



Bill Federice <federicebill@gmail.com>

Fwd: Letter to Editor

2 messages

stinson <stinson@midtel.net>
To: Bill Federice <federicebill@gmail.com>, mayor@cobleskill.org

Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 9:25 AM

For your interest, WRS

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Letter to Editor
Date: Sun, 3 Jan 2021 09:23:22 -0500
From: stinson <stinson@midtel.net>
To: TJ <tjournalnews@yahoo.com>

To The Editor

The Times Journal

Concerning Police accountability, citizens should recognize that the equipment a police officer is provided both defines and enables that officer's conduct. In the same way that a workman's assortment of tools can define his approach to a task, a police officer's response to a task might be influenced by what devices hang on his/her equipment belt or are stored in the patrol vehicle.

The recent police brutality protests provide graphic demonstration of this effect. The deployment of the so-called "Less Than Lethal" equipment (weapons) and their seemingly unregulated use (criminal misuse) against protesters should cause us to consider what influence deployment of such equipment had on the officers' demeanor. Would those officers have considered aiming tear gas canisters, rubber bullets or concussion grades at protesters' upper body areas, in contradiction of recommended use, if they were not influenced to some degree by the very issuance of the equipment? Of course the designation "Less Than Lethal" has the effect of reducing reluctance to their use in the first place.

Equip an officer with body armor, helmet, taser, 34" baton (club), semi-automatic pistol with 10 round clip, add an imposing black uniform to complete a warrior image, then we should not be surprised to see warrior (violent) behavior. A visit to the Blue Lives Matter Facebook page will provide insight into the warrior mindset.

I began these comments referencing police accountability. I did so because what equipment a community's police officers are issued should be controlled to a significant degree by the citizens of that community. The ongoing effort to write policy and procedure manuals for our local law enforcement agencies must allow for citizen engagement in police equipment decisions. What equipment to be issued, and under what conditions, should be controlled by policy and procedure manuals and those manuals should be subject to community approval.

Wayne Stinson

Summit, NY

Bill Federice <federicebill@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 2:47 PM

To: Bruce Baker <bruce.baker@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Candace Ellis <candacee@ccalbany.org>, Dick Lape <lapelspc@midtel.net>, Duane Tillapaugh <duane.tillapaugh@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Harold Vroman <haroldvroman@aol.com>, John Leavitt <john.leavitt@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Pastor Ray Richards <pastorray@cagcobleskill.org>, Peggy Hait <jeffersonawnsup@gmail.com>, Ron Stevens <ronald.stevens@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Steve Weinhofer <stephen.weinhofer@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Patricia Hults <Hultsp@outlook.com>, Wendy Cook <wcook001@luthersem.edu>, Peter Harrison <kingdomnoyze@verizon.net>

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Bill Federice
Supervisor, Town of Conesville
Chairman, Schoharie County Board of Supervisors

607-353-2110

Check out the official Town of Conesville Website at:
<http://www4.schohariecounty-ny.gov/government/town-of-conesville/>