

Restless Again

By
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Hodge Podge Edition
“Feelings...”

Cue Babs singing some rendition of Cats

Too many things going on in too many directions so follow this as best you can.

I am dyslexic so I often have to read the same sentence, paragraph, article several times over (6 or more) and even then it doesn't insure that I haven't missed/mixed up something relevant.

I was reading the Fargo Forum article where there was a survey (by Zencity) about how safe people feel or how they feel about their police department, and if they had negative feelings was that because of media? **Note: We are in a timeline of “Feels” rather than “Facts all conclusions are therefor irrelevant”*

I found it weird that the conclusion was that most people thought police were fair, treated everyone equally and the police department was transparent.

First, who are the randos they were surveying? A survey such as this should be conducted among a population that has had an interaction with the police. Maude and Simon sitting in their front room, assuming fairness or unfairness without any personal experience, is really just a PR game, isn't it? How can you “feel” about something you have never interacted with?

There were lovely pie charts (pick your slice) and numbers, but really, who commissioned this and how was it done?

The most positive you can feel about your police department is how safe you feel interacting with them. Do they disrespect you? Listen to you? Try to help you?

And yes, you can get 'negative' feels about the police from media reports. That's because there have been a number of police arrested or fired for rape, drugs, theft, assault... and that's the problem the departments have to address.

There are bad cops out there, and they get away with crimes and abuses for a very long time before they are caught, and even then the “Blue Wall” of the brotherhood protects them while menacing any good cops that come forward to remedy the situation.

This is true of EVERY police force in the country. It’s not just FARGO, but corruption in policing happens everywhere and it always has. You give power and authority to a group of people and not all of them use it well or rightly. But this much is true: Power corrupts. So, if you give power to someone who will misuse it, they will also use it against good cops in order to silence them.

Complicit by silence is, IMO, the biggest issue. If you want your police to not be corrupt, you have to support those who would expose it and make sure those who lead those departments have the wherewithal to remove it.

Leadership is key. But in order to be the leader, you have to have those you lead, follow your directions. That’s impossible if you have to count on the corrupt not sabotaging your efforts.

The corrupt are never alone. They can’t do what they do unless they have accomplices.

Policing has become a collection of bullies by virtue of the Qualified Immunity that is too often invoked, when police cross the line into criminal or abusive behavior.

Police are not trained to de-escalate. They are trained to be reactive and that it’s Them Or Us. Their Fraternity is far too powerful and corrupt. Firing a bad cop also means you have to go up against the corruption in that FPO, which picks and chooses who actually is protected.

Again, I refer to Serpico. He was an honest cop and his brothers in blue tried to kill him repeatedly, because they could not corrupt him. He got no help from leadership because they depended on the corrupt in order to have their position. The FPO did nothing to protect him and everything to protect those who were literally, trying to have him killed.

So, you see, the problem is not whether or not there are some good cops out there, or people who sign up because they want to make life safer for all of us, the problem resides in the culture of policing that has created an environment that favors bullies, abusers, and

which discourages and disables the mechanisms that would ensure that the 'bad apples' get weeded out.

The whole culture has to change.

You don't need a survey for this, you need in-depth issue studying and to change the source flaws in training, where it fosters a macho attitude of mostly racists and bigots.

We need to get rid of Qualified Immunity.

We need to dispel the notion that the police don't lie.

If the motto is "Protect and Serve" we have to know who is being protected and served. If you have seen anything of the latest ICE Goons attacking citizens in states that didn't vote for f47, you have seen the police do NOTHING to protect or serve anyone. It has been the courage of citizens protecting other citizens.

The police were nowhere. Masked Goons, armed and armored, were mobbing people who were committing no crime, and breaking their car windows, dragging them out, beating them up, shooting them, spraying them directly in the face and especially the eyes, causing permanent damage. Houses were broken into, children were snagged out of their homes, schools.

Entire apartment buildings were raided by goons descending from Blackhawk helicopters in the middle of the night, every door kicked in, residents dragged out of their beds, naked or nearly and forced to sit for hours in winter cold, late at night, only to return to their building and find every door smashed, belongings scattered, broken, and not one of them was a criminal.

Not one of them was undocumented and most of them were citizens by birth. There were no warrants, there was no warning, just terror in the night. Not one police call to the event was responded to.

So yeah, there are good cops out there, but they are helpless because the system works against them.

I find it interesting that an oatmeal survey shows up to pave over the abusive police culture that is everywhere, and doesn't even begin to address the impotence of good cops who would fix this, but aren't supported, or allowed and who will be run off by the brotherhood that demands corruption and silence.

So, when you see a report of a cop being fired or arrested for crimes, it's generally a whole string of offenses, and a small miracle that they are dismissed and a bigger miracle if they aren't hired by another department.

But, like roaches, they don't get this way alone. They have accomplices in their ranks, above and below. You see one, there are absolutely more. A lot more.

If you want better policing, a survey won't get you there and won't change a thing. You don't change a corrupt system by polling people who have no clue and no interaction with the department. You have to change the culture of policing and that, my dear citizens, is a national problem. In fact, I would say it is a global issue.

Police have become a separate class. We need to change that. We need them to be held accountable when the trust and powers we bestow upon them are abused.

We don't need police lecturing us on IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING. People would do that naturally if they trusted the police.

You can't force trust. Especially when there is a history of being lied to, deceived, abused, disrespected and assaulted by the police.

They wear a uniform. That makes them "all the same" in too many ways. We can't differentiate a good cop from a bad cop if we don't personally know them and work with them. We look at them as a whole, because they act as a member of that whole.

You can't have a few bad cops and expect people to respect police. You can't have a few good cops, even heroes, and hold the trust of the community, unless the community can trust that the good cops will not only fight crime, but also rid their ranks of bad cops.

It's not cops that I dislike or distrust, it's corruption. I've had lifelong friendships with cops. I have worked with, consulted with, and even assisted some of the best law enforcement

out there. Even they would agree with me. I know that because they are the ones who told me, warned me and had my back when I was going into unknown territory.

Trust comes with Truth

We are dealing with human beings and all the flaws that come with that. But there are better human beings and those are the ones we should trust the most, but we can't as long as they are helpless, powerless to clean their own ranks. It shouldn't take 10 or more years and 50 reports of rapes or assaults before a cop is taken out of uniform and given an orange jumpsuit.

Police are well-funded and could change the structures of their departments, but we have no idea where all the dollars go. That would be transparency. The one people think we have but we don't.

How much is going to pay off or silence victims? How many lawsuits are settled and for how much? That's our tax dollars going to protect bad policing. We should know about that, yes? No? Let's do a poll!

Trust Builds Strength

Meanwhile, look with your own eyes. Goon squads with no IDs, masked, armed and armored, are attacking cities while police departments stay huddled in their safe places.

This is not the police protecting nor serving the communities. There are no warrants signed by judges and no due process. Just Goons doing whatever they like, and no police department countering their lies. Not one.

Everyday citizens are putting their lives, their bodies, their safety and security on the front lines to protect each other because the police won't. Citizens are gathering in greater and greater numbers, not hiding. Unifying and getting stronger. The truth has made them stronger.

Minneapolis law enforcement wants to investigate the murders committed by goons, but all their uniforms did nothing to protect the people. Investigate all you want. I'm sure we can trust the outcome. We'll have no choice. We'll believe or not believe it. But we have

seen the system, the culture at work throughout our history and now, ever moreso with the current events terrorizing our cities while police shrug helplessly.

My bet is that there are good cops out there, aggravated and frustrated that they can't take action because leadership won't let them. What does that tell you about leadership?

Wait until the next press conference staging. They'll all be in uniform, put on their serious faces, say vaguely bold things no one can pin them down on, and maybe a survey will happen that will tell you if you agree with the majority, minority, or "no opinion". Soothing, isn't it?

Many saying this is just like what Hitler did are correct. But Hitler got all his ideas and methods from the way the US Government treated minorities and most of all, Native Americans.

It was the USA that proved these methods worked. In the threads of those methods and woven tightly across woof and warp, was a cultivated population whose public opinions were strongly in favor of government and completely unaware of the horrors inflicted in their name upon their fellow citizens and human beings.

Trust in government is often misplaced if we allow polls and surveys to direct our opinions towards trusting a system that only craves more power and less resistance. We need to be able to hold the corrupt accountable, and not mash them in, diluting their actions with feel good stories of the better and braver in their ranks.

We got here because we were lead here by people who feared that if we knew the truth about who they were, what they did and were doing, we would oust them or arrest them. Every part of the system, including legacy media, participated in paving that pathway.

We can do better. We must do better, or we as a nation will crumble beneath the jackbooted goons roaming our cities, smashing our doors, violating every right we have, and no one doing anything about it.

Police culture is not the only thing that needs to change. Learn the true history, not the heroic white male centric mush you were fed in school. There are books, there are speakers out there that must be heard.

There are also those out there desperate to erase history, vilify the real heroes, beatify the racists and bullies. They fear the truth because their only real power resides in the lies they get us to believe. Pretend the USA was always perfect. Yeah, that will solve it. We don't have to learn from the mistakes of our forefathers and ancestors, we can just repeat them over and over.

That's not progress. That's submission.

Speak up now, while you can. You're next.

You know where to find me.

~Cat