



OARPO



Oregon Association of Reserve Peace Officers

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Mission Statement - OARPO strives to bring together the common interest of reserve programs in the areas of standards, communications and training while raising the level of our profession.



From the President -Tyler Hale, Gladstone PD

We might claim to be slaves to our jobs or some other undesirable activity, but we recognize that as an expression. We live in a free society and often take our liberties for granted. We may discuss the topic of slavery historically - a discussion about Abraham Lincoln or the Civil War, but the idea of forced servitude is foreign to most of our experiences. Perhaps that is why human trafficking continues just below our conscious thought. Do not be lulled; it exists, and it is right at our doorsteps. Victims can be anyone,

although young women and those with limited language skills are at higher risk. Last year there were an estimated 750 victims in Oregon alone. Portland is the second largest city for forced child prostitution in the United States right after Las Vegas.

That is why our 2022 conference will focus on ways to identify and counter this threat to our most vulnerable residents.

140 Human Trafficking Victims in Clackamas County

(from Oregon Report - February 26, 2020 – reprinted with permission)

Federal officials describe human trafficking as modern-day slavery and one of the fastest-growing criminal industries in the world, but last year only counties in Oregon prosecuted any cases.

That's because most state and local agencies and even the general public don't believe it exists, said Rusty Amos, Clackamas County senior deputy district attorney, who developed a group in 2015 to explore the problem as a precursor to a task force formed to fight it.

In a Portland Tribune article, Amos quoted statistics from 2016 that described human trafficking as a \$150 billion business worldwide, with the United States one of the worst offenders.



Most of the traffickers, who can even operate from jail, are men who romance young girls and boys before coercing them into having sex with strangers through fear, violence, and rape.

Last year, only Multnomah and Clackamas counties in Oregon prosecuted defendants accused of human trafficking. In Clackamas County, 41 traffickers were identified, investigated and prosecuted for peddling 140 victims from 2016 through 2019.

Amos described the trauma endured by the young boys and girls, and adults, today is the worst he's seen in his 16 years as a prosecutor. Clackamas County Prosecutor Bill Stewart didn't think the county had a problem until he realized at a one-day conference that half of the 10 young women who visited a known human trafficker lived in his county.

He and Amos both serve on the Clackamas County Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team, a group that meets monthly in Oregon City to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking and prosecute the people peddling them.

The internet has made it easier for human traffickers to market sex with the victims through escort services, websites, ads, and they're able to groom their victims through chat rooms, dating sites, and even Instagram.

Rusty Amos, Clackamas County senior deputy district attorney, and the Clackamas County Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team will be primary presenters at the 2022 OARPO Conference in March 2022 at Keizer City Hall Conference Center.

Join OARPO www.OARPO.org - a sub-chapter of the OPOA - www.OPOA.info

Defund the Police = Whale Blubber – *Tom Freedland OARPO Executive Board*

An editorial commentary

Defund the police! That is about as sound as blowing up a whale carcass off the beach in Florence, Oregon. Evidence of policing can be found dating back 4000 years to Ancient Egypt. In the United States, Boston created the first police force in 1836, with other major cities following over the next few years. Communities became too large to rely on untrained neighbors to maintain order or stop aimless criminals from wreaking havoc.

While their primary purpose was stopping crime, their around-the-clock availability gave them the responsibility for general safety such as traffic control, stopping disorderly conduct, and making preventative patrols. On September 11, 2001, we saw police and other first responders run toward the threat despite any personal risk.



Their visibility and authority made the police a target for criminals seeking escape or those who violate the law or the rights of others for their personal gain. That threat crystallized shortly after midnight on the morning of April 6, 1970, when four officers of the California Highway Patrol lay dead following a four-minute gun battle with two harden criminals. Police tactics had to change and Officer Safety programs were born.



Ten years later, On May 9, 1980, five heavily armed men robbed a bank in Norco, California. During the 25-mile pursuit the robbers launched improvised grenades and fired on the out-gunned deputies, wounding eight, and killing one. They disabled 33 police vehicles and a police helicopter. To protect the public, law enforcement needed more effective weapons and training.

In late Spring of 1992, the streets of South Central Los Angeles saw four days of rioting following the acquittal of four LAPD officers charged with using excessive force during the arrest of Rodney King. The combined efforts of the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and virtually every other agency in Southern California still required assistance from the National Guard to restore peace. When it was over 63 people had been killed, 2,383 had been injured, and property damage was estimated at over \$1 billion. Training and equipment were again reviewed to better prepare the police to protect their communities.

Five years later, on February 28, 1997, again in Los Angeles, two men armed with illegally modified automatic weapons and wearing body armor were observed by police officers entering a North Hollywood Bank. They called for immediate assistance. During the next 44 minutes of the gun battle, twelve police





officers were injured, as were eight civilians; both robbers were killed. The officers' duty weapons could not penetrate the body armor and were not accurate from the distance necessary to reduce the risk of injury from the robbers' high-powered rifles. While SWAT officers arrived with some special weaponry, it was necessary for them to commandeer an armored car to approach the site, and then their first focus was rescuing the wounded.

According to FBI statistics there have been 277 active shooter incidents in the United States between 2000 and 2018. 2,430 people have been killed or injured (884 killed; 1546 wounded – not including the perpetrators). Police training continues to evolve for more effective responses to these incidents.

911 call centers try to extract information from the people reporting emergency incidents; however, they may not have complete information, circumstances may change, or the callers make inaccurate observations. The police still respond. They are available and are expected to restore order; however, they must anticipate a wide spectrum of possibilities prior to their arrival. They need to make an immediate assessment and then conduct themselves accordingly. The police officer may not be the perfect person in a mental health crisis, but he is on-duty to assess the circumstances at 3:00 am. Perhaps a psychologist or a marriage counselor would be better, but neither are typically available. Some cities have developed a secondary response team with that purpose. The officer is not going to complain, but he is there if the counselor fails and violence erupts.

Crime reports can be handled by trained civilians, but sometimes suspects remain in the area and cause a threat. Parties to traffic collisions can become upset and place the civilian accident investigator between arguing individuals. A police officer does not need to be at every incident but being available and aware that other specialists are working in the area allows for quick assistance, if necessary.

A vocal few dislike dealing with authority figures and want to do whatever it is that pleases them. So be it, but if their actions interfere or prevent someone else from doing what he or she is legally permitted to do, then the police are necessary to maintain order in the community.

Defunding the police is not rational. If the goal is for a broader, more situation specific response, creating such a team and integrating it into the existing structure makes more sense. That might diminish the need for line officers and free them to address other criminal activity. Anything that improves public safety is welcomed, but diminishing existing services, or worse, defunding them, would be the equivalent of showering our communities with whale blubber.



2022 OARPO Conference is coming.

March 2022 Keizer City Hall Conference Center



Cops are Still the Good Guys

Thoughts for the Legislature from the OARPO Board

2020 has been a cross between *The Twilight Zone* and *Ground Hog Day* framed around a soap opera. We wake up expecting Rod Serling to explain the latest twist to yesterday's headlines that we will experience as a new calamity of *The Days of Our Lives*. The police officer, trained as our guardian, a friend to those in need, had suddenly become the object of hatred and labeled a bigot for simply doing his job.



Cops do not get up and ask, "Who can I shoot today?" Cops eschew deadly force. While they train for its use, they know a deadly force incident will be analyzed and dissected for months, if not years. Some may second guess their decision; others may have no doubt. The repetitive training is for memory of movement, so the brain is not distracted during the decision-making process – Is this situation a threat?

The police are a reactive service. They respond to calls from the public. Even officer-initiated stops are reactive to observations – *That car is speeding. That one ran a red light. That person matches a robbery description.* Something unusual caught the officer's attention. If there is profiling, it is based on such input. If the suspect in a shooting is described as a 27 year-old white male, the officer checking the area is not likely to stop a 70 year-old woman in a wheelchair unless it is to ask if she has seen anyone matching the description.

Few cops seek out an internal affairs investigation, or worse a federal civil rights inquiry. Their actions may have been letter perfect, but there can be self-doubt. This is true for OARPO's membership of reserve peace officers as well.



Reserve officers are non-compensated members of a department who are trained and serve as peace officers but most often as a back up to the full-time officer. They may be a second officer on at the scene of a call, or an officer who assumes the responsibility of a low priority call when the paid officer is busy with higher priority services.

Some volunteer as a service to their community; others are testing the waters of a potential career. Regardless of the reason for their service, the potential risks remain. A wrong action could be career ending even before a career decision is made. The emotional roller coaster of an investigation results in the same anxiety.

All our peace officers are hired from the human race. The screening process is rigorous, and only a few who apply are hired. Those that are must still complete training which includes both classroom and field work during which they are still being assessed. This is followed by further review under the eyes of field training officer, and after that is a period of probation. Despite the process a few bad apples slip through.



Some complain the cops look like an occupying force and use military-like tactics. Uniform standards have changed over the last century. Uniforms were often a byproduct of disasters. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department did not institute uniform requirements until after the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake; a decision to make personnel easily identified. Over the years, styles have changed, and the uniform has become more utilitarian.

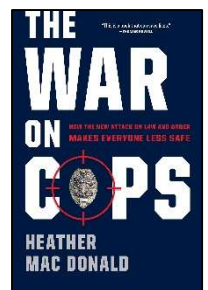
In response to the 1970 Newhall Incident that left four officers of the California Highway Patrol dead in less than 4 minutes, officer safety became a factor for uniforms, firearms, and training. Today's uniform allows the officer to carry more equipment ranging from less lethal control devices to first aid supplies with better weight distribution reducing the risk of job-related injuries. While a sharply pressed shirt and pants may look fashionable for a black-tie event, the "utilities" uniform is easier to maintain and reduces the reluctance to dirty a newly dry cleaned uniform if the officer needs to crawl under a house or bandage a bleeding wound.



Any mandated change in uniform style will likely be cost prohibitive for some reserve officers since many agencies provide only limited equipment. A change in statewide standards may tax the resources of many agencies already struggling with less revenue resulting from the COVID pandemic and quarantine. It might also hamper moral or agency *esprit de corps* by reducing individuality and making it harder to work at multi-agency events since skills may differ but uniform and agency distinction is lost.

Facts do not support the opinion that cops are singling out and shooting unarmed minorities. The Washington Post's database on police shootings records that in 2019 only fifteen (15) – recently revised up from nine (9) – unarmed Black individuals were killed by police. Of those fifteen, most were actively resisting officers. Police contacts with the public ranges between 50 – 60 million per year.

Heather MacDonald, with the Manhattan Institute, has looked at these figures and cross referenced them to suspects and victims in crimes as well as location. A police officer is over 18 times more likely to be killed by a Black individual rather than the reverse. Fifty percent of all homicide victims are Black and 90% of the suspects of those homicides are Black. Portland, Oregon, has contended with 28 homicides as of July 31, 2020; in 2019 there were 33 for the entire year. Nationally, 7400 Blacks were murdered in 2018; 94 percent were Black on Black crimes, but these events do not trigger outrage nor media coverage.



Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of assessing character from the heart and not by the color of their skin was much like the diverse crews of the Enterprise from the various Star Trek series. The local and national statistics for violent crime tell us we still have a way to go. The problem is not the cops so much as the society that surrounds us. Eighty percent (80%) of Americans polled want the level of policing to stay the same or increase. We can accept that cops need more training; that should be funded. Defunding the police without viable alternatives is foolhardy.