

Veldran, Lisa

From: Amelia Royko Maurer [roykomaurer@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 3:25 PM
To: Rummel, Marsha
Cc: All Alders; Nathan Royko Maurer; Gelembiuk Gregory
Subject: For tonight's meeting

Dear Alder Rummel and All Alders,

Below are some often misconstrued facts that might prove to be helpful for tonight's meeting on policing issues.

Thank you for your hard work!!

Amelia Royko Maurer
509 S. Baldwin St. #1
Madison, WI 53703

Under Wisconsin statute, the chief of police must obey any lawful order the Mayor or Common Council gives. Formally, the Mayor is the head of the police department. While their orders cannot conflict with state and federal law, our Mayor and alders have the statutory power to change MPD policy, practice, procedure and training. http://www.prodane.org/can_the_council_hold_a_police_chief_accountable

At the discretion of the Mayor, Common Council or Chief of Police, the use of force standard of a law enforcement department may be raised above state and federal criminal standards to ensure that force is avoided whenever possible and lethal force is used as a last resort. This is demonstrated by police departments in Wisconsin, the US and most Western countries.

To "stop a threat", police departments in most Western countries will shoot a person in the leg and officers aren't suffering a higher rate of injury or fatality because of it. For example, Finland has relatively comparable rates of violent crime and personal gun ownership as the US. The rate of line-of-duty injury or fatality for police officers in Finland is actually much lower than in the U.S.

<http://theconversation.com/why-do-american-cops-kill-so-many-compared-to-european-cops-49696>

Deadly force is sequence of choices made by an officer. An officer's actions greatly impact the outcome of a situation they're involved in. Communication, tactical errors or suboptimal decisions early in the sequence often do lead to the use of deadly force.

The objective reasonableness standard only considers the officer's decision to shoot, and it only does so from the officer's perspective. It ignores all other factual information and prior decisions by the officer. The objective reasonableness standard guides detectives while investigating, chiefs when reviewing the case for policy violations and courts in criminal determinations. Investigations, testimony and outcomes indicate that the facts considered when determining if force was necessary are most often those facts the officer chooses for his/her fact scenario and any evidence that supports their story.

In Wisconsin, despite the new independent investigation law, the "independent" agency tasked with investigating an officer involved in a shooting delegates most of the preliminary and critical fact finding to the department of the officer who is being investigated. Statistics demonstrate that under most circumstances, officers, no matter who they work for, do not find follow officers in the wrong for using force.

The Police and Fire Commission is a 5 member board of civilian volunteers appointed by the mayor empowered with the sole responsibility for the hiring, promotion, demotion, suspension, and firing of police officers and fire fighting staff, including the hiring and firing of police and fire Chiefs.

http://www.prodane.org/can_the_council_hold_a_police_chief_accountable

When looking at Europe, the educational standards for law enforcement in the United States, including Madison, is relatively low. "The Netherlands, Norway and Finland, for example, require police to attend a national academy—a college for cops—for three years. Three years affords police ample time to learn to better understand, communicate with and calm distraught individuals. By contrast, in 2006, US police academies provided an average of 19 weeks of classroom instruction." <http://theconversation.com/why-do-american-cops-kill-so-many-compared-to-european-cops-49696>

Chief David Couper's positions align with the most current positions of most law enforcement leaders chosen by the White House for the Presidential Task Force for 21st Century Policing, and with best practices outlined by the Police Executive Research Forum, the premier U.S. law enforcement think-tank. <http://www.policeforum.org/assets/30guidingprinciples.pdf>

Former police officer turned academic, Michael Scott, has stated that the public grows more violent in response to an increase in militarization of the police, not the other way around. He has also said “If we’ve learned nothing else over 200 years or so of policing, it’s that police will never gain either the trust of the public or improve their personal safety solely by aggressive policing,” Scott said. “It’s a failed strategy. It’s a natural kind of reaction, but it’s the wrong reaction.” - Michael Scott” . There’s much research showing that use of excessive force reduces police legitimacy, imperiling efforts to reduce crime. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/17/community-policing-police-trust_n_6607766.html