



Local Politics Matter

Black Lives Matter Too

They Always Have

Here we go again another day same old story, a deadly encounter between a Black American citizen and the police. Was the deceased armed or unarmed? If they were armed, was it in an open carry state? Was the use of lethal force necessary or not? These deadly encounters seem to be occurring with increasing frequency, and now, some emotionally challenged individuals within the beleaguered and terrorized Black community are armed and targeting the police. They are shooting and killing the police! This has got to stop! Blacks live in terror, fearful for the people in their life. Many of these people are well educated (gainfully employed, business owners, college students and/or college graduates with advanced degrees) law abiding citizens. However, when you are a Black American, being well educated and law abiding is not enough. To many in this country law abiding Black Americans are just as scary as and no different than a gun toting thug. Black Americans are not seen as individuals as normal people with the rights and privileges conveyed to all American citizens.

Black Americans live in fear that one of their family members is going to come into contact with an overly aggressive poorly trained police officer who's having a bad day, a bad week, a bad year or is just simply bad. Society

tells us that the police are a special case because of the inherent dangers of their jobs. Their families never know if they will come home again when they put on that uniform and leave for work. This may sound callous, but isn't this the life that they've chosen? Isn't this the nature of their profession? Black Americans have the same fears for their loved ones. They fear that any time their loved ones leave their homes they may have a lethal encounter with the police and will never be seen alive again like Philando Castile, Tamir Rice, and Walter Scott to name a few. This fear has nothing to do with their chosen profession or their lifestyle. It's simply because of their skin color.

Both the Black community and the police departments feel as though they are under siege. The police feel as though they are under siege because they believe that the Black community and those sympathetic to the concerns of the community are not supportive of them. If there are some Blacks who feel that way, they have been given many reasons for these feelings. Despite that fact, most Blacks don't despise the police, they just don't trust them.

Black Americans should not have to fear the police, after all the police are public servants, funded with the community's tax dollars, sworn to serve and protect. But the police don't always serve and protect Black citizens. They protect each

other, even when a police officer breaks the law and commits murder, one of the most egregious crimes against humanity. Time and again, police officers lie to protect colleagues accused of murdering Black Americans even when they know they've committed the crime. They help them hide behind the shield instead of holding them accountable and bringing them to justice. They've even developed standard talking points, "they went for my gun, I feared for my life".

Black Americans have come to expect this mantra after every questionable police shooting. Blacks feel that they're under siege by police officers because the police have terrorized them for as long as they can remember. Black parents must have that talk with their children about how to act if stopped by the police. However, recent events have demonstrated that doing everything right still may not be good enough. [The history of policing](#) parallels the history of racism in our country. In the south, policing grew out of protecting the slave state and later maintaining segregation. In the north, policing grew out of protecting the wealthy and the political class. In either case, Blacks were not part of the protected class. These many years later, the culture in many police departments is still hostile towards Black Americans. So hell no, Black Americans don't trust them! And they certainly don't respect them. Thank God for Smart Phones and all the amateur photographers. They have begun to reveal



the truth of what Black Americans have always known, to often, police officers verbally and physically abuse Black Americans. Regardless of the fact that it's not all police officers, not even most, they all get tarred with the same brush because one lies and the other swears to it. The system (fellow officers, FOP, local legal systems) protects that bad apple, that murderer to the detriment of the entire force. Throughout the history of policing, the institution has conspired against Black Americans to rob them of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Because of this simple fact, this glorious country needs to be reminded on a daily basis that yes Black Lives matter too!

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