

## **Why did you open a coffee shop?**

A question I get now and then, even after seven plus years of opening and running the shops.

My usual retort is, "I like coffee, I get to drink it all day and at my shop."

Really though, there is a little more to it all than that, but not much. I do really like coffee....

But what is it.... Why?

I like the environment; coffee is a perk.

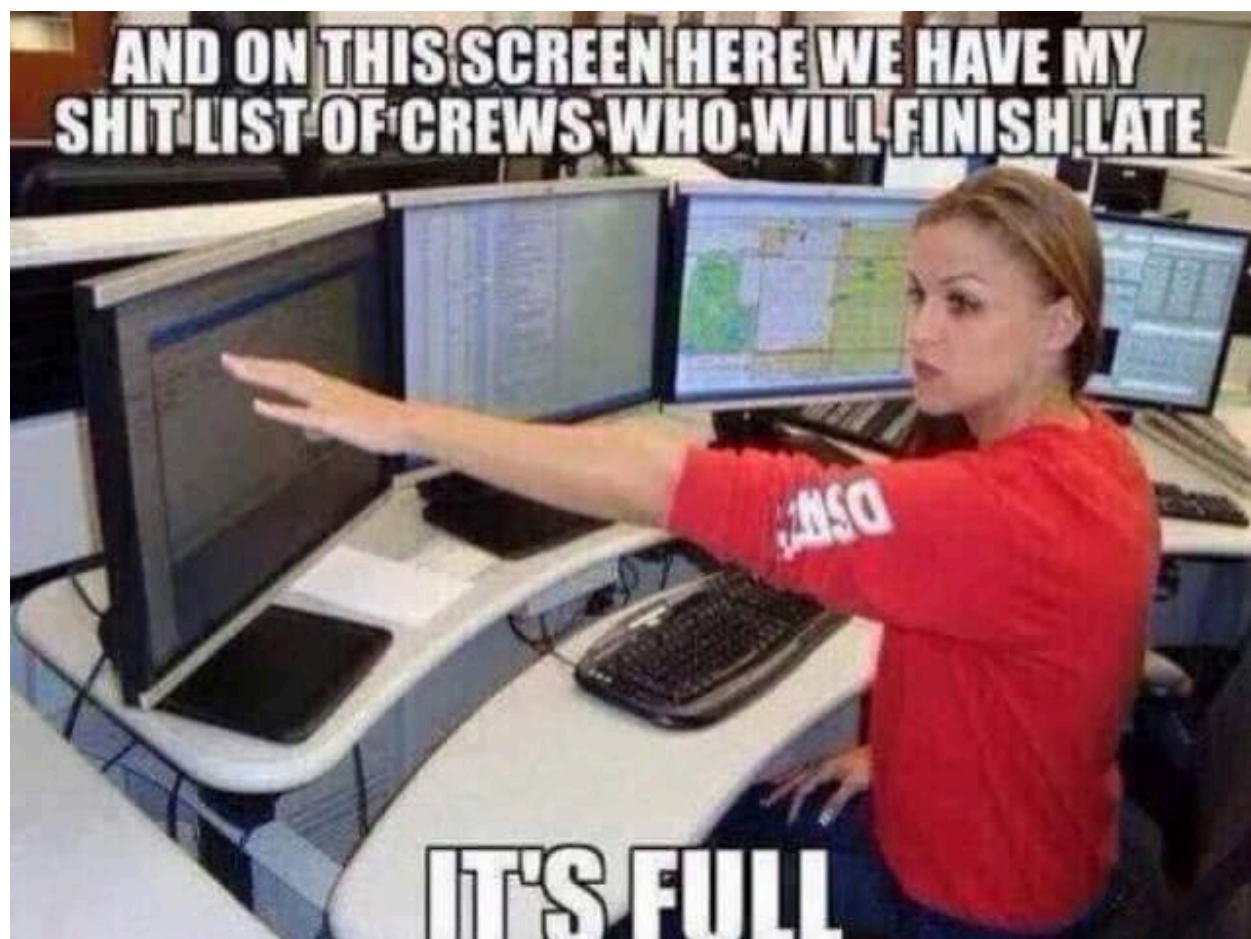
From the time preceding when I went to the Bellissimo | American Barista & Coffee School | Coffee Business (ABC) for coffee training, I enjoyed being at coffee shops before I retired (Dec 2004), after I retired, while I worked overseas, upon returning to the states, and to this day. Simple to say, I like coffee shops to sit relax and work or read.

While working, before retirement

So, how much did I go to coffee shops before I retired?

When working graveyard on Patrol, I'd meet other deputies or just stop in 7-11's for coffee. Almost always pouring from the coffee pot that was on the burner since 6am the day before. Off-duty, I would meet at local shops (even Starbucks-BACK THEN) with friends.

As a patrol shift supervisor, I would go to Starbucks and get a couple trays of drinks to take to the Dispatchers. (This helped keep them from abusing the shift sergeant (me))



I had to learn the hard way, usually bringing eight drinks to them, about physics.... Moving car, rubber tires, making turns, vehicle leans, drinks lean, you get the idea.

I would get the order in two of the 4-cup carriers.... Get out to the patrol car and put on the front floorboard to drive to dispatch. Back then, the Starbucks' I would go was on South Kietzke Ln. Dispatch was/is up on No. Virginia and Parr Blvd. The freeway helped the commute to get there quickly with little to no issues of the drinks on the floor. That is, until I got a "hot" call and needed to go code 3.... Then, the drinks end up tipping over. (Yes, usually ALL of them) and sloshing on the floorboard of the car..... (I anticipated this and moved all my equipment from the floor to the back seat and thankfully no issues.... Thus, a 2nd trip to Starbucks after the call, 2nd order and hope to make it, which I did.

I rectified this issue on further coffee runs by calling the dispatch supervisor asking to get the drink order and designate a dispatcher to come with me. The dispatcher liked the time away from the computer console, as well as usually there would be a call or two the supervisor (me) just had to go to and check on. Meaning the dispatcher got to see the patrol side of her work instead of just hearing everything from her side. Eye opening for dispatchers to see it instead of just hear it.

You ask, how did I get the patrol car clean? For the price of two Coca-Cola's, I'd contact the on-duty Detention Intake Sergeant, advise I had a clean-up in my car, could they get a couple trustees to come out and clean. Payment was, I buy them Cokes. Worked every time. The Trustees were happy to clean and get the extra perk. We did this all the time when arrestees in the back seat would vomit, piddle their pants, and other wet things in the back of the car.

And on more mundane reasons to visit a coffee shop, I would meet with the lieutenant or captain for usually a one-way discussion. Yes, I was usually the receiver on the one way.

And of course, off duty with the family. Family visits were the most enjoyable coffee shop visits.