

Consider this. You've been hired to enforce laws whose constitutionality have been proven. These laws are to protect individuals and groups whether or not they are US citizens. Not only that, you are asked to provide assistance at various events; parades, school events, fires, medical emergencies, vehicular accidents, boat and swimming accidents, etc. Imagine being given the task of breaking up a large protest, violent or not. Imagine being tasked with breaking up a large block party in the inner city or at a posh home or beach. Imagine doing a traffic stop, not knowing if someone in the vehicle has a weapon. Imagine reporting to a robbery or scene of domestic violence. Imagine.....

Each scenario comes with a host of unknowns ; are there weapons, people with criminal intent, emotionally unstable individuals, inherent dangers due to weather, explosions, fires, etc. I believe every officer is approaching a scene with various plans running through his mind. Once arriving on scene, decisions are made, but perhaps plans have to change in a fraction of a second. Hopefully, there is no civilian resistance, and plans can be followed.

Just how brave are most of us?

It's not likely any officer while responding to a scene plans to harm anyone. Rather, in a chaotic event, sad results can occur even when police protocols are adhered to.

Does any of the above sound like what you face when you go to work?

So, what do you think it's like going to work every day knowing you may not come home, you may be severely injured, you may be the subject of a news cast, you may lose your livelihood and your home, you may be jeered, threatened, have your vehicle turned over or have a Molotov cocktail thrown in your car,...

Police undergo rigorous vetting and training. Training protocols have changed over the years as has happened in any other profession.

Police need public support. It's become unpopular to support the police. How sad. They put their lives on the line. Yet, today, people are afraid to display any sign of police support on their vehicles or property out of fear of retaliation by police haters. I'm one of the fearful, I'm ashamed to say.

My parents taught me to show respect. It wasn't rocket science to know the difference between right and wrong . It wasn't rocket science to know I had to listen to police and do exactly what was expected.

Picture this- at a family gathering, one of the guests was called to go on duty early because of shootings in town. He went out to the pool to tell his kids he'd see them later because he had to go to work early. The ten year old girl said," Stay safe, daddy. Don't get killed." The six year old brother started shouting, "Don't get killed, daddy!" - over and over, until his dad made him stop. The dad was clearly unnerved. And then, he left for duty.

It is the public's duty to support police for the survival of our democratic society.

There are many programs and research facilities to supply Connecticut with ways to support the police and needy people.

I believe it's Miami Dade county that's implemented newer police training especially for those with mental illness. That county has implemented programs for the mentally challenged who've been in the corrections system.

I urge you to support police and those willing to further their mission in effective ways to diminish their vulnerability so they can do their duty to protect and serve.

Sincerely,
Diane Devalt