From: Mark
To: Police Civilian Oversight Board
Subject: Letter to your new IPM
Date: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:11:20 AM

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Police Civilian Oversight Board:

I am not quite qualified to apply for the Independent Police Monitor role, but I would happy to speak with whoever you hire.

I currently manage seven state parks in rural NE Oregon. My folks live in Green Bay and my mother is in poor health. Therefore, I am moving to GB soon; perhaps willing to relocate to the Madison area in a year or so. It is difficult to leave my current position in which I have so much invested. I work often with archeologists and manage 10k acres of scattered lands with deep cultural history ..probably the steepest decent of the Oregon Trail, visible Trail ruts, grave sights, camps, and wagon train used springs. All unadvertised to the public. I work closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Nation in keeping some archeological sights

highly protected. I am a history nerd and love this area.

I have been a parks management professional for 14 years. Four in Oregon and ten in Adams County WI. I have worked in the parks profession steadily since college starting with two summer seasons interning as a late night enforcement park ranger in Wausau in the late 90's. My career goal at the time was to obtain a low paying job that allowed me to hike for a living. After obtaining a degree in Forest Recreation from UWSP, I was hired as a North Carolina State Ranger, and as a condition of employment, graduated from the Durham Police Academy. I recall being yelled at twice during the academy: on the first day when all cadets introduced themselves and stated why they wanted to be a police officer, I said that I had never considered being a police officer. Captain Bond did not like that answer. He achieved getting a couple other cadets to quit on day one because most answers to his

question were open game. Second yelling: "This is not debate class park ranger." I worked as a sworn law enforcement officer for 17 years after the academy. In retrospect, I recommend at least a month of debate class mixed into a six month police academy. Additionally, law enforcement agencies should seek to recruit police officers who do not necessarily want to be police officers, but have physical ability, compassion, and can make prompt logical decisions under stressful, and recognizably dangerous, conditions.

I did not have to wear a body camera and have considered writing an opinion editorial regarding the hidden dangers of requiring officers to record all contacts. Somewhere in that op-ed I will be sure to mention that I used to work lone 12-hour overnight shifts in a small Central Wisconsin town known for having high rates of poverty, poor mental and physical health, and subsequent crime. If I had been required to wear a camera, more

people would have gone to jail. Additionally in the op-ed, I will be sure to mention that I was a certified criminal justice instructor, sat through hundreds of hours of Vance County NC Court, and attended closed door FOP meetings in the same county. I used to help teach traffic law enforcement to academy cadets. I understand the desire for cameras. In my current position, I sometimes have interactions with Oregon State Troopers and share my opinion on body cameras with them. Responses vary. I tell them that I have been to Lambeau Field several times and witnessed passionate differing opinions, despite video evidence from several million dollar cameras pointed at the dispute. Some people see what they want to see. Go wear a $300 dollar camera, make split second decisions under chaos, be perfect, and know that your supervisor is probably the only person who will review your camera footage …although national media might take an interest. I also like to ask LE officers what they would do should a law be passed that

states everyone who wears yellow shoes is to be arrested. In fact, that would be my first question if I were hiring law enforcement officers. I believe it would be a far more benifical way of reducing unwanted cadets as opposed to the paramilitary approach of screaming.

Bottom line y'all, I'm a parks dude. I climb mountains and sleep alone in a hammock in the wilderness whenever possible; the primary reason I moved to Oregon. I'm not a cop, never wanted to be cop, but I backdoored the profession for 17 years, received even more training than most full time LE in that span, and know several LE officers throughout the nation. I know the culture. The disconnect between community and law enforcement is sad to observe. I could help somewhere - I would start with the topic of mobile data fishing and traffic stops. I expect similar civilian oversight positions opening elsewhere in the future and commend your pioneering efforts.

Thank you for your time. Good luck.

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