



Law Enforcement Charitable Foundation Intelligence Brief



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Remembering Fallen Officers November 2023 to May 2024

Captain Richard Louis Ruiz, Sr.	Deputy Sheriff Justin Smith	Police Officer Wisbens Antoine	Lieutenant Michael Hoosock
Sergeant Michael Moran	Deputy Sheriff Eric Anthony Minix	Officer Cody Allen	Deputy Sheriff Fred Fislar
Sergeant Michael Abbate	Deputy Sheriff Jeremy Malone	Trooper Christopher M. Gadd	Investigator Brian Herbert
Trooper Alberto Felix	Lieutenant David J. McShane	Border Patrol Agent Christopher Luna	Deputy Sheriff Alfredo "Freddy" Flores
Sergeant James Michael Russ	Trooper Joel Popp	Chief of Police William Anthony Anderson, Sr.	Police Officer Jordan Wingate
Technical Sergeant Christopher Philip Rock	Sergeant Michael "Zini" Kurinzi	Sergeant Thomas A. Sanfratello	Deputy Sheriff Tobin Bolter
Police Officer Paul Tracey	Trooper Jimmy Cenescar	Patrolman Justin Hare	Police Officer Luis M. Huesca
Sergeant Russell Earl Lavarl Jones	Trooper Zachary Fink	Detective First Grade Jonathan Diller	Investigator John Hampton Coddou, III
Deputy Sheriff Paul Martin	Chief Deputy Sheriff Ken Prorok	Deputy Sheriff Christina Musil	Police Officer Kyle Hicks
Trooper Robert M. Burney	Deputy Sheriff Timothy Tavarus Rivers	Agent Eliezer Ramos-Velez	Sergeant Ian Taylor
Chief of Police Christopher Byard Cummings	Deputy Sheriff Christopher Johnson	Lead Police Officer Adam Buckner	Police Officer Russell Croxton
Police Officer Daoud Alexander Mingo	Deputy Sheriff Greg McCowan	Deputy Sheriff Jermiyus Young	Master-at-Arms Lyndon Joel Cosgriff-Flax
Sergeant Stephen Gibson	Deputy Sheriff Rondald Bates	Correctional Sergeant Andrew John Faught	Police Officer Joshua Eyer
Police Officer Daniel P. DiDato	Patrol Officer Jonah Hernandez	Chief of Police Steven Allen Singer	Investigator Samuel Poloche
Deputy Sheriff Joshua Hamilton	Sergeant Nevada Krinkee	Lieutenant Rodney Osborne	Investigator William "Alden" Elliott
Police Officer Michael Cain Maxheimer	Deputy Sheriff Robert John Leonard	Special Agent Derek Sean Baer	Deputy U.S. Marshall Thomas M. Weeks
Court Officer Robert J. Silver	Police Officer Paul Elmstrand	Police Officer Ross Bartlett	Trooper II Marcellus E. Bethea
Police Officer Tuan Q. Le	Police Officer Matthew Henke Ruge	Police Officer Joseph McKinney	Sergeant Bill Hooser
Sergeant Marc Andrew McIntyre	Trooper First Class Chase Winston Redner	Sergeant William Marty Jackson, II	Police Officer Jacob Derbin
Sergeant Philip Dale Nix	Deputy Sheriff Charles Rivette	Police Officer Michael E. Jensen	

Names gathered by The Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc.

Law Enforcement Charitable Foundation, Inc. Officers

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Founder, James F. Fitzgerald

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Intelligence Brief

Editor

Peter Rykowski

Art Director

Joseph W. Kelly

Executive Assistant

Kris Hauser

Communications

Bill Hahn

Advertising/Circulation Manager

Julie DuFrane

Printed in the U.S.A.

P.O. Box 1241 • Appleton, WI 54912-1241

(877) 325-COPS (2677)

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Letter From LECF



As Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Charitable Foundation, I am keenly aware of the importance of accountability within law-enforcement agencies. In recent years, there has been a notable effort to increase police accountability. As seen in the widespread adoption of body-worn cameras, law-enforcement agencies across the country have embraced reforms aimed at promoting transparency and accountability. These measures have helped hold officers accountable for their actions, fostering greater trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and promoting positive change within police departments.

However, the effectiveness of these efforts can be undermined by challenges within the justice system. These include politically motivated decisions by district attorneys and the concerning trend of releasing individuals with extensive criminal histories back onto the streets. District attorneys play a critical role in pursuing justice, having the power to decide which cases to prosecute, what charges to pursue, and whether to offer plea deals. When these decisions are driven by political considerations rather than a commitment to the rule of law, the integrity of the justice system is compromised.

Political pressures can manifest in various forms, from prioritizing high-profile cases to refusing to seek justice for minor offenses in pursuit of a desired public image. In some cases, district attorneys may be influenced by public opinion, electoral considerations, or pressure from special-interest groups. When justice becomes politicized, the rights of defendants may be disregarded, disparities in charging and sentencing may arise, and public trust in the legal system may erode.

Furthermore, the release of individuals with extensive criminal histories back onto the streets severely undermines public safety

and the effectiveness of law-enforcement efforts. Despite the best efforts of police officers to apprehend offenders, individuals with lengthy criminal records may be released from custody due to “bail reform” policies or other factors. This revolving door of justice fails to hold repeat offenders accountable for their actions and perpetuates a cycle of crime and victimization.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that includes policy reforms, oversight mechanisms, and community engagement. To combat politically motivated decision-making by district attorneys, there must be robust oversight mechanisms in place to hold prosecutors accountable for their actions. This includes state legislation limiting prosecutorial discretion, transparency measures to track prosecutors’ decision-making, and fostering a culture of integrity within prosecutor’s offices.

Additionally, efforts to address recidivism and reduce the release of individuals with extensive criminal histories must be prioritized. By addressing the root causes of criminal behavior and providing individuals with needed support, we can break the cycle of recidivism and promote safer, healthier communities for all.

While strides have been made in enhancing police accountability, challenges persist within the broader justice system that must be addressed. By combating politically motivated decision-making by district attorneys and addressing the release of individuals with extensive criminal histories, we can strengthen the integrity of the justice system and the rule of law. Together, we can work toward a future in which our legal system upholds the fundamental principles that made our nation great.

— Matt Harper, Director, LECF, Inc
(920) 225-5763
mharper@lecf-inc.org



I want to help. Please contact me about:

- A grant for a family of an officer in my community killed in the line of duty
- Educational aid through FreedomProject Academy
- A community grant for protective police equipment
- An award for an outstanding officer in my community
- Adding a name to “Memorializing Fallen Officers” list
- A tax-exempt donation to LECF
- A personal endorsement for LECF
- I would like this newsletter sent to me electronically.

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Kentucky Bill Would End Recognition of Most Federal Law Enforcement

Legislation introduced in the Kentucky General Assembly this year would remove default “peace officer” status for most federal law-enforcement agencies in Kentucky — a major step toward protecting locally controlled police in the commonwealth.

Senate Bill 115 (S.B. 115) was sponsored by Senator Adrienne Southworth (R-Lawrenceburg). If enacted, it would amend Kentucky’s statute listing federal law-enforcement agencies which “shall be deemed peace officers and shall have the same powers and duties of any other peace officer in the Commonwealth.”

S.B. 115 would remove default state recognition for law-enforcement officers of nearly every listed federal law-enforcement agency, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Secret Service; U.S. Marshals Service; Drug Enforcement Administration; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; U.S. Forest Service; Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and the National Park Service. This means officers of those agencies would not be deemed “peace officers” with “the same powers and duties of any other peace officer” in Kentucky.

Under the bill, only the U.S. Mint Police of the Department of the Treasury would retain default state recognition.

In a statement, Senator Southworth wrote, “If Federal law enforcement wants to operate in KY, they need [to] respect KY jurisdiction and go through state and local law enforcement. SB 115 would remove default peace officer status for Federal law enforcement agencies.”

As *The New American* has previously reported, legislation protecting local control over law enforcement had also been introduced in Arizona and Montana, among other states.

S.B. 115 is important for several reasons. First, most of the affected federal agencies are unconstitutional. Article VI of the Constitution requires all “Laws of the United States” to be “made in Pursuance” of the Constitution in order to be considered “the

supreme Law of the Land.” Article I, Section 8 does not grant the federal government any authority over law-enforcement matters, and as reinforced by the 10th Amendment, such matters are reserved to the states and the people.

Accordingly, any federal involvement in local law enforcement is not “in Pursuance” of the Constitution — and state and local officials have a duty to enforce the Constitution by nullifying such involvement and refusing to recognize unconstitutional federal agencies.

Second, local police are under attack, and there is an effort to gradually federalize law enforcement in the United States. S.B. 115 would help ensure that law enforcement remains locally controlled and operated.

Locally controlled police are integral to a free society. When local control is diluted, accountability to local voters is also diluted, and big-government power is increased. Federal involvement in local police is dangerous; it makes the latter dependent on the former, thus allowing the federal government to insidiously take over local police departments. This is a major step toward federalized police.

Local police and county sheriffs are key to protecting citizens against tyranny — they were at the forefront of nullifying state and federal Covid/vaccine mandates, and they also have protected against state and federal gun-control measures. In countries with federalized police — such as Canada, China, and the socialist-run European countries — nothing is stopping the central government from violating people’s God-given rights.

National police are the hallmark of dictatorships and oppression around the world. The autonomy of our local police is paramount to the survival of our Republic. Kentucky legislators would be wise to support S.B. 115 and other legislation to preserve the autonomy of local police. ■

— Peter Rykowski



By removing default “peace officer” status for federal law-enforcement agencies, S.B. 115 would help protect the autonomy of local law enforcement in Kentucky.

D.C. Police Department



Oregon Ends Drug Decriminalization as Overdose Deaths Soar



Dave Killen/The Oregonian via AP

by Luis Miguel

Are the voters in blue areas beginning to experience buyer's remorse?

In March 2024, Oregon's Legislature passed a bill — which Democratic Governor Tina Kotek later signed into law — rolling back a three-year-old law decriminalizing drug possession for personal use. Once the new plan goes into effect, police will once more be authorized to arrest individuals caught in possession of drugs.

The recriminalization comes as overdose deaths in the state have soared since enforcement against drug possession was relaxed back in 2021.

Advocates of the original law argue the state is acting prematurely. Tera Hurst, the executive director of Oregon's Health Justice Recovery Alliance, makes the case that the legislation was simply “not given the time that it needed.”

But the public and politicians are hard-pressed to argue with fatal overdose statistics. From the decriminalization law's passage in 2021 to October 2023, overdose deaths went up by nearly 50 percent — from 1,171 to 1,683. According to the Oregon Health Authority, most of these deaths were the result of opioid use, particularly fentanyl.

In addition, the homeless population in Portland, the state's biggest city, rose to almost 6,300 in 2023 — a whopping 65-percent spike since 2015. These developments prompted the city's politicians to enact a 90-day fentanyl emergency in January.

Upon announcing the emergency, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, a Democrat, said that fentanyl “wreaks havoc on the people in its grips, often rendering them lifeless on our sidewalks.”

He added, “It also begets violence among those who bring this deadly

poison into our city. This devastation and trauma unfolds on the doorsteps of homes, businesses and in the streets, impacting nearly everyone in some way.”

The decriminalization law established a lax punishment of a mere \$100 ticket for being caught with drugs — a fee that could be waived if a person called a hotline to get treatment. However, Oregon's secretary of state says the hotline only got around 10 calls a month, meaning it was costing the state \$7,000 a call to keep the line staffed.

Those who support recriminalization maintain that they are not forsaking the public health-oriented approach that inspired the state to decriminalize drug possession. While the new bill will allow police to arrest individuals for drug possession, these persons will reportedly be able to avoid jail time if they accept treatment.



Pacific Northwest Opioids AP



Police officers clear out a run-down building in downtown Portland, Oregon, that was used as an open-air drug market. As homelessness and fentanyl-related deaths surge in Portland, Oregon's state government is joining other Democratic-controlled jurisdictions in reversing their leftist drug and crime policies.

Representative Jason Kropf, a Democrat who worked on the bill, explained, “We have tried to create a system where law enforcement has the ability to intervene when they see something happening on our streets and confiscate drugs, but signal to our law enforcement and district attorney and court partners that we want people directed towards a behavioral health system and to treatment.”

The decriminalization originally came into being thanks to voters by means of Ballot Measure 110, which gained 58 percent of the vote in 2020.

When the policy was advanced, it was compared to the system of Portugal, which decriminalized drugs in 2000 in response to high rates of overdose deaths in the 1990s.

Supporters of the Oregon drug decriminalization, who are dismayed to see the state end its experiment after just three years, say Oregon policymakers did not provide sufficient resources to ensure those struggling with addiction received the treatment they needed.

The ballot measure sought to enhance

care for individuals grappling with addiction by earmarking approximately \$150 million annually from the state's cannabis tax revenue to enhance and broaden access to treatment. Oregon ranked at the bottom nationally in its ability to offer addiction treatment at the time drug possession was decriminalized.

But funding for additional treatment services was not allocated until approximately 18 months following decriminalization. The Oregon Health Authority, tasked with overseeing the allocation, had to navigate the implementation of the new law amid the pandemic while collaborating with volunteers from the “substance use disorder” recovery community to distribute grants.

Kassandra Frederique, the executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, which funded Measure 110, argued, “One of the things that people miss in the conversation is the context in which this intervention is being played. It's not like the state was doing great and the state got worse. The state had nothing.”

João Goulão, the official who has over-

seen Portugal's drug treatment system since the 2000 decriminalization, also called the recent move by Oregon lawmakers knee-jerk.

“Above all, you have to be consistent in your approach and give it time to provide results,” he said. “When you're taking on something as complex as the opioid crisis, you can't really expect to see dramatic changes from one day to the next.”

Goulão went on to say, “For you to be able to claim something works, scientifically, you have to let it exist, you have to collect data, have it contrasted.... These things take time.”

Other Democrat-dominated jurisdictions are similarly scaling back their liberal drug and crime policies. For example, San Francisco voters this month approved a proposal to require screenings for people on welfare and mandate treatment for those found to be on drugs. ■

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An ambulance carries the body of NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller, who was murdered while conducting a traffic stop on March 25, 2024. Diller's murder is just one recent example of police officers being assaulted or killed by repeat offenders out on the streets because of leftist crime policies.

AP Photo/Jeanatt Moon

Cop-killers: Long Criminal Records, but Lax Treatment by DAs, Judges

by Peter Rykowski

On the evening of March 25, 2024, New York Police Department (NYPD) Officer Jonathan Diller and another officer noticed a vehicle idling in front of a bus stop in Queens. After seeing an individual suspiciously enter the vehicle, they decided to approach it. The officers questioned the individual, Guy Rivera, and his companion, and asked Rivera to exit the vehicle. When Rivera refused, the officers tried to remove him from his seat. At that point, Rivera pulled out a gun and shot Officer Diller in

the stomach, just below his bulletproof vest. Although having just been shot, Officer Diller successfully disarmed Rivera, who was also trying to shoot his partner. In critical condition, Diller was rushed to Jamaica Hospital, where he died.

Rivera, the accused killer, had a lengthy criminal record prior to this tragedy. Arrested 21 previous times, mostly for drug and assault offenses, he had served two stints in prison, most recently being released in 2021. His companion, Lindy Jones, had 14 prior arrests and served 10 years in prison from 2003 to 2013. At the time of the

shooting, he was out on bail for an April 2023 arrest for criminal possession of a firearm. New York City Mayor Eric Adams — whose own record on crime is spotty — expressed outrage that Rivera and Jones were on the streets. “April 2023. Less than a year, gun charge, he’s back on the streets,” Adams said at a press conference at Jamaica Hospital. “This is what you call not a crime problem, but a recidivist problem: same bad people doing bad things to good people. Less than a year. He’s back on the streets with another guy.”

After attending Officer Diller’s wake a few days later, former President Don-

ald Trump also pointed out the danger of soft-on-crime policies, stating, “We have to get back to law and order. We have to do a lot of things differently because this is not working. This is happening too often.”

Unfortunately, Trump is correct. Officer Diller’s murder is only one of multiple recent instances of law-enforcement officers being assaulted or killed by repeat offenders — people who shouldn’t have been out on the streets in the first place.

NYC Crime Surge

Two years earlier, New York City was rocked by another murder of a police officer. On the night of January 21, 2022, two NYPD officers were shot — one fatally — when responding to a domestic incident in Harlem. Officer Jason Rivera was killed in the shooting, while his partner, Officer Wilbert Mora, was badly injured. The perpetrator, Lashawn McNeil, who also died in the incident, had been previously arrested five times for charges such as assaulting a police officer and illegal possession of a weapon. At the time of the shooting, he was on probation for a felony drug charge.

Other instances of violence against police officers exist. On January 27, 2024, a gang of illegal aliens — who, legally, shouldn’t be in the United States to begin with — violently assaulted three NYPD officers attempting to disperse the group. Of the individuals who were arrested, five were immediately released without paying bail, with four of them fleeing New York City before being apprehended in Maricopa County, Arizona. Although the officers only received minor injuries, this incident could have been avoided had the city and state adopted a tougher approach to law enforcement.

Why are NYPD officers encountering such violence? A major reason is intentional non-enforcement of laws by New York County District Attorney Alvin Bragg. On January 3, 2022, two days after assuming office, he issued a memo ordering prosecutors to avoid prosecutions or pretrial detentions for

“minor offenses” such as shoplifting. According to data from Bragg’s office, 60 percent of felony cases were downgraded to lesser charges in 2023.

This refusal to enforce the law is exacerbated by a 2019 statewide “bail reform” law that eliminated bail for a wide range of “minor” offenses. Because of this law, many criminals who would otherwise be detained until trial are released and commit more — sometimes violent — crimes. For example, a 2023 study by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice found that 62 percent of New York City suspects with prior criminal records of any kind were re-arrested after being released without bail. Although the 2019 law has been amended several times since its original enactment, it remains detrimental to public safety.

On top of this, both New York City and State maintain “sanctuary” policies for illegal aliens, shielding them from arrest and deportation. This has caused the city and state to become magnets for illegals — who should not be in the country in the first place. Many of these aliens have gone on to commit violent

crimes against police officers and citizens alike.

Nationwide Trend

Unfortunately, New York’s pro-criminal policies are being replicated nationwide — and officers and civilians are facing the consequences.

Manhattan under Alvin Bragg’s radical policies is not an anomaly. According to a 2022 report by the Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund, the election campaigns of 75 local prosecutors in 30 states — responsible for protecting more than 72 million Americans — were financially supported by organizations connected to left-wing financier George Soros. Public records reveal that Soros has spent hundreds of billions of dollars supporting radical criminal-justice policies, and the prosecutors he has supported have dutifully implemented such policies.

Also, several states in addition to New York have limited or outright abolished bail, including California, Illinois, and New Jersey. These policies have had disastrous results. For example, according to a study by the Yolo



NYPD officers investigate the January 2022 shooting of Officers Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora by Lashawn McNeil, a repeat offender. Officer Rivera died from his injuries.



County, California, District Attorney’s Office, during an 18-month period when the county had a no-bail policy, 78 percent of suspects released without bail in the county were rearrested, compared to 46 percent of suspects who paid bail. Similarly, a 2024 report by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice found that 66 percent of suspects in New York State (excluding New York City) released without bail were rearrested.

Finally, 11 other states and hundreds of localities have enacted “sanctuary” policies for illegal aliens. As with New York City and State, these jurisdictions have attracted large numbers of illegals, many of whom have committed crimes against police officers and civilians.

Police officers are feeling the results of these policies. A notable example oc-

curred in Chicago in May 2023 when Chicago Police Department Officer Aréannah Preston was murdered in the city’s South Side while returning home after finishing her shift. Four suspects — all under the age of 20 — were arrested and charged with her murder. They had allegedly attempted to rob her but got into a gunfight after she drew her weapon. All four had prior criminal records; were arrested multiple times for charges such as carjacking, armed robbery, and assault; and had repeatedly committed crimes while on probation for previous crimes. One of them, 18-year-old Joseph Brooks, had been arrested nine times in the previous four years.

On the West Coast, Oakland, California, was shaken on the morning of December 29, 2023, when Officer Tuan

Le, a naturalized U.S. citizen who had been on the police force for more than three years, was killed while responding to a robbery. Again, four suspects were charged, all of whom had previous criminal records. Three of them — Marquise Cooper, Mark Sanders, and Sebron Russell — had previously been convicted of burglary in Philadelphia, while Cooper and Russell had also been charged with burglary in Alameda County, California, though those charges were dismissed.

Meanwhile, New York’s radical crime policies have affected the entire state. On September 6, 2023, a police officer in Yonkers, New York, was punched in the face by a man whom the officer was assisting after being found unresponsive on a sidewalk. The officer suffered a broken nose and had to take

Chicago police officers speak at the funeral of Officer Aréannah Preston. Cities nationwide — especially those with radical, soft-on-crime policies — are experiencing crime waves, harming police officers and civilians alike.



Eileen T. Meslar/Chicago Tribune via AP

leave due to his injuries. The assailant, Johnny McCray, had been convicted 13 times in the previous 20 years. However, County Court Judge Maurice Williams ordered McCray released without bail despite prosecutors asking for a \$150,000 bond.

Of course, ordinary citizens are also being harmed by jurisdictions that ignore the law. For example, CWB Chicago reported in February 2024 that in the previous six months, one suspect shoplifted 14 times in multiple stores in Downtown Chicago. Except for the first instance, he was released without bail each time under a 2021 state law eliminating cash bail. In New York City, an illegal alien from Venezuela had been arrested six times over a span of two months for multiple crimes, most of which were violent. Again, he was released without bail each time. And the murder of Georgia nursing student Laken Riley by an illegal alien — who shouldn't have been in the country to begin with — shocked the entire nation. However, he had been arrested — and released — three times previously in Athens, Georgia, including for driving under the influence. None of these crimes would have happened if the authorities had faithfully enforced the law.

Countless other examples across the country could be given. However, those listed above are sufficient to illustrate the damage rogue prosecutors, left-wing lawmakers, and sanctuary jurisdictions have done to their communities. It is essential that these pro-criminal policies be reversed.

Taking Action

What can be done to stop and reverse the destructive policies wreaking havoc in American communities? Already, push-back against these policies has begun. For example, radical district attorneys in St. Louis, San Francisco, and elsewhere have been removed or pressured to resign from office due to their pro-criminal policies. Meanwhile, some states, such as Texas and Georgia, have passed legislation restricting prosecutors' and judges' ability to ignore or

subvert the law. And multiple states have banned sanctuary cities, helping prevent localities from becoming magnets for illegal aliens — and increased crime.

However, much more work remains to be done, since dozens of rogue prosecutors and judges, along with radical bail and “sanctuary” laws in multiple states and localities, remain in place.

We also face the added challenge of avoiding false solutions that — while appearing promising at first — could worsen these policies, along with our nation's overall state of affairs. These include various proposals to increase federal oversight or control of local law enforcement. Although promoted as a way to rein in rogue prosecutors and soft-on-crime policies, such federalization is unconstitutional and could backfire. Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution clearly lists the specific powers delegated to Congress, and nowhere is domestic law enforcement listed. Such powers are reserved to the states and, by extension,

localities. Furthermore, centralization dilutes local control and accountability while strengthening big-government power. The federal government could easily turn around and impose the same soft-on-crime policies on localities that it originally sought to deter.

To restore sound law-enforcement policies while avoiding false solutions, an informed and activated electorate is needed. The John Birch Society — the sister organization of the Law Enforcement Charitable Foundation — works tirelessly to educate Americans and motivate them to action. Since 1963, the JBS has operated its Support Your Local Police campaign, which seeks to protect local, independent police while resisting radical policies at odds with our nation's founding values. By joining these efforts and creating an educated electorate, we can restore law-enforcement policies that protect our communities and align with fundamental American principles. ■



NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller's wife and son attend his funeral on March 30, 2024. To prevent such needless deaths, Americans must get involved to reverse soft-on-crime policies and support locally controlled police.



Man's Best Friend



Photo courtesy: Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office

Iro, a K-9 handled by Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Deputy Blaine Evans, was severely wounded while responding to a critical incident. With the support of the community, he is on the road to recovery.

by Kris Hauser

Those of us who have owned a dog understand why we call them “man’s best friend.”

“Owned” is not the right word. A dog is part of the family, and anyone who has had a dog in his family understands this very well.

A dog’s love is unconditional. They are trusted companions and extremely loyal. Dogs are eager to please and therefore are fast learners. They can be trained in many ways besides the obvious “sit,” “stay,” and “down.” Areas where dogs shine the brightest include assisting people with disabilities, herding livestock, search and rescue, therapy, transporting people and

things across long distances, hunting, the military, and law enforcement.

Law-enforcement dogs — also known as K-9 police dogs — are uniquely trained to aid law-enforcement officers. These dogs must pass basic obedience training and respond to and obey the commands of their handler without hesitation. This is imperative in critical incidents; it could be the difference between life and death.

K-9 dogs are a huge asset to police departments. A well-trained K-9 will not cause severe injuries. It can be called back at any time during a critical incident and can help encourage a subject to comply without resistance. A dog can cover ground much faster than we can. It will protect its handler. Its

keen sense of smell is an asset when on the heels of a suspect or sniffing out drugs. It can also apprehend a suspect who is trying to escape the police. These are just some of the benefits of using a K-9 police dog.

Police K-9s have two main classifications. The first is patrol. These dogs provide patrol duties such as officer protection, suspect apprehension, and security in sensitive locations. The second classification is detection. These dogs find narcotics or explosives. They are specifically trained to detect one or the other. Other areas of detection are tracking, locating lost persons, and cadaver detection. Police K-9s serve on the force for an average of 6-9 years.



Photo courtesy: Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office



Iro recovers from his injuries.

I would like to share with you the story of a K-9 who was critically wounded in the line of duty and his amazing recovery. His name is Iro.

On the early morning of October 14, 2023, “officers with the Fond du Lac Police Department and deputies with the Fond du Lac County Sheriff’s Office responded to a disturbance ... on the 500 block of Drury Place” in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, according to a Wisconsin Department of Justice press release.

A woman had escaped a house in the 500 block of Dury Place. She told the police that she had been sexually abused and held hostage by 33-year-old Kyle Massie. The victim also told the police that he had loaded weapons.

Deputy Blaine Evans and his K-9 partner, Iro, responded to the call, even though Deputy Evans had only five minutes remaining in his shift. He spotted Massie in a vehicle and tried to pull him over with his sirens on. Massie did not stop and instead drove to his home. Deputy Evans performed a precision immobilization technique (PIT) maneuver as Massie pulled into the driveway, and

Massie collided into the partially open garage door. Deputy Evans and K-9 Iro then approached Massie’s vehicle.

When Massie exited the vehicle, he pulled out an AR-style rifle. Deputy Evans gave Massie verbal commands to drop his weapon, but he did not comply. Deputy Evans then fired at Massie, and Iro was released to help apprehend him. Massie fired his weapon at Iro, striking him three to five times.

At a press conference following the incident, Fond du Lac County Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt said, “I am sure he did not anticipate a dog or a K-9 entering the garage. That distraction gave Blaine time to return fire, time to reposition, time to get to better cover, and undoubtedly saved Blaine’s life.”

Iro was found in the garage lying in a pool of his own blood. He had severe wounds and significant trauma to his chest, torso, and both right legs, and his right rear leg had been shattered and severely wounded. This was a sight no one wanted to see.

Deputy Evans and other law-enforcement officers acted quickly to help the

fallen K-9. Evans reportedly said, “You saved Dad, and we have to save you.” The bond between a dog and its owner is a strong one. As mentioned earlier, dogs are part of the family. We love them as we would love a family member, and they return that love tenfold — even if it means laying their life on the line for their owner or handler.

During the critical incident, Massie got back into his vehicle and drove out of the garage, slamming into Evan’s squad car. “He could have surrendered at that moment, but he chose to get back in the car, put it in reverse, crash back through the garage door, and crash into the front of the squad car that’s blocking him in the driveway,” Sheriff Waldschmidt said.

This is when Massie decided to end his life by shooting himself. The law-enforcement officers on site rushed to give him aid, but their efforts were to no avail; he died from his self-inflicted injury.

Deputy Evans believes that Massie got into his vehicle armed with the AR-style rifle for one reason only: to hunt down his hostage and kill her.

Thankfully, no other people were injured.

On March 25, 2024, Fond du Lac County District Attorney Eric Toney stated that no charges would be filed against Deputy Evans. He said, “There is no basis to consider or issue criminal charges in this circumstance against Deputy Evans or any other law-enforcement officer that assisted. I found his actions were privileged and self-defense.”

Deputy Evans believes Iro saved his life. The distraction Iro caused allowed Deputy Evans to get in a position to shield himself and have a better chance of hitting his target should the need arise — which it did.

This incident gained much public attention because of Iro’s injuries. He was quickly transported to a veterinary hospital in the Appleton area and underwent multiple surgeries. Waldschmidt said that “by the grace of God,” Iro was on the road to recovery.

Less than a week after being wounded,



Photo courtesy: Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff's deputies and hospital staff watch as Iro is released from the BluePearl Pet Hospital in Grand Chute, Wisconsin, nearly a week after being severely injured.

Iro was released from veterinary care. He returned home with Deputy Evans.

Many fellow deputies and veterinary staff members waited outside as Iro walked out of the clinic. They cheered and applauded as he walked past everyone.

Iro was still bandaged, casted, and limping. But he was walking — at times enthusiastically — with little assistance through the crowd that gathered to witness his release. To his enjoyment, some of the well-wishers petted and scratched him.

Sheriff Waldschmidt said Iro's release came "after a week of making incredible strides in his recovery." He continued, "This was much earlier than anyone predicted, but Iro met all of the metrics necessary for release and continues to progress every day. The staff and surgical team at this hospital have been amazing. Without them, Iro would not be with us today. There is a lot of rehabilitation and healing still ahead, but Iro is one tough K9 that has become not only a source of inspiration and strength for our staff, but for our community and far beyond."

Iro continues to heal at home with Deputy Evans. He does have to visit the vet a few times a week for checkups. His wounds are continuing to heal nicely, and

many of the staples have been removed. He is getting stronger every day and is enjoying the gifts so many people have given him during his recovery.

There has been such an outpouring of love and concern for Iro. It is heartwarming, and it goes a long way toward helping the brave police dog continue to heal.

Iro's surgery was made possible by a fellow dog named Dwyer. Dwyer is a yellow labrador owned by one of the technicians at the veterinary hospital where Iro was being cared for.

Thankfully, Dwyer's blood type was compatible with Iro's. This allowed the lab to donate his blood, helping raise Iro's blood count enough to undergo surgery. A big thank you to Dwyer!

Four months after Iro was critically wounded in the line of duty, he got his leg brace removed and was cleared to do his physical therapy without it. This is a huge step in Iro's recovery.

According to the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office in February, Iro has been working with Deputy Evans "seven days a week on specific rehabilitation exercises, and they travel to the UW Veterinary Hospital twice a week for additional rehab."

Officials say that while Iro has a way

to go in his recovery, all signs point in the right direction.

With the support of an amazing team of doctors, technicians, friends, and family, Iro is destined to continue to do wonderful things. We realize how vital it is to have a strong support team — it is our lifeline. It is often the difference between healing and regression, and in some cases, between life and death.

Iro is blessed to have this support from so many people, including Deputy Evans, other law-enforcement officials, the veterinary staff, friends, family, and everyone following his story who are concerned for his well-being. Those who know Iro probably feel like they are the ones who are blessed.

A huge shoutout to the amazing outpouring of love and concern for Iro. Thank you to all those who donated to help with Iro's medical bills. The Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office's K-9 program is completely funded by donations. The community, including some local businesses, came together to help with the costs.

Iro's spirit and unwavering dedication to duty serve as a testimony to the bravery of all our four-legged heroes. ■



Florida, Tennessee

Limit Civilian Review Board Powers

by Peter Rykowski

In small victories for local law enforcement, Florida and Tennessee have enacted legislation limiting the powers of civilian review boards.

Especially over the last decade, local law enforcement has been under attack — both from anti-police activists and federal-government encroachments — and the two states' new laws represent small steps toward restoring the ability of local police departments to enforce the law.

In Tennessee, Governor Bill Lee signed into law Senate Bill No. 591 (S.B. 591) on May 17, 2023. Passed by near-party-line votes in the state House and Senate, this law eliminated local community oversight boards, several of which had subpoena powers and could be created via referendums rather than the traditional lawmaking process.

Under S.B. 591, local governments could recreate these boards as “police advisory and review committees” via two-thirds votes at two separate meetings. However, these reconstituted boards lack the power to independently investigate complaints against police officers and instead must work with

local municipal and internal police oversight authorities to review allegations of misconduct.

Representative Elaine Davis (R-Knoxville), a sponsor of the legislation, said during a subcommittee hearing that S.B. 591 was intended “to ensure a timely, fair, and objective review of citizen complaints while protecting the individual rights of individual law-enforcement officers.”

Meanwhile, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law House Bill 601 (H.B. 601) — which unanimously passed the Senate and passed the House by an 81-28 vote — on April 12, 2024.

Under this bill, existing civilian oversight boards must be reestablished under the county sheriff, who now can appoint several board members. Furthermore, the boards are prohibited from investigating allegations against individual police and correctional officers, but may instead “review the policies and procedures of [a Sheriff’s office] and its subdivisions.”

As originally introduced, H.B. 601 would have entirely eliminated Florida’s civilian oversight boards, but the Florida Legislature amended the bill to merely limit their powers.

According to the *Tallahassee Democrat*, about half of Florida’s existing civilian oversight boards were created following the death of George Floyd in 2020.

Upon signing H.B. 601, Governor DeSantis said that under the bill, oversight boards are no longer “free to use law enforcement as political piñatas. They’re not free to create false narratives. They’re not free to try to make it miserable to live or to work in uniform, and these things are highly political.”

Representative Wyman Duggan (R-Jacksonville) agreed, stating, “What they cannot do is use them as a vehicle to persecute our law enforcement officers, which to many of these organizations is the only utility that they think that organization has.”

Problems With Civilian Review Boards

Civilian review boards may sound like a good idea to hold police accountable, but they are redundant and unduly impede legitimate law-enforcement activities.

As *The New American* magazine reported in 2022:

We already have legitimate mechanisms in place to deal with issues of



AP Images

Civilian review boards have long been supported by leftists and anti-police activists in order to control local police departments and hinder their ability to maintain order. In this photo, Tim Stevens (center) of the Black Political Empowerment Project speaks with Khalid Raheem about their shared support for establishing a civilian review board in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

police corruption, brutality, or other misbehavior. Our system of mayors, city councils, county commissions, district attorneys, county grand juries, governors, state legislatures, and state attorneys general provides the proper avenues for redress of grievances against police officers, officials, or departments that violate the rights of the people. Like everything else in this imperfect, fallen world, this system is imperfect, but it is far superior to the proposed review boards.

Furthermore, the context and operations of civilian review boards make them problematic. As *TNA* reported in 2019:

CRBs [civilian review boards] are given free rein to make up their own rules and define their own powers. In a jury trial, the power is divided between the prosecutor, the defense, the judge, and the jury. A CRB acts as prosecutor, judge, and jury while the “defense” is usually non-existent. Fortunately, its power stops short of that of executioner....

This is the climate in which CRBs are created: distrust, frustration, and anger based on the false narrative that all police are corrupt and city officials will not hold them accountable.

Evidence of this is seen in the fact that when CRBs are impaneled, they are populated by the very people who see the police as enemies....

The origins of civilian review boards are equally disturbing. They were first advocated in the 1930s by the Communist Party USA as a way for the party to exert control over local police departments at the expense of local elected officials.

Their subsequent history shows that such boards have unduly restricted police departments from enforcing criminal laws. As *TNA* reports:

“Beginning with Philadelphia in 1958 a few cities concluded to experiment with the highly controversial idea of civilian police review boards,” [W. Cleon] Skousen wrote. “However, the results were soon devastatingly evident. Not only did the police find such boards to be guilty of biased decisions but the impact on police morale was so virulent that it left certain phases of police service an empty shell. In fact, when the Communist-inspired race riots broke out in 1964, it seemed significant that they were launched in some of these very cities.”

An FBI investigation of the 1965 riots gave a sobering warning: “Where

there is an outside civilian review board the restraint of the police was so great that effective action against the rioters appeared to be impossible.” The FBI investigators found, “In one city with such an outside review board, police action was so ineffective that the police were ordered to withdraw ... limit themselves to attempting to prevent the riot from spreading. In another such city the police frankly admitted the making of arrests was ‘unfeasible’ and mob action continued without deterrence.” Does this sound familiar to what we saw more recently in Baltimore, Seattle, Portland, Oakland, New York City, and dozens of other ravaged cities?

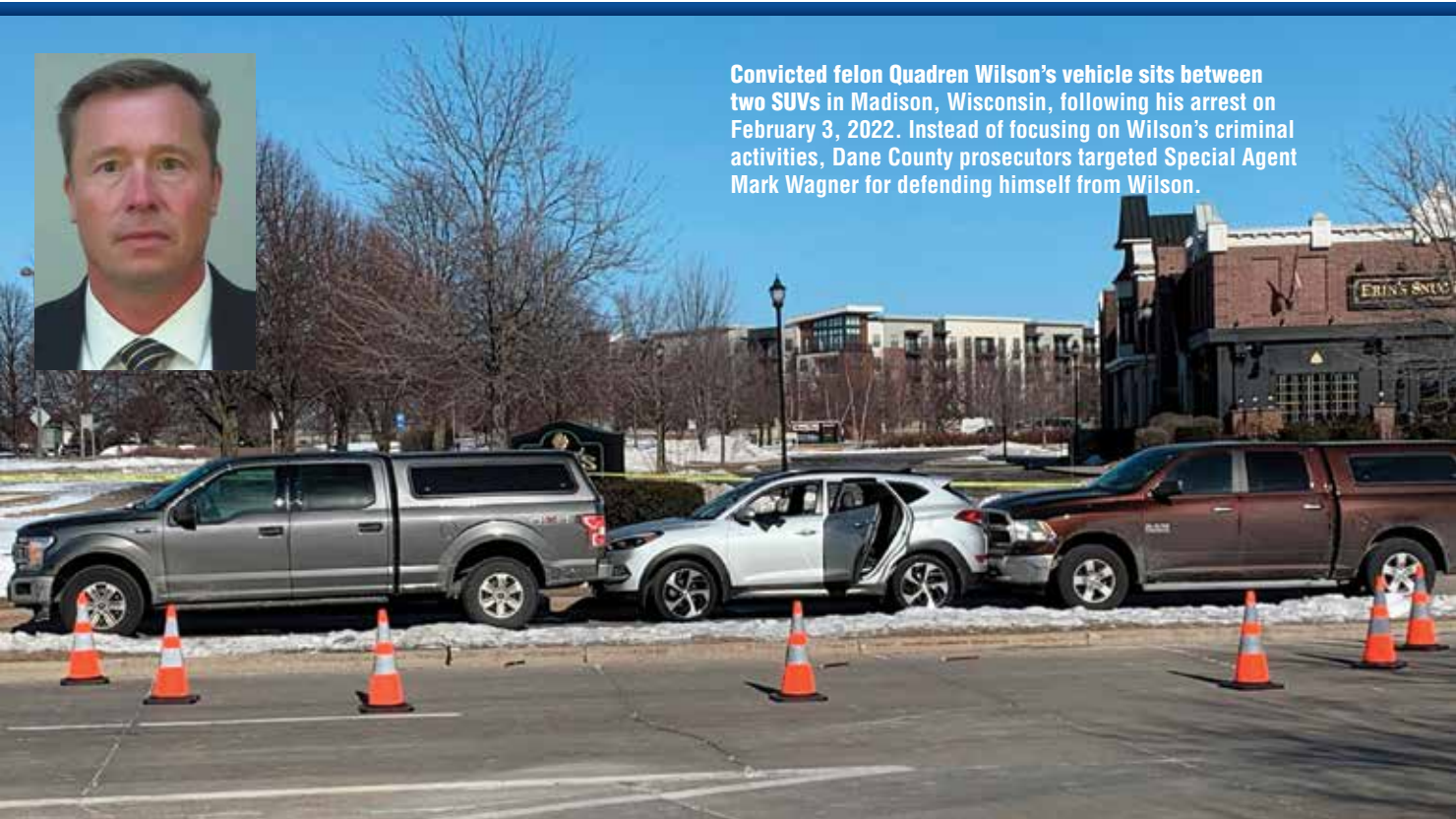
S.B. 591 in Tennessee and H.B. 601 in Florida are initial steps toward rolling back civilian review boards, which do more to unduly restrict local police than increase transparency. These states — and others — would be wise to enact further legislation protecting local law enforcement from anti-police activists from below and unconstitutional federal usurpations from above. ■

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Convicted felon Quadren Wilson’s vehicle sits between two SUVs in Madison, Wisconsin, following his arrest on February 3, 2022. Instead of focusing on Wilson’s criminal activities, Dane County prosecutors targeted Special Agent Mark Wagner for defending himself from Wilson.

Chris Rickett/Wisconsin State Journal via AP)



A Politically Motivated Assault on Law Enforcement?

by *Christian Gomez*

In today’s polarized political landscape, especially in localities where elected officials embrace the mantra of “Defund the Police,” the challenges facing law-enforcement officers are more pronounced than ever. One such locality that fits this description is Dane County, Wisconsin, where the state’s capital city of Madison is located. In 2022, Mark Wagner, a special agent and seasoned veteran of the Wisconsin Department of Justice’s Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), was charged with recklessly endangering safety using a dangerous weapon during the capture of then-38-year-old violent convicted felon Quadren Wilson. Special Agent

Wagner was acquitted by a jury in less than two hours on March 28, 2024. But were these charges the result of due diligence on the part of the prosecution or merely a politically motivated assault on law enforcement?

First, it is necessary to evaluate what happened leading up to the charges against Agent Wagner. On the morning of February 3, 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections issued an arrest warrant for Wilson for violating his parole. Wilson had been released on extended supervision two years earlier, in February 2020, after serving over a year in prison for second-degree reckless endangerment. Wilson was charged with dealing a mixture of fentanyl and acetylfentanyl to a man who was found passed out in the

bathroom of a McDonald’s restaurant in the Town of Blooming Grove, Wisconsin, on April 9, 2021. The man was pronounced dead an hour after police arrived on the scene. An autopsy subsequently revealed the cause of death to be the result of the combined effects of fentanyl, acetylfentanyl, gabapentin, methadone, chlorthalidone, and ethanol.

The same day the warrant was issued for Wilson in connection with the man’s death, he was spotted driving in Madison. Law-enforcement vehicles from multiple jurisdictions intercepted Wilson’s car and pinned it between two Wisconsin DOJ trucks to prevent the suspect from fleeing (Wilson was known for fleeing from police). Among the officers in the Wisconsin DOJ vehicles was Special Agent



Wagner, who was part of the taskforce searching to arrest Wilson for selling the fentanyl-acetylfentanyl mixture.

Despite being on parole, Wilson’s rap sheet included 26 prior convictions ranging from drug-related offenses to shooting another person. The arresting officers, including Agent Wagner, were well aware of Wilson’s violent pedigree. Agent Wagner got out of his vehicle and was armed with a DCI-issued SIG Sauer P320 9mm firearm and a ballistic shield as he moved toward Wilson’s car.

According to an interview with the Dane County Sheriff’s Office, Agent Wagner told detectives that he “began giving verbal commands” as he moved toward Wilson’s car. “Police, police, police, let’s see your hands, let’s see your hands,” Wagner recalled yelling. When Wagner testified in his own defense in March 2024, he said that he heard Wilson’s car tires squealing and engine revving, suggesting he was trying to flee. Wagner also recounted seeing Wilson’s right hand fidgeting by the center consol while his left arm was between his legs as though he were reaching for something under the driver’s seat. Then, according to Wagner, Wilson put both of his forearms together and began to sit up in his seat as though he was getting ready to shoot him and the other officers. Wagner claimed to have felt something hit his shield, which pushed him to the ground. “I’ve never in all the operations I’ve been on with the shield, I’ve never been knocked back with that much force in my entire career that it actually forcefully pushed me back onto the ground,” Wagner testified. At the same time, he heard a gunshot and thought he had been shot by Wilson. In response, Wagner shot back at the suspect.

Although investigators found no evidence that Wilson was armed, Wagner and other officers claimed they saw Wilson holding a square object that “looked like the muzzle of a gun.” Wagner and his colleagues were compelled to make split-second decisions to ensure both their safety and that of the public. In the haste of immediate danger, Agent Wagner attempted to neutralize the threat.



Special Agent Wagner (center) attends a court hearing on January 5, 2023. Charged by Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne with recklessly endangering safety, a jury quickly acquitted Wagner on March 28, 2024.

Wilson was ambulated to a hospital with gunshot wounds and transferred to the custody of the Dane County Jail a day after having surgery. Surgeons removed two bullets and reported that Wilson had been shot five times. At the time, authorities had not made public the identities of the agents and officers involved in the shooting. Nevertheless, Wilson’s family and community activists quickly framed it as a case of an unarmed black man who was shot by white police officers.

On February 9, 2022, members of Wilson’s family and Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Black Panther activists, holding “Stop Police Brutality” signs, protested at the location of the shooting and arrest. “As you can see, they haven’t identified any of the officers. Have they, have they?” said Darryl Farmer, who goes by the name “King Rick,” at a press conference. An advocate for Wilson, King Rick is also the founder and

leader of the Original Black Panthers of Milwaukee (OBPM). “Why is that? This happened a week ago. A week ago. That’s telling me that they’re hiding something. You got the Dane County Sheriff’s Office saying, ‘Well, we weren’t involved in the shooting.’ You got the fake Madison Police Department [saying], ‘Oh, we weren’t involved in the shooting,’” King Rick yelled.

The OBPM was founded in 2015 after the original Milwaukee chapter of the Black Panthers disbanded in the 1980s. Black Panthers were known for their militant support of “revolution” and other subversive, far-left causes, such as the overthrow of capitalism. Like the Black Panthers, members of the OBPM engage in similar intimidation tactics. For instance, in December 2016, OBPM members openly carried firearms in the streets of Milwaukee, including one who “was unsafely handling a firearm,” according to the Milwaukee Police Department.

Ed Treleven/Wisconsin State Journal via AP

King Rick said at the press conference, “This young brother was shot in his back five times,” and shouted, “With his hands up.” The OBPM leader then gave the following warning: “I’m going to tell you, Dane County, this is your wakeup call. This is your wakeup call. You seen what happened across America when a young black male is assassinated or almost assassinated. This was an assassination attempt on a young brother.” He added, “I traveled across the country fighting against racism, oppression, injustice, inequality, and against police brutality. And I’m here, today, to put Dane County on notice.”

Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne heeded that notice. On September 22, 2022, six months after the shooting and arrest of Wilson, District Attorney Ozanne charged Agent Wagner with second-degree recklessly endangering safety — a Class G felony in Wisconsin that carries a 10-year maximum prison sentence if convicted.

In 2014, Ozanne was an unsuccessful Democratic candidate for attorney general of Wisconsin. He also faced criticism over alleged “racial disparities” in Dane County. In July 2020, when protesters descended on the front lawn of his house demanding radical reforms, Ozanne heard them, according to the Madison-based *Capital Times* newspaper. “When you talk about the need for change so that people of color are treated equitably, I hear you.... When you call me a racist until 1:00 a.m. and blast music outside my house, I hear you,” Ozanne said in a statement the next day, the *Times* reported.

According to the *Times*, “After a decade with that power, Ozanne’s record shows little evidence he has worked to improve racial disparities in any meaningful way, former employees, defense attorneys and other officials say.” Given Ozanne’s previous political aspirations, this raises the question of whether the charges against Agent Wagner were a politically motivated ploy to win over the support of activists clamoring for “racial justice.”

While BLM, Black Panthers, leftist



Adobe Stock / By JP Photography

The prosecution of Special Agent Wagner happened during a surge in anti-police activity, including rogue district attorneys and calls to “defund the police” — especially in major cities such as Madison, Wisconsin.

agitators, and much of the media focus their narratives on police accountability, that is where the accountability ends, as DAs are not held to the same level of scrutiny as law-enforcement officers. Had the same incident occurred in any of the 71 other counties in Wisconsin — or most other counties in the United States — it is unlikely that Agent Wagner would have been charged.

The political undertones of Wagner’s prosecution were unmistakable, as evidenced by the broader social context of where the case unfolded — in the deeply left-wing city of Madison, less than 270 miles away from Minneapolis, where George Floyd died two years earlier. Over the past decade, there’s been a notable increase in anti-law-enforcement movements, particularly in major cities where protesters demand “Defund the

Police.” And many politicians in those jurisdictions have intensified their scrutiny of law-enforcement methods and practices, wedging community distrust of local police and other law-enforcement agencies. When this happens, it becomes increasingly difficult for law-enforcement personnel to carry out their job effectively, and it puts their safety in even greater risk.

Ultimately at the center of Wagner’s case is the issue of accountability within the criminal-justice system. While law-enforcement officers are held to exacting standards of conduct and can face severe repercussions for the slightest misstep, district attorneys such as Ozanne enjoy a level of immunity that shields them from most scrutiny and censure. This glaring asymmetry of accountability severely undermines law enforcement and puts into



question the credibility of our legal system. District attorneys are entrusted to uphold the law, not to be agents of “change” or succumb to the feral demands of politically charged community agitators.

As professionals entrusted to uphold the rule of law, it behooves the law-enforcement community to stand up for officers such as Wagner, who put their lives on the line daily to keep our local communities safe. We ought not to allow political opportunists to weaponize the justice system for their own potential gain.

The prosecution of Mark Wagner elicits many important questions about the weaponization of government and the undermining of law enforcement. The actions of district attorneys ought not to be above the law or without accountability. Just as citizens in any given municipality ought to be able to live in a safe community, law-enforcement officers ought to be able to work in a safe and supportive environment. ■



Quadren Wilson is sentenced to three years in prison on May 9, 2022.

Ed Treleven/Wisconsin State Journal via AP

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:13

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Michael Brown's father (center) attends a public hearing in Ferguson, Missouri, in February 2016. Ten years after Brown's death, leftist activists continue to commemorate his death — and ignore his criminal behavior.



David Carson/St. Louis Post-Dispatch via AP

Michael Brown Trends on X; Posts Continue Lie That Cop Killed “Gentle Giant” for No Reason

by R. Cort Kirkwood

Birthday memories of deceased thug Michael Brown trended on X on May 20.

He would have been 28 years old, leftist users said, if only the cop hadn't killed him, a crime for which Darren Wilson was never prosecuted.

What the Brown mourners conveniently forgot: After he was caught stealing from a convenience store, Brown attacked the cop, who defended himself.

Also omitted from the lamentations:

The Obama Justice Department cleared Wilson of wrongdoing.

“Rest in Power”

Brown's death famously originated the “Hands Up, Don't Shoot” narrative that gripped a credulous nation, not least racial activists who never met a thug they didn't like.

But that narrative was a lie, as is the narrative — complete with the requisite graduation photo — trending on X.

“Happy birthday, Michael Brown,” Color of Change wrote:

He would have turned 28 today.

He had graduated from Normandy High School in St. Louis County just eight days before he was killed by the police.

Rest in power, Michael Brown.

Observing that Brown's death started the Black Lives Matter scam, When We All Vote claimed that “Michael should still be here. Happy heavenly birthday, king.”

“King” of what, the post didn't say.

Black Entertainment Television offered this:



Anti-police protesters demonstrate in Ferguson, Missouri, following a city council meeting.

David Carson/St. Louis Post-Dispatch via AP

Today, we're honoring the life of Michael Brown, Jr. on his 28th birthday. His mother reflected on him as being courageous, outgoing, loved people, animals, and being soft spoken. In his honor, we're still fighting for justice. Black boys should be able to grow into Black men in peace. Let us take a moment to reflect as we send his family love and support. He may be gone, but he will never be forgotten. Happy Birthday and Rest in Power, King.

"Today, Michael Brown would've turned 28 years old," wrote lawyer Ben Crump, who somehow shows up at the scene of every such case. "Instead, Michael was shot and killed by a police officer in Ferguson (MO) when he was just 18-yo. This young Black man never got a chance at life. Today, we remember his story and send love to his family. Rest In Power."

The NAACP offered similar sentiments, while U.S. Representative Cori Bush (D-Mo.) observed that she is re-

introducing the Michael Brown Bill, which would fleece the taxpayers of \$100 million "to help survivors of police violence."

The disgraced and discredited Southern Poverty Law Center recalled that "his life ended during an altercation with a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. The unarmed Black teen was fatally shot 12 times. The officer who killed Brown was never prosecuted."

To their credit, those users didn't claim Wilson murdered Brown, as so many have before, including lawyers who know better.

"Michael Brown's murder forever changed Ferguson and America," wrote then-presidential candidate and former prosecutor Kamala Harris. "His tragic death sparked a desperately needed conversation and a nationwide movement. We must fight for stronger accountability and racial equity in our justice system."

U.S. Senator and Pretendian Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) — also a lawyer — claimed the same thing:

5 years ago Michael Brown was murdered by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. Michael was unarmed yet he was shot 6 times. I stand with activists and organizers who continue the fight for justice for Michael. We must confront systemic racism and police violence head on.

And Democratic U.S. Representative Rashida Tlaib of Michigan claimed Brown's death was "state-sponsored murder."

Brown Was a Thug and a Thief Who Attacked a Cop

But Brown's death wasn't "state-sponsored" or any other kind of murder.

A grand jury refused to indict Wilson in 2015. The federal Justice Department also looked at the case; they not only exonerated Wilson of "murder," but also convicted Brown of assaulting the cop.

After he robbed the convenience store — surveillance video shows the "gentle giant" assaulting the clerk — Brown was walk-

ing in the middle of the street when Wilson showed up and ordered him off the street.

Instead, Brown attacked Wilson in his SUV. As Wilson defended himself, he drew his gun because he could not reach a “less lethal” weapon, the DOJ report concluded. He shot Brown in the hand.

Brown fled, and Wilson chased him, the report continued, after which Brown — 6 feet, 4 inches tall and 292 pounds — turned and charged Wilson to attack him.

Witness reports conflicted with the evidence at the scene, the report concluded, not least the phony “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot” lie:

Brown ran at least 180 feet away from the SUV ... then turned around and came back toward Wilson, falling to his death approximately 21.6 feet west of the blood in the roadway. Those witness accounts stating that Brown never moved back toward Wilson could not be relied upon in a prosecution because their accounts cannot be reconciled with the DNA bloodstain evidence and other credible witness accounts.

Several witnesses stated that Brown appeared to pose a physical threat to Wilson as he moved toward Wilson. According to these witnesses, who are corroborated by blood evidence in the roadway, as Brown continued to move toward Wilson, Wilson fired at Brown in what appeared to be self-defense and stopped firing once Brown fell to the ground. Wilson stated that he feared Brown would again assault him because of Brown’s conduct at the SUV and because as Brown moved toward him, Wilson saw Brown reach his right hand under his t-shirt into what appeared to be his waistband. There is no evidence upon which prosecutors can rely to disprove Wilson’s stated subjective belief that he feared for his safety....

Although there are several individuals who have stated that Brown held his hands up in an unambiguous sign of surrender prior to Wilson shooting him dead, their accounts do not support a prosecution.... Some



AP Photo/Chris Wedel, Robert Cohen

Michael Brown’s death in 2014 unleashed a wave of violence and property damage in Ferguson, Missouri. Ten years later, left-wing activists are still promoting false, anti-police narratives surrounding his death.

of those accounts are inaccurate because they are inconsistent with the physical and forensic evidence; some of those accounts are materially inconsistent with that witness’s own prior statements.... Certain other witnesses who originally stated Brown had his hands up in surrender recanted their original accounts, admitting that they did not witness the shooting or parts of it, despite what they initially reported either to federal or local law enforcement or to the media. Prosecutors did not rely on those accounts when making a prosecutive decision.

While credible witnesses gave varying accounts of exactly what Brown was doing with his hands as he moved toward Wilson ... they all establish that Brown was moving toward Wilson when Wilson shot him.

Wilson was innocent, which is why he was “never prosecuted.” Brown was guilty, and he wasn’t just “killed” — he was killed *while attacking a cop*.

Yet the lie continues. ■

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Managing Partner, Founder IAG Wealth Partners

**IAG Wealth Partners, LLC
N19 W24200 Riverwood Dr.
Suite 150
Waukesha, WI 53188**

**262.446.8150
iagwealthpartners.com**



Jason Ganiere, CFP
Financial Advisor, Ret. Law Enforcement

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