

Discussion about policing should center on how do we do it better

The Bethlehem Gadfly Police, Uncategorized August 25, 2020

🍷 *Latest in a series of posts about the Bethlehem Police* 🍷

ref: [Defunding the Police won't work](#)

Gadfly,

I read this [interesting analysis](#) in the *Morning Call*. How will the remaining 4 officials treat the game of football as they are under-staffed and the game is fast-paced and unpredictable at times? Can they handle the demands with winning and losing at stake in a professional sport where athletes strive to be successful? This leads me to the below pondering.

Let's look at policing from a different perspective, and imagine that you're a cop. There used to be 155 of you and now there are 125. Instead of your municipality springing for body armor, now you must buy it. You receive a clothing allowance instead of that municipality picking up the tab for uniforms, shoes, rain gear, etc. Office supplies aren't as plentiful. Technology? Repairs are infrequent, yet the standards for reporting remain the same. Is training cut back? Repairs to motorcycles and cruisers takes longer. How many added responsibilities have you been assigned because there are less of you? Is there enough time in the day to get everything done?

Now, imagine showing up at a domestic situation (one of the most dangerous for an officer to be in), and you've had it, because nothing else seems to be going right. You're under-resourced, you're over-worked and under-staffed, and you're expected to cross your tees and dot your eyes, referee a husband and wife at war with each other, and maybe things aren't going well at home because your attitude about law enforcement has changed due to the aforementioned conditions. It's already a stressful job made that much more stressful by things out of your control.

Who will benefit, who will pay the price as a result? How many will decide this is the career for them?

There's an old saying, "Be careful of what you wish for?" In my opinion the discussion about policing should center on how do we do it better? Morale is almost non existent in city hall already. It is in many places of employment. Do you want to build morale or resentment?

Just food for thought because the solutions to issues are built by analyzing each side, not just one perspective, one that is dominating the talk these days.

Anonymous

Gadfly knows the identity of the poster, who prefers to remain anonymous.