



THE POLICE MAGAZINE
BLUES

APRIL 2020 • VOL. 36 NO. 4

SURVIVING COVID 19
a first responder's nightmare





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SURVIVING COVID 19
a first responder's nightmare



On the Cover / Feature Story

A World under seige by an invisible enemy, COVID-19 has changed the way we police. Our Brothers in Blue are dying and many are sick. We cover this story from all sides to help you survive.

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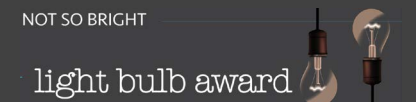
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my thoughts !!

Michael
Barron

Wow. What a difference 30-days makes!

Who knew a month ago we'd be locked in our homes, businesses would be closed, there would be no eating out and social distancing would become a thing. The impact to individuals and their livelihoods is unsurmountable. The damage to businesses is unheard of, and the effect on law enforcement and first responders has yet to be seen as we go to press on this 4th edition of the new BLUES.

At the beginning of March, the Task Force I'm assigned to was called to an emergency meeting regarding something called the Corona virus. Naturally I showed up with a six pack of Corona and a bag of limes. It seemed appropriate at the time, and as the meeting progressed and experts from around the globe began debriefing us on what could become the next pandemic, it became obvious that something BIG was about to take place.

But schools closing early for the year, NO GRADUATION ceremonies for 2020 and the entire nation forbidden to leave their homes, seemed kinda far-fetched to me. Then a week later we met again, just as runs on the grocery stores began and well, it wasn't as funny as it was the week before.

But one thing is for sure. People have no self-control and total disregard for their neighbors, friends or relatives for that

matter. The hoarding of toilet paper is just stupid. The runs on the stores was ridiculous. This is exactly why the government refuses to admit the existence of aliens. Can you imagine what these morons would do if they found out aliens were on the ground in Conroe? NOPE. Never going to happen.

So, why the sudden panic over THIS Pandemic. We've had SARS, Bird Flu, and Malaria in the past. Thousands of people have died as a result. Why is COVID 19 so much different? I've asked experts and gotten a dozen different answers. In my opinion, I think it's the electronic instant news cycle we live in. The minute something happens we know about it. Someone tests positive, there are 50 posts on your Facebook feed telling you that your neighbor tests positive for COVID 19.

AND it's an election year. Politicians do too little, they get criticized. Do too much, and they overreacted. They can't win, and we can't win. Congress comes up with a care package and they're adding wind and solar credits. Such a bunch of BS and a bunch of idiots.

One thing for sure is that the fallout from this Pandemic will be seen far and wide. Here in Houston, one of the first businesses to fail was my good friend, Michael Berry's Republic



Country Club. A huge supporter of first responders and our military, Michael has held countless fundraisers and donated thousands of dollars to veterans and first responders. Not to mention his support of Camp Hope. But the sudden closure of restaurants, bars and clubs and no way to recoup any of his losses was just too much. RCC closed its doors perhaps for good. Michael is one of the smartest, most dedicated people I know, and if this takes him out, who knows who'll be next.

So, what good will come from COVID 19? Certainly, from a business prospective none that I can see. But perhaps this is a lesson in life for Baby Boomers, Millennials and Gen Z. Our parents and grandparents suffered through some tough times; the depression, World War II and Vietnam. Compared to soup kitchens, rationing, and working in factories 12 hours a day to support the war, watching NETFLIX day and night hardly compares.

I've also seen another perspective from my Christian friends on Facebook. A lesson from

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his thoughts !



No First Responder ever took up the profession for the money. We didn't struggle through college while working two jobs and raising a family for the fun of it. We didn't struggle, push, fight, cuss, cry, argue, study and pray our way through our difficult, respective Academy Class.

What we did do was, listen to this voice from deep within our heart. We answered what is

could perform CPR someday, saving just one more life. And who knows, maybe even catch a robbery or burglary suspect along the way, our lives here would be well spent.

It was an "all in" commitment. There's no room for "half ass" work here. You do your job with tenacious, tireless effort or don't do this job at all, because people are really hurting and counting



Sheriff Ed Gonzalez's Statement on Judge Hidalgo's Emergency Jail Population Reduction Order

April 1, 2020 -- Today, the Harris County Sheriff's Office received an emergency order from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo mandating the temporary release of a narrow group of inmates with no history of violence.

To be eligible for temporary release, an inmate must be charged with -- but not yet convicted of -- a crime that doesn't involve violence or the threat of violence. Those charged with burglarizing homes or habitual drunk driving will be ineligible as well. Before anyone is released, prosecutors, defense attorneys, Harris County Pretrial Services, and the Harris County Justice Administration Department will review each individual case to verify the person qualifies. Outgoing inmates will be screened by medical staff to ensure they have no symptoms of COVID-19 before they leave the jail. Finally, all charges that led to these people's incarceration will remain pending and anyone convicted will ultimately be held accountable.

Public safety is my top priority and these releases will not compromise that duty. Even during the public health crisis of COVID-19, HCSO officers and staff bravely serve every day to keep Harris County safe. Already, 12 of my deputies and other HCSO teammates have been infected. We are caring for them, hoping for their recovery, and doing everything we can to contain the spread among staff and inmates in our custody. We have issued guidelines to maintain social distance and increased hygiene, and we are vigilantly monitoring staff and inmates at the jail. But the threat of COVID-19 is increasing exponentially in Harris County and it is only a matter of time before there is an outbreak among the 7,791 inmates in the jail. When it does occur, leading Texas Medical Center experts tell us it will spread like wildfire in the overcrowded dorms, cells, and shared bathrooms, showers, and common areas.

We have a limited and narrow window to act now to prevent a true crisis.

These are unprecedented times and call for immediate and emergency measures, such as this one. If we do not take this action, we will have a public health disaster not only for the jail, but for all of Harris County on our hands. If 25% of the jail population is diagnosed with COVID-19, that will result in infection of 2,000 people. That estimate is not unrealistic — in close, contained spaces, COVID-19 spreads through the air, contaminated surfaces, and contact with people who are infected but have no symptoms. If 10% of the infected jail population requires hospitalization, that will overwhelm already stretched hospital beds and limited medical resources in the county.

This is not an abstract or remote or hyperbolic concern. We only have to look to Cook County, the jail complex in Chicago, to see the danger of waiting. In just one week, their confirmed cases exploded from just 2 to over 100 inmates and jail employees. Many more are suspected of being positive and are quarantined. New York City officials are now releasing hundreds of people from the jail to be able to contain the outbreak, but it is too late. In contrast, other places have acted sooner. Los Angeles released 1,700 people from its jail to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19. New Jersey recently released 1,000 people.

At the moment, there is only one confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Harris County jail, and we must do everything we can to keep it that way. It's a race against time, because we already have 35 more inmates in isolation quarantine because they have COVID-19 symptoms but haven't received official confirmation via lab results. Releasing people who pose no documented risk to the community's safety is a crucial step to put in place social distancing and hygiene measures inside the jail.

Right now, ensuring public health is public safety. The measures we are taking today to temporarily release people will benefit both public health and public safety in this county.



often referred to as a "Calling". Many of us stepped up because we felt we could make a positive difference in this very often cruel and dangerous world.

If we could wipe away the tears of just one hurting, scared, or lost child. If we could save and help just one woman stand back up and survive an abusive relationship. If we could stop just one more drunk driver from killing an innocent family. If we

on you to save them, help them, protect them even if you're lost in the fray, so that here in this life, they can stay.

During this unprecedented, frustrating, scary, tiring time, to the point of absolute exhaustion, I and those just like me, will take that one more step. We force one more cup of coffee or energy drink down, so that we can continue to stand up, eyes open and fight our way forward.

This battle, this war with an unseen, ruthless enemy who comes to infect and even kill whomever, wherever it wants, is not for the faint of heart.

Though you may never see our tears, experience our fears, or hear our cries of frustration, you can be assured no matter what happens, we're going to do our job, do our Duty to fulfill

Continued on PAGE 12

your thoughts !!!



Thanks for Digital

My dad has been in Law Enforcement for over 40 years. Every month he always brought home a copy of The Blues and I always read it cover to cover. I just graduated the academy a few months ago and imagine how excited I was to see The Blues was back as a digital magazine. And wow is it better than ever. Keep up the good work. **Andrew K.**

What a Proud Father you must be.

I just finished reading all about this fine young man from Florida that has dedicated his life to honoring fallen first responders. And as a father of one of those first responders, I can't express the gratitude I have for Zechariah. What an inspiration you are to all the youth in this country. To your dad, Mr. Cartledge you must be one proud father to have raised such a fine young man. Congratulations to both of you and thank you from the bottom of my heart. **David F.**

Let's support those who support us

Unbelievable! That's the only way I know how to describe these past last few weeks. This virus has kicked our butts in Law Enforcement and even more so to those who own small businesses. One of those in particular is BK at Prison Tattoos who graced the cover of this fine magazine only a month or so ago. Not only is BK on the front lines fighting crime knowing he could be exposed any minute to COVID 19, he has a closed business to worry about as well. The rent still must be paid, as well as the insurance and the lights and all
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the other bills associated with a small business. It isn't easy to run a small business even in the best of times, much less when the local government shuts you down for an extended period of time. And I'm sure there are many more small business owners facing the same nightmare as BK. So, let's keep these guys in our prayers and when they do reopen, let's form a line out the door and flood them with business. If you know you're going to get a tattoo in the next few months and you have the cash, maybe call BK and send him a deposit. Or any of the advertisers here in The BLUES. We need to do everything we can do to help him and other businesses survive. **Sgt. B. Walker**

Traing to be Real Cops.

I have been in Law-enforcement now for 25 years. When I graduated from the academy in 2002 and entered the Field Training stage, you had to show your agency that you wanted to be there. That meaning as the new Officer you had better step up to the plate and take most or sometime all the calls for service, even if it was in your patrol or not. That also meant if there were any reports needing to be done, you better step up and do them. Back in my day Field Training was a right of passage, from recruit Officer to being a actual Police Officer.

Now the Field Training Officer was there to help the new Officer along the way to get them up to par and subject them to the actual reality of Police work. The Field Training Officer was there to be a mentor not your friend. Now once that new Officer was released from Field Training, he or she will have the basic concepts on how to do there job, once they are released to patrol

on there own.

Not now according to the new training methods for less experienced Officers or Officers graduating from the Police Academy, it's more of a kid gloves approach. If you subject the Officers to handling primary on most of the calls, it's no longer training it's punishment.

I recently endured a pre-certified Officer, who came to the agency I am with that had three years under there belt. NOTE I said three years not three years of experience. During the Officers first three years, he/she never made a felony arrest nor a simple misdemeanor drug arrest. Facts told all he/she did was work as a SRO in one of the local schools.

Now that Officer may have not had any experience in Police work, but he/she was highly recommended from the Sheriff she worked for and the Commonwealth Attorney in that jurisdiction.

How can DCJS just certify someone like that under Virginia Law. During my 12 weeks of field training in 2002 I know I made at least 20 felony arrests and multiple misdemeanor arrest as well. The traffic docket had my name on most of it, because I wrote a shit load of tickets. Oh and let's not forget Field Interview Cards.

It's sad that most not all Officers these days just want to wear the uniform as a Police Officer and not do the job as one. About five years ago I worked with a Officer who I thought was worthless, BOY!!! Did he prove me wrong. He has gotten the MADD Award like three years alone and he even teaches at the Police Academy. He is one hell of an Officer. Maybe he/she might do the same, but as right now I doubt it, but again I could be wrong.

John Conner

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MICHAEL BARRON, PUBLISHER

my thoughts !!



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our heavenly Father. God saw us worship sports and athletes more than him, and he cancelled all sports. God saw us destroying the very planet he created, so forced us to stay inside and let it recover. God saw us spending more time at work than with our families, and he cancelled our jobs. God saw the violence being perpetrated against our policemen, so he reduced the number of people they encounter each day. God saw fewer and fewer people coming to church, so he canceled church. And finally, God saw how little people cared for each other, and created a Pandemic for them to come together to help each other through a crisis. And finally, there are some that believe that if you realize

how important GOD is in your life, accept him as your savior, then on Easter Sunday, the sick will be healed, and the sickness will begin to disappear.

Let me be the first to say I'm a believer, and I acknowledge we have made mistakes as a human race. We took advantage of mother Earth and placed more importance on living the good life than recognizing the one who put us here in the first place. Take this time to explain to your kids the importance of what we have, why we need to protect and heal this planet, and most importantly thank GOD for everything for creating us and forgiving us for all the sins we commit. And pray that come Easter Sunday, COVID 19 becomes a chapter in history we will never forget.

REX EVANS, EDITOR n CHIEF

his thoughts !



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our obligation under Oath, until such time as we expend our last breath and the last beat of our tired heart.

For some of us, we'll see you as this page in our world's history turns. Life for us, will go on, and we'll live our best life then. Not for ourselves, mind you. But, for those whom we've lost. For it'll be in their memory we find we must carry on. Rest assured, just as sure at the sun rises in the East and sets in the West, we

will carry on.

Those First Responders whom we've already lost during this fight and to those whom we know we'll inevitably lose in the coming days, weeks, and months, fear not that your life (or mine) was lost for nothing. For truth be told, our lives were not lost, but given so that others might live.

John 15:13:

"Greater Love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Texas troopers will patrol La. border to help curb COVID-19 spread

Troopers will instruct travelers from Louisiana to self-quarantine for 14 days, and will log information on where they will stay while in Texas

By James Barragán
The Dallas Morning News
AUSTIN — A day after Gov. Greg Abbott ordered travelers from Louisiana to self-quarantine for 14 days when entering Texas by road, the Department of Public Safety said there will be no checkpoints on the state's eastern border to screen travelers from that state.

"While the department will not discuss specifics related to its operational plans regarding enforcement, we can tell you that at this time, DPS will not be establishing checkpoints along the Texas/Louisiana border," according to a written statement from the department. "However, the department will be increasing our patrols in these areas."

Abbott's order said a violation of the self-quarantine is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000, up to 180 days in jail, or both.

"It's well-known, well-documented about the massive amount of COVID-19 not just in New Orleans but spreading out across the state of Louisiana," Abbott said Sunday.

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The order is the same as an earlier order for air travelers from New Orleans and New York, which has been extended to air travelers from Miami, Atlanta, Detroit, Chicago and any site in California and Washington state.

Exceptions to the order include commercial, military, health care providers, first responders and "critical infrastructure" workers.

The department said it was "vigorously enforcing" Abbott's orders.

DPS troopers have been tasked with giving travelers handouts that lay out the

self-quarantine restrictions and log information on where those people will stay while in Texas.

Those travelers are to proceed directly to their stated place of residence during their stay and cannot receive visitors unless they are medical professionals.

DPS Special agents will conduct unannounced visits to the provided locations to verify that people are complying with the order.

The department did not answer questions about whether it would monitor roadways 24 hours a day or whether it has the staffing necessary for such an order.

FBI warns of wave of cyber crime amid COVID-19 pandemic

Officials say they have seen an uptick in phishing scams and people claiming to sell products diagnosing or preventing COVID-19

By Adam Ferrise
Advance Ohio Media

CLEVELAND, Ohio — The FBI on Thursday warned of an increase in scams related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Scammers, in some cases, pretended to be from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from fake charities seeking to help people suffering during the pandemic and from people offering quick access to coronavirus economic stimulus checks.

Cleveland FBI spokeswoman Vicki Anderson said in a statement that along with proper hygiene to protect against the spread of coronavirus that people should also practice "cyber hygiene."

The statement said to no open

attachments or links in emails from unrecognized senders, don't provide personal information like social security numbers and financial information during robocalls or in emails and to verify web addresses of legitimate websites.

Be wary of emails that claim they are from the CDC or other organizations claiming to be sharing coronavirus information, including websites and apps claiming to track Covid-19 cases worldwide.

The emails contain links that infect computers with malware that hackers use to steal personal information, or lock computers and demand ransom payments in exchange for unlocking the computers.

Fake emails are sent to people

asking them to verify personal information to receive an economic stimulus check from the government. No government agencies are sending unsolicited emails seeking private information, the FBI said.

Other emails where scammer target people's personal information include solicitations of money for fake charities, for general financial relief, airline refunds, fake cures and vaccines, fake testing and counterfeit treatments and equipment.

The FBI also warned people to be wary of anyone claiming to sell products that prevent, treat, diagnose or cure Covid-19. Counterfeit personal protective equipment, including N95 masks, goggles, face shields, gowns and gloves.



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WORDS & PHOTOS by MICHAEL BARRON & MISTY ROBERTS

AFTERMATH

The following event took place on Wednesday, February 12, 2003 on Galveston Island. Two Galveston police officers got into a shootout with a dirt ball wanted for felony assault.

This is the account as told by Sgt. Michael Barron and Misty Roberts, the daughter of Sgt. Jerry Roberts who was critically wounded in the shootout.

I remember that day like it was yesterday. It was two days before Valentine's Day in 2003 on a Wednesday and one of my deputies and I were headed to lunch. I remember the exact day of the week, because Wednesdays were seafood days on the buffet at the Happy Buddah Restaurant on 61st on Galveston Island. It was about 11:45am and we had just turned into the parking lot when I heard the words no cop ever wants to hear "shots fired, shots fired, officer down, officer down....we need help officer down....59th and Seawall."

We were so close we heard the last shot being fired. Corporal Clemente Garcia and Sergeant Jerry Roberts were riding together on the Seawall when Garcia recognized a young punk kid named Henry Espinosa, who was

barely 18 at the time, and wanted for a felony assault earlier in the day. As they attempted to stop him, he opened fire on Roberts as he stepped out of his patrol car. Espinosa's rounds hit Roberts twice, once in the left thigh and once in the lower abdomen. The suspect then ran across Seawall and headed north along 59th street.

I could hear sirens and cops yelling on the radio the suspect was running north by the Best Western. We jumped back into our patrol car and headed north on 61st to cut over to 59th and hopefully catch the asshole running through the Best Western parking lot. By now we had dozens of Galveston PD units with us searching every square inch of 59th street. As we made our way back to the seawall, I saw the EMTs loading Sgt. Roberts into the ambulance with cops racing ahead to block traffic as they headed to UTMB. For the next six hours, DPS Troopers, Galveston SWAT, Texas City PD, The Texas Rangers, Galveston County SO, Constables and just about every police agency within twenty miles showed up to search for Espinosa. Our Air Unit and DPS's Helicopter searched for nearly



Sgt. Jerry Roberts

5 hours and we covered every square inch of that Island looking for that asshole. Shortly after the search was called off and SWAT left the scene, that asshole Espinosa walked into Galveston PD and turned himself in. What a day. Roberts underwent several hours of surgery and eventually returned to patrol. Espinosa was tried and convicted of the felony assault and two counts of attempted capital murder of a police officer and was sentenced to 55 years in prison.

What a nightmare for the Roberts family and our very own editor Misty Roberts. I can't imagine the emotions she had on that day seventeen years ago nor what it's like to put those feelings in writing today. But for Misty and thousands of daughters like her, we thank you for what your father does each and every day to protect the citizens of this country. And thank God he saved your dad to live to fight for us another day.

SGT. MICHAEL BARRON, RET. GALVESTON COUNTY SO

On that Wednesday, February 12, 2003, I drove down to Galveston for my son Bryce's 10:30 am appointment to get his 2-year-old shots. He had just turned 2 five days prior, and I always wanted my kids' growth stats to be taken as close to their actual birthday as possible. Bryce handled his shots like a trooper. I loaded him safely into the stroller, grabbed the diaper bag, my purse, and my 4-year-old daughter Emily's hand, and we headed out to the car to load up and go home. Having been born on the island I always enjoyed the drive down the seawall, so we took the scenic route home. As I approached the seawall, Emily asked for Wendy's

chicken nuggets. I told her that we were going straight home and would eat there. Her response was, "But mom, they're only 99 cents!". Oh, my sweet Emily! Needless to say,

Isle officer shot

Police veteran critical; teen surrenders

By JERRY URBAN and RICHARD MASSEY
The Daily News

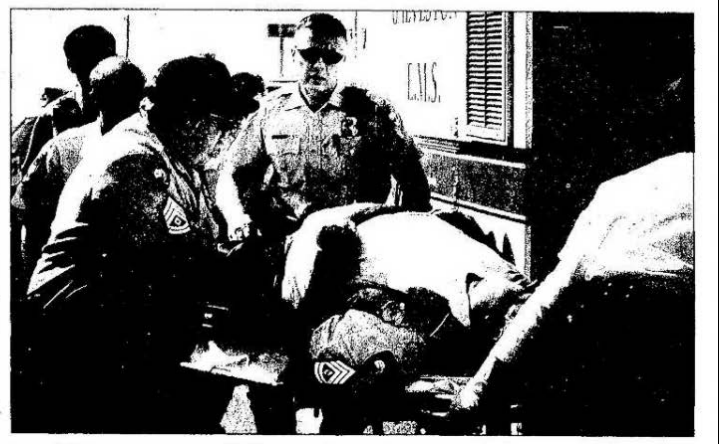
Police arrested a teenager accused of firing two shots into the body of a Galveston police sergeant Wednesday.

Henry Espinosa, 18, of Galveston surrendered to police about 6 p.m. in the parking lot of the Kroger in the 5700 block of Seawall Boulevard, said police Lt. Matt Stanich. Espinosa, charged with two counts of attempted

murder of a police officer, is accused of shooting Sgt. Jerry Roberts, 52.

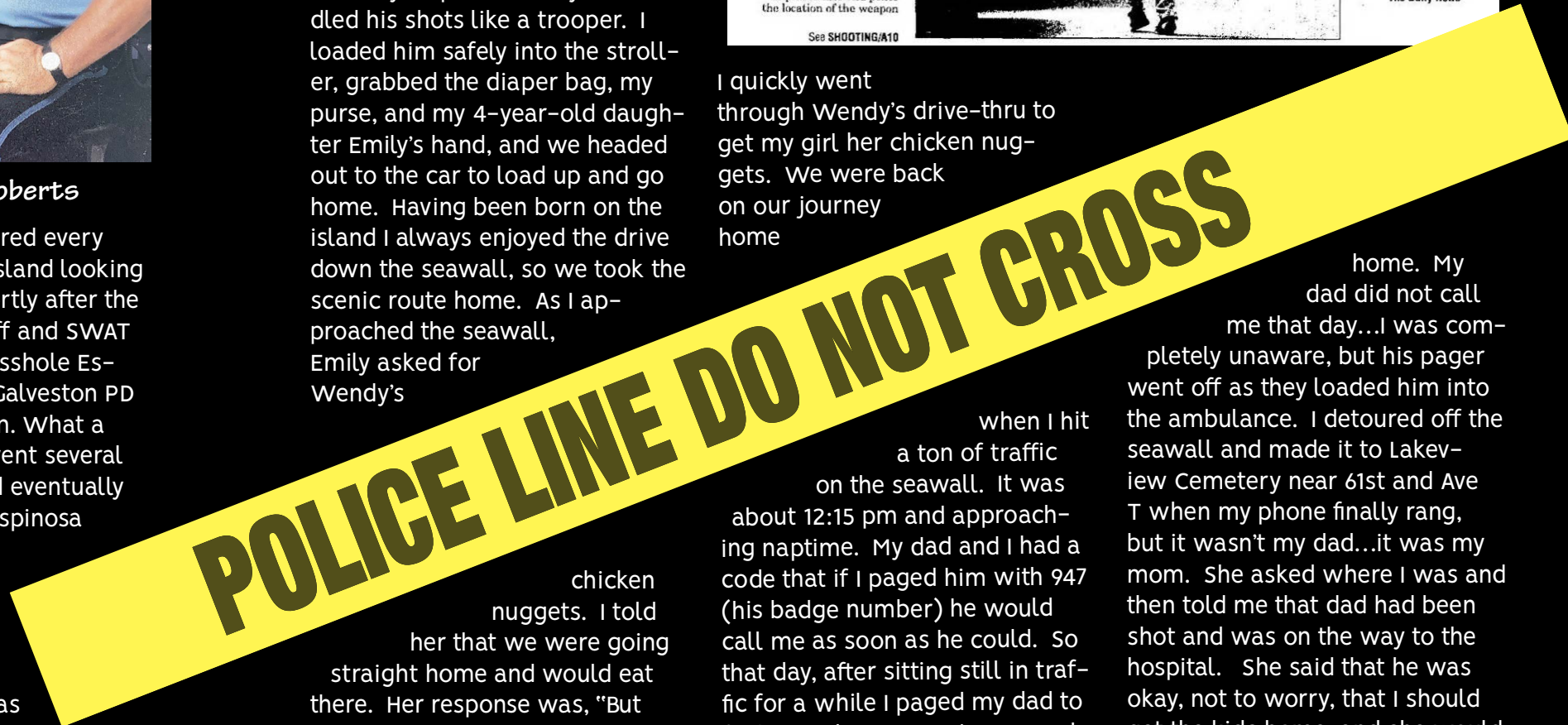
Roberts was in critical condition in the intensive care unit of a University of Texas Medical Branch hospital following surgery. Stanich said Espinosa surrendered to detective Joey Quiroga. Stanich said Quiroga conferred with associates of Espinosa, who then placed him in contact with a lawyer representing Espinosa. Espinosa then agreed to surrender. Espinosa also told police the location of the weapon

See SHOOTING/A10



TOP: Galveston Police Department officers watch as Sgt. Jerry Roberts is loaded into an ambulance after he was shot at 59th Street and Seawall Boulevard on Wednesday. LEFT: A Galveston Police Department SWAT officer runs along the 5900 block of Maco Avenue while searching houses.

Photos by KEVIN BARTHAM/The Daily News



I quickly went through Wendy's drive-thru to get my girl her chicken nuggets. We were back on our journey home

when I hit a ton of traffic on the seawall. It was about 12:15 pm and approaching naptime. My dad and I had a code that if I paged him with 947 (his badge number) he would call me as soon as he could. So that day, after sitting still in traffic for a while I paged my dad to find out what was going on and if I needed to go a different way

home. My dad did not call me that day...I was completely unaware, but his pager went off as they loaded him into the ambulance. I detoured off the seawall and made it to Lakeview Cemetery near 61st and Ave T when my phone finally rang, but it wasn't my dad...it was my mom. She asked where I was and then told me that dad had been shot and was on the way to the hospital. She said that he was okay, not to worry, that I should get the kids home, and she would

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AFTERMATH

Continued from Previous Page

call me when she knew more. Seriously, there was absolutely no way that I was going home. I headed straight to UTMB with both kids in tow. Dad was rushed to surgery, so I couldn't see him right away. Mom told me that he had been shot twice and we were waiting for an update from the doctor. As I stood there holding my son and watching my daughter, I was in complete and utter shock. I just couldn't understand...how could this happen?! Why? What did MY DAD do to deserve to be gunned down?!

Then the details of the shooting began to surface. My dad was traveling in his patrol car down seawall boulevard with Officer Clemente Garcia Jr. They spotted Henry Espinosa in the 5900 block of Seawall Boulevard. He was wanted on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. They turned the patrol car around, and my dad got out and called out to Espinosa, who responded by pulling a 9 mm pistol from his waistband and shooting him twice, one bullet hitting his leg and one hitting his abdomen. 11 more shots were fired as he exchanged fire with Garcia before running off, but no one was hit by these shots. My dad fell to the ground but remained on his knees. I found out later that he was afraid if he succumbed to the pain and laid down on the cement, he never would have gotten up again. Hearing those words truly killed me.

For years, the what ifs haunted me! I was right there! What if I had witnessed the shooting? But **18 The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE**

even more importantly...What if I could have kept it from happening? Maybe if I had been a little quicker loading the stroller, if I didn't feel the need to always be so prepared caring a bulky loaded bag everywhere we went, or if I didn't stop at Wendy's for the 99 cents chicken nuggets, or if one less car was ahead of me in line... maybe he would have seen me that afternoon instead of Henry, and he would have been giving us hugs instead of being put in the line of fire. I wanted more than anything to go back in time and change just one little thing, anything that could have put me there with my dad instead.

My dad was in the hospital for 10 days. I spent 3 of those nights there with him. The vision of the strongest man you know, your protector, laying helpless in a hospital bed hooked up to IVs, monitors and a ventilator was the most painful sight ever. I always worried about my dad and his safety as he was doing the job he loved. But I guess I had a certain about of blind confidence that "it won't happen to him." Well, that day I learned the harsh reality that it can, AND DID happen to him...my dad! His tactical belt truly saved his life. The bullet to the abdomen hit the belt and ricocheted miraculously avoiding all major organs. It was a rough recovery, but he overcame the injuries and returned to work. The criminal trial finally took place in September of 2004. It was hard to hear the details of the case, as an attempted defense was made for Henry Espinosa's actions. In my dad's victim impact state-

ment, he said, "I treated him with respect when I called his name, and he shot me down like a dog. If Clemente Garcia had not been there, I have no doubt he would have finished the job." In July of 2004, Espinosa was found guilty of two counts of attempted capital murder. The jury's verdict was 55 years in prison with eligibility for parole in the year 2030.

After 27 years of service, my dad retired from Galveston Police Department on December 26, 2003. Then on January 8, 2004, he went on to serve and protect Galveston with the Port of Galveston Police for 13 more years. My dad being a police officer is all I know and remember. He was hired September 13, 1976 when I was almost 10 months old. He was very dedicated to his job and worked countless hours. I know it was hard for him to miss moments with my twin sister and me growing up, but he was working hard protecting us and countless others.

We sometimes take for granted the sacrifices that police officers make to keep us safe. They put themselves in danger every day because they have a calling to serve others. It takes a special person to walk towards danger while everyone else is running away. My dad is my hero today and every day. I am so blessed and thankful to God that he is still here on Earth so I can hug him, hear his voice, get cards with handwritten messages in them, text him "Goodnight, John Boy", and tell him in person that I love him TOO much!



Alan Helfman

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WAR STORIES

FACTS LEFT OUT OF THE REPORT



WORDS & PHOTOS BY W.D. FORD,
RETIRED TROOPER, NEW MEXICO STATE POLICE

My grandson showed me a copy of this magazine on his fancy notepad thingy. He said "grandpa you should write about the time you found that crashed spaceship out in New Mexico."

"Ah sonny ain't nobody gonna care about what happened 73 years ago out in the desert. Besides I ain't no good as writin nothin nowadays."

Tell me the story Grandpa, I'll write it down.

Well sonny alright. It was my first night on highway duties by myself. It was June nineteen and a forty-seven. I remember cause I was a drivin' a spakin' new '47 Ford, and it was hotter in hell in that thing.

Anyhow, I was driving out on Route 8, about 30 miles northwest of Roswell when I saw what I thought was some kind of airplane flying low across the sky, and it looked like it was on fire. Now back then the military was always flying experimental this or that and them crashing was a regular thing. But some reason I paid more attention to this plane cause it was flying all crazy around the sky before I seen it go out of sight near the old Foster ranch.

I headed that way and no sooner than I turned on to the old ranch road, I met up with my old friend Bill Brazel, who was a foreman for 20 The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE

the Fosters. I said, "Bill, did them Air Force fly boys crash another plane out yonder on ya'lls ranch?"

He said, "I saw that too, but I don't know what it was." So, Bill jumped on in the cruiser and we headed up that ole dusty road about 5 miles or so from the highway, and there up on the hill we seen something a burning. The closer we got to it we noticed it wasn't the kinda fire you regularly see from a plane crash – it was all blue and green kinda flame.

There really wasn't that much fire, but a lot of debris scatted all over the place. But when we got to the what was left of the plane, Bill said, "What is God's name is that? I've never seen anything like that."

Having been raised in this part of New Mexico you see a lot of planes being tested for the Army and some are kinda strange, but I had never seen a round one before.

Bill and I got out and ran up to the what we assumed was the front of the plane and found a huge gaping hole in the side of that whatever the hell it was. And just outside that hole was something and it was hurt bad. The closer we got...we'll let's just say neither one of us could tell what it was. I guess it was right about

that time Bill and I realized what was going on. We had come upon a something or someone that surely wasn't from Earth. Now I know you're thinking 'Grandpa were you and Bill drinking that night?' Naw sir. We were as sober as your Aunt Betty in church on Sunday.

But anyway, as we were trying to see what we could do for that man, or whatever it was, I looked up and there was a dozen of them Army base trucks and Jeeps coming up the ranch road. As soon as they pulled up, there were soldiers all over the place carrying rifles and shotguns yelling for us to get away. Now I might have been a rookie law man, but I was smart enough to know when a man is outgunned, and we were outgunned for sure. So, we got up and backed away and watched them guys grab that feller and load him up in the back of a truck.

The Soldier doing all the talking and shouting commands, walked up to Bill and I and said, "Officer we got this from here. Take this man and go back up to the highway and make sure nobody comes down this road. Now get on down there.... this is our mess and we got to clean it up."

So, with that we got back in the cruiser and headed back up to the

highway. For the next few hours there must have been over a hundred trucks, Jeeps, flatbed trucks and helicopters head up the ranch road. Bill and I didn't quite know what to say. We just sat and watched all them men come and go for hours.

I walked into the Highway Patrol office the next morning and the place was crawling with reporters and news people. The Sgt. grabbed me by the arm as soon as I walked through the door and dragged me into his office.

"Have you seen the paper?" he asked. "They say a weather balloon crashed out in the dessert. Did you see that?" "I can tell you that wasn't no weather balloon, it was a damn space craft." "What the hell you talkin about Buddy, what the hell went on here last night?"

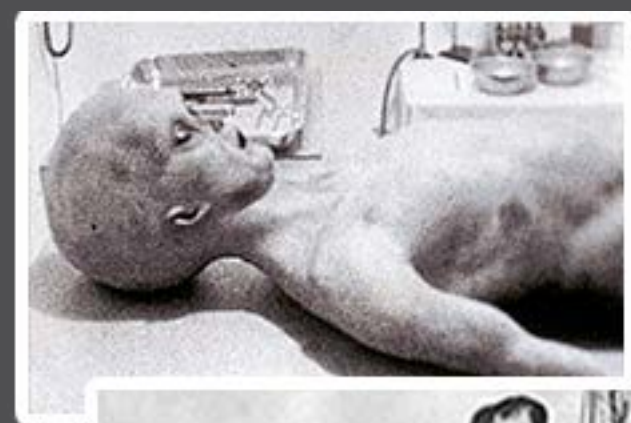
I got the damn governor calling me wanting an explanation. News people are crawling all up my ass with people saying a damn flying saucer thing crashed out in the desert and there are dead aliens from Mars or some such shit dead up there. What the hell happened?"

So, I told him what Bill and I saw.

"What did he say when you told him Grandpa?"

Hell, he asked me if I was drunk on duty?

But once he talked to Bill and he told the same story, he made



us wait until someone from the governor's office came to talk to us. A couple of hours later a bunch of government men all dressed in suits and ties come walking in and sat us down in the office. The one man who seemed to be in charge, ask me if I had written a report on what I'd seen and I said, "Yes sir, I got it right here." I handed it to him, and he went right ahead and ripped it to pieces."

He looked at me and Bill and said, "Gentlemen what you saw last night was a crashed weather balloon. There weren't no green men, no aliens or Martians. Just a dummy we loaded up into that weather balloon. So, forget everything you hear. Forget everything you saw. Do you understand?" Bill and I got up out of there and never talked about that day again.

Sonny there's been a lot of

things happen in my life both good and bad. But I'm almost 93, and to this day I've never seen or heard anything about aliens coming back here. But I tell you one thing. If they do come back and them g'men don't cover it up, heaven help you and your sister. Cause from what I'm seeing on the TV set with this here beer virus or whatever it is. If people gonna grab all the food and toilet paper up over something they can't even see... what in God's name are they gonna do if a damn outer space guy shows up on main street. Or maybe they already here and just ain't no body saying for just that reason. People are crazy son, they crazzzzyyy. Now get on up outta here it's time for my nap.

If your grampa has a story about aliens or earthlings, send it to: bluespdmag@gmail.com.

CORONAVIRUS / COVID 19

FIRST RESPONDER'S WORST NIGHTMARE



What Police Need to Know About COVID -19

by Doug Wylie

Coronavirus—also known as COVID-19—is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person, typically via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The disease can live for many days on hard surfaces such as door knobs and other objects multiple people frequently handle. A great deal of attention in the mainstream media has been given to the “social distancing” and “self-isolation” in order to prevent further spread of the disease. Businesses like restaurants and bars have been shuttered across the country, and many streets appear virtually abandoned. Tech workers are writing code from their kitchens and living rooms as opposed to swarming the vast open workspaces of Silicon Valley. They can be just as productive at home as anywhere else. However, law enforcement officers—and all first responders, really—don’t have the same opportunity to do their jobs in their pajamas. >>>> MORE NEXT PAGE.

Police, firefighters, EMTs, medical workers all must report for duty and come into contact with some of the most likely carriers of this new and novel disease.

In fact, hundreds of police officers across the country have been exposed to the disease, with nearly 200 reported cases in the state of Washington alone. Cases have also been reported in Florida, Texas, New York, New Jersey, Colorado, Massachusetts, and Virginia.

Here are some thoughts on how police officers can keep safe amid this current pandemic crisis.

Proper Hygiene

Practice proper hygiene by promptly washing or sanitizing hands after coughing, sneezing, or physically interacting with another person. Wash your duty gear. Be meticulous about sanitizing your patrol vehicle after every transport.

Wear a mask—rated to N95 or higher—if coming into contact with someone who you suspect to be a carrier of COVID-19. Keep a good supply of disposable gloves—and practice proper procedures for the disposal of used gloves. Know how to properly use all of your agency-issued PPE, including isolation gowns or coveralls.

Wear eye protection—sunglasses in daytime is fine but you may consider getting a pair of non-prescription eyeglasses for night time.

Don't touch your face.

Don't hug people.

Limit Contacts

For years, I've railed against the trend of "de-policing" in America, arguing that the cessation of proactive policing is bad for

society. I've said that when police start behaving like firefighters—only responding to calls and taking into account the level of destruction at the crime scene, long after the suspects have left—the victims will have little more than an incident report in their hands at the end of the day.

I've changed my tune on that—at least for the time being.

For the foreseeable future, the best way for police officers to slow the spread of Coronavirus is to have as little contact with subjects as possible. Answer calls. Respond to crimes in progress. Whenever plausible, keep a good distance from anyone you're interviewing. The Centers for Disease Control says six feet—I'd go with ten.

Know Yourself

Listen to your body. As soon as you begin feeling any of the known symptoms, stay home and rest. See your physician or go to the hospital to be tested for COVID-19.

Symptoms can include fever, fatigue, dry cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath. Symptoms can appear within just two days of exposure, or can fester unnoticed for up to two weeks before manifesting.

Eat a healthy diet, limit alcohol consumption, get plenty of rest, and find ways to get in your workout—push-ups, sit-ups, and a brisk walk—now that all the gyms are closed.

Stay Connected

You've completed your shift and you're home, being a responsible adult and keeping sheltered in place with your spouse, your roommates, or just your pet cat. Don't fall trap to watching the news for hours on

end. Get online and chat with a friend or a relative.

Yes, we're all stuck in our own homes, but we have ample available technology to remain in contact with our loved ones—social media, Skype, Zoom, and just the handheld phone are at your disposal. Use them as much as possible. We're all in this together, albeit apart.

Final Words

According to U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, the diseases that should most concern law enforcement are those that are spread by casual contact between individuals. If a respiratory disease—such as influenza or measles—is spreading throughout the community, officers will be exposed repeatedly. As the incidence of a disease increases in the community, it also will increase among law enforcement officers, unless specific measures are taken to prevent infection.

Epidemiologists say it will take years to fully understand the mechanics of the Coronavirus outbreak, and how it differs from other pandemics throughout history. Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease are at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19. Young, healthy law enforcement officers may contract Coronavirus, but are likely to return to full health in a short time as long as they follow the direction of their physician.

One thing that many experts are beginning to agree on is that this crisis will change the

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What Law Enforcement Personnel need to know about Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) from the CDC

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The outbreak first started in China, but cases have been identified in a growing number of other areas, including the United States.

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness.

- Data suggests that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Symptoms can include fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath.
- The virus causing COVID-19 is called SARS-CoV-2. It is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person via respiratory droplets among close contacts. Respiratory droplets are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can land in the mouths or noses, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs, of people who are nearby.
 - Close contact increases your risk for COVID-19, including:
 - » Being within approximately 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time.
 - » Having direct contact with body fluids (such as blood, phlegm, and respiratory droplets) from an individual with COVID-19.

To protect yourself from exposure

- **If possible, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet.**
- **Practice proper hand hygiene.** Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available and illicit drugs are NOT suspected to be present, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Have a trained Emergency Medical Service/Emergency Medical Technician (EMS/EMT) assess and transport anyone you think might have COVID-19 to a healthcare facility.
- Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) have contact with individuals who have or may have COVID-19.
- Learn your employer's plan for exposure control and participate in all-hands training on the use of PPE for respiratory protection, if available.



Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Law enforcement who must make contact with individuals confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 should follow CDC's Interim Guidance for EMS. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>.

Different styles of PPE may be necessary to perform operational duties. These alternative styles (i.e., coveralls) must provide protection that is at least as great as that provided by the minimum amount of PPE recommended.

The minimum PPE recommended is:

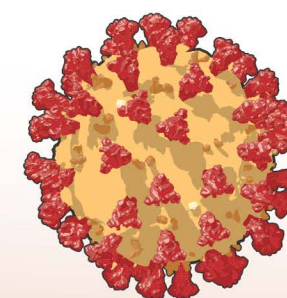
- A single pair of disposable examination gloves,
- Disposable isolation gown or single-use/disposable coveralls*,
- Any NIOSH-approved particulate respirator (i.e., N-95 or higher-level respirator); facemasks are an acceptable alternative until the supply chain is restored, and
- Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face).

*If unable to wear a disposable gown or coveralls because it limits access to duty belt and gear, ensure duty belt and gear are disinfected after contact with individual.

If close contact occurred during apprehension

- Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse using a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the product label.
- Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE.
- Follow standard operating procedures for containing and laundering clothes. Avoid shaking the clothes.

For law enforcement personnel performing daily routine activities, the immediate health risk is considered low. Law enforcement leadership and personnel should follow CDC's Interim General Business Guidance. Search "Interim Guidance for Businesses" on www.cdc.gov.



cdc.gov/COVID-19

What to expect on patrol during the COVID-19 pandemic

A BOLO for five call types officers may respond to during the current national emergency

By Roger Buhlis

Working a patrol assignment is stacked with challenges, even without a COVID-19 pandemic. As the world throws a serious virus into the mix, policing professionals have learned – once again – to be agile as we manage a crisis. However, this hurdle may be the most challenging of our careers. Lexipol's mantra is, "If it's predictable, it's preventable." Currently, we may be able to predict several things that might happen, and while we may not be able to prevent them, we can prepare to respond more effectively. This article identifies five call types that might change your patrol work and responses to these calls that might make you more effective.

OFFICER SAFETY

As first responders, you've likely received reminders regarding personal protective equipment (PPE), handwashing, face touching, and social distancing. We won't revisit these practices, except to acknowledge that your job may make it difficult to strictly adhere to these practices.

Thinking of these routines in terms of officer safety may provide some motivation. Besides caring for yourself and your family, every patrol member we lose to quarantine affects the safety of the remaining members out

on the street. We need as many of you as possible to outlast the coronavirus; please help yourself so you can continue helping the rest of us.

GETTING ON THE RIGHT CHANNEL

We've already seen an increase in tension and fear throughout the country. Families are concerned about food, security, and anxious to know if they can meet their needs. They do not know how long they might be out of work or stuck at home. Fear and tension make people act unpredictably and out of character. You may have already seen increased incidents of arguments, fights over household items and complaints about the behavior of strangers.

In addition to your normal duties, you should be prepared to honestly and accurately answer questions, demonstrate empathy, and convey confident reassurance. Civilians look to patrol personnel as a symbol of strength and stability. If you never felt like a leader in your community before, now is your chance to step up and be the pillar your neighborhood needs. Consider expanding your bandwidth to be more effective. If you are accustomed to specializing

in a particular patrol task (for example, narcotics or traffic enforcement), you should consider becoming a generalist. Your specific skills are still useful, but to a lesser degree than typically required. In these times, officers capable of effectively responding to anything that comes along will be highly valued.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS DURING 'ROUTINE' CALLS FOR SERVICE

Minimizing or eliminating proactive enforcement work may be useful to control the spread of the virus. Reducing unnecessary contact with potentially infectious people is the underlying premise of social distancing. Although this is ultimately up to each agency to decide, this practice would not account for routine calls for service requiring an in-person response. In fact, as a result of the widely accepted virus protocols, including social distancing, staying home and non-essential business closures, we might experience an increase in certain calls. In addition to others you might think of, let's identify five:

1. Domestic disturbance

As we often see during major holidays or in times of economic

uncertainty, stress levels within households rise dramatically. For some, the pressure boils over and triggers unwarranted outrage. Unfortunately, as a result, we might predict an increase in domestic abuse cases.

In response, we must follow the law, agency policy and regional operating procedures. When making a legally required arrest, do so safely, wear PPE and attend to personal hygiene as soon as possible afterward. We have no option to alter our response to these incidents. Knowing the law, our policy and prosecutorial SOPs will provide a good foundation for your response. Updated and accurate victim assistance resources will also be highly valued during this time.

2. Vehicle collisions

Have you noticed how empty the roads are lately? Even Los Angeles freeways – typically parking lots most of the day – are empty. This may offer temptation for drivers who aren't staying home. We can antici-

pate collisions resulting from speeding vehicles and red-light runners. While we may not see a greater number of collisions, we may see more violent collision scenes.

Because proactive traffic enforcement is discouraged, prevention strategies are the way to go. Traffic calming efforts, including high visibility on streets you know to be potential high-speed roadways, might save you a complicated collision investigation, as well as someone's life.

3. Home and business break-ins

During emergencies where businesses are shuttered, we can reasonably anticipate break-ins and looting. In the case of COVID-19, entire school districts have shut down. Experienced patrol officers know residential, day-time break-ins increase during school holidays as teens have little to do and increased opportunity.

We may see fewer groups of teens out, but when we do, we should keep a watchful eye.

Normally, we would advocate teen activity groups to occupy their time, yet we cannot do this based on social distancing procedures. In this time, we have to hope our community policing efforts – getting to know the families and kids on our beats – come in handy. In some situations, such as teens checking out empty homes or businesses, proactive patrol work may be unavoidable.

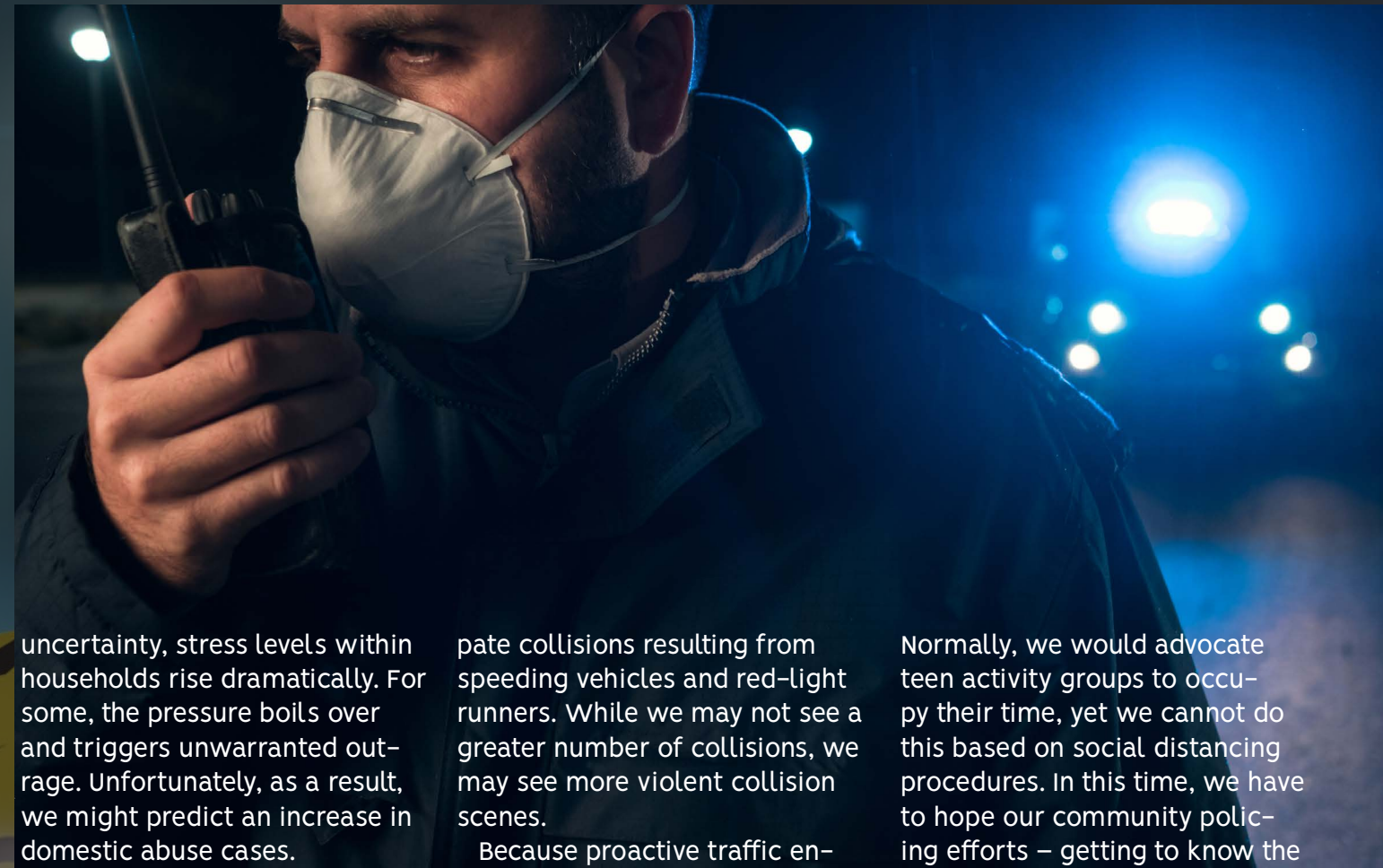
4. Suicides

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent calls for self-isolation or quarantine have been accompanied by a volatile stock market. Many people have seen their savings vanish from bank accounts, business owners have been directed to shutter and unemployment claims have skyrocketed. This kind of upheaval is unprecedented and likely to cause enough psychological strain that we might see an uptick in suicides.

This is a condition for which

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What Police Need to Know About COVID -19

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world—forever. It will change the trajectory of human behavior, social norms, use of technology, education, and commerce.

For instance, the fight over homeschooling—lauded by millions of independently minded parents but opposed by teachers' unions and the elected leaders who are beholden to them—has now all but been decided, with kids at home with family and doing their schoolwork online.

That toothpaste is not going

back in the tube—ever.

For police though, there will always be bad guys to be brought to justice. There will always be victims to be consoled and healed. This won't change. But because of the way in which the world will change, you're going to have to evolve the way you do your job.

Be safe in these uncertain and unsettling times.

Doug Wyllie has authored more than 1,000 articles and tactical tips aimed at ensur-

ing that police officers are safer and more successful on the streets. Doug is a Western Publishing Association "Maggie Award" winner for Best Regularly Featured Digital Edition Column. He is a member of International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA), an Associate Member of the California Peace Officers' Association (CPOA), and a member of the Public Safety Writers Association (PSWA). (CPOA), and a member of the Public Safety Writers

What to expect on patrol during the COVID-19 pandemic

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we should continue to be proactive. People who are in crisis may not reach out for help, but when they do, they should be able to easily find the resources they need. Agencies should use their websites and social media to post suicide prevention messages and resources. Patrol personnel should be equipped with handouts and be ready to provide resource information or referrals when necessary.

We are always attuned to what people are saying, and now we must be hypersensitive – listening to hear the meaning beneath the words distraught

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people speak. Genuine empathy combined with relevant suicide prevention resources and appropriate referrals are all effective proactive strategies we can continue to safely employ in suicide prevention efforts.

5. Homeless individuals

Currently, arrangements are being made in many states to accommodate COVID-19 positive homeless people in hotels and motels. Knowing which ones are available, their locations and the contact information will make you a valuable first responder. Quarantine and self-isolation are impossible for those without a place to go. A small dose of your compassion, combined with

solid advice and resources, will help all the citizens you serve get through this crisis.

THE STRENGTH OF PATROL

Patrol is the backbone of any law enforcement agency. Patrol officers represent our profession and local government to the public. This is another time to shine. The public will remember whether we behaved like heroes, or otherwise. A little patience and empathy, plus delivery of valid information will go a long way in these trying times. Continue to be on the lookout for ways you can be safe as you help your community in these difficult times.



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PROUD SUPPORTER OF TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT

The role of the 911 operator in COVID-19 response

It is critical that agencies prepare, educate and train dispatchers to evaluate the signs and symptoms of COVID-19

By Danny Hobbs

When public health emergencies threaten our communities and pose special challenges, like the current COVID-19 pandemic, the first responder family, including law enforcement, fire, EMS and 9-1-1 telecommunicators, must prepare their response.

In addition to their normal daily duties, agencies must prepare, educate and train their first responders on evaluating medically related signs and symptoms of COVID-19, how to protect themselves and others from catching or spreading the coronavirus, and what to do if someone is sick with COVID-19.

But who is the first person on the front line coordinating the emergency responses? The public initiates most calls for assistance through 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), whether the service request is based on a potential COVID-19 response or an everyday service need. The public safety telecommunicator (dispatcher) is the one answering those calls.

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INVOLVE PSAP PERSONNEL WHEN PREPARING YOUR RESPONSE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Dispatchers are trained and certified in multiple baseline core competencies to ensure that the public receives expertise and professionalism when communicating with the 9-1-1 PSAP center. Dispatchers are the starting point to the important work of obtaining essential information, remaining calm, and calming others while sending the appropriate responders. They may also provide instructions to the caller, that in many instances, are essential to stabilizing or saving a life.

Involving 9-1-1 PSAP personnel in the agency's initial preparation for responding to public health emergencies is essential in protecting the health and safety of the first responders and the citizens. Regardless of the type of emergency or perceived emergency, citizens call the 9-1-1 PSAP center to speak with a dispatcher for comfort, trust-

ing they will have answers or provide the help that the caller needs. It is reassuring to the caller to hear a calm, professional and confident voice on the other end of the telephone.

Ideally, 9-1-1 PSAP centers should implement enhanced screening of emergency medical callers for signs, symptoms, and risk factors of COVID-19. Dispatchers should report potential COVID-19 information to responders so they can take proper precautions upon the responder's arrival to an event.

REMAIN CURRENT ON COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Relaying information concerning a potential COVID-19 patient should be in accordance with established regulations on how to share patient-related information. All 9-1-1 PSAP centers must remain up to date on how to share information and instructions communicated from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and International Academies of Emergency Dispatch



(IAED) about COVID-19.

The public safety dispatcher plays a major continuous role in the communication process, since dispatchers are a key information link between citizens and first responders. All first responders rely on their communication with the public safety dispatcher during multiple points of a call. One primary responsibility of the dispatcher is to relay coordinated communication between field personnel, medical and health-care facilities, media, or other local and state resources. Effective communication is a vital component of event operations. Dispatchers must provide the first responders with concise, accurate information.

PROTECT DISPATCHERS PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY

Keeping the public safety dis-

patcher healthy and free from COVID-19 is extremely important. Since 9-1-1 PSAP centers are normally located in a confined space and dispatchers work close to each other, it becomes particularly important to follow the CDC guidelines:

- Train staff on infection control.
- Cover coughs. Consider wearing a medical face mask during shifts.
- Frequently wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer.
- Disinfect console and related surfaces before and after each shift.
- Disinfect headsets.

Agency leaders must keep the public safety dispatcher aware of any changes to call type priorities or calls requiring dispatching an officer due to the rapidly changing face of public safety because of the COVID-19

threat. This will help in providing the most professional and efficient service to the citizens while increasing the safety of first responders.

A dispatcher's job is very stressful, demanding and can be physically and emotionally draining. Take time to recognize their hard work. Include the public safety dispatcher who participated in a critical event in the after-action debriefing to gain their perspective and pertinent information about how the event began.

Public safety dispatchers are an invaluable part of the first responder family. Dispatcher workloads will increase during this COVID-19 pandemic, and staff sizes will most likely diminish as employees and/or their families become ill. A health threat for one is a health threat for all.

The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE 31

Use of force to enforce stay-at-home orders

Officer discretion, common sense and good judgment are more important than ever in these difficult times.

By **Laura L. Scarry**

COVID-19 continues to impact our communities as governmental entities struggle with containing the spread of the virus.

State and local governments are using their legislative and regulatory authority to enact various orders that restrict contact between individuals and maintain social distancing. The American vocabulary now encompasses phrases related to these orders such as lockdown, shelter-in-place, stay at home, or safer at home.

The orders are as varied as the powers to enforce them. Some orders are criminally enforceable, while others are civilly enforceable, and some lack any enforcement component. Ultimately, the decision to respond and enforce these orders, as is often the case, falls on law enforcement.

COVID-19 DOES NOT CHANGE USE OF FORCE REQUIREMENTS

While we may be at war with a virus, we certainly are not at war with our citizenry. The infectious nature of COVID-19 does not change the requirements regarding the use of force and crowd control in implementing these orders.

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Officers have dealt with deadly infectious disease outbreaks and blood-borne pathogens before, such as AIDS/HIV and Hepatitis A, that have impacted how they respond and deal with individuals.

In general, these prior outbreaks required officers to use gloves and other personal protective equipment in dealing with individuals. Yet, none of these diseases changed the fundamental requirement that officers can only use the level of force reasonably necessary to control an individual.

However, unlike prior outbreaks of infectious diseases, COVID-19 has spawned a slew of executive orders from our federal and state governments requiring Americans to stay at home. Does this fact change how officers enforce governmental health and safety directives related to the containment of COVID-19? The short answer is no.

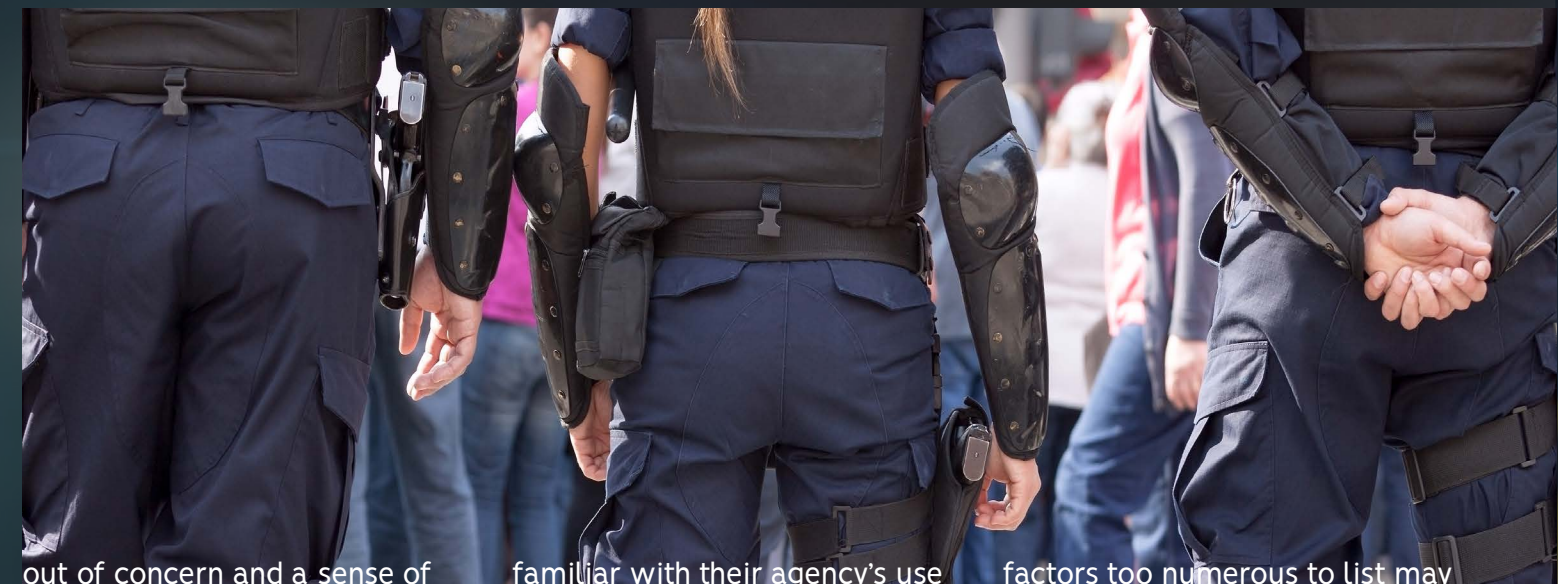
COMMUNICATE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

To ensure police officers appropriately enforce stay-at-home orders without the use of unreasonable force, law enforcement administrators must

first determine what their enforcement expectations are regarding the various orders being implemented and communicate those expectations to officers.

Certain steps can be taken to help officers successfully advance the agency's goals in responding to these types of calls. For example, an agency's policies regarding the use of force, crowd control and deployment of unmanned aerial systems/drones should be reviewed. While reviewing policies, administrators and officers should have frank discussions regarding scenarios they may confront while enforcing stay-at-home orders. These discussions should involve the agency's trainers, particularly on the use of force. It may seem like such a silly or basic enterprise, but one that is necessary to ensure everyone is on the same page especially when an officer's concern for their personal or family's safety is founded on dealing with an invisible danger whose impact may not be known for days.

Take the following example: a large group of neighbors overcome by cabin fever gather to talk and drink in one person's backyard. A neighbor calls 911



out of concern and a sense of civic duty because the state has issued orders banning gatherings of 10 or more people. One or two officers respond and politely ask the small crowd to disperse while reminding them of the requirements of the stay-at-home order. What if the crowd refuses to break up? What if an intoxicated individual threatens to breathe on officers unless they leave? How does the agency expect its officers to respond? What are the officers' expectations?

Of course, what happens next depends on the nature of the executive health and safety order. For orders that include the power to arrest (which naturally carries with it the ability to use force to engage the arrest), some agencies are requiring officers to first issue verbal warnings to the crowd to disperse. Officers are instructed that if the warnings are unsuccessful, they can issue citations and/or arrest individuals violating these orders. However, in the event responding officers are required to use some amount of force to disperse a crowd, how much force is reasonable?

To be sure, officers must be

familiar with their agency's use of force policy. They should also be aware of their agency's policy regarding crowd control. If the agency does not have a policy on crowd control, all the more reason to have discussions surrounding various scenarios officers may be confronted with before such an incident unfolds. This includes examining how behavioral dynamics in a pandemic scenario may differ from "typical" protests involving political or labor issues.

Undoubtedly, the use of force is extremely complex to analyze in the heat of the moment particularly when the events are uncertain, tense and rapidly evolving. Officers may find themselves in circumstances that were uncommon or unfamiliar to them before the COVID-19 outbreak. For example, in enforcing stay-at-home orders, officers more likely will confront individuals who outnumber officers. Tensions may be high when individuals who simply want to avoid "cabin fever" are asked to disperse. Officers may be wearing personal protective equipment that hinders their ability to maneuver as they once did without wearing such equipment. Other unusual

factors too numerous to list may play a further role in officers' decisions to use force to enforce stay-at-home orders.

The fact that we are amid a pandemic does not change the requirements that officers follow policy and use reasonable measures to gain compliance. Yet, confronting an individual who may have COVID-19, or dispersing crowds to enforce stay-at-home orders, does not presumably justify an escalated use of force. Officers need to consider their department policy and training, along with the agency's expectations regarding pandemic-related orders and calls. Even so, officer discretion, common sense and good judgment are more important than ever in these difficult times.

About the author

Laura L. Scarry is a partner in the law firm of DeAno & Scarry located in Chicago and serves Lexipol as an attorney. She represents law enforcement officials against claims of civil rights violations in state and federal courts. Scarry was a police officer with the Lake Forest (Illinois) Police Department from 1986-1992.
The BLUES POLICE MAGAZINE 33

Michigan Sheriff's Commander Dies of COVID-19

Cmdr. Donafay Collins served with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office for almost 30 years



Cmdr. Donafay Collins, an almost 30-year veteran of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, died due to the coronavirus. (Photo/WCSO)

DETROIT — A veteran commander at the Wayne County Sheriff's Office died Wednesday due to the coronavirus, the Sheriff's Office announced.

Cmdr. Donafay Collins, 63, was with the Sheriff's Office almost 30 years, the department said in a statement. He is survived by his wife and four children.

The Sheriff's Office reported that 18 staffers or contractors have tested positive for the coronavirus as of Wednesday night. On Sunday night that number was six.

Collins worked at the Division 2 jail downtown, the old jail, which is considered the toughest

facility in the system due to the high-risk inmates it handles.

Collins had been hospitalized for weeks. In addition to the coronavirus, he had "some underlying medical issues," Napoleon said.

"He looked very healthy," Napoleon said. "But you never know what's going on."

Collins is the third law enforcement staffer in Detroit or Wayne County to die from coronavirus-related illnesses this week. On Tuesday, the Detroit Police Department announced the deaths of a 38-year-old dispatcher Monday

and Jonathan Parnell, commander of the homicide section, on Tuesday.

Collins was a DJ on Mix 92.3 FM until last year.

"During the day Commander Collins is the CO of court services; however when he's off-duty he's displaying his vocal abilities as an emcee for various events, including the hugely popular Friday night "Back Jam Show" broadcast live from Lucky's Restaurant in Southfield," a biography on the Sheriff's Office website says.

The Detroit News

During COVID-19, fallen officers go without funerals, memorials

The impact of bans on public gatherings to prevent the spread of the coronavirus has forced bereaved families to seek alternatives

TACOMA, Wash. — Gov. Jay Inslee's ban on public gatherings to prevent the spread of the coronavirus includes funerals. The repercussions have been felt across cultures and inside funeral homes.

Memorials, viewings, sitting shiva, ritual cleansings, graveside services and military honors are forbidden under Inslee's orders. It will even affect the memorial for Washington State Patrol trooper Justin Schaffer, who was killed Tuesday during an attempt to stop a fleeing driver near Chehalis.



"You can't have a funeral," said Coretta Harwood, owner of Scott Funeral Home in Tacoma. "We can't have a group of people in an enclosed space for any type of gathering."

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It's a TIE !!

Miami Beach Commissioner Ricky Arriola vs Harris County Judge Line Hidalgo

So, this month, it's a toss-up as to who the bigger moron is, and who deserves this month's LIGHT BULB AWARD. The jackass Miami Beach Commissioner who said his first responders should get infected with the Coronavirus and take one for the team, or our very own junior prom queen County Judge Lina Hidalgo who thinks it's a good idea to release prisoners, so they don't get infected in the jail. The truth is they are both idiots.



LET'S START IN MIAMI

At a Miami Beach county commissioners meeting, Commissioner Ricky Arriola suggested that first responders voluntarily contract the coronavirus to build immunity. At the meeting, Arriola asked the audience if there were any doctors present, after which he suggested that in the event that surviving the virus leads to immunity, as with chick-enpox, the city might be able to take advantage of that immunity, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported.

"Assuming you make it through," Arriola said, first responders "voluntarily taking one for the team" could help solve the crisis, calling it a

"dangerous but bold idea."

"It is our job to think boldly," he added.

Needless to say, his comments were met with backlash after a recording of the comments went public.

Arriola acknowledged in a statement that he had received some pushback for the comments, which circulated on several firefighters' accounts, but he did not fully back away from the idea, saying that officials need to "prepare for horrible scenarios."

"If my remarks offended any first responders, I apologize. You are the bravest among us — you run into burning buildings, take bullets, expose yourself to infectious diseases for a living,"

he wrote. "All of this you do every day to make our community safe! Thank you. With that said, it's our job as policy makers and as first responders to ask difficult questions and prepare for horrible scenarios."

In a tweet, Arriola called the proposition "precisely the course of action being recommended by the chief scientist of the UK."

It should be pointed out that Arriola did not volunteer to be included in this stupid attempt to save lives. We are pretty sure no further action will be He'd better hope he stays negative for the Virus.

Continued on Page 46

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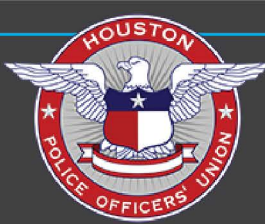
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Survival Strategies in Extraordinary Times

Within what seems like a blink of an eye our nation and way of life dramatically changed with the introduction of the COVID-19 pandemic. While many have the luxury to quarantine at home, our law enforcement officers are still working tirelessly to maintain the peace in the community and are frequently required to place themselves and their families at risk for transmission through long hours and contact with others. Law enforcement agencies throughout the US are also now required to make the difficult decision to reduce their workforce who have tested positive through isolation and quarantine measures for at least two weeks. This has further stretched the seams of already understaffed departments and innovative ways to approach this are currently being explored. It is a scary and uncertain time for our officers and the stress and crises experienced is growing exponentially every day. Managing this psychological stress and aiming for resiliency is paramount as we expect this to continue for the foreseeable future. What then is a good working definition of a psychological crisis? According to James and Gilliland (2001) in their book *Crisis Intervention Strategies*, "...crisis is a perception or experience of an event or situation as an intolerable difficulty that exceeds the

person's current resources and coping mechanisms." With any pandemic it takes time and patience to resolve and we often expect immediacy when we are experiencing a crisis in our lives. We, as Americans, like a sense of control as it reduces the anxiety and emotional symptoms and reestablishes coping. There are numerous larger scale aspects in a pandemic that are indeed out of our control, however, there are an equal number of individual approaches available to us. I recently had the opportunity to talk with Richard Baker, the Founder of Responder Support Services (www.respondersupport.com) in North Carolina, regarding his experience in these situations and he has developed an excellent handout to assist with individual coping and mitigation of crisis during this time. Baker (2020) offered the following suggestions: Given the likelihood that the COVID-19 response may be a prolonged and stressful incident, below are some tips to keep in mind to help mitigate stress & anxiety. Remember, when first responders make self-care a priority, it enhances the ability to care for the community. 1. Stay flexible – as much as we can plan and like to maintain control, things don't always fall into line. Don't let the unexpected throw you.



DR. TINA JAECKLE

Be Teflon, not Velcro. 2. Listen to command staff and pay attention to trainings you are a part of. The more familiar we are with a given situation, the more we know how to respond, the less stress we tend to feel. 3. Schedule check ins with your family so you are not worried about them while you are working and can focus on your tasks. Scheduled check-ins also help family worry less about you. 4. Learn the symptoms of distress and anxiety, including physical (ex. fatigue, muscle tension) and mental (ex. nervousness, withdrawal, guilt). 5. Allow time for you and your family to recover from responding to the outbreak. This includes taking all scheduled rest, limiting alcohol & junk food, and spending time with family. Take a break from media coverage of COVID-19. You'll be briefed when you return to duty.

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REFORM: The Failed Social Experiment

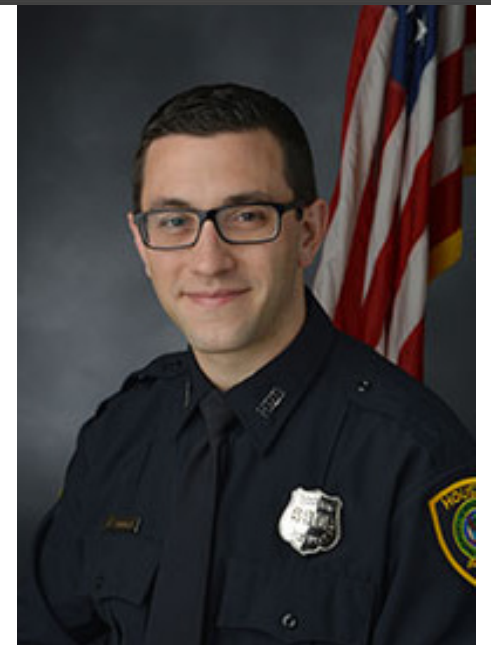
In the State of the County Address to hundreds of the most influential people in our community, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo uttered the following words, "bail reform does more than just protect the constitutional rights of defendants, it also lowers crime." Now I am not going to sit here and call the County Judge a liar, but at best, she is grossly uneducated on the consequences of bail reform. At worst, she misled that room full of people and Harris County. Understand that bail reformers, and to a large extent criminal justice reformers, will not admit that they are subjecting our community to a social experiment that it is failing. The hard-working and law-abiding members of our community are suffering under the harsh consequences of bad policy.

The push for bail reform in Harris County, the subsequent entering into a federal consent decree as part of a class-action lawsuit settlement, and the organized push for criminal justice reform created a perfect storm in Houston. On one hand you have individuals getting out on personal recognizance (PR) bond after PR bond with nothing but their signature to guarantee their appearance in court. On the other you have District Attorney Kim Ogg, who seems content

with letting violent and repeat offenders back into our community with little to no punishment. Kim Ogg's abuse of deferred adjudication for violent felons is well documented. Her actions have released over 1600 people on deferred adjudication for aggravated assault, 1100 people for aggravated robbery and robbery, 300 people for sexual assault, and over 300 people for felon in possession of a firearm.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that these 'reforms' were going to make Houston less safe. In fact, by every public safety metric bail and criminal justice reform are an unmitigated disaster. The long-term impact of the failed social experiment levied on our community is difficult to estimate but let us take a look at something we can measure – crime.

The implementation of bail reform started well before the settlement actually occurred and in 2019, we started to see the harmful effects. Property crime was up 7% in Houston and violent crime was up nearly 3% and trending in the wrong direction towards the end of year. It pains me to inform you that in 2020, crime is increasing at an alarming rate in Houston. As of the first week in March, property crime is already up 17% this year over last.



JOE GAMALDI, PRESIDENT HPOU

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle is up over 30%

Personal note: I myself was a victim and had my car broken into. Oddly enough, while having coffee with members of the community about the rise in crime. But the joke's on the guy who did it, because all he got was a couple pair of skinny jeans, that based on the surveillance footage, he is unlikely to fit into.

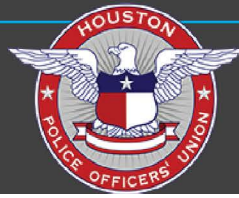
Burglary is up 12%

Theft is up 10%

Auto Theft is up 25%

Although some will say, "well that's just property crime. We are focused on violent crime," I would argue that all crime when there is a victim is important. We are also seeing an alarming spike in violent crime. Overall violent crime in Houston is up over 21%!

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an editorial by Joe Gamaldi

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Murders are up 23%
Robberies are up 21%
Aggravated Assault is up 26%
Kidnapping up 68%

The above numbers should shock and concern everyone and beg the question, why? How is it that violent crime trended down nationwide for years and suddenly we see it rising rapidly in our big cities (more on other cities later)? What has changed?

We have seen a paradigm shift through criminal justice reform, from focusing on victims and reducing crime, to worrying about how quickly criminals can be released. We are paying dearly for it.

Admittedly, the above is a small sample size in which to measure these massive increases in crime, but anecdotally I have been a police officer for 15 years and normally January and February tend to be slower months for crime. It will tend to spike as the weather gets warmer. With the start of 2020, Houston is setting up to be a very bad year for crime. I hope for our community's sake that I am wrong, however the evidence of what is occurring in other cities, suggests I am right.

New York State recently embarked, through legislation, on a similar experiment of bail reform. The crime data for New York City is downright frightening. The New York Post recently reported that crime increased by a staggering 30% in January

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2020 over the same time period in 2019. February 2020 wasn't much better as crime jumped 20% over 2019.

In Cook County (Chicago), Illinois a recent study conducted by the S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah, found that after bail reform was introduced the number of defendants charged with new crimes spiked by 45%. The authors wrote, "more concerning the number of pretrial releases charged with committing new violent crimes increased by an estimated 33%."

Sadly, as NBC in Chicago recently reported, murder is up 41% in February this year over last, and shootings are up 25% over the same time period. It is clear to anyone who is willing to put emotion aside and focus on the statistics that these reforms are literally killing our communities.

To be outspoken and to push back against bail and criminal justice reform is to invite emotional attacks from those who refuse to admit their social experiment has failed. I have been called every name in the book for highlighting specific cases where these reforms have failed, and I am routinely accused of engaging in "fearmongering" for attempting to educate the public on this vitally important issue. My personal favorite was from the District Attorney of Harris County, Kim Ogg, who accused me of engaging in "hate speech" for sharing statistics about how

many criminals they have given deferred adjudication to.

Welcome to 2020 folks, where you are accused of "hate speech" for sharing facts.

What these emotional, non-fact-based arguments tell me is that I am on the right track. As Socrates said, "when the debate is lost, slander becomes the tool of the losers."

From reading the above, one may assume that I am against all reforms to the criminal justice system, and that all police officers care about is locking the bad guys up and throwing away the key. That is truly not the case. In fact, a recent polling of our members at the Houston Police Officers' Union showed that a majority supported a true cite and release - whereby the offender would get a ticket, just like you would for speeding, for minor marijuana possession. This is actually more liberal than the current diversion program District Attorney Kim Ogg is conducting.

There were definite flaws in our bail system prior to the reforms. For example, there is absolutely no reason why a single mother should be held on a \$5,000 bond when being arrested for driving with a suspended license. Of course, she should receive a PR bond. The prior system was ridiculous, it was archaic, it was draconian, and it should have been dealt with decades ago. There was a definite need for a scalpel to be taken to

our system and make the necessary common-sense reforms. Unfortunately, they instead took a sledgehammer to the Harris County criminal justice system and we are all suffering the consequences.

I was never one to complain without offering solutions. There needs to be immediate changes to how Harris County is currently handling bail and how the DA's office is doling out deferred adjudication.

A simple change in accountability should be welcome in the district attorney's office. Kim Ogg herself should be required to sign off on any deferred adjudication being given to a defendant who has been arrested for a felony involving a firearm. There are entirely too many people dying in this country from gun violence for Kim Ogg's office to be agreeing to deferred adjudication for those defendants, and it should be her signature on

every document to ensure there is accountability.

There should be a program developed using several factors to assist in making bail decisions. The factors can include; legal status within the country, prior offenses committed, are they currently out on a PR bond, have they violated previous bond conditions, severity of the crime, risk they pose to the community and a host of other metrics that can be used by judges.

Most would say to use already established risk assessments tools, but there is mounting evidence that the current tools are ineffective and actually increase racial bias. We need to ensure that judges have the necessary information to make intelligent, logical decisions on bond amounts, all while balancing the need to protect the public.

Frankly, it is long past time to apply the same accountability, transparency, and high standards

expected of our police officers to the rest of the criminal justice system. The first step is to cease with the emotional arguments and for reformers to admit their social experiment has failed. Every public safety metric across several major cities shows the reforms are failing and the hard working, law abiding members of our community are suffering. It is not a hyperbole when I say that innocent people are dying needlessly in our community because of these reforms, it is just facts. Most of all, to every politician speaking on this issue, you cannot continue to say that bail and criminal justice reforms are making our communities safer. Stop lying to the public to cover up your failures. No matter how much mud is thrown at us and how many names we are called, there will always be brave people within our community who are willing to stand up and fight for the truth.

blue mental health



Continued from Page 38

6. Create a menu of personal self-care activities that you enjoy, such as spending time with friends and family, exercising, or reading a book. During times of stress our tendency is to avoid enjoyable activities that help manage stress. 7. ASK FOR HELP if you feel overwhelmed or concerned that COVID-19 is affecting your ability to care for your community as you did before the pandemic.

It is also paramount that law enforcement leadership understand and embrace the need for effective communication during this time. Focus on communicating with a purpose and sending updates only when they contain new or time-sensitive information, or answers that the team is relying on and needs now. Be selective in who receives your messages. Whenever possible, send emails that are concise and easily digestible - a "quick read" approach. At a time when everyone is overloaded with

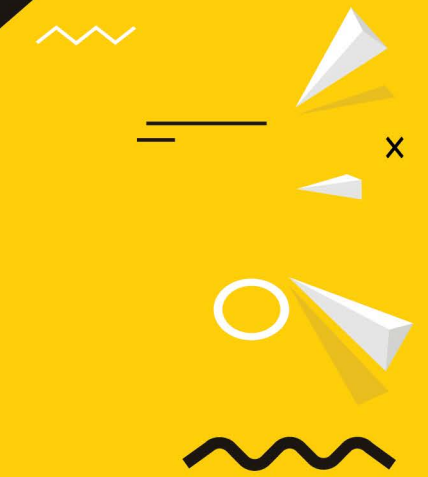
critical priorities, it's more likely that a quick paragraph will be read than a message that is a full page.

On a positive note it has been a gift to observe the altruistic nature of many in our country as they have stepped forward to offer a hand or simply show gratitude for the dedication and sacrifices of our officers. This will eventually pass, and we will get through this together and hopefully emerge stronger from the experience.

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AND WE WIND UP HERE IN HARRIS COUNTY WITH MORON # 2 HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE LINA HILDAGO

She's seeking the compassionate release of inmates at the Harris County Jail to prevent a massive outbreak of the coronavirus. Now admittedly Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzales has a dilemma on his hands.

It's a ticking time bomb at the jail especially since the jail reported its first staffer with COVID-19. The male sheriff's deputy in his late 20s had been infected with the new coronavirus and last worked on March 21 at the 1200 Baker Street administration building.

Hidalgo has spent days working on an executive order that would allow broad-scale compassionate releases of medically vulnerable, nonviolent inmates. But the effort has been complicated by an opinion from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton,

indicating to local officials the state may try to intervene. Hidalgo explained Thursday, March 26th, that she and her staff are retrenching and "evaluating all options" in the wake of Paxton's March 25th ruling, even as the urgency increased with the announcement of the infected jail deputy.

"Healthcare professionals have urged us to reduce the amount of people in the jail downtown, where 8,500 inmates and thousands of employees come into close contact," the county judge said. "We are working to increase social distancing between healthcare employees, detention officers and inmates. That may require moving inmates to other facilities or the early release of some non-violent offenders."

Meanwhile others have chimed

in on the "compassionate release" HPD Chief Art Acevedo said in a tweet "the public needs to know if this is what Harris County judges and other elected officials consider compassionate release? What are the specific offenses? How will they be tracked? Who are they being released to? Where will they go? Will they be screened? The Public needs to know."

Gonzales replied "I agree. Can't speak for others, I've been clear, "non-violent", prioritize seniors w/underlying disease, pregnant women. We have over 7,000 pre-trial persons. We have no say in individual decisions judges make in their courtrooms, but we are not involved with that."

We agree that a plan needs to be put in place at all jails to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. But rookie Judge Hidalgo, with ZERO law enforcement

or judicial background, has no business releasing anyone. Only the judicial courts should have that authority and even then, where are these inmates going and are they going to be tested before they are released?

BREAKING NEWS Just before we closed the magazine for publication, Gov. Greg Abbott acted to scuttle the entire effort with an order suspending portions of state law. He forbade the release of violent jail or prison inmates — an action that had no one had proposed — saying it would endanger public safety.

"Releasing dangerous criminals from jails into the streets is not the right solution and doing so is now prohibited by law by this declaration," Abbott said at a Sunday afternoon briefing, hours after officials announced that a 39-year-old man had tested

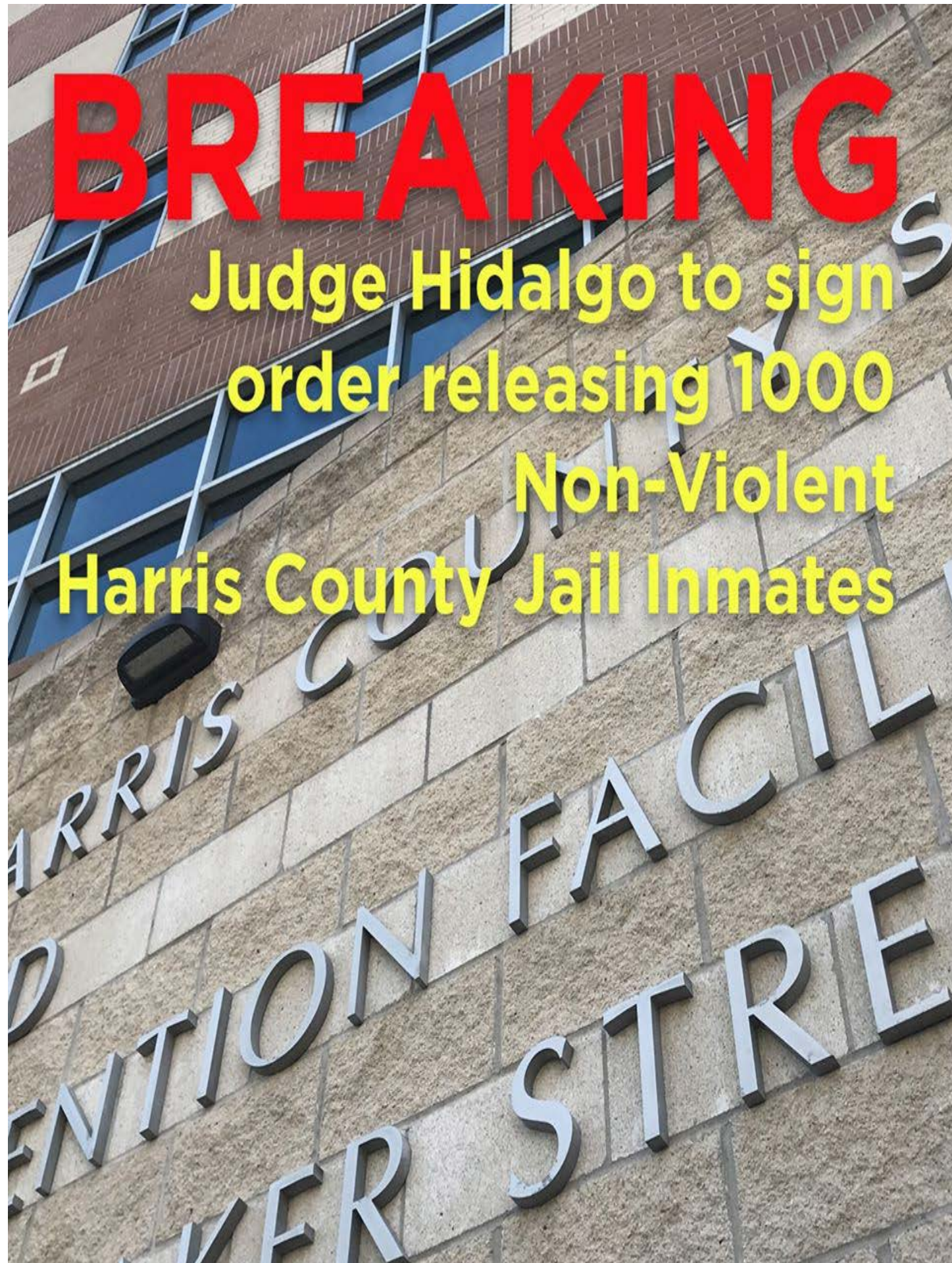
positive for the coronavirus. The order said such a release "would also hinder efforts to cope with the COVID-19 disaster."

AND here is the real idiot move of the day. Hidalgo issued another county wide 'stay-at-home' order and said she would fine and possibly jail anyone who violates her order.

WAIT A MINUTE...you're releasing 1000 inmates from the Harris County Jail because you want to show COMPASSION...but if honest hard working never been in trouble with the law citizens disobey your order, YOU'RE GOING TO PUT THEM IN THE SAME JAIL THAT YOU JUST RELEASED REAL CRIMINALS FROM. WTF LADY.

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Judge Hidalgo's Decision to Release 1000 inmates Illogical and Ill-timed

Earlier today, County Judge Lina Hidalgo made the illogical and ill-timed decision to begin the mass release of 1000 criminals from the Harris County Jail. In her infinite wisdom and vast experience Hidalgo thought it best, that at the height of a pandemic which is devastating our country, releasing opportunistic criminals was just what the Doctor ordered. She is assuring the public that these will only be non-violent offenders, but since she did not release a detailed plan about who would be released there is really no way of knowing. Will they be considering the defendants criminal history? Gang affiliation? Will they check with surrounding agencies if these defendants are persons of interest in another crime? These are all questions that could have been answered if she chose to ask the largest law enforcement agency in Harris County, the Houston Police Department, their thoughts on the plan, which she did not. We should not be surprised because there is a disturbing pattern from her office of operating within an echo chamber, without allowing contrary viewpoints.

I guess we should just trust that what the Judge is telling us, is the truth. Just like when she told a room full of thousands at the "State of the County" address that bail reform lowers crime. In fact, it is the opposite and crime within the City of Houston is up to the tune of over 20% in violent crime (this year), including murder being up 30%. In addition, property crime is up nearly 20%, with a 19% spike in burglaries in the last two weeks. The truth is this idiotic release has little to do with protecting defendants in the jail or protecting jail employees, and everything to do with accomplishing her grand goal of emptying the jail. Hidalgo is simply taking advantage of our community in our most vulnerable moment, and it will be the law abiding, hard-working members of our community that will suffer the greatest.

Law enforcement across the county is already stretched dangerously thin as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. With hundreds of officers quarantined and more falling ill everyday we have enough on our plate. While every agency in this county scrambles for scarce resources to protect front line employees, something that should be one of the Judge's top priorities, she is instead scrambling to release 1000 criminals. Nice to see her priorities are in order.

The most shameful thing in all of this is, Hidalgo just threatened law abiding individuals and business owners with six months in jail for violating her "stay at home order" but is now releasing 1000 criminals from jail. Apparently, the hypocrisy knows no bounds. As Harris County residents we should be embarrassed at what is occurring, while we all struggle with the enormous impact Covid19 is having on us all. We elect our leaders to lead and to protect us, Hidalgo is doing neither.

I do want to reassure every law abiding, hard-working individual in this county, that law enforcement will continue to protect you the best that we can. Whether the challenge is a revolving door justice system from inept elected officials and Judges, hurricane, flood, pandemic, we will answer the call. It is our job to protect you, just wish Judge Hidalgo believed the same.

Joe Gamaldi
HPOU President



honoring our fallen heroes



Police Officer

Brent William Perry Scrimshire
Hot Springs Police Dept., Arkansas

End of Watch Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Age 33 Tour 6 Years Badge N/A

Police Officer Brent Scrimshire was shot and killed while conducting a traffic stop in the 100 block of Kenwood Street at approximately 6:30 pm. During the traffic stop, Officer Scrimshire and a subject in the vehicle exchanged gunfire and both sustained gunshot wounds. Both were transported to a local hospital where Officer Scrimshire succumbed to his wounds.

Officer Scrimshire had served with the Hot Springs Police Department for six years. He had been recognized as Regional Officer of the Year by the Arkansas Attorney General in 2016 and had recently been recognized as the Hot Springs Police Department's Officer of the Quarter. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, parents, grandmother, and sisters.



Police Corporal

James R. O'Connor, IV
Philadelphia Police Department, Texas

End of Watch Friday, March 13, 2020

Age 46 Tour 23 years Badge #564

Corporal James O'Connor was shot and killed during a SWAT team operation to arrest a homicide suspect at 5:50 am. The SWAT team was securing the home on Bridge Street, near Duffield Street, when the subject opened fire on them through a closed door on the second floor. Corporal O'Connor was struck in the shoulder in an area not protected by his vest.

Corporal O'Connor had served with the Philadelphia Police Department for 23 years and had been a member of the SWAT team for 15 years. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He is survived by his wife and two children. One of his sons also served with the Philadelphia Police Department.



Police Officer

Christopher Ryan Walsh
Springfield Police Dept., Missouri

End of Watch Monday, March 16, 2020

Age 32 Tour 3 years 6 mos. Badge # 1827

Military Veteran

Police Officer Chris Walsh was shot and killed as he and another officer confronted an active shooter at a convenience store at 2885 E Chestnut Expressway. The subject committed suicide before being taken into custody. Prior to exchanging shots with the officers, the man shot four citizens inside of the store, killing three of them.

Officer Walsh was a U.S. Army veteran and had served with the Springfield Police Department for 3-1/2 years. He is survived by his wife and daughter.



Deputy Sheriff

Kenterrous Taylor
Bibb County Sheriff, Georgia

End of Watch Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Age 27 Tour 3 years 5 mos. Badge # 2290

Deputy Sheriff Kenterrous Taylor was killed in a single-vehicle crash near the intersection of Forsyth Road and Napier Avenue while responding to a burglary in progress call at 1:30 am.

His patrol car left the roadway, struck a wall, and overturned several times. Deputy Taylor was ejected from the vehicle and suffered fatal injuries.

Deputy Taylor had served with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office for one year and had previously served with the Fort Valley State University Police Department for two years. He is survived by his father, who also serves with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office.



honoring our fallen heroes



Senior Deputy
Christopher Scott Korzilius
Travis County Sheriff's Office, Texas

End of Watch Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Age 32 Tour 4 years Badge N/A

Deputy Sheriff Kenterrous Taylor was killed in a single-vehicle crash near the intersection of Forsyth Road and Napier Avenue while responding to a burglary in progress call at 1:30 am.

His patrol car left the roadway, struck a wall, and overturned several times. Deputy Taylor was ejected from the vehicle and suffered fatal injuries.

Deputy Taylor had served with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office for one year and had previously served with the Fort Valley State University Police Department for two years. He is survived by his father, who also serves with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office.



Police Officer
Kaia Grant
Springdale Police Dept., Ohio

End of Watch Saturday, March 21, 2020

Age 33 Tour 8 years Badge # 2023

Police Officer Kaia Grant was killed when she was intentionally struck by a vehicle during a pursuit at 8:30 pm. The pursuit began in a neighboring jurisdiction when officers attempted to stop an armed, suicidal subject. The pursuit proceeded onto I-275 where Officer Grant and a police sergeant were preparing to deploy stop sticks near State Route 4. The driver intentionally swerved toward them, striking them both.

Officer Grant had served with the Springdale Police Department for eight years. She is survived by her parents.



Trooper
Justin R. Schaffer
Washington State Patrol, Washington

End of Watch Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Age 28 Tour 7 Years Badge 646

Trooper Justin Schaffer was struck and killed by a fleeing vehicle while attempting to deploy stop sticks during a vehicle pursuit along I-5 in Chehalis. Trooper Schaffer was struck by the subject as he attempted to deploy stop sticks near mile marker 79. The man continued to flee until stopping and barricading himself inside his vehicle several miles later. He was taken into custody by Thurston County deputies.

Trooper Schaffer had served with the Washington State Patrol for six years. He is survived by his wife, parents, and brother.



Trooper
Nolan J. Sanders
North Carolina Highway Patrol, North Carolina

End of Watch Friday, March 27, 2020

Age 26 Tour 5 years Badge # C240

Trooper Nolan Sanders was killed in a single-vehicle crash on I-795 near exit 22 at mile marker 19 in the Pikeville area of Wayne County, at 7:17 pm. His patrol car left the roadway and struck a concrete culvert before landing on its side. Trooper Sanders suffered fatal injuries and died at the scene.

Trooper Sanders had served with the North Carolina Highway Patrol for five years and was assigned to Troop C, District 2.



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Sergeant
Ben Jenkins
Nevada Highway Patrol, Nevada

End of Watch Friday, March 27, 2020

Age 47 Tour 12 years Badge 4196
Military Veteran

Sergeant Ben Jenkins was shot and killed when he stopped to assist a disabled motorist on US-93 near mile marker 106 in White Pine County shortly before 6:00 am.

During the encounter with the subject, the man fatally shot Sergeant Jenkins. The man then stole Sergeant Jenkins' uniform and patrol car and fled the area. He was apprehended several hours later following a massive manhunt involving numerous agencies.

Sergeant Jenkins was a veteran of both the Army National Guard and Air National Guard. He had served with the Nevada Highway Patrol for 12 years. He had previously served with the Nevada State Fire Marshal Division and with the Nevada Division of Forestry. He is survived by his wife, four children, five grandchildren, and mother.



Comander
Greg Carnicle
Phoenix Police Department, Arizona

End of Watch Sunday, March 29, 2020

Age N/A Tour 31 years Badge # N/A

Commander Greg Carnicle was shot and killed while responding to a domestic disturbance call involving roommates at a home near 40th Street and Pinnacle Peak Street. He and two other officers were speaking to one of the occupants inside of the home when the man suddenly drew a weapon and opened fire, wounding all three officers. Commander Carnicle was taken to a local hospital where he succumbed to his wounds.

The other two officers suffered non-life threatening wounds. The subject was shot and killed by tactical units as they attempted to take him into custody.

Commander Carnicle had served with the Phoenix Police Department for 31 years and was scheduled to retire in two months. He is survived by his wife and four children.

“When a police officer is killed, it’s not an agency that loses an officer, it’s an entire nation.”

-Chris Cosgriff, ODMP Founder

LE job positions



Saginaw Police Department	Get Info	Police Officer	04/12/2020 - 5pm
Nassau Bay PD	Get Info	Patrol Officer I	04/07/2020 - 5pm
City of Friendswood	Get Info	Peace Officer	05/21/2020 - 5pm
Brown County Water District #1	Get Info	Lake Patrol Officer	04/17/2020 - 5pm
San Marcos, City Of	Get Info	Deputy Marshal	04/25/2020 - 5pm
City of Cleburne Police Department	Get Info	Entry Level Police Officer	04/24/2020 - 5pm
University of Houston central campus	Get Info	Police Officer	05/11/2020 - 5pm
Crane Police Department	Get Info	Patrol Officer	04/23/2020 - 5pm



CITY OF LA PORTE

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LATERAL POLICE OFFICER JOB OPENING

The La Porte Police Department is a Civil Service Police Department and is a professional organization that prides itself on delivering the highest level of service possible. Our employees care about our city and strive to serve with compassion, honesty and sincerity.

The La Porte Police Department is currently looking for dedicated men and women interested in an outstanding career in law enforcement. We are currently recruiting Lateral Police Officers with immediate openings. Interested applicants please complete the application, TCOLE Personal History Statement and Authorization to Release located on our website www.laportepdcareers.com.

LATERAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be TCOLE certified peace officers or enrolled in or must have graduated from an accredited Police Academy and possess a Basic Peace Officer license issued by TCOLE by the time of appointment. The applicant must:

- Pass a physical fitness test (15 push-ups in one minute, 20 sit-ups in one minute, 1.5 mile run in 17:15, 300 meter run in 80 seconds)
- Pass a psychological examination, polygraph examination, physical examination, and a drug screen
- Pass an oral interview examination and a background check
- Demonstrate weapons proficiency

Officers pay ranges from \$57,928 - \$82,388, Sergeants range from \$81,640- \$94,432 and Lieutenants range from \$97,260.80 - \$107,328 (not including available incentive pay and bonuses).

Shift differential pay of \$.75 more an hour for Evening Shift and \$1.00 more an hour for Night Shift.

Lateral officers can start employment here up to the 7 year step on the pay scale based upon experiences in a similar size agency or larger.

INCENTIVE PAY

- Master's Certificate granted by TCOLE the sum of \$150.00 per month
- Advanced Certificate granted by TCOLE the sum of \$125.00 per month
- Intermediate Certificate granted by TCOLE the sum of \$100.00 per month
- Master's Degree obtained from an accredited university the sum of \$150.00
- Bachelor's Degree obtained from an accredited university the sum of \$125.00
- Associate Degree obtained from an accredited university the sum of \$100.00

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Blue Waters off Key West are Calling

After three weeks of Corona-virus stay-at-home orders I am craving some of my now canceled outdoor adventures. Last month we were supposed to have gone on an African Safari and this month is supposed to be our annual fishing trip to Key West. Both are bucket list worthy trips and the Key West trip is always one of the highlights my year. Back in 1989, Shell retailer Hayden Blaylock

decided to create an event to raise money for the National Mental Health Association and organized a charity fishing tournament. Over the next 30 years, the Shell Key West Challenge would raise more than \$2 million in contributions for the Mental Health Association and now the Diabetes Research Institute. So the charity brought me to Key West for the first time and it is the charity, the



fishing, and the charm of Key West that keeps me going back year after year.

Key West is one of my favorite places to fish in the world because of the diversity of the species of fish all located close to shore. You can fish the shallow flats to catch tarpon and within minutes move to inshore fishing the reefs for grouper, snapper, mackerel, permit, or barracuda and then minutes later be fishing deep water for dolphin, tuna, and sailfish. Even if you don't love to fish, Key West can be one of the most beautiful boat rides you have ever been on as the color of the water changes from aquamarine to light blue to deep purple as you cross over the various ocean floors at varying water depths. The crystal-clear waters can simply take away any

stress our regular lives might create and right now, we could all use a little stress relief.

If you haven't ever fished Key West, I would encourage you to add it to your list of future vacations. It is a great place to go with friends and have everyone bring their significant others as the town of Key West is great for non-fishing guests to walk around and explore during the day. The restaurants in Key West are outstanding and the nightlife is such that you need to set limits or I promise you even the smallest of waves offshore can make for a long day recovering from a late night at Sloppy Joes Bar. If you go, I recommend staying at the Margaritaville Key West Resort and

Marina and fishing with either of the Tyson brothers of the Super Grouper charters. My favorite restaurants are B.O.'s Fish Wagon for quick fish and beer for lunch, Louie's Backyard for a nice dinner and Blue Heaven for the best breakfast.

If nothing else while you have some extra time staying at home over the next couple of months, go online and check out the gallery of pictures from previous years trips on the Shell Key West Challenge website (www.shellkeywestchallenge.com) and just imagine yourself floating on those beautiful blue waters catching some of the most amazing fish on this planet.

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...parting shots.

10 secrets cops know that most people don't have any idea.

It's become abundantly clear that the press and the public have little understanding of police work. And something we've learned over the years is that during times of stress and tension, a good chuckle is an extremely effective medicine. So, here are some things most people don't know but cops do. Please send your additional comments to: bluespdmag@gmail.com.

1. Most cops understand why tickets are necessary but don't particularly like writing them. Well, unless they happen to stop "the guy who pays their wages" and then writing a ticket isn't so bad. Most cops wonder if they have something better to do until the person asks in that whiny voice, "Don't you have anything better to do?"
2. The vast majority of cops have never shot anyone, but most cops can recite a detailed list of people who are/were deserving of being shot because they posed a deadly threat. This means that most cops have successfully defused a potentially deadly confrontation using only words and less-lethal weapons.
3. Most cops wonder if they have something better to do until the person asks in that whiny voice, "Don't you have anything better to do?" It is then – and only then – the cop knows the answer to that question is, "No. This is good as it gets."
4. Most cops know the driver they just stopped had more than "two beers" and can estimate with reasonable accuracy how many beers a driver did, in fact, have.
5. Most cops like donuts, but so does everybody. They are deliberately made to taste really, really good so people will want to eat them. Please pass me another donut.
6. Most cops wonder why so many members of the community choose to pick up a mobile phone and record them while the officers are rolling in the dirt with an assailant rather than offering to help the officer.
7. Most cops don't know the color of the people they stop before the traffic stop takes place. This is especially true when someone is driving a car with tinted windows at night.
8. Most cops know that if you fix that muffler/tail light/other mechanical issue for which they've stopped you, the cops will stop stopping you.
9. Most cops know it is impossible to stop a squad car fast enough when the drunk in the back seat says, "Stop! I think I've got to puke."
10. Most cops know that the national media do not pursue the truth, they pursue a story. Their story and the truth are too often a little like fraternal twins. They are related, but cops can't explain why they don't look anything alike.



...parting shots.





...last minute additions.

**EXTRA,
EXTRA,
EXTRA**



TURNER TO CROOKS: PLEASE, PLEASE BEHAVE YOURSELF UNTIL THE CORONA VIRUS IS OVER. TAKE A CHILL. BE GOOD. AND ONCE IT'S OVER YOU CAN GO BACK TO BEING A CROOK.

POLICE CHIEF LOOKING OVER SHOULDER: WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS THIS IDIOT SAYING?



JUDGE CLUELESS: PLEASE STAY INSIDE OR I'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU IN JAIL !!

COUNTY OFFICIALS BEHIND HER: WAIT A MINUTE! YOU JUST LET 1000 INMATES OUT BECAUSE YOU'RE COMPASSIONATE. NOW YOU'RE LOCKING UP INNOCENT CITIZENS IN THE SAME JAIL FOR BEING OUTSIDE. WTF LADY?

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