about lawsuits. In 2013, the Daytona Beach Police Department took all the firearms from a suicidal veteran who was committed under the Baker Act. After he was released, the department required the man to submit an affidavit from a mental-health professional and a family member saying he was of sound mind. The man sued and won in circuit court. Miller was not arrested in the Baker Act incident, but criminal charges are pending with the Orange-Osceola State Attorney's Office, Osceola County Sheriff's Office spokesman Capt. Jacob Ruiz said. His mother, Joann Butler, said she asked that his firearms be taken away. Ruiz said the Sheriff's Office has no record of that request. Miller underwent the standard 72-hour evaluation period in July, but family members say he did not stay any longer. Family members said Miller was receiving treatment for PTSD through the Department of Veterans Affairs, but it is uncertain whether he was still getting help at the time of the shooting. Miller is facing a first-degree murder charge in Baxter's death and is expected to face another murder charge in Howard's death. Staff writer Christal Hayes contributed to this report.

USE OF FORCE

Spokane police chief, ombudsman say they want to rewrite use-of-force policy*Spokane Spokesman-Review*

Spokane, unlike other municipalities, is vague in its application of less-than-lethal tactics as laid out in the police department's use-of-force policy, Spokane police Ombudsman Bart Logue said. Specifically, there's little clarity in the department's treatment of what Logue calls the "sanctity of life." In looking at other department's policies and best practices nationwide, Logue discovered that, whereas other cities' agencies will provide specifics on how to deescalate a situation and enforce less-lethal alternatives, Spokane does not.

HATE CRIMES

NPR: Hate crimes up in 2016, FBI statistics show

The number of hate crimes reported last year rose by 4.6 percent compared to the previous year, according to data released Monday by the FBI. The total tally of hate crimes in 2016 was 6,121, compared to 5,850 in 2015. More than half of those incidents were motivated by the victim's race.

Tough-talking sheriffs raise their voices in Trump era*Washington Post*

From deep-blue states such as Massachusetts and New York to traditionally conservative strongholds in the South and the Midwest, locally elected sheriffs have emerged as some of the president's biggest defenders. They echo Trump's narrative on everything from serious policy debates such as immigration to fleeting political dust-ups with NFL players who kneel during the national anthem. With Trump dominating the national conversation through tweets, sheriffs are mimicking his antagonistic political style, alarming progressives and some legal observers who fear an increasingly undisciplined justice system. Some have even gone to battle with Democratic officials, bucking their "politically correct" policies and using rhetoric that puts some residents on edge.

RESEARCH

Science says these police tactics reduce crime*Scientific American*

What factors can really help drive down crime? The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine said in a report released Thursday that certain "proactive" policies aimed at preventing crime before it happens—including stop and frisk—show mixed results. Yet it is not enough to simply identify what policies appear to reduce crime, a panel convened by the National Academies cautions in the report. Authorities must also consider the real-world risks of applying these approaches in ways that are racist, biased or illegal, they wrote.

GUN REGULATIONS

FBI database for gun buyers missing millions of records*Washington Post*

The FBI's background-check system is missing millions of records of criminal convictions, mental illness diagnoses and other flags that would keep guns out of potentially dangerous hands, a gap that contributed to the shooting deaths of 26 people in a Texas church this week. Experts who study the data say government agencies responsible for maintaining such records have long failed to forward them into federal databases used for gun background checks - systemic breakdowns that have lingered for decades as officials decided they were too costly and time-consuming to fix.

ECONOMIC CUTBACKS

'In a heartbeat': Rural communities face challenges in policing

Rochester Post-Bulletin

Many small towns struggle to sustain a local police department with qualified and experienced law enforcement officers, said Andy Skoogman, executive director of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association. It can be difficult to replace police chiefs and officers who retire or get hired by other agencies. Cash-strapped city councils are then tempted to outsource their law enforcement services. "This is a discussion that has been going on for many years," Skoogman said. "The biggest challenge is recruiting and retaining police officers who want to work in small towns. Typically, the pay is greater and the resources (are) more abundant at larger agencies"

IMMIGRATION

Most California sheriffs fiercely opposed the 'sanctuary state' law. Soon they'll have to implement it

Los Angeles Times

Senate Bill 54 was introduced as a sharp rebuke from Democrats to President Trump's call for more deportations. It is designed to limit the people that California law enforcement agencies can detain, question or investigate at the request of federal immigration officials. But its impact will largely rely on county sheriffs whose departments play a vital role in immigration enforcement - and most of whom were opposed to SB 54.

The FBI is looking to hire top science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates to better help the agency fight cybercrime. The agency's Human Resources Division began the effort two years to specifically recruit individuals with cyber skills, but leaders have noted that it has been a tough mission because the private sector also is recruiting STEM employees and often pay more than the federal government. "If the FBI doesn't recruit and train the best qualified people in the STEM fields, our adversaries will undoubtedly gain an advantage," Special Agent Avatar Lefevre, said in an FBI news release, adding, "The country's enemies, be they terrorists, computer hackers, spies, or financial fraudsters, are exploiting the newest technologies at every turn."

Lefevre said that in addition to routinely visiting colleges across the country to reach out to younger people interested in joining the FBI, the agency also has been working at the high school level for prospective job candidates. He said the FBI wants "to let kids know at an earlier age that the FBI is here and we are doing a lot of cool things they might not know about. We want to put the FBI on their radar." Reaching out to a younger audience is important, he said, adding, "Because of the Bureau's exacting security clearance process... young people have to be aware that their actions now will have a bearing on their ability to gain government employment later."

Meet the NYPD's first female counter-sniper

By: LISA EVERS

You know what they say: sometimes the best man for the job is a woman. Det. Tina Guerrero is a mother, wife, and counter-sniper dedicating her life to keeping the city safe. "Being the lead bunker on a search warrant -- the first one being able to go through the door -- to me is just exciting," she said. "You don't know what that unknown is, and what's going to happen." Soon after the birth of her first child at 24, Guerrero became a police officer. She worked undercover in Vice but wanted the challenge of being in the prestigious ESU, which handles everything from hostage situations and people pinned in cars to presidential details. She felt it was a greater

opportunity to protect the public, and she didn't let her gender or size stop her."It's like a big boy's playground, and I wanted to play in it. I was welcomed with open arms," Guerrero said. "I've always been treated with the utmost respect."Part of the reason she gets respect is because she carries her own gear -- no easy feat when the tactical vest alone is about 50 pounds and there are all kinds of other gear to carry, depending on the emergency. For the members of the NYPD's counter-sniper team, constant training is a must. That is why they spend a lot of time at the Rodman's Neck firing range.

"In the beginning, I really was a little intimidated by it," she said. "I'd never really shot a precision rifle before. And hearing the term 'counter-sniper' -- you're looked at a little bit of a higher level, and it's a big responsibility." She showed me the range and told me she has never had to use her Remington 700 M24 rifle or service weapon in the line of duty. But she must be prepared. During our visit, Guerrero hit a 1-inch square from 100 yards away. Back at the base, I wondered how she goes from cleaning a high-powered rifle to making school lunches."You just try to leave that here, and go home and just take this hat off and go home and put my other hat on that says 'mom' and leave it at that," Guerrero said. She said the support of her husband -- Det. Lenin Guerrero, an ESU officer in another command -- helps and so does the support of the men in the unit.

"There's always someone willing to teach you something, always somebody there to answer questions for you," Guerrero said. "As long as you're willing to do the job here and go out there and work, you aren't going to have any problems."Guerrero told me she is sharing her story with the hope of inspiring other women to come into this special unit to see just how much they can become and contribute.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

RCMP should be split into federal, local agencies to fix staffing crunch, report says

Facing a staffing crunch, Canada's national police force is "cannibalizing" itself - a state of affairs that can only be corrected by dividing the Mounties up into their federal and local policing halves, according to a new think-tank report. A Sept. 7 essay published by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute says the RCMP's federally directed detectives who focus on top-tier criminals such as terrorists, mobsters and drug smugglers are becoming less important within the force than the RCMP officers who are loaned out for local law-enforcement duties to hundreds of communities that lack their own police services.

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/to-fix-staffing-crunch-rcmp-should-be-divided-into-federal-local-halves-report/article36193628/>

Guardian: UK police to lose phone and web data search authorisation powers

Senior police officers are to lose the power to self-authorise access to personal phone and web browsing records under a series of late changes to the snoopers' charter law proposed by ministers in an attempt to comply with a European court ruling on Britain's mass surveillance powers. A Home Office consultation paper published on Thursday also makes clear that the 250,000 requests each year for access to personal communications data by the police and other public bodies will in future be restricted to investigations into crimes that carry a prison sentence of at least six months.

Article on Free Speech

In yet another sign that Europe is descending into a wasteland of authoritarian leftism, French President Emmanuel Macron has announced that he wants to make “gender-based insults” a thing of the past in his country. In a speech celebrating the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against women, Macron proposed that France create new legislation that outlaws these insults in such a way that punishes users by a fine.

“The streets should not become hell for the women of France,” he said, signaling that the Ministry of the Interior was now working on regulations that would be rolled out within a few weeks. “We will be creating an offense which will give the police the right to issue fines if there is a verbal attack on a woman,” he said. “Let’s seal a pact of equality between men and women.”

There are elements of Macron’s proposed law that could actually do some good – the government has indicated a willingness to expand the statute of limitations for the rape of minors, make it easier for women to report sexual assault online, and improve women’s safety on public transportation. It is not a problem that Macron wants to crack down on sexual assault and actual violence.

The problem comes when he conflates speech with violence, which is a point of confusion he shares with Angela Merkel and many American leftists. Through this mechanism, he can begin a slow and steady march against freedom. Sure, it starts with a few gender slurs here and there. Then it moves into the realm of ideas. Suddenly you not only cannot call a woman a “bitch” in public without risking a fine, you can’t criticize a woman at all. Doing so is now classified as hate speech, and the consequences are in line with the penalties for actually committing an act of assault. This is where the whole train goes off the rails.

Standing up (meaningfully) for free speech is never easy, because the types of speech that people like Macron want to outlaw are almost always unpopular. Who wants to rally for the rights of men to yell slurs at women in the streets of Paris? Who wants to stand up for the rights of Neo-Nazis to march in Charlottesville? People see you defending hate speech and they assume that you approve of hate speech. Human psychology dictates that few people will want those associations. That’s why, in the absence of a First Amendment, it’s so easy for a government to begin banning certain forms of expression “for the good of society.”

Bill of Rights or no Bill of Rights, leftists are going to soon try and start doing this in America. That’s why it’s so important that we have the courage to fight them off, no matter how much we may personally disagree with the speech they’re trying to ban. Once you start heading down that road, there’s no coming back.

The Unsung Role That Ordinary Citizens Played in the Great Crime Decline. A different Approach but Worth Researching

Most theories for the great crime decline that swept across nearly every major American city over the last 25 years have focused on the would-be criminals. Their lives changed in many ways starting in the 1990s: Strict new policing tactics kept closer watch on them. Mass incarceration locked them up in growing numbers. The crack epidemic that ensnared many began to recede. Even the more unorthodox theories — around the rise of abortion, the reduction in lead or the spread of A.D.H.D. medication — have argued that larger shifts in society altered the behavior (and existence) of potential criminals.

But none of these explanations have paid much attention to the communities where violence plummeted the most. New research suggests that people there were working hard, with little credit, to address the problem themselves. Local nonprofit groups that responded to the violence by cleaning streets, building playgrounds, mentoring children and employing young men had a real effect on the crime rate. That’s what Patrick Sharkey, a sociologist at New York University, argues in a new study and a forthcoming book. Mr. Sharkey doesn’t contend that community groups alone drove the national decline in crime, but rather that their impact is a major missing piece. “This was a part that has been completely overlooked and ignored in national debates over the crime drop,” he said. “But I think it’s fundamental to what happened.”

Between the early 1990s and 2015, the homicide rate in America fell by half. Rates of robbery, assault and theft tumbled in tandem. In New York, Washington and San Diego, murders dropped by more than 75 percent. Although violence has increased over the last two years in some cities, including Chicago and Baltimore, even those places remain safer than they were 25 years ago. And crime has continued to fall in other cities, most notably New York, where shootings are at a record low. According to some researchers, they believe that much of the crime decrease has to do with improvements in child protection. Local nonprofit groups that cleaned streets, built playgrounds and mentored children had a real effect on the crime rate, but there other community factors in play. This long-term trend has fundamentally altered city life. It has transformed fear-inducing parks and subways into vibrant public spaces. It has lured wealthier whites back into cities. It has raised the life expectancies of black men. And even in an age of widening urban inequality, it has meant that the daily lives of the most disadvantaged are less dangerous now than they were a generation ago. These poor neighborhoods, Mr. Sharkey has found, have been the greatest beneficiaries of this tectonic change in safety. The same communities were participating in another big shift that started in the 1990s: The number of nonprofits began to rise sharply across the country, particularly those addressing neighborhood and youth development.

Mr. Sharkey and the doctoral students Gerard Torrats-Espinosa and Delaram Takyar used data from the National Center for Charitable Statistics to track the rise of nonprofits in 264 cities across more than 20 years. Nonprofits were more likely to form in the communities with the gravest problems. But they also sprang up for reasons that had little to do with local crime trends, such as an expansion in philanthropic funding. A spike in nonprofits addressing subjects like the arts and medical research occurred in this same era. Comparing the growth of other kinds of nonprofits, the researchers believe they were able to identify the causal effect of these community groups: Every 10 additional organizations in a city with 100,000 residents, they estimate, led to a 9 percent drop in the murder rate and a 6 percent drop in violent crime.

In a criminology field that has produced some eyebrow-raising ideas, this one is actually not so surprising. That national finding echoes local studies of some individual programs, like one run by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society that converts abandoned lots into green spaces and that has been linked in Philadelphia to reduced gun violence. The research also affirms some of the tenets of community policing: that neighborhoods are vital to policing themselves, and that they can address the complex roots of violence in ways that fall beyond traditional police work.

“It’s absolutely consistent with what I would argue is probably the prevalent theory of policing among the major cities today,” Richard Myers, the executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, said of the new research. Local organizations also say Mr. Sharkey’s results validate what they have already witnessed. “Any time people’s basic needs are met, violence goes down — that’s not new,” said Noreen McClendon, who directs the nonprofit Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles.

The group, was formed in the 1980s to fight a proposed waste incinerator in the neighborhood. It evolved in the 1990s to address many of the neighborhood’s other challenges. The group created dozens of block clubs to care for individual streets. It cleaned alleys and repaired potholes, and hired local ex-offenders to do that work. It established a credit union, sponsored a jazz festival and developed hundreds of units of affordable housing. During a time of major disinvestment in cities, and severe cuts in federal support for urban programs, residents of the neighborhood believed no one else was coming to help. “Nobody,” Ms. McClendon said. And if the group had not done this work itself? “There would have been a lot more death,” she said, “between violence amongst people, violence from police brutality, just drugs.” Many similar groups did not explicitly think of what they were doing as violence prevention. But in creating playgrounds, they enabled parents to better monitor their children. In connecting neighbors, they improved the capacity of residents to control their streets. In forming after-school programs, they offered alternatives to crime.

In the East Lake neighborhood of Atlanta, the crime rate in the mid 1990s was 18 times the national average. The drug market in the neighborhood was estimated to be doing \$35 million in business a year. There hadn’t been a new building permit issued in the neighborhood in nearly three decades, a sign of how little anyone had invested in the community other than to buy drugs there.

Then the newly formed East Lake Foundation developed new mixed-income housing to replace a decaying public housing project. It started a golf program for neighborhood children on a nearby but long-deteriorating golf course. The foundation eventually opened a charter school, where the first class of seniors had a 100 percent graduation rate in May. “We knew we wanted to see violence and crime go down in the community,” said Carol Naughton, who led the foundation for years and today is the president of a national group, Purpose Built Communities, that is trying to teach East Lake’s model in other cities. “But we’ve never had a crime-prevention program.”

Today violent crime in East Lake is down 90 percent from 1995. But Ms. Naughton is momentarily perplexed by the question of whether she believes groups like hers have gotten enough credit for contributing to that outcome. “We’re not part of the crime-reduction world, or the public safety world, in the same way that we’re part of the health and education and housing world,” she said. “It never occurred to us that we’re not getting the credit, because we don’t even know that world is out there.” The lesson in that response, and in Mr. Sharkey’s work — that effective crime prevention doesn’t necessarily look like stop-and-frisk, or hot-spot policing, or mass incarceration — is particularly relevant today as cities rethink policing.

“A lot of these communities were in despair because they needed resources,” said Robert Sampson, a sociologist at Harvard who has studied Chicago neighborhoods damaged by violence. “And what did they get? Well, they mainly got crime control. They got increases in incarceration.” Those tactics may have contributed to the decline in crime as well. But they’ve come with costs that have become clearer over time, in antagonizing communities and disrupting families. Mr. Sharkey is pointing to one possible solution with less evident downsides. And he’s suggesting that communities can effectively take on the very roles that the police say have strained them as they’ve increasingly been asked to perform jobs they weren’t trained for, as guidance counselors or marriage therapists or substance-abuse experts.

“They are taking that burden away from the police that probably never should have been there, but by default has kind of landed there,” said Mr. Myers of the chiefs association, who is also a former longtime police chief himself, in Michigan, Virginia, Colorado and elsewhere.

As Mr. Sharkey publishes his findings, crime rates are now diverging after a generation in which violence fell reliably year after year nearly everywhere. It’s not clear yet whether the great crime decline he writes about will continue. But he argues that it’s time for a new model of violence prevention, one that relies more heavily on the kind of work that these community groups have been quietly doing than on the aggressive police tactics and tough sentencing that the Trump administration now advocates. “The model that we’ve relied on to control violence for a long time has broken down,” Mr. Sharkey said. If communities want police to step back, he is pointing to some of the people who can step in. “This gives us a model. It gives us another set of actors who can play a larger role.” *A version of this article appears in print on November 10, 2017, on Page A15 of the New York Times edition.*



SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FUTURE

With some driverless cars, humans may be asked to take a back seat. Recent news article reported that Google Self driving Car Company named WAYMO is moving the human back up driver from the driver's seat to the back seat as it continues to test its vehicles on public roads. The change began in October in a Phoenix suburb. According to the article, the individual will not be able to steer but able to press a button to bring the vehicle to a stop. Obviously, Google along with Apple, Uber and General Motors will be bringing self-driving cars to the public.

House passes bill that exempts self-driving cars from safety rules

The House easily passed legislation Wednesday that gives federal regulators final say over performance standards for self-driving vehicles and could allow for as many as 100,000 such vehicles a year to be exempted from safety standards while the technology is developing. The legislation, which cleared the House on a unanimous voice vote and now goes to the Senate for consideration, represents Congress' first substantial foray into what has become a thicket of competing state rules across the nation regarding the regulation of autonomous or self-driving cars.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/09/06/house-passes-self-driving-car-legislation/638727001/>

Note: If this really takes hold, who must have a driver's license. If an individual only has the option of stopping the car but not steering, accidents will happen. Who controls the speed of the vehicle? Who will be liable if a criminal or civil issue surfaces? Eventually over time, the process involving drunk driving will disappear or procedurally be revised or will it. I read a prior report a few years back that it will change the auto industry in terms of the quantity of vehicles required by the consumer. If we can direct the car to a destination and that's also in the works, how many vehicles would be needed by a family. Global positioning could be integrated into the process allowing individual to direct car to their employment and return it to home if needed thereby requiring only one car.

Take a tour of new One World Observatory

A great video of the Elevator to the Top of One World Trade Center. It's pretty cool, I might add.... The 4 minute video might even save you a trip to NYC and the \$32 per adult admission.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDIN26yxbnw>

HUMOR

Social Media

To others of my generations who still do not and cannot comprehend why Facebook even exists, here's what I'm doing to gain better understanding: I am trying to make new friends without using Facebook, but while applying the same principles.

Every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten. How I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later, and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, then give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them. It works! I already have four people following me: Two police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist.

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Upcoming Conference & Event Dates

Major Cities Chiefs Winter Meeting

Long Beach, CA January 24 to 26, 2018

Major County Sheriffs Summer Annual Meeting

New Orleans, LA June 13 to 15, 2018

Major County Sheriffs Winter Meeting

Washington, DC February 13 to 15, 2018

IACP

Orlando, FL October 7-9, 2018
MCCA Meetings: October 4 to 6, 2018

NEIA, MCCA, and PERF Joint Meeting

Nashville, TN May 29 to June 1, 2018

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“Voice-Driven Reporting: Improve Safety and Time”

Author: Former Boston Police Commissioner Edward F. Davis

Throughout my long career in law enforcement, from beat cop three decades back at the Lowell, MA. PD, to Detective Sergeant and eventually Commissioner of the Boston PD, I can recount so many great things about working the job. Protecting the community. The adrenaline rush from solving a case. That unique camaraderie which can't be explained to anyone other than someone who works in this field. These things have made the job rewarding – and oftentimes, dare I say, fun.

But, like any job, working in public safety also comes with its share of frustrations, one of which is paperwork. I can't even begin to tell you how many stacks of reports I've written, reviewed or filed in my day.

The irony is that most of us didn't get into this career because we wanted to sit at a desk – or work a regular 9-to-5 gig. But, the amount of paperwork that comes with everyday policing sometimes can make you feel like that is all you do.

In my years, I can't recall a single report taking less than an hour to complete; even for something as basic as a stolen item or lost dog. As I progressed through my career, and took on more responsibility, ironically the reporting mandates did not go away. Instead, they grew more complex. And for many branches of law enforcement, especially at the federal level, there are even more layers of documentation necessary.

Regardless, incident reporting isn't going away anytime soon. It will always remain a critical, and necessary, part of police work and it can't be ignored – or its importance minimized. But too much time spent filing incident reports, entering data into CAD/RMS systems or sitting heads-down at the MDT in the patrol car, means precious time away from digging into an investigation, helping another officer and keeping communities safe.

From face recognition technology and drones to AI-backed robots, there doesn't appear to be any area of police work that will not be impacted by technology. But one area that has my attention, as of late, is speech recognition technology and its impact on modern-day incident reporting. Individuals today are getting comfortable talking to machines. From the GPS in our cars to our smartphone assistants, it seems almost every task these days can be completed by voice alone. It's no surprise then that speech recognition technology is taking hold in law enforcement and as a result, shaping how incident reports are getting done.

I have been working with a company for the past few months headquartered in Burlington, MA, very close to my hometown of Lowell and a quick drive from downtown Boston on this very topic. The company is Nuance Communications and they are behind several voice and language solutions. One of them is [Dragon Law Enforcement](#), specifically designed for officers and agents to dictate reports (much faster and more accurately than they can type!)

Because of the ease of talking vs. typing, reports are turning around in a fraction of the time and often have more detail because they are being narrated in the moment. Those of you who have attempted to write a report hours after an event know how huge this benefit is. The time it takes to make out your pen scribbles alone is exhausting. And it's not going un-noticed. Agencies and police forces across the country are using the technology to help streamline administrative duties.

Why is everyone on board with voice? The answer is simple. It brings with it safety and time – two of the most important parts of the job.

As law enforcement professionals, we are committed to protecting our communities as well as our fellow officers, agents and colleagues. We do this by dedicating hours of our time to the investigation process and working together to prevent crimes before they happen. Next to safety, nothing is more important than time and many aspects of our profession can hinder our ability to manage time effectively, especially administrative responsibilities. Voice-enabled tools lets users stay alert, keeping law enforcement professionals safe while allowing them to spend more time in our communities – a win for everyone.