

## Local Politics Matter

# The New Police State

## Read It And Weep



One of the first actions that the new President of the United States took was to remove certain informational pages from the White House website [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov). The information that was removed is quite revealing. There are no longer links to civil rights, LGBT rights or climate change on the White House website. Instead there is a link titled "Standing Up For Our Law Enforcement Community".

"Standing Up For Our Law Enforcement Community!" It said the Trump administration "will empower our law enforcement officers to do their jobs and keep

our streets free of crime and violence."

"The dangerous anti-police atmosphere in America is wrong," it said. "The Trump Administration will end it." Trump cherry-picks data to paint an alarming picture of homicide trends, when in reality, they have been declining for decades. Crime was heading downward for a quarter-century before the most recent uptick and the uptick is nowhere near large enough to offset the gains that have been made. In addition, violent crime overall has been cut in half since the crack cocaine epidemic hit its peak in 1991.

It should also be noted that the Trump admini-

stration postponed the consent decree hearings around policing in both Chicago and Baltimore. We should keep a watchful eye on both of these hearings.

In 2015 a year after Michael Brown's fatal shooting, the Washington Post reported on the fact that unarmed black men are seven times more likely than whites to die by police gunfire. Interesting that this wasn't one of the statistics that Mr. Trump chose to highlight. Once again he is using divisive rhetoric to pit one group against another. In this case he is attempting to increase the contentious relationship that currently exists between city police forces and people of color who live in our inner city communities.

As this country continues to grieve for all of the lives lost senselessly at the hands of law enforcement the last thing that we need is an emboldened police force given the authority to treat or mistreat the citizens of this country in any way that they deem appropriate. Certainly Mr. Trump has heard of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Walter Scott and

far too many other victims of police violence. Regardless of your political views as a human being you must have some level of compassion for those individuals who have lost their lives at the hands of an overly aggressive police force. Yes President Trump "Black Lives do Matter".

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