



My Drift

Title: “Defund the Police”

Written By: Jerry D. Petersen

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The “Defund the Police” movement that started after George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis is one of the dumbest things I have ever heard of in my life.

I Googled “Defund the police” and here is what Wikipedia says about it:

"Defund the police" is a slogan that supports removing funds from police departments and reallocating them to non-policing forms of public safety and community support, such as social services, youth services, housing, education, healthcare, and other community resources. Activists who use the phrase may do so with varying intentions; some seek modest reductions, while others argue for full divestment as a step toward the abolition of contemporary police services. Activists who support the defunding of police departments often argue that investing in community programs could provide a better crime deterrent for communities; funds would go toward addressing social issues, like poverty, homelessness, and mental disorders. Police abolitionists call for replacing existing police forces with other systems of public safety, like housing, employment, community health, education, and other programs.

The "Defund the Police" slogan became common during the George Floyd protests starting in May 2020. Activists used this and the “Black Lives Matter” movement to call for police budget reductions and to delegate certain police responsibilities to other organizations.



Most sociologists, criminologists, and journalists have criticized aspects of the police defunding movement. In the United States, politicians from both the Democratic and Republican parties have spoken against defunding, although Republicans have sought to link Democrats to the movement in congressional races, and in 2021, the Biden administration rebutted by arguing Republicans were trying to defund the police. Among the general public, the concept of defunding the police is very unpopular.



U.S. Capitol Police trying to stop attack on our nation's Capital Building

What is the purpose of the Police Departments

Core Duties of a Police Officer

The primary duty of a police officer is to protect people and property. Common duties of police include controlling traffic, patrolling neighborhoods, responding to emergency calls, writing citations, delivering warrants, arresting violators, and submitting incident reports in a timely manner. Police are also called occasionally to testify in court about a situation they witnessed or handled. Additionally, duties of police include educational outreach to the public to help prevent and solve crime. A typical day varies depending on the jurisdiction and agency type. For example, a police officer in the inner city typically spends more time responding to 911 calls and investigating crimes than a small-town sheriff in a remote area.



Moral and Ethical Obligations

Ethics, integrity, accountability, and honesty are important values for a police officer to possess. At all times, police officers must follow the law and departmental regulations. For example, use of force must be reasonable and necessary. They are expected to carry out their duties and responsibilities equitably and justly. Police must not show favoritism or act in a discriminatory manner recognizing that all citizens deserve respectful treatment regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, national origin or religion, for instance. The police code of ethics prohibits dishonesty and corruption. Police officers who engage in serious misconduct on duty or in their

personal life can face disciplinary action and legal prosecution. When assisting crime victims, police have a duty to be caring, compassionate and responsive by taking the report seriously, pursuing the offender and explaining victim services available in the community.

Skills and Education

Police officer careers are physically and mentally demanding. Working as a law enforcement officer requires possessing a specific skill set. Skills critical to career success include perception and leadership skills, the ability to multi-task, good judgment, strong communication, professionalism, and physical stamina. Most agencies require officers to be at least 21 years old and have a high-school diploma. All candidates must graduate from a police training academy. Further, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that many federal and state agencies prefer or require relevant college coursework. Colleges across the country offer associate and bachelor's degrees in criminal justice and law enforcement. All candidates must graduate from a police training academy to acquire proficiency in the essential duties of a police officer.



Risks and Hazards

The job of a police officer is risky, and officers incur a higher rate of illnesses, injuries, and deaths than the national average for other jobs. Officers spend a great deal of time working with criminals and dealing with threatening scenarios, such as intervening in a domestic assault or foiling a burglary. As a result, the possibility of conflicts and physical injury exist when attempting to apprehend a suspect. Many of the risks associated with a law enforcement career can be minimized by police officers following proper procedures.

Were there any cities dumb enough to Defund the Police? Yes – Sorry to say.

According to a Forbes report, at least 14 cities have cut funding (defunded) from their police departments:

New York City	Minneapolis
Washington, D.C.	Seattle
Baltimore	Salt Lake City
Philadelphia	Portland, Oregon
Los Angeles	Hartford, Connecticut
San Francisco	Norman Oklahoma
Atlanta	Austin, Texas

According to Forbes, funding cuts ranged from \$1 billion in New York City to \$3.5 million in Seattle and \$865,000 in smaller cities like Norman, Oklahoma.

What happens when Police Departments are underfunded or “God forbid” no police at all? *Demonizing and Defunding Police has Consequences!*

American communities are less safe today than they were 2 or 3 years ago. Crime rates have surged since “defund the police” became a rallying cry. It’s no coincidence that cities that have slashed their police budgets have seen huge increases in violence. Portland, Oregon set record by exceeding 1,000 shootings for 2022. In 2021, New York City shootings were up 81 percent. In Los Angeles, carjackings are up 88 percent.



Since the City Council removed \$33 million that was set aside for the city's Police Department, homicides and overall violent crime have surged in Philadelphia.

Let's take a closer look at what's happening in Philadelphia.

It's shaping up to be another grim year for Philadelphia, which is on pace to eclipse last year's homicide record. Plus, overall violent crime is surging, and robberies have more than doubled in 2022 compared to 2021, according to city data.



Gangs, Thugs, and other Criminals have made parts of Philadelphia unsafe

More Philly statistics:

- **Overall violent crime is up 20% in 2021.**
- **Robberies in which perpetrators used guns are up 60%**
- **Property crimes are up more than 30%, with businesses getting hit hard as commercial burglaries have risen a staggering 50%.**



Philadelphia gas station owner hires security guards armed with AR-15s and dressed in Kevlar vests to protect his station and store after it had been repeatedly robbed and ransacked in this crime-ridden city

Unfortunately, these are just a few examples. The crime surge is real, and it is frightening. Statistics and percentages can seem abstract, but there are people behind every one of those crimes. People whose lives have been cut short or ravaged by violence. People whose sense of safety has been destroyed.

Defunding the police is a terrible idea. Some of the cities that cut their own police funding are recognizing the mistake they've made and seeking to restore funding they cut. Unfortunately, the problem won't necessarily be fixed that easily. Because the "defund the police" movement has not just resulted in smaller police budgets, it has also resulted in lower police morale, leading to a wave of police retirements and resignations.

Now, police departments are worried about having enough officers to keep their communities safe. It turns out that when you spend months vilifying police officers and demonizing them for doing their jobs, some of them no longer want to stay. To me, this is perhaps the worst consequence of the defund the police movement. Resources and equipment can be built back up again, but it's a lot harder to replace good, seasoned officers – particularly right now, when it's difficult to imagine why anyone would want to become a police officer. Why would men and women sign up for a job where they are regularly characterized as the worst kind of criminals? The sickening scene of protesters shouting "death to police" outside a hospital where two ambushed law enforcement officers were fighting for their lives has to be emblazoned on the minds of police officers nationwide.



Protester Screaming at a Police Officer

The defund the police movement unjustly paints the entire law enforcement community as corrupt and immoral. We all know that simply isn't true. Police officers are heroes in their communities – brave and committed Americans who put on the badge each day knowing the risk to their own safety. These are the people we call when we have a car accident, see someone in trouble or in need, or fear for our safety. These are the people who run toward danger and violence when the natural reaction is to run away from it. Our law enforcement officers deserve the highest level of respect.

Now, are there bad police officers out there? Of course, there are. There are bad teachers out there too. And bad social workers. And bad businessmen. But just as it would be outrageous to demonize all teachers because of the few bad apples in their profession, it is outrageous to demonize the hundreds of thousands of dedicated Americans defending public safety because of a handful of bad officers.

We owe our men and women in law enforcement a great debt – a debt we can't even fully comprehend. These men and women go out and risk their lives every day of the week, every month of the year, to keep us safe. And they bear a heavy physical and emotional burden. It's tough to have to see evil on a daily basis – to spend years rescuing children who are in trouble or supporting victims of violence or bringing rapists to justice. They confront violence so that we don't have to – and they pay a price. We owe them and their families our profound gratitude.

Liberal Democrats bear a substantial amount of responsibility for this situation. Far too many of them actively supported the “defund the police” movement and encouraged resentment toward law enforcement. It is disgraceful that anti-police rhetoric has become such an accepted part of our national conversation – and has been winked at or endorsed by so many Democrat leaders. We owe our police officers much better.

If any good can come out of all this violence and heartbreak, I hope it's increased recognition of how essential police officers are to keeping our communities safe and a rejection of any idea of defunding the police. It's time to focus on protecting public safety and honoring the men and women who spend every day working to promote it.

Amen!

Let's take a closer look at the "Poster Boy" for the "Defund the Police" and "Black Lives Matter" social justice movement – George Floyd.



Everybody has their own opinions about the "Defund the Police", "Black Lives Matter" and "Social Justice" movement going on in the U.S. today – Here is mine.

George Floyd had a "violent criminal history"! In 2009, Floyd was sentenced to five years in prison for an assault and robbery. He entered a pregnant woman's home and pointed a gun at her stomach while he searched the house for drugs and money. Before that, Floyd had been arrested at least 9 times and convicted of charges ranging from theft with a firearm to drugs and served time in jail or prison 5 times. On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man died in Minneapolis, Minnesota during an arrest for using a counterfeit \$20 bill.

The policemen in Minneapolis screwed up and police across the nation are still paying the price for it.

George Floyd was a known thug, bully, and drug addict who was a dangerous large (6 foot-6 inches 260 pound) man who had a history of run ins with police.

THIS IS THE POSTER PERSON FOR THE "DEFUND THE POLICE" and "BLACK LIVES MATTER" MOVEMENT?? WONDERFUL!

I have not heard anything bad about George Floyd from our liberal media. Have you? They made him look like the greatest person ever to walk on earth!

After Floyd's death, riots, and violent protesters in over 200 cities across the U.S. caused several \$billions in damage. Buildings, businesses, and homes were burned to the ground. Police and private cars were set on fire. Historic statues were destroyed. Several police officers were killed. There were beatings and general mayhem. Hundreds of stores were looted and trashed. Many businesses already in trouble because of the Coronavirus will never open again. Many cities that are broke or almost broke are in big trouble. Who is going to pay for all this damage? YOU and me - the working law abiding taxpayers.



DO YOU THINK THE GENERAL PUBLIC (BLACK AND WHITE AND OTHERS) WERE HAPPY ABOUT OUR GREAT CITIES BEING TRASHED BY GEORGE FLOYD PROTESTERS AND DOMESTIC TERRORISTS?? I DON'T THINK SO.

But whatever the case, "Defund the Police," both the slogan and the substance of the issue, appears to be dead. Its proponents beat it to death, not that it was ever wildly popular. A poll published by the Pew Research Center in October 2022 found that support for reducing spending on the police had fallen significantly, from 20 percent in 2020 to just 10 percent in 2021 to less than 5% in 2022. The numbers have always been low.

That poll found a racial differential but no race with a majority in support: After Floyd's death in 2020, 23 percent of Black people supported decreasing police funding, while only 16 percent of Hispanics and 9 percent of white people did.

Race relations could be and should be a lot better. Protests that result in burning and trashing our cities is NOT going to help. IT IS GOING TO MAKE MATTERS MUCH WORSE. Protesters who incited, set fires, broke windows,

looted, destroyed statues, and/or attacked police and other civilians should be arrested, tried as Domestic Terrorists, and put in jail.



Did you know that in Chicago in 2021, 836 people were murdered? Blacks were the victims of more than 80% of these homicides. The majority of the victims were young black men killed by other young black men. **DON'T THESE BLACK LIVES MATTER?** Where are the protesters? There are only protests and riots when a white person or a police officer kills a black person - no matter what the circumstances might be. The protesters don't care! The only black person I have heard talk about it who thinks that black people must "do better" is basketball great Charles Barkley. Here is what he had to say:



Charles Barkley

Charles Barkley weighed in on inflamed racial tensions across the country after the Floyd killing and other fatal police shootings of black men, saying black people are also to blame and have to "do better." The former NBA player and current analyst for Turner Sports, who has taken provocative stances on race

previously, said that while some police officers have “made some mistakes,” black people who commit crimes and “kill each other” are also part of the problem. “There’s a lot of people at fault. The cops have made some mistakes; black people have made some mistakes,” Barkley said. “We have to sit back and be honest with each other. Even though some cops have made some mistakes—that don’t give us the right to riot and shoot cops. We need the cops, especially in the black community.” “We as black people have got to do better.” Barkley said he respects and admires what police officers do. He said there is “some reason why there’s racial stereotypes” and added that “some of these black people out there are committing crimes.” “Let’s don’t sit there and act like all our hands are clean,” Barkley said. “We never get mad when black people kill each other, which that always has bothered me. I’ve always said we as black people, if you want respect, you’ve got to give each other respect. You can’t demand respect from white people and the cops if we don’t respect each other.”

I AGREE 100% WITH CHARLES!

A Few More Comments by Me

Tell me something – If there were no police and a couple of thugs or killers or rapists were trying to break into your home, who would you call for help? I don’t think a Social Worker is going to come to your rescue.

REMEMBER - The primary job of a police officer is to protect you and me along with our property. Who else is going to help you do this?

Have you noticed that there seems to be a big increase in the number of people (especially young people) who don’t respect authority and do pretty much what they want. These people don’t listen to their parents, teachers, or the police.



Women Yelling at Police Officer in New York City

Some of these people out on the streets protesting say they are more afraid of the police than the thugs and gangs in their cities. I find that hard to believe. My research says that the only people who fear police are the thugs, gang members, crooks, people with something to hide, and a few idiots. The law bidding general public knows how important the police are in keeping our cities safe.



I believe that all human lives matter equally – White, Black, Hispanics, Asians, and all other races.



The U.S. is a country based on LAW and ORDER. We need more police and more jails/prisons especially with all this crap going on today in our country.

Hawaii has a Weekly Newspaper called Midweek. I read it every week because it has some interesting articles. One feature in Midweek is "Hawaii's Most Wanted". It features convicted criminals that police are trying to find. Most of these crooks have multiple convictions (not just arrests but actual convictions). The thug on the right has 28 convictions. I have saw criminals with more than 40 convictions and yet they are still out on the street committing more crimes. How can this happen?

Do you know what this tells me? Hawaii police are doing a good job of catching the bad guys and gals, but our court system seems to be turning them loose. Even so, Hawaii is one of the safest states in the U.S. We have lived in our house in Mililani since 1975 and never had a break-in or anything stolen. We do have a great security system – A Rottweiler!



Our Dog Apache

Remember the 14 cities that cut funding to the police department? Well, I checked the political party of the mayor of each of these cities. Surprise! Surprise! They were all Democrats or Liberal Nonpartisan in 2020 when the cuts occurred. Well, here we are in 2023 and all of these cities except one still have a democratic mayor. The one exception is Norman, OK where incumbent mayor Brea Clark (Liberal Nonpartisan) was unseated by Larry Heikkila (Conservative Nonpartisan) in the 2022 election.

Brea Clark, the incumbent, had been mayor since 2019. She faced criticism for the city's response to the pandemic and for a vote over the city's police force that many deemed as "defunding" the police. In 2020, the city reallocated \$865,000 from a proposed NPD budget increase to community programs.

I grew up in Utah and I was surprised to see Salt Lake City on the list of cities to defund the police. Utah has always been one of the most Republican states in the nation. The current mayor, Erin Mendenhall, who took office on 6 Jan 2020, is a Democrat. Her term is up on 1 Jan 2024. It is very unlikely she will be elected mayor again since the crime rate has surged since she took office. Salt Lake City current violent crime rate is 42.8. (The US average is 22.7) - The property crime rate is 95.4. (The US average is 35.4). Note: Crime is ranked on a scale of 1 (low crime) to 100 (high crime).



Erin Mendenhall

If you want the police to shoot you, here are a few things you can do:

- 1. Refuse to follow orders and/or try to beat up the police officer.**



Protesters Attack Police in Portland, OR

- 2. Refuse to follow orders and/or pull a weapon like a gun or knife.**
- 3. Refuse to follow orders and/or try to run away.**





First Responders deserve our Praise, Respect and Thanks for keeping us all safe

Bigdrifter44@gmail.com

Bigdrifter.com