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PAXCENTURION

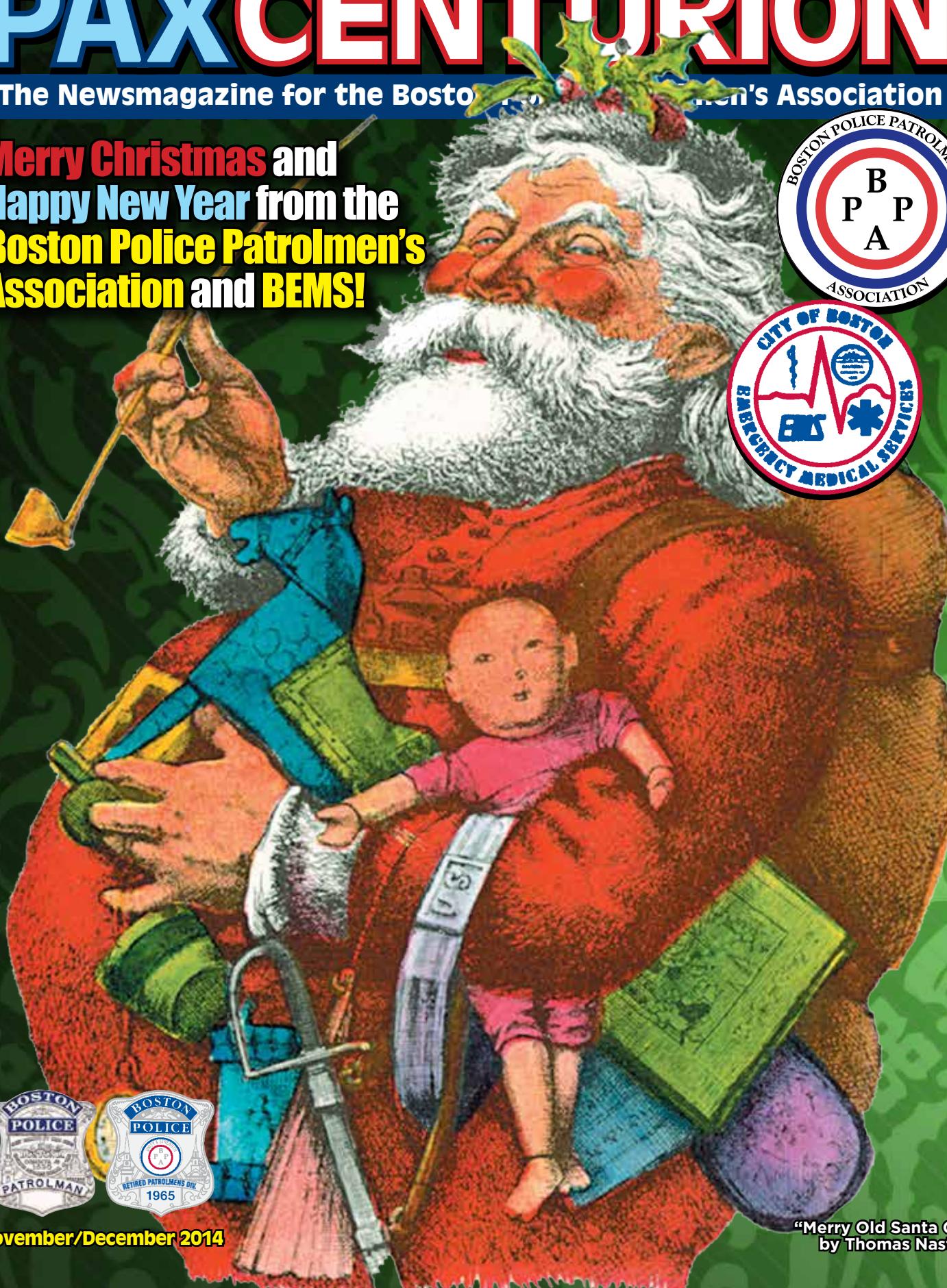
The Newsmagazine for the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association

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November/December 2014

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by Thomas Nast, 1881



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Does enforcement of “quality of life” issues provoke attacks on police? Similarities between Boston/New York incidents?

By James W. Carnell, *Pax Editor*

MOST OF US have heard, recently, of the grand jury’s decision in New York to *not* indict the police officers in the highly-publicized case of **Eric Garner**. The case has sparked numerous protests from college kids looking for a cause, former “Occupy Boston” radicals, and other anarchists. The Boston Police Department has *wrongly* – for reasons of political correctness – described them as “peaceful protests.” There is nothing “peaceful” about sitting down in the middle of Tremont St. at rush hour to prevent working people from simply going home. That is – (or should I say *used to be?*) known as disorderly conduct, subject to immediate arrest. Retired Deputy Supt. **Bob Hayden** would not have put up with such childish behavior for a moment. Today, in our upside-down world, the BPD media relations division “congratulates” the protesters via social media tweets on their “peaceful protest.” Tell that to people who were stuck in traffic for hours....

In New York, Mr. Garner, who had been arrested 31 times previously for a variety of offenses, resisted arrest by the NYPD for what appears to have been the minor crime of selling “loose cigarettes.” (“loosies”: about two for a dollar, negotiable). But, regardless of what you may think of the grand jury’s verdict, the **FACT** (and I know that **FACTS** are inconvenient things, but let’s try to use them anyway...) is that liberal theology and liberalism in general set in motion the forces that precipitated this incident in New York and the stabbing of two Park Rangers in Boston.

In New York, a few months ago, Mayor **Bill DiBlasio** himself issued an edict to the NYPD ordering them to crack down on the sale of “illegal cigarettes” which has become rampant in parts of New York. The **FACT** is that cigarettes have become prohibitively expensive in New York (and Massachusetts) due to excessive taxation. The average cost of a pack of butts in New York is about \$13.00. This has sparked a black market for cigarettes: **FACT:** “smugglers” (much like in the 1920’s liquor-prohibition era) drive down to North Carolina, where a pack of butts cost about \$4.50 (much less by the case), bring them back North to New York and Boston and re-sell them on the streets without the requisite tax-stamp imposed by the state. There is a **HUGE** profit to be made from such illegal sales. On the one hand, “compassionate liberals” want everyone to stop smoking. On the other hand, liberals depend on the tax revenue from tobacco sales that fund their myriad of socialistic spending programs. So when people like Eric Garner start selling cigarettes without providing the State of New York their tax fealty... well... Mayor DiBlasio and his liberal nitwits (not criticizing New York, we are chock-full of liberal idiots in this city...) are outraged and demand that the police **do something! We need the tax revenue from something we want to eliminate!** We must protect our phony-baloney jobs! (Trivia: what famous movie was that from?)

Hence, the situation is put in play: NYPD officers, (**FACT**) responding to “quality of life” complaints from local storeowners who sell tobacco products legally, encounter Mr. Garner. They question him and then inform him that he is being placed under arrest, as he has been 31 times before. Mr. Garner resists arrest. He is taken to the ground by assisting officers, (employing not a “choke-hold,” as the liberal media likes to report, but a simple “headlock,” as most of us

who have been police officers and grew up in the city know the difference...) as per the training by the NYPD Police Academy. Mr. Garner is 300 lbs. and stands 6’4”. He far outweighs the stature of most of the officers appearing in the video. Because he is asthmatic, has diabetes, high blood pressure, and is obese, he sustains a chest compression while being handcuffed, was taken to a local hospital, but succumbed to his medical ailments. This is what the grand jury found after countless days of testimony, including the officer himself who waived his fifth amendment protections against self-incrimination and volunteered to testify.

The entire incident is overseen by a black female sergeant who is physically present during the arrest (seen in the video). Some people love to interject race into every police-involved incident, but I’ll bet that **FACT** has been largely ignored by the major media. Had he simply complied with the officer’s commands, he would have been in and out of the court system in New York in a few hours. A tragedy, yes, but a self-inflicted one.

In similar fashion in Boston, two Boston Park Rangers encountered a man smoking a cigarette on the Boston Common. Our astute and wonderfully liberal (former) Mayor **Thomas Menino** and his minions on the City Council had recently enacted an ordinance prohibiting smoking in public places, including the Boston Common. The Park Rangers, attempting to enforce the ordinance issued by the solons on City Hall Plaza, arrive and tell the man, **Bodio Hutchinson**, 34, to extinguish the cigarette, as it is now illegal to smoke in public on the Boston Common. (It’s OK to do a lot of other things on the Common, just not smoke a legal substance like tobacco...). Whether mentally ill or simply a career criminal and thug, Hutchinson attacks and stabs the Park Rangers, one of whom was in critical condition for weeks. He was arrested at gunpoint by several valiant BPD officers.

The point is this: City Councils and State Legislatures issue edicts and ordinances from on high, with total disregard for the realities of enforcing their liberal theology. Smoking pot on the Boston Common is now the equivalent of a jay-walking ticket, resulting in – at most – a \$100.00 civil citation. (*And try seeing if the pot-smoking offender gives the police the right name, since nobody is required to carry an ID in this country???*) But if you crack a beer on the baseball diamond on a lazy Sunday afternoon on a hot August day, you are subject to arrest for drinking in public? Politicians beat their chests and appear before the TV cameras to tout their most-recent social activism program. How wonderful they are! Aren’t we socially-conscious and concerned about the planet!

They never give a God-damn thought to the realities of enforcing their stupid, liberal ideology. And it results in tragedies and death, both here in Boston and in New York. Liberals created the conditions, the rules and the ordinances that we, the police, are left to deal with. And then they turn their video cameras and cellphones on us and tell us that we’re brutal and racist.

As for me, fellow Americans, smoke on, smoke on, whether you’re on Boston Common or in your own house. Excessive, intrusive government creates these situations and then expects us to deal with results, and criticizes us for the consequences. Go ahead and spark up a bone...! (Just don’t get caught with a legal cigarette or cold beer....)

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17 hours in a 24 hour period



The BPPA has been noticed to bargain over changes to Rule 102 which involves officers "working more than 16½ consecutive hours in a 24 hour period." The word "consecutive" allows the Department to order officers to work 18 plus hours in a 24 hour period violating common sense but no rules or regulation. Some of our officers enjoy the ability to volunteer for greater hours but many more do not enjoy being ordered. The Department is well aware that if a "perfect storm scenario" ever made it to a civilian jury it would include an expensive price tag.

The Department's Rule change would **mandate that officer's not work more than 17 hours in a 24 hour period of their own volition.** **In cases of operation need, if officers were ordered to work beyond 17 hours in a 24 hour period, he/she would be given relief for every hour worked over 17 hours.** Does an acknowledged standard for hiring to a particular "minimum manning level" constitute an emergency at 11:30 p.m. when the DS only has four officers who have all worked a construction detail and a first half? Operational need combined with basic discretion should definitely be part of the Q and A with all bargaining units because this is definitely not a one size fits all. The amount of recuperative time following mandated overtime will also be a main focus.

The change also gives notice that voluntarily working more than 17 hours in a 24 hour period is a violation of Rules and Regulations. Discipline would more than likely mirror violations of the 90 hour rule. All realize that a great many enjoy both sides of the issue when it's suitable for either argument but working crazy hours has an effect on your health over the long term and your safety in the short term.

Other concerns to keep in mind will be how the Superiors and the Detectives respond. Both will probably take issue with a unilateral change that would affect the number of hours they can work. All would welcome a voluntary component but the Department realizes that will not help after a nightmare consequence when they have to explain how it is considered rationale for an officer to work so many hours whether voluntary or mandated. The Department will likely attempt to push all bargaining units toward impasse and implement the change with litigation probable.

Work-In Banks

As of January 1st of this year the Department was required to buy down officers WI Banks to 160 hours. This coming January hours will once again be paid out and set at a maximum of 80 hours with the intent of getting a workable number and asserting some internal discipline going forward. As of October 27th a published list of our membership was posted with the total number of hours officers possessed at that time. Most were unremarkable but there was a greater number than expected that were in arrears. Everyone should check their hours with their clerk and if needed submit their "blue forms" identifying the days that were "worked in" because the hours that were "worked out" have definitely been subtracted. That also includes officers that have a positive balance. There are close to 200 officers that are above 80 hours. For all, playing catch-up after the change (New Year) is not advised, get your numbers and paperwork reconciled with your clerks if there is a discrepancy before the New Year.

Sick Bank

In recent months sick time requests for Officers experiencing hard times has increased ten-fold. Initial settlement agreements and continual reloading of additional days has become a constant. It is time to revisit the issue with the Department in the hope of attaining a "sick bank" that works for both parties and since the days are donated at no expense to the Department other than administrative upkeep this is doable with hopefully a couple of tweaks.

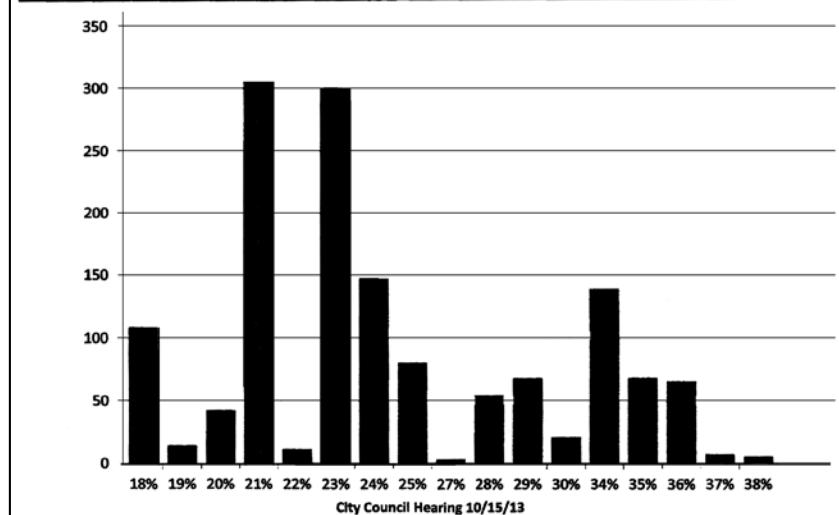
In the past, differences such as the sweeping of left over sick days at the end of each year prior to reloading was an impediment... that has been addressed and is no longer part of the Superiors and Detectives agreements which happen to be identical in language. Having written flexibility that would allow members to skip an annual donation in a particular year based on the Sick Bank Committee's recommendation would be a positive. There is no need to have a bank with 10,000 days that will never be used.

A possible BPPA issue might involve "eligibility for membership." The Superior's and Detective's only criteria to become a member is that they voluntarily donate one day per year. An extreme but plausible concern for the BPPA could involve annual abuse. That is what the Sick Bank Committee would be tasked to vet. An officer that has been responsible and has to go through a 150 sick days and other benefits before getting a shot might want everyone from the beginning to have a minimum or pro-rated amount of skin in the game. Newer officers might have to have a certain number of days that correspond to the number of years on the job. Any number of reasons an officer is short on time could be handled by the Committee as a special circumstance.

The rest is fairly standard in that an application is forwarded to the Committee requesting time accompanied by medical evidence of illness or injury that prevents the employee's immediate return to work. The Committee should have great latitude and absolute final

See **Vice President** on page 7

BPPA Arbitration Award Distribution of Total % Increases Over Six Years



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An open letter to BPPA members

Sisters and Brothers,

For those of you I have not had the opportunity to meet please allow me to introduce myself. I am **Chris Broderick** and I am now the Secretary of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association. I have the privilege and honor of succeeding **Pat Rose**. Pat's term has expired and as of Friday, November 21, 2014 at 12:01 pm, I took the "office."

First and foremost, I would like to personally say thank you to Pat for four-plus years of dedication, hard work and loyalty to the organization and most importantly for his leadership. Pat has certainly kept the honor and commitment of the almost 50 year chain of Corporation Secretaries that have served this Union

proudly. I can only hope to maintain the high standard set by those before me, particularly Pat's. Regardless of what role Pat takes on come Dec 10th, I will continue to look to him for counsel and advice.

I would also like to say how honored and humbled I am to be in this position. I want to thank everyone who encouraged and supported me in this. I know many good candidates considered seeking this office. I know many were urged by their peers and others to run. I thank you for ultimately trusting in me.

As a matter of record, it is my intention to resign my District Shift Representative seat after the elections are completed. I believe there is a certain responsibility I now have to the entire membership. I believe that removing as many conflicts as possible to help me in this role is prudent. I also trust that there are more than enough qualified officers there to take on the position. I also intend to continue in my role as a member of our Bargaining Committee. As it is there will be change in the Committee already by virtue of the resignation of the Vice President. There could in fact be more changes. A search of the minutes from prior years show that traditionally the practice has been to elect a new member of the Committee when someone leaves the BPPA or no longer wants to be a part of the team. I qualify under neither so if the majority of the House, and as an extension the membership, will allow me to stay on I will be honored to do so. I believe that continuity is important as there are matters which remain unresolved with the Department and City Hall. The BPPA also deserves experience on the Committee which we certainly have collectively.

As I said before I hope to maintain the high standard set by my predecessors, but I will endeavor to improve upon it. I believe there is no effort, feat or accomplishment that cannot be improved upon. As an Association we have to constantly look to bring better benefits to our members, to constantly strive to improve on what we have. "Standing pat" can never be an option. The association has an obligation to better itself, therefore benefitting our members. This cannot mean that we should have a knee jerk reaction to every issue and event we are presented with. We, as an organization, should never be thought of or seen as "tilting at windmills." What it means is we should address every pertinent issue that affects our Association and our profession in a calculated manner. We should discuss, dissect and

discuss again each and every one of these topics. BPPA Leadership should, with the input of interested and concerned member, with the research and vetting of the Committees and with the recommendations of the House of Representatives, decide which changes to accept, which fights to fight and when to draw a line in the proverbial sand. There is a system that was developed and put in place back in

1965 by a group of bold and courageous police officers, improved upon by others through time, that can still work today. Boston Police Officers' quality of life has improved dramatically over the last five decades this Association has operated. We can continue to grow if we are unified and strong. No one person can do this alone.

Thank you for taking

the time to read this. I promise this quarterly article will not be the only time you hear from me. I will work with other members of our elected Leadership to ensure that this is a commitment from all of us. I look forward to being part of the BPPA Leadership but more importantly being part of an Association that exemplifies our motto "**Unity and Strength**."

*Fraternally,
Chris Broderick*

17 hours in a 24-hour period...

From **Vice President** on page 5

say for all requests because decisions shall not be subject to grievance or arbitration.

Thank You

Upon departing, thanks for your support, patience and good will over the years. While leaving the day to day position of assisting with members' issues, there is a lot of positive to look back on over the past 20 years of involvement. Many still do not realize that there are few and far between in the public or private sector that could match our wages, health insurance and pension benefits. The recent arbitrated award was as good a contract as we've received over my contractual lifetime with demographics illustrated in the chart on page 5.

In addition, the award gave direction for the next bargaining cycle that should include the 15, 10 and 5 year officers receiving first consideration. Those looking back 20 years from now will recognize the value of the current benefits package especially our health insurance and pension. For the unborn, times will be changing and protecting rather than enhancing will become the standard with caps and recalibrations on the doorstep.

Be well...and a special thanks to Annie, Ann Marie, Joe, Bill, the leadership, House of Reps and the membership for their hard work and friendship.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



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Society needs to be careful what it wishes for

As this Christmas Season approaches the papers are once again filled with protests, police bashing and outright negativity. The grand jury decisions in both Ferguson Louisiana and in New York City, New York in favor of two police officers in each city has resulted in what some are calling protests or demonstrations but in reality they are nothing short of riots. The citizens from both those two cities are using those grand jury rulings to make a mockery of our judicial system. Now had the grand jury decided to indict one or both of those police officers, would the police across America began protesting and rioting? I think we all know that answer is no.

Our judicial system right or wrong, flawed or not, it is our judicial system. It has been working for well over two hundred years and should continue to work. The decision is passed down by innocent jury members and the rest of us have to live with it. I believe that each and every one of us can either remember or think of a grand jury decision or just a verdict in a trial that we weren't happy with or we were disgusted with and what did we do? We accepted it. We live with it.

In both of these cases we have two police officers who are out doing their jobs. They are fulfilling the obligation they accepted. They are both honoring the oath they took when the badge was pinned on them. And each of them was placed in an unfortunate situation when they were involved with the death of another person. I truly believe that neither of them went into work on that fateful day and decided that this would be the day that they killed another human being for no reason at all. The mere idea of that is crazy.

Now in my eighteen plus years on the job, through God's good graces, I have never taken another life nor even fired my gun at another person. I cannot begin to know or even pretend to know what goes along with that. And I hope to God that I never know. But all this protesting and rioting and calls for justice against these two police officers makes me very uneasy. It makes me disgusted with the residents of all these cities that are holding said protests and riots. What message are these people doing the protesting and rioting sending to the rest of us, the rest of the police across this great nation?

In this great city, Boston, Massachusetts, within our own department what message is the cop taking away from what they are seeing out there? Why would any cop leave the parking lot? Why would any cop make an arrest? Why would any cop watch and then arrest drug dealers? Why would any cop follow known gang members and arrest them on outstanding warrants?

One message being received is that if I do nothing then nothing can happen to me. If I don't arrest anyone, than I can't hurt anyone. If I don't write and moving violations then I won't be the subject of an internal affairs investigation when the complaint is filed. If I don't leave the parking lot during the whole tour then I will go home at the end of my shift. This is the message that society is sending to the police across the country. So society needs to be careful what message they really want to send. You can mean one thing but say something totally different.

In both of these cases (*Ferguson & New York City*) we have two police officers who are out doing their jobs. They are fulfilling the obligation they accepted. They are both honoring the oath they took when the badge was pinned on them. And each of them was placed in an unfortunate situation when they were involved with the death of another person. I truly believe that neither of them went into work on that fateful day and decided that this would be the day that they killed another human being for no reason at all. The mere idea of that is crazy.

are the backbone of what should be and usually is an appreciative City. It wasn't all that long ago on the fateful day in April 2013, when the City did show a display of gratitude toward us, one and all. We all knew then that it wouldn't last for long and sure enough it didn't. But that is alright. We didn't take this job for praise or recognition. We took this job to help save and protect society, even sometimes from itself. We accepted this job because it is a job that somebody has to do. The legendary NBA player **Charles Barkley** was quoted as saying, "if it wasn't for the police, we would be living in the Wild West." Well chalk one up for Sir Charles. There is a member of society who understands things.

So we just keep doing what we do and hopefully all is well. The protests, demonstrations and riots, well this too shall pass. That is of course until the next one. We all know that there will be a next one. That is just another reason why we need the police. For the next one. So let's all keep frosty and go out there and do what we have to do. Let's not allow a few thousand bad eggs destroy something that we have been building for centuries. A safe and well-protected place to live called the City of Boston. Now having said that, please allow me to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a joyful and peaceful Christmas Season. And remember, let's be careful out there.

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The Night Before Amnesty

By Clement Clarke Carnell

Twas the night before amnesty, and all through the nation,
Illegals were dancing, with a sense of elation!
The Dear Leader declared, with his arrogance regal,
That invading our borders had now become legal.

The children had been sent, on the top of a train,
To take advantage of liberals, who were clearly insane.
But the thing that disturbed us, that looked slightly weird,
was that some of the “children” were sporting a beard?

And just o'er the border, ‘cross the wide Rio Grande,
Where the President had offered his welcoming hand,
The border patrol found Korans and prayer rugs,
And typhus, and scabies and all sorts of bugs!

Then out on the street, there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my cruiser to see what was the matter.
The moon on the snow gave a heavenly sheen,
And the “children” had tattoos that said “MS-13.”

When what to my wondering eyes should I see,
But a minuscule Governor, we called “Mini-Me.”
He came in a sleigh that was painted in red,
And his shoulders - {without neck} - were attached to his head.

An army of sycophants and suck-pumps they came,
as he whistled and shouted and called them by name.
“On Olga (DCF) Roche, and [drive slowly] Tim Murray!
I’m going to Washington and I’m in a hurry.”

On bureaucrats, On administrators, On second-tier hacks!”
As he fell from the sleigh with his hand full of sacks.
And he passed out the checks and the EBT cards,
To the non-working people with their butts made of lard.

Here’s section 8 housing and a voucher from “WIC,”
“I don’t care if it’s going to make taxpayers sick.”
Here’s food stamps and health care, and it’s all for free!
It’s paid by the suckers... not my friends or me!”

And we heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
“Screw you stupid taxpayers, have a merry good night...
For all you illegals, I’ll pull out the stops,
And take away benefits from hard-working cops.”
“And If they don’t like it... well... they can go....
There’s lots of room in Mexico!”

A letter to our college students: Your “protest” is duly noted...

By James W. Carnell, Pax Editor

“...people sleep peacefully in their beds at night because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf...”

“...the most grossly obvious facts can be ignored when they are unwelcome...”

“..What you say or do doesn’t matter, only feelings matter...”

— Quotes from George Orwell (1903-1950), author of “1984”

“....still a man hears what he wants to hear, and disregards the rest...”

—Simon and Garfunkel, “The Boxer”

Dear College Students:

We saw you, and we heard you. “F#% the Police”... right? On Tuesday, November 25th, 2014, all of you marvelously, self-righteous, liberal college students from Simmons and Emerson and Northeastern and BU and MIT and Harvard marched in solidarity with the alleged oppressed victims of police brutality and against racism and for social justice. Yadda, yadda, yadda...

Supposedly, you were outraged about the decision of a grand jury in St. Louis to not indict Officer **Darren Wilson** of the Ferguson, Missouri police department, in the death of the so-called

“unarmed teenager,” **Michael Brown**. The twelve jurors (nine white, three black, seven men, five women) listened to over 60 witnesses for 25 days over three months and unanimously decided that no charges should be brought against Officer Wilson. They were informed of autopsy reports from three separate pathologists, numerous witnesses, (*some of whom outright lied and directly contradicted the forensic evidence and pathology reports...they should have been indicted themselves for lying to a grand jury...*) and the testimony of Officer Wilson himself, who waived his right against self-incrimination to tell the truth as to what happened on that fateful August day in Ferguson, Missouri. But none of that seems to matter...

No, you, our valiant, young 18-25 year old wonders who attend our local liberal indoctrination centers (otherwise known as “colleges” and “universities”) know better than the rest of us. You decided that blocking traffic on Melnea Cass Blvd./Mass. Ave. and causing grief for people who actually work for a living who were simply trying to get home before Thanksgiving was some form of protest against “the man.” (Geez, I’m trying to figure out who “the man” is, since our President, our Attorney General, and our Governor are all minorities, but what do I know....) This was your version of your graying, ex-hippie, Mommy and Daddy’s 1960’s

See **Letter to College Students** on page 18

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Don Green served in the United States Marine Corps from 1957 to 1961 before being honorably discharged. In 1968, he joined the Boston Police Department and retired in 1990 after serving the city for nearly 22 years, the last 15 years as a Sergeant in the Roxbury district. He is married to Annette Hill Green, a native of Dorchester, who is also an attorney and his law partner.

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Photo credit: Aram Boghosian/Boston Globe

Meet some of our detractors...

By James W. Carnell, Pax Editor

Please observe the above photo which recently appeared in the *Boston Globe*. The by-line under the photo stated that “**Tyrone Allen**, 20 (center) and his girlfriend, **Shaquana Pebbles**, 22 (right) joined protesters gathered at the state House following a Ferguson grand jury decision.” Tyrone Allen is seen holding aloft a sign reading “from Boston to Ferguson, cops are racist murderers.”

May I now refer you to BPD CC# 142053153, dated 11/29/14. Ahem... Could this be the same Tyrone Allen and Shaquana Pebbles who are depicted in the above photo, claiming that cops are all racist murderers? It seems that a 20 year old man named Tyrone Allen, who allegedly resides at 47 West Street, (the home of “Bridge Over Troubled Waters,” a homeless shelter), got into an argument with other tenants about use of the bathroom facilities. Mr. Tyrone Allen then allegedly verbally attacked the female victim and her boyfriend telling them “**I don't fight, I stab**”. He then, according to the victim's report, chased the boyfriend with a knife. The victim and her boyfriend were able to escape, and find refuge inside the building. After returning to 47 West Street, Tyrone Allen then allegedly took numerous items belonging to the victims which they had left in their backpacks while escaping the assault, including cell phones and purses containing personal items. Tyrone Allen then fled.

He was soon located by several BPD officers who responded to the 911 emergency call, inside the nearby Burger King on Tremont Street. He was positively identified by the victims. After an inquiry, it was discovered that Tyrone has passed off the knives (two were found) to his girlfriend, Shaquana Pebbles. The knives were recovered, and Tyrone Allen was arrested and transported to Area A-1 for booking. He was charged with Assault with a dangerous weapon and armed robbery. While at the booking desk, during a custodial search, Tyrone Allen was also discovered to have three plastic bags of

a white-rock substance, believed to be crack cocaine, but which Mr. Allen described as “beat bags” (fake drugs sold to naïve nitwits who come to town to purchase them.)

The point is this: here's Boston.com, the on-line version of the *Boston Globe*, displaying a photo of these allegedly “concerned protester” decrying the police as racist murderers. But when one looks behind the scenes, *just as the Ferguson grand jury did for 25 days*, one discovers a different picture. All is not as it seems to be. These fake protesters are basically people who have a hidden political agenda or harbor intense anti-police feelings (in Tyrone's case, the reasons should be obvious.... this was not his first interaction with law enforcement, if you catch my drift....). Many of these protesters are former “Occupy Wall Street/Occupy Boston” members, searching for a new *cause du-jour* or radical activists who hate all law enforcement and civil order. Missouri police have reported that on one night, 51 of 59 people arrested were from places as far away as Oregon, Chicago and New York. On another night, 15 of 16 arrested were out-of-staters. Clearly, the Ferguson police (a small department of 53 men) and St. Louis police, as well as the National Guard, have been tested and worked beyond their limits. Most have been on mandatory 12-hour days for several months, putting up with the temper tantrums and childish antics of wanna-be protesters who have no life. Additionally, numerous business owners in Ferguson have lost everything to arson and looting, and the law-abiding citizens have lost places to shop and now must go elsewhere.

Yes, if all cops are “racist murderers”, Tyrone, then apparently, according to your own logic, you are simply a bum, a loser and a thug. Keep protesting, when you're not arrested for felonies, that is. We'll be happy to pay for you and Shaquana's bus tickets to the St. Louis/Ferguson area to protest further....

...one way, of course.

Protesters pillage and plunder like pirates

By Mark A. Bruno

It is a shame that a grand jury's decision can not be accepted by the citizens of Ferguson and all around the country. These jurors sifted through much evidence and decided there was no bill to move forward on Ferguson Police Officer **Darren Wilson** who has retired. We heard and read excerpts from documents which have corroborated Officer Wilson's account that the suspect tried to overtake him and pull his gun away. It is as scary a situation in our line of business and it is easy for all the Monday-morning quarterbacks to say how differently they would have handled it. The bottom line for all officers on their tour of duty is to make it through to the end of the shift and hopefully go home to our families.

Far be it from me to criticize the senseless loss of life but this young man had a decision to make and he chose poorly. Starting with his shoplifting spree in which he intimidated a store clerk who was probably half his size, this person who everyone is making out to be a saint is really no more than a bully who has imposed his will on others more than once. I was taken aback when the step-father got on camera and told the crowd to burn down the town. Ok so now we can see where **Michael Brown** gets it. His ticket was punched a long time ago when his parents did not reel him in for his increasingly bad behavior. Twisted as it is I am sure they loved

their dearly departed son, but they should bare some of the blame here. I see many individuals who grow up in low income areas but have the proper manners that their responsible parents taught them. This is not a black and white issue as the press and some of the marauding public would like to paint it. It is about a cop who did his job and a suspect who made a poor choice period.

What really gets my blood boiling are the lecherous so-called leaders like **Al Sharpton** who gets in front of a microphone and proceeds to throw wood in to the already out-of-control fire. When the family called for disruptions in stores on Black Friday and stated they wanted to hurt the state and country financially to draw attention to their cause I thought where have I heard this mentality before? Excuse me but this is exactly what the terrorist who took down the World Trade Center Towers in New York City were trying to do. Promoting chaos and trying to undermine the country financially sounds like a terrorist act to me!

Which brings us now to the morons, anarchist and looters who do not give a rats ass about the suspect or his family. These individuals if given a big enough crowd to hide in are only looking to cause destruction and loot whenever they can. Ask half of them if they know any of the individuals involved in the conflict and I am sure you

will get a blank look. You've seen the fires and stores being looted right on your televisions. These morons think they've been given a pirate's pass to pillage and plunder the town, and as far as how they feel about cops ask our A1 poster boy (see previous article). **Tyrone Allen** had the nerve to carry this sign whichever stated "From Boston to Ferguson cops are racist murderers." Not a few days later he was arrested by BPD for armed robbery and possession of class B with intent to distribute near a playground. Yep, a real pillar of the community much like Michael Brown. Is this really the poster boy to be used to address inequality? I agree that there are still problems that exist in regards to racial discourse, but this incident should not be the lightning rod used to address it.

I'm not sure I appreciate the St. Louis Rams and their little show

of support on this matter. I really do not appreciate the slanted media coverage of this incident. Did it ever occur to anyone out there that this officer actually faced a life or death situation and did what he needed to do! It would have been nice for President **Barack Obama** to show the law enforcement community a little more support, instead this officer was thrown under the bus even after the grand jury found no probable cause to move forward on a bill. Now the Federal Government is looking

into civil rights violations against the officer. Why do we kowtow to appease people in these matters when it is all fairly obvious? If this officer were black we would not be having this discussion. I really don't believe this officer got up that morning and decided I am going to shoot a minority today. He faced a deadly situation and did what he needed to do. He should be commended for his bravery, but instead he has retired so not to put his fellow officers in harms way. As officers we hope never to be in a situation like this, but if we are let's hope we have the same courage that Officer Darren Wilson had on this day.

A special thank you to all!

On behalf of **Freddie Marzano** and his family a special thank you to all who supported and attended the family event. Freddie and his family were touched by the overwhelming support shown by fellow officers and friends. Freddie wishes all his brothers and sisters in blue, especially in A-7, a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. May God keep you safe always.

—Mark A. Bruno

Be grateful always...

By Mark A. Bruno

With the holiday season upon us once again it is time to reflect on the past year and to look forward to the upcoming new year. I always teach my children never want for more and to be grateful for good health and good fortune. I am happy to be back from a brief hiatus and would like to thank those individuals who helped me return. My parents, God rest their souls, always taught my siblings and I to be charitable and to think of others. We as police officers are blessed in a profession that does well in an up or down economy. We earn a decent wage and are able to provide for our families in many ways. We sometimes sacrifice time with our families in order to provide, but it is the family we live for. Putting our children through grammar school and college, and watching them grow up and get married and have children of their own is what we do. I am grateful to be in a job that helps provide this.

I am grateful for good friends and coworkers who understand what friendship and loyalty is, like standing by those in need and helping them out in any way. There are many I would go to the wall for if they asked and this is what friends do. A friend reaches out to those in distress and listens to what may be troubling them. We sometimes don't always see the signs of this distress until it is too late, but we are mindful none the less. We all understand the pressures that come with our profession. These pressures come from the job and sometimes from home. It is a delicate balance of emotions in which the pendulum of life swings. Not everyday is filled with lollipops and roses the way we

would like it, but we balance the good days with the bad. We are after all human and our emotions sometimes get the better of us.

I am grateful always to be an American and living in this great country. I am grateful to all military men and women both past and present who have helped to provide the very freedoms my family and I enjoy. My prayers go out to the families of those in the military who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our great nation. I have had the honor to work beside many veterans who served in Vietnam, Korea and the Middle East. Men like **Jack Bolstad, John Dailey, Mike Dowd, John McClean, Jack Kacvinsky and Terry Burke** to name just a few. Honor, loyalty, bravery and dignity are the words that come to mind when I think of these individuals. I have nothing but the utmost respect for these men of whom I've had the pleasure to work with.

I am most grateful to God for blessing me with good health and for my three healthy children. I ask all my fellow officers as they enter malls and stores downtown to be charitable to those ringing the bells. There are those unfortunately that lack food, clothing and shelter and we need to be more mindful of this especially during the holidays. I believe good karma always has a way of coming around to those that are kind hearted.

In closing I would like to wish all my fellow officers and their families a very Merry Christmas (or whatever you celebrate), and Happy New Year. May God bless and keep you safe always.

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Sometimes even WE need a little help from our friends!

Cops can't win... unless they're killed

By Joe Fitzgerald, Boston Herald

When a Boston cop named Wayne Anderson was shot to death by a young driver he had stopped for going the wrong way on a one-way street in Dorchester, more than 4,000 fellow officers, including his partner, **Bobby Luongo**, jammed Warren Street in Roxbury for the funeral at Charles Street A.M.E. Church.

"It was a different kind of funeral than most of us were used to," Luongo later recalled. "People kept shouting, 'Amen!' But then the minister starts talking about how Wayne had acted professionally, and said, 'If Wayne had shot first and killed this kid, everyone would be screaming about police brutality.' Now the whole front row of cops is going, 'Amen!' Me, too."

It's a humorous story, rooted in an uncomfortable truth.

Why must it require the death of a cop for the public to appreciate the perilous nature of what they do?

Indeed, why should the benefit of the doubt go to the hooligan?

Over at Ladder 9 in Charlestown there's a veteran Boston firefighter named **Damon Mercer** who grew up on Mission Hill.

"I used to hear of Officer Friendly," Mercer said, "but in my mind Officer Friendly was always a firefighter. People would get mad at the police, especially when they came to lock up someone, but firefighters never made anyone mad."

In a town where the names of athletes and pols easily come to mind, how many of the following names do you remember? These were all Boston cops who received our grateful praise, but only after they were shot to death in the line of duty.

Roy Sergei survived a bullet striking his helmet as a Marine in Vietnam, only to be ambushed in a Back Bay alley, responding to a woman's screams.

Sherman Griffiths was killed by a shotgun blast, trying to break through the barricaded door of a Dorchester drug den.

John Mulligan was assassinated during an overnight detail on American Legion Highway. **Richie Halloran** was killed while investigating a B&E in East Boston.

How about the **Schroeder** brothers? **Walter** was gunned down at a bank robbery in Brighton; three years later his brother **John** was shot to death by robbers he had surprised at a pawn shop in Roxbury.

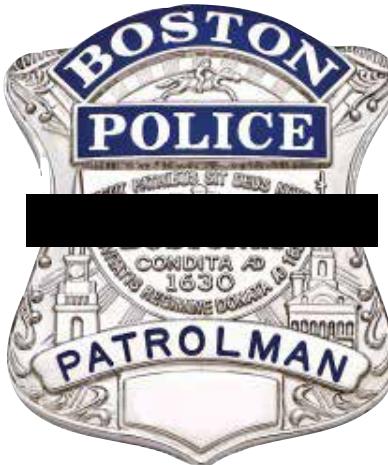
Was that pastor right? If any of these fallen lawmen had shot first and killed the bad guys, would

there have been demands for them to turn in their weapons and badges?

We know the answer, don't we?

And it begs a troubling question: Why does a cop have to die to be the good guy?

(Reprinted from the Boston Herald, November 26, 2014.)



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“De-policing”

What is it, and who suffers?

By James W. Carnell, *Pax Editor*

The term “de-policing” was first introduced after the Cincinnati riots many years ago. *TIME* magazine, as well as other publications, carried lengthy articles about this “phenomenon,” as they simply could not understand how the police were not acting “properly” for the video footage they wanted to capture. In other words, the police simply pulled back and stopped performing aggressive police work and fighting the looters. (That, in addition to the fact that the rioters and looters had turned their wrath upon the liberal media, who thought they were the rioters allies.)

Actually, “de-policing” is simply a natural reaction to criminal behavior which is tolerated and accepted by the biggest mouths in the community; activists, so-called “community organizers” and other rabble-rousers. (Think of Al Sharpton, et al...) The police, sensing that efforts to restore law and order in a community that does not want or appreciate them, simply react by pulling back and allowing the situations at hand to work themselves out until the residents decide they’ve had enough. After a while, there’s nothing left to loot or burn, and all the local jobs are gone. Business owners do not want to return to communities where there is a zero-sum gain to earn a profit.

When police officers are constantly scrutinized and second-guessed by the media and the community, the result is “de-policing.” Who wants to appear before Internal Affairs, grossly-biased and

politically appointed “community review boards,” or federal or state courts simply for doing their jobs? You’re criticized for doing your job, and you’re criticized for *not* doing your job. But *not* performing aggressive police work is less likely to get you into serious legal difficulties than performing aggressive police work. Of course, the commanders at the top of the police political food-chain don’t like “de-policing,” because it means less statistics for them to beat their chests over (and take credit for) at the next management seminar or “com-stat” meeting. They would prefer that patrol officers offer themselves as fodder for the cannon, and then willingly fall under the sword when criticism comes from the loudmouthed community activist-types. Make a thousand good arrests, and the boss will be sure to take credit for your work and give you a back-slap every now and then. Make one arrest that engenders criticism or scrutiny, and the same boss doesn’t remember your name.

So “de-policing,” in the aftermath of Ferguson, should not surprise anyone. Cops are human too (what a shocking statement!) and react the way most people would when faced with withering media and public criticism. There is a famous saying that I will paraphrase, printed on the back of our BPPA t-shirts:

“A society that makes war on its police, had better be prepared to make peace with its criminals.”

Society will, ultimately, get the type of policing it truly deserves.

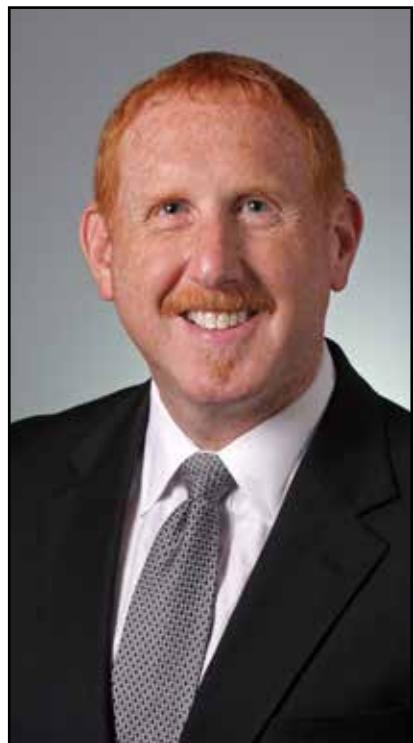


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A letter to our college students...

From Letter to College Students on page 12

Woodstock/Vietnam protest march. (*Mommy and Daddy now live in a \$2 million condo in Brookline while claiming solidarity with the middle class... Yeah...right... They will be the first ones on the phone to call 911 if they see any members of "the middle class" on their streets after dark...).* **You** needed to be seen as the compassionate, concerned, liberals that your professors and parents have indoctrinated you to be. **You** needed to feel good about yourself. Take a selfie and show your dormmates and friends how wonderful you are. Because as we all know, college kids, the world revolves around **you**... (I've been paying student loans for years, stupid, I know...).

College students: please learn the definition of "critical thinking." Do not sit in your liberally-orchestrated classrooms and nod your heads like the bobblehead dogs in the back of a car. If you were **Officer Darren Wilson**, **what would you have done?** From all of the available testimony, including many African-American witnesses, Officer Wilson was attacked inside of his own cruiser by a 300 lb., 6'4" "teenager" who had just manhandled a diminutive store clerk and stolen property from



his business. He was, according to medical testimony, under the influence of drugs. He was, according to testimony, marching down the middle of the street, oblivious to and purposefully ignoring Officer Wilson's command to move out of the street. He then attacked the Officer **inside** of the Officer's cruiser and attempted to grab his gun. That is where Michael Brown's blood was found – **inside** the police cruiser. So, college students, how did it get there? (Police conspiracy?... yeah, right... heard that one before... **Mumia Abu-Jamal**, the murderer of Philadelphia Police Officer **Danny Faulkner**, would probably agree with that theory...). After attacking Officer Wilson and assaulting him, he again attacked the officer, "bull-rushing" him and forcing Officer Wilson to shoot to protect his own life. That was the evidence, and those are the facts.

What would **you** have done, good liberal college kids? Huh? If you hate the police so much, then by all means, the next time you need help, call your college professor....

I'd have liked to have asked you directly, but of course, you'd already flown home to Long Island, Nebraska or Wisconsin or wherever, courtesy of Mommy and Daddy, for the Thanksgiving holiday. But no, you can feel good about yourselves and how wonderfully liberal you are and concerned and compassionate and not racist or sexist or any anything else while your parents pay your tuition and diaper your bum. The fact that you screwed up traffic for working people trying to get home themselves in order to make yourselves feel good is immaterial. "F%\$# the Police"! Right? As one officer told me, "*an idiot college kid complained to me that a passing car operated by a frustrated motorist almost hit her. I told her to consider getting the f\$&% out of the public street.*" What sage advice! And these are our future astronauts and brain surgeons. You know, shortly after the Marathon bombing, I predicted how long the public adulation of the police would last. I think I said about three days... I was right.

Damn the facts, damn the truth, damn the evidence. We'll hear none of it! (At least not from our college radicals.) Keep paying the tuition bills, Mommy and Daddy. Muffy and Biff will need plane fare so they can come home for Christmas, er...excuse me.. the "Holiday season." "Solidarity with the masses!" But make sure you call the cops to get the bums off the front stoop of our Back Bay dormitory....

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HEARD ON THE HILL

By James Barry, BPPA Legislative Agent

Seaport jurisdiction issue continues...

The insanity separate and exclusive jurisdictional issue in the Seaport area continues with the Massachusetts State Police patrolling and answering residential 911 calls in a four block area of the Seaport. Massport does not want anything to change, as they hold more control over the MSP. The Massachusetts State Police answering 911 calls from City of Boston residents? This is just not their job. It is the job of the Boston Police Department. Exclusive jurisdiction?

Neither Massport, nor the MSP can explain to the public or the legislature the logic of not allowing the primary police (BPD) jurisdiction to serve the public within their own borders. Nowhere else in the country does this situation exist. Massport and the MPS have exclusive jurisdiction inside Boston's borders.

The City of Boston has approved and are now directing the development of the rest of the Seaport area. This development will have 12-15 blocks of residential, retail, hotels and office buildings all surrounding Massport's four block area. Boston Police as it stands right now, will be driving through four blocks of their own city in which they have no jurisdiction. In the rest of the Seaport, BPD will be the primary policing department, not the MSP. Just Massport's four blocks of residential property that is serviced by Boston EMS, Boston Fire, Boston School Department, Elderly Services, Elections Commission, Liquor Commission, Entertainment Licensing, Food Inspections and subject to all City of Boston laws and ordinances. Here, Boston residents can avail themselves to an array of these city services, except the Boston Police.

Another example of this duplication of services and expanding presence in Boston is in Boston Harbor. The Boston Police are the primary (*not exclusive*) police jurisdiction in Boston Harbor. The Commander of the Boston Police Harbor Unit is the Harbormaster for Boston Harbor.

The Massachusetts State Police Harbor Unit (30 plus boats) is concentrated in Boston Harbor. They are not assigned or found in any other harbor or river in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. No MSP harbor or marine units in Gloucester, Rockport, Salem, Marblehead, Fall River, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Plymouth, Hyannis, Provincetown, Cape Cod Canal, Woods Hole or Connecticut River or anywhere else for that matter.

Increasing the penalties for resisting arrest & A&B P.O.

In Massachusetts, the crime of resisting arrest is a misdemeanor which means that the maximum penalty that a defendant can be sentenced to is a house of correction sentence, as opposed to a state prison sentence. If you are convicted of resisting arrest in Massachusetts the maximum penalty you will face is 2½ years in jail or a fine of up to \$500.00.

Back in 1998, if a suspect resisted an officer's attempts to place him or her under arrest the only charge the officer had was A&B P.O. In Massachusetts, there was no crime for resisting arrest. Defense attorneys would routinely charge the officer with a cross complaint of A&B and it would be a wash. I recognized this crime was routinely bargained away and largely unpunished. Our job as police officers puts us into many unsafe situations. Suspects that resist and assault an officer while effecting a lawful arrest, should have the law on their side.

I began researching at the federal courthouse the ten most similar states for their statutes on resisting arrest. I found that only one (besides Massachusetts) out of the ten had no statute for resisting arrest on the books. All the other nine northern industrial states with similar populations and businesses had a statute on the books for resisting arrest. Armed with this information, I filed this legislation and saw it passed. Although I had to settle for a misdemeanor as penalty, it was now Mass. General Law.

I am filing legislation to increase the penalties for this charge along with A&B P.O.

I have enjoyed many legislative victories over the years. However, the resisting arrest statute was one of my proudest moments as BPPA Legislative Agent. MGL C 268 s32B is utilized everyday and hopefully makes our job a little safer, not only by BPPA members, but police officers around the Commonwealth.

You're just a cop... for what it's worth

What will it take to see the truth about law enforcement? Our Law Enforcement Officers are being murdered as well as laying down their lives on duty every 58 hours. They are being shot while sitting at traffic lights. Lured into ambushes and blown away while removing debris from the roadway, or while responding to an alarm call which was a set up. They are being killed in their own driveways, while off duty. They are being shot inside their own precincts.

If celebrities or professional athletes were being targeted, shot and murdered to the tune of one dead every 58 hours there would be an instant demand for answers and protection. There would be a national cry to stop the violence before it impacted reality tv or sports center.

Regardless of proven statistics which tell us otherwise, our officers continue to get blamed as a whole for the actions of less than one percent*. Regardless of common sense in a world where we have all encountered a bad mechanic, doctor,



plumber, we blame **ALL** cops for the few. Regardless of countless corrupt priests, teachers, crooked judges and lawyers, we do not condemn their entire profession, it's asinine to even consider. But with law enforcement, it is instant condemnation of all.

What exactly does an officer have to do for you to say his/her life has worth? What will it take for you to see the family waiting at home, praying theirs isn't the next officer down? What will it take for the citizens of this country to say without them, who will make these sacrifices? Will you? Are you ready to be the target? Are you ready to line up your family and friends and know one of you will not come home every other day?

Our law enforcement officers are humans. When will it be enough to say something's got to give? Even for those who hate the police....you'll be the first to dial 911 when you need them and you will expect them to run lights blazing to your rescue, after all, you pay their salary.

See **Just a Cop** on page 21

Letters to the editor...

Where is the outrage over the kidnap, murder of Officer Kevin Quick

Earlier this year in Virginia, Waynesboro police officer **Kevin Quick** was kidnapped and murdered by four black gang members with affiliation to a national gang from Los Angeles. Quick was driven from ATM to ATM where he was made to withdraw money, then driven into the woods where he was executed as a way for the murderers to move up in the gang.

Nowhere in the national media was this murder of a police officer put to paper. But when a white police officer shot a black man named **Michael Brown** in Missouri, it made the national news for months. What hypocrites the media has become. Where is the outrage for Quick? Where are the beserk protesters burning and looting in the name of officer Quick?

Where is **Eric Holder** in his indignant huff? I'll tell you where he is – he's sitting on his hands, choosing not to speak up about the tragic death of the officer and the cold-calculating killers. Could the fact that they are black play any part in Holder's decision?

We all know Holder is not a racist. Just listen to him speak. Even **Barack Obama** couldn't stand up and say it could have been him this time. He would never be a cop; however, he would be an enabler for the criminal element.

Where is the white outrage? Where is the hatemonger **Al Sharpton**?

What if white supremacists, Nazis or the Ku Klux Klan showed up in Virginia and began to riot like the socialist and communist thugs in Ferguson and St. Louis? Would they say the police overacted when they dragged those white thugs away? I don't think so.

But I guess it is OK to kill a police officer, especially a white one.

If the mainstream media had any courage, they'd put Quick's story out for consumption right next to the skewed story of the black teen from Ferguson.

But in the eyes of the liberal media elite, when you control the press, you control the message. Quick didn't deserve what happened to him any more than Brown did, but I don't hear any wailing for the cop. What a sick country we've become.

– *Gerry Ward, Dracut*

(Reprinted from the Lowell Sun, November 28, 2014.)

Re: Home Rule Petition

Iwould be remiss and don't think it's been stated enough, how healthy and refreshing it has been to be involved in a process that required a number of meetings in City Hall with City Officials and Cabinet members.

Round one in City Hall would not have been so successful without the co-operation and support of our brothers and sisters in the BP-SOF, under the direction of **Jack Kervin** and **Mark Parolin**, as well as the DBS under the direction of **Brian Black** and **Jerry Benton** in this effort.

Theres still much work to be done. **Jim Barry**, our BPPA Legislative Agent and **Tim Sullivan**, who is the Mayor's Head of Governmental Affairs have begun strategizing step two of this process at the State House.

A special thanks goes out, not only to Capt. **Tim Murray**, but Council President **Bill Linehan** and Councillors **Michael Flaherty** and **Steven Murphy** who took the time out of their busy schedules to listen, understand and ultimately support us and share that wisdom with their colleagues on the Council.

– *Thomas J. Nee,
President,
Boston Police Patrolmen's Association*

You're just a cop... for what it's worth...

From Just a Cop on page 20

What happens when they say, sorry, it's too dangerous, you're on your own. You hate us anyway, so do as you see fit. **YOU** stand in front of the bullet and protect your own family. You pry your mangled wife out of the wreckage you caused while drunk and give her CPR in front of your children. You stand in the pouring rain in the dead of night on an expressway and protect your own car from being hit by a semi until the tow truck gets there. You unlock your own car you left your keys in. You change your own tire when 8 months pregnant in 102 degree heat. You stand in front of your own abusive husband and his weapon and his fist and tell him to leave your home without harming you.

You get in your own car and race to stop someone who stole from you or hit your car a few miles back. You enter your neighborhood store and approach a masked man with a shotgun and reason with him not to kill you or those in the store. You go knock on the neighbor's door who has a warrant, a house full of weapons and a sign on the door that says "don't tread on me."

You watch for drunks out of control on the highway in an ice storm. You pray they don't kill you. You respond to suicide calls and cut teenagers from makeshift nooses in their garages or scrape their brain matter out of the soles of your boots. You tell their parents what happened while they were out socializing, again.

You walk into a house with no power in 105 degree heat containing the bodies of an entire family, including babies, now maggot infested and unidentifiable by anything other than the stench of rotten death. You walk up to cars who have nearly run you off the road only

to be met with a gun in your face and no time to react.

You try and coax a brutally beaten and savagely raped teenager the same age as your own daughter out of the closet where she was left to die as she holds a knife to her own throat. You convince her tomorrow will be better.

You hate the police? You have no use for them? You think they're worthless? Do it yourself. Worry about it all on your own. You surely can do better. You surely are wiser than those lazy, corrupt, doughnut eating fools you don't give the time of day to when you hear they were gunned down while you went on about your business. Please, give them a rest and do it yourself.

You might want to hug your family and have your affairs in order before you head out, there's a very real chance you'll never make it home, of course that's no big deal... you signed up for that, and my tax dollars allow me to ignore your worth. After all, you're just a cop.

Oh, and you sure as hell better do it all perfectly, every single time. After all, you're not human anymore. You're just a cop. No one cares if you get it right... but you sure as hell better never get it wrong... because a good cop who did get it right will get his head blown off in an entirely different state if you screw up. That goes for you too, by the way. Better pray all 740,000 do right by that badge today, if not... It's all on you, because all cops are bad cops, right?

— Melissa Littles, Founder,
The Police Wife Life, LLC

*Statistics based on FBI full-year crime data reports based on latest three full years ended in 2012.

BYRNE & ANDERSON, L.L.P. Attorneys at Law



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Many members have also sought our guidance and representation in a wide variety of matters, particularly personal injury claims on behalf of injured officers and/or their family and friends. We also provide representation in criminal and civil litigation, real estate and estate planning. We invite you to learn more about Byrne & Anderson, L.L.P. by visiting our website - ByrneAnderson.com

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How the Boston Globe saw it...

Pumpkin festival chaos in Keene, N.H., leaves plenty of blame to go around

This weekend (October 18 & 19)'s outbreak of pumpkin-fueled mayhem in Keene, N.H., provoked two equally incredulous reactions. First: Seriously – riots at a pumpkin festival? Second: Seriously – tear gas at a riot at a pumpkin festival? The college-age rioters may have truly believed they were just fighting for their right to party, and the police who responded may have honestly believed that Keene was on the brink of civil insurrection, but both badly need a reality check.

The melee started on Saturday afternoon, during the middle of the city's annual Pumpkin Festival, when a party at a house near the Keene State College campus spun out of control. Outmatched officers struggled to contain the disruption as it spilled onto nearby streets. Showing little respect for New Hampshire's state fruit or a community event meant to honor it, the rioters smashed windows, slashed

tires, and overturned Dumpsters. Many of the rioters reportedly came from other schools; the next day, as Keene State became the object of national mockery, students from the college volunteered to clean up the mess.



Hundreds of students volunteered Sunday to clean up after riots broke out in Keene, N.H. These signs were torn down in the violence.

Primary responsibility lies with the instigators, and Keene State College has vowed to punish any of its students who were involved. With plenty of video of the events, that probably won't prove especially difficult. Reflecting the gravity of the situation, on Monday afternoon the governor of New Hampshire called for any other educational institutions whose students participated to hold them accountable as well. The best punishment would probably be to merely publish their names, ensuring that rioters will spend the next few years trying to explain any pumpkin-related indiscretions to future employers.

Still, rowdy students, sometimes displaying less than stellar judgement, are a stubborn fact of life on college campuses, and overreacting has its own dangers. The University of Massachusetts Amherst has faced a similar situation centered around the annual Blarney Blowout, which resulted in 58 arrests this year. A recent review by former Boston police commissioner Edward F. Davis called for the police there to adopt less aggressive tactics. "The donning of riot helmets and the use of chemical munitions had the effect of creating confusion and perpetuating the unruly behavior of the crowd," the report found.

Indeed, in the Keene case, the mere presence of advanced weaponry only seemed to aggravate the situation. "Bring out the BearCat," the students reportedly chanted, referring to an armored vehicle owned by the Keene police. The Davis report on the Amherst disturbances should provide some guidance for Keene and other college towns, too. It turns out that over-armed police forces aren't just a problem for those protesting police brutality against African-Americans in Missouri. Whether it's at a demonstration in Ferguson



Local police lined up in response to large crowds as the Pumpkin Festival near Keene State College in New Hampshire got underway Saturday, October 18, 2014.

Neponset Preschool

or a Pumpkin Festival gone awry in Keene, police shouldn't respond to civil unrest with weaponry out of a war zone.

(Reprinted from the Boston Globe, Tuesday, October 21, 2014.)

...and our response

On behalf of many Boston police officers, I wish to express outrage at your editorial of October 21st, "After Pumpkin Festival chaos, plenty of blame to go around." The sole, total and absolute blame rests squarely with one group of individuals: the drunken, privileged morons who ruined a family festival in a quiet New Hampshire town and acted like spoiled children.

Your naïve suggestion that video footage of the riot "...won't make it especially difficult..." to identify the drunken punks disregards the fact that many, if not most, of the college-age idiots were outsiders, not Keene State students. Ditto your suggestion that "the best punishment... would be to publish their names..." Really? Do you know how few people actually read a newspaper nowadays, or care that their name is published? For most of these over-educated dolts, publishing their names is a badge of honor, and without a criminal prosecution, nobody can prove anything. Hanging a scarlet letter around their necks while Mommy and Daddy continue to pay their tuition means nothing.

Outrageously, you cite a report from the riots at UMass Amherst (*the "Barney Blowout," March, 2014*) by **Ed Davis**, former Boston Police Commissioner (that cost the taxpayers an estimated \$150,000 to learn what we already knew) which asserts that "the donning of riot helmets and the use of chemical munitions had the effect of creating confusion and perpetuating the unruly behavior of the crowd." Neither Ed Davis nor any member of the *Globe* editorial board has personally experienced out-of-control drunks throwing bottles and rocks. Bureaucrats, politicians and newspaper editors sitting safely behind their computers have no appreciation for what the police at Keene State (or UMass) were forced to endure.

The suggestion that that cops "donning riot gear" somehow contributed to the chaos is nothing short of revolting and disgraceful. Soft-cloth, regular-duty, police hats offer no protection from rocks and bottles. As an old police axiom goes, "when you're up to your (butt) in alligators, it's a little difficult to remember that management wanted you to drain the swamp."

—James W. Carnell,
Area A-1 Representative,
Boston Police Patrolmen's Association

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Attention

To all members of the Boston Police Relief Association – Active Duty or Retired

If you need to change your beneficiary or you are not sure of who your beneficiary is you can contact the relief office at 617-364-9565. If you leave a message your call will be returned and if necessary the paperwork will be sent out to you. Thank you.

William F. Carroll, Clerk,
Boston Police Relief Association

Yes, Virginia, there may be a Santa Claus!

Updated for modern times by Jay M

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The PAX, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia

Virginia,

There is no easy answer for this letter. Where are your friends from? The neighborhood, school? What is their ethnicity, their religion? Do they say Happy Holidays? Let's tackle these issues 1 by 1 and see if we can't answer your query – that means question – I forgot you're only 8!

If you're from Marshfield, you'll be getting this on Holiday Break, despite hundreds of parents petitioning the school board to change it back to Christmas Vacation. This change was brought about because one selfish parent complained. If there is a Santa, someone's getting a lump of coal. If you reside in a liberal school district, you could be on Pause for Winter Solstice. But let's assume that you're on Christmas Vacation – which is also the name of a very funny movie, too – the squirrel scene will make you laugh, even if you don't get all the jokes.

If your friends are from the neighborhood, finding out about Santa is easy. Check to see if they decorate their home. If there are lights outside, that's a

good sign. If they have a tree, even better – unless they call it a Holiday Tree.

Run away as fast as you can, don't even stop for gingerbread persons, or Fair Trade Cocoa. If they have a U-shaped candelabra with nine candles, it's not for your next birthday. Those neighbors celebrate Hannukah. It's kind of like Christmas, there are presents but no Santa. The tree should only be called a Christmas Tree. If they call it that, you're almost there...

How do your friends greet you? Do they say: Happy Holidays? If they do, be careful. It's not a sure thing, but you'll have to keep an eye on them for other signs.

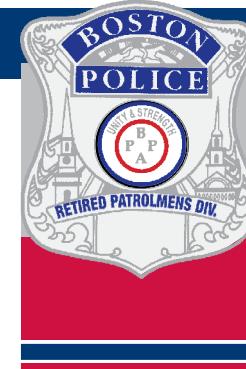
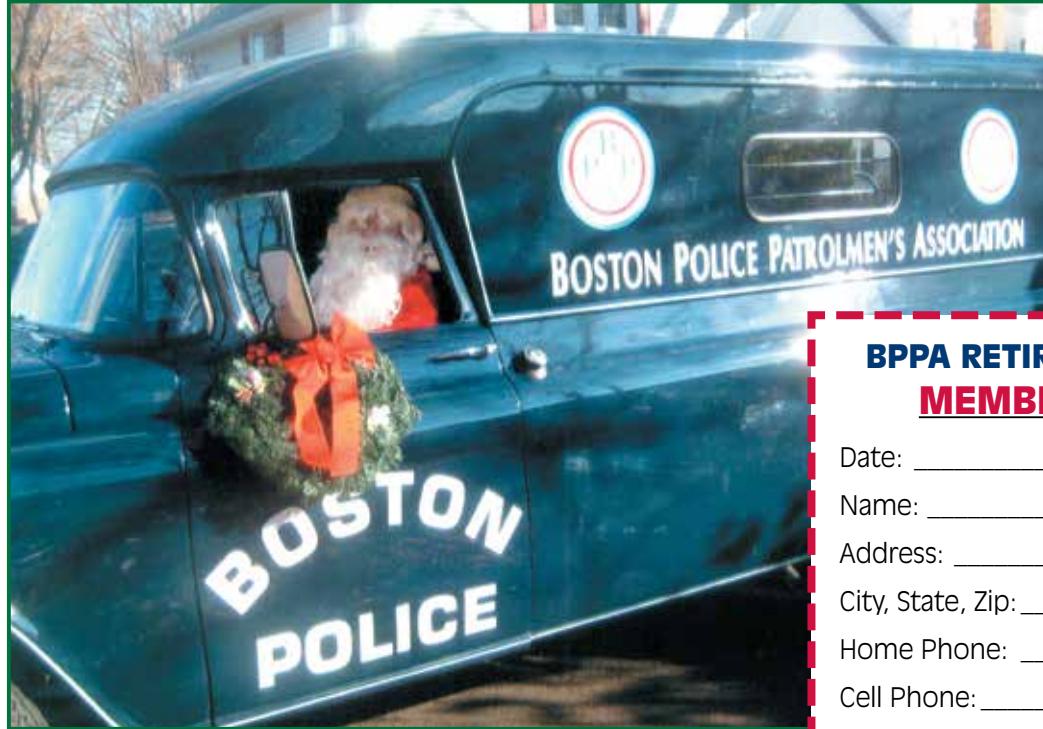
Feliz Navidad, Buon Natale, Joyeux Noel, Boas Festas, Frohe Weihnachten, Bon Pasco, even Shnorhavor Sourp Dzunount all point to Santa. Do your friends go to church on Sunday? They may be Christians, all of whom celebrate the birth of Jesus. As a matter of fact, that's where the word "Christmas" comes from. It's a shorter version of "Christ's Mass."

So, let's recap: Happy Holidays, Holiday break, Holiday tree = coal Christmas Vacation, Merry Christmas or any of its variants; Christmas Tree; Gingerbread Men; Festive Lights outside and/or inside = Church.

You can rest assured, a fat guy in a red suit will be paying you a visit. Tell Uncle Joe – "Merry Christmas!"

Listen kid, Santa **IS** real, and he only has one request – Be Nice. Don't listen to the liberal teachers, know it all fourth graders, and miserable news paper men. If you still don't believe me hop on your iPad and "Google" it.

BPPA Retired Patrolmen's Division News



Directors of
the Retired
Patrolmen's
Division of
the BPPA:

John Murphy
David Mackin
Joe Vannelli
Joe O'Malley
Billy Flippin

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Date of Retirement: _____

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*The BPPA Retired Patrolmen's
Division and Santa Flippin
Wishes a Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to
All Active and Retired
BPPA Patrolmen & BEMS
and their families!*



Things I'm (*mostly*) thankful for

As I sat down this year faced with the task of writing the annual *Christmas Pax* article that incorporates newsworthy Boston Police events to the rhythm of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," I realized I just did not have it in me this year. Maybe next year I'll take another stab at butchering that ageless poem, but for 2014 it just isn't happening. Since this is time to be thankful and be glad for what we have, I have compiled a short list of things I am (*mostly*) thankful for. Unfortunately, with everything there is to give thanks for, there is always that stocking full of coal sitting alongside of it. Here is the good along with the bad.

First, I am thankful that the Boston Police Internal Affairs/Disciplinary process is unorganized, mismanaged, and moves at the same speed as sludge slowly getting pulled downward by gravity. As one who is never in a hurry to get an officer disciplined or suspended, the Internal Affairs process is a blessing in that regard. As you all know, the Internal Affairs Division is now trying to "mop up" cases from 2010 and 2011 that were never investigated, while at the same time trying to move forward on new complaints. With the constant turnover of investigators in the Internal Affairs Division, cases repeatedly get left behind, sitting on someone's desk for months and often times years. Once cases do make it through Internal Affairs, they then stand in a long, slowly moving line at the Legal Advisor's office while discipline is debated for months and months. The positive for the officer is that many times the department seeks to discipline someone years after the fact, something that is difficult to do with a straight face. In this context, discipline serves minimal purpose, and often times punishments get significantly discounted. On the negative side, the coal in this stocking here is that officers who need guidance, supervision, or retraining often do not get the help that they need. If things worked efficiently, corrective measures would be taken immediately to prevent the recurrence of the mistakes over and over again.

When no one takes a serious look at the end result of these cases for such a significant amount of time, it is often the officers themselves who end up getting hurt.

Next, I am thankful that being "truthful" is a deeply valued goal of the Boston Police Department. It is imperative that officers tell the truth, and one dishonest officer can blemish the reputations of hundreds of honest, hard-working officers. Many of you can recall the black-eye the department suffered in the early 1990s when there was a scandal regarding a fictitious informant on search warrants, and most of you recall the harm done to the department's image when officers were arrested trucking drugs into the city. A few bad officers can make it difficult for all of you hard working and honest officers, and the importance the department places on truthfulness is well deserved.

The negative of this "truthfulness thrust" by the department is that the department can use "truthfulness" as a vehicle to get rid of officers who they do not like by either trumping up truthfulness charges or by digging deeply into areas where they have no business going in an effort to try to find something that can be "marketed" as being untruthful. Several years ago I had a client who was a detective in a small, North Shore police department where an investigator hired by the town dug through his application for the FBI Academy, later claiming he was untruthful for the way he characterized an incident that happened almost twenty years prior.



Witch hunts for untruthfulness are dangerous.

Recently, the Boston Police Internal Affairs Division delved into an officer's six year old military records hoping to find something untruthful in a case where the complaint had nothing to do with his military service. Holding officers to a high standard for truthfulness is commendable; going on witch hunts trying to find untruthfulness is despicable.

I am generally thankful that cameras are everywhere, although I reserve the right to change my mind on this. Over the past year or so I have seen footage from store front surveillance cameras of suspects shooting at police, fleeing in cars, and doing other acts which five or ten years ago would never have been discovered. These cameras as a great tool for law enforcement. Think of how all of the cameras in the Boylston Street area helped identify the marathon bombers. There are dozens and dozens of similar, high profile cases that have been solved based upon these ubiquitous cameras. On the negative side, however, I have seen other cases where officers have failed to recognize that these cameras catch all of their actions. Officers have either lost their composure, or lost their ability to accurately (or truthfully) recount an incident when comparing their memory with the unbiased footage. Now there is a push to have officers wear body cameras. I do not believe this is the answer, although in some situations it could be a good thing. For now, let me leave it that I'm glad

that we have this technology that could help the police, but I may think differently by next Christmas.

I am also thankful that I do not live in Ferguson, Missouri, and am even more thankful that I do not represent Ferguson police officers. We all know that Boston is far from the perfect city, although it is a much different and safer city than it was in 1990 when I graduated from law school and the city tallied

152 homicides. In the intervening years, community policing, neighborhood coalitions, outreach by elected officials and the Boston Police

command staff to community groups, and various other efforts have made Boston a much, much better and safe place to live. I can make a much longer list of all of those involved in this process, but I think you get my point. There may not be complete racial harmony, but there is certainly not the tension that we have seen in other parts of the country, primarily due to the hard work of all of those involved in this process trying to get people together so they can see more eye-to-eye than they did in the past.

I am glad I live in a city where the primary medical responders are Boston EMS. I have never needed their services, but from what I have seen and heard, the city is a much safer place due to the professionalism they bring to the city. And, of course, the homicide rate would be much higher without the exceptional medical care they provide.

Finally, I am glad that the new members of the command staff will accept my phone calls when I call for them. Regrettably, with so many levels of bureaucracy, I often do not get an answer when I discuss issues with them. I do wish someone could make a decision, although at least they will talk to me so I do not feel completely ignored. Maybe by next Christmas they will give me the answers I am looking for now?

I hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season. Best wishes from myself, **Jim Byrne, Eric Goldman, Andrew Miller** and **Jon Tobin** here at Byrne & Anderson. Stay safe out there.



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BPPA prevails in injury leave arbitration involving the BPD's Fitness Challenge

On May 27, 2014, arbitrator Tammy Brynie issued an important recreation injury leave award in favor of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association. Boston Police Officer **Jeremiah O'Brien** was seriously injured while participating in the 2012 Boston Police Department Fitness Challenge and his disability eventually led to back surgery. It was the position of the BPPA that Officer O'Brien was entitled to injury leave, but the City disagreed, forcing him to use all of his accumulated sick and vacation leave until his time ran out. The BPPA filed a grievance which was denied by the City at each step until the neutral arbitrator overturned the City's decision.

As background to the case, the Boston Police Department had been increasing its emphasis on improved health and wellness for all officers since 2009. To this end, the Department sponsored an annual one-day Fitness Challenge for which officers were encouraged to train and compete in various physical fitness events. However, the annual challenge was considered a volunteer off-duty activity and no one was required to participate. At first glance, then, one might expect that an officer injured while participating in the Challenge would not be protected by M.G.L. chapter 41, section 111F (the injury leave law applicable to Massachusetts police officers and firefighters). The BPPA thought otherwise, and ultimately Arbitrator Brynie agreed with the union.

The question in injury cases such as this revolves around a determination of whether the activity causing the injury "arises out of and in the course of employment." In making that determination, Massachusetts courts and arbitrators look at "the nature, conditions, obligations or incidents of the employment; in other words, out of the employment looked at in any of its aspects." Under certain circumstances, an employee can be entitled to injury leave for injuries sustained outside regular working hours, even if at the time of injury, the employee is engaged in something only incidental to his/her employment.

For injuries involving employee recreation activities, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has developed more specific criteria to determine whether the injury "arises out of and in the course of employment". Those criteria involve such factors as the customary nature of the recreation activity; the employer's encouragement, subsidization, management and direction of the activity; the pressure upon the employee to attend and participate; and whether the employer receives a benefit from the employee's participation in the activity.

Here, Officer O'Brien was injured during one of the events at the 2012 Boston Police Department Fitness Challenge. Arbitrator Brynie found there were "sufficient links with the Department, its goals and

its mission to consider participation in the Fitness Challenge as an aspect of the performance of the Grievant's duty, for Section 111F purposes." Those links included the annual nature of the event from 2009 to 2012; the organizing, planning and direction of the Fitness Challenge by the Department and its personnel; and the benefits resulting from the event including such intangibles as positive publicity (featured within an episode of the CNN television show, "Boston's Finest"), promotion of the Department's emphasis on health and well-being, better morale, and enhanced team building. In Officer O'Brien's situation in particular, the Arbitrator also found that he received substantial pressure from his supervisors to participate in the event.

The remedy ordered by the arbitrator for Officer O'Brien was comprehensive and made him whole for all his losses. He had his leave status converted to "injured on duty" with a corrected 2013 W-2 issued for his 11-month absence from work. All vacation, sick, personal and W/O days during this period were restored. He was paid for lost holidays and vacation days, and reimbursed for all health insurance co-pays. In addition, 60 Boston police officers had their sick leave reccredited because they had donated time to Officer O'Brien when he ran out of his own earned leave. I know Officer O'Brien will be eternally grateful to his fellow brothers and sisters for their support.

Upon reflection, there is a certain irony in this case that warrants comment. The Boston Police Department invested considerable resources and personnel since 2009 to promote the health and well-being of its officers, and a key component of that effort was the BPD's annual Fitness Challenge. Consequently, the number of participants grew each year as more and more officers embraced the overall goal of being better able to physically perform their jobs. Then, when the Grievant was injured during the 2012 Challenge and the Department denied him injury leave coverage, Boston police officers took notice and participation in the Department's health and wellness program decreased substantially. For example, a Fitness Challenge was scheduled for 2013, but it had to be cancelled for lack of sufficient registration. In hindsight, the Department's long term goal of helping officers to become more fit would have been better accomplished if the injury leave claim in this case had been covered under Section 111F from the outset rather than through the grievance process.

Now it is clear that officers are entitled to injury leave coverage if they are hurt during a future Boston Police Department Fitness Challenge, so we will see if the Department really is committed to the future health and well-being of its officers. Going forward, that is the real Challenge from the outcome of this grievance arbitration victory.

“Cotton-Headed Ninny-Muggins”

By P.O. Jay Moccia

Is brushing your teeth before going to the dentist like cleaning your car before you go to the car wash?



Have you ever had a meal that was so good, you wish you could go back in time 15 minutes and eat it again?



Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Absolute vodka intoxicates, absolutely.



I don't own an assault rifle, I own a modern sporting rifle. Sounds so harmless – TAKE THAT gun grabbing liberals!!



I don't think it's the tryptophan that makes you sleepy after your Thanksgiving meal, rather it's the fact you just consumed more food than an entire Central American village.



I went by a group of PETA protesters, spouting their nonsense about meat and fur. Obviously, one of them didn't get the memo, and held up her sign wearing a pair of leather gloves.



My son opined that since a dog's nose is about 100 million times better than a human's, how good it must smell when someone's cooking say a steak, for instance. I countered that most people fart more than they eat steak.



I find it funny that it's all ALWAYS OUR fault when someone gets to the booking desk.



All units be sure to have their PPE or Riot Gear available at all times, but you won't be using it. It seems there is a better chance of getting a hernia from carrying it around, than being struck by a bottle.



Somerville is known as the “All American City,” but since local pols have made it a sanctuary destination, it will soon be the “Non-American City.”



Why do Reproductive Rights include abortion? A procedure that by its very nature, halts reproduction.



Liberals sold the de-criminalization of marijuana by claiming pot was harmless – hmm, in two high (pun intended) profile cases, the use of dope was anything but. Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's buddy Robel Phillipos claimed in his defense that he was so high on pot that he did not know what he was doing when he dumped evidence from Tsarnaev's dorm room. Gentle Giant Mike Brown's toxicology report showed marijuana in his blood and urine. Brown was killed in a confrontation with a Ferguson, MO Police Officer after a robbery. That, boys and girls is why they call it “dope.”



If you want to know who the smartest man in the room is, just wait, when he tells you, cross him off the list ASAP.



How do you spot a true believer? Ask a liberal woman if she would forego a diamond. Ask an atheist to sell their soul. Ask an abortion rights activist to support the death penalty.



Last year, I remodeled the bath in my master bedroom. This

included a new light fixture that features a fluorescent bulb, which is just now starting to go. I may take my time replacing it though, because the dim light makes me look ten years younger.



President Obama mentioned in a speech that Muslims were a “part of the fabric of America” from the very beginning. As a student of history, I don't recall seeing that in any of the books I read. File under: Osama Ben Franklin.



Diversity includes diversity of opinion.



A possible Ebola patient is being treated at Mass. General. He asked his caregiver why he's only been getting pancakes, and pizza to eat. The doc replied: “because that's all that will slide under the door.”



China has banned all puns – that may be a good thing for US consumers. Have you ever seen the horrible grammar on those translated instructions??? Puns banned – crap, I'd be facing a Death Penalty.



The Obama Administration nominated Soap Opera producer and \$\$\$ campaign donor Colleen Bell as Ambassador to Hungary. A spokesman could not articulate any specific qualifications, but it's rumored during an interview, when asked how her appointment would benefit US/Hungary relations, she replied; “I'd feed them, of course...” (take THAT China!).



Republican Charlie Baker was elected Governor of Massachusetts, after defeating Democratic challenger Martha Coakley. It should be a relief for the taxpayers to have Baker at the helm, at least fiscally. And to dispel that rumor Baker will lay waste to the pension system, I offer two good reasons: First, the Commonwealth views your pension as a contract between you (worker) and the state – with SJC case law to back that up. It cannot be altered by either party, once an employee is vested in the system. Which leads me to point two; only new employees' pensions can be modified, which would be made clear when hired. And any of you skeptics who still cling to the myth of the Democrat as a supporter of the working man, look at your check, we all pay different amounts toward our contribution, ranging from 6% to 13%, thank you donkeys. Oh, and don't forget outgoing Gov. Patrick (D!) cut our Quinn Bill pay, and put flagmen on the street. Hey Deval, don't let the door to your (former) \$11 million office hit you in the backside on the way out.



Speaking of our outgoing diminutive Governor, Deval Patrick almost took the crown of worst governor ever from Mike Dukakis. Patrick's title hopes were smashed when the headrest to the Governor's limo was found, and Dukakis testified on behalf of Marathon Bombing accessory after the fact Robel Phillipos. Don't feel bad for Deval, he'll always be number two (catch me if you can Red China).



The ballot questions also proved a boon to taxpayers. Q1, an automatic gas tax increase was scrapped, and Q2 a higher/expanded bottle deposit got taken out handily. Casinos will go forward (Q3) and paid sick time (Q4) will be offered to all employees. And in typical Massachusetts fashion, despite Republican gains in the US House and Senate, we still have nothing but D's, just like my sophomore report

card (somewhere in the Politburo offices a commie is crying).



Since when has taking seats out of bus stops and parks constituted a solution to the problem of homeless/junkies congregating in certain urban areas?



As the riots, protests, and looting continue in Ferguson, MO and all over the US, I found myself thinking. We (Law Enforcement) have brought rock solid cases to court, only to be shocked when the result is a not guilty. Conversely, we have had weak cases that end in conviction. This is our system, however flawed it may be. Just because a case doesn't come out your way, is no excuse to burn and steal. If you don't like the way the system works, work to change it. You want to march, and shout your silly slogans, go right ahead. But when you destroy, all you do is create more discord not dialogue.



As cops, we all know nothing ever happens on the first floor. Not only is that true, but it's usually freezing out, too!



I went to a charity event in East Boston recently. I wasn't there more than five minutes before I started to sound like one of the extras from "Goodfellas". #heeeyhowyoodewin-gooombahhhh



I won't say the overtime in the Department is out of control, but has it gotten so overwhelming that patrolmen have to fill in the supervisor's names too?



President Obama has signed an Executive Order halting the potential (HA!) deportation of about 5 million illegal aliens. Considering the odds of this gamble Las Vegas was the perfect spot to unveil it. Obama forgot two things. What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas, and the House always wins. (screw you Chicoms!)



Speaking of Obama's trip to Sin City, he brought on stage Astrid Silva, an illegal alien and well known activist-so much for "living in the shadows." Just wondering why the press didn't get all lathered up like they did over Charlie Baker's fisherman. Now I ask you gentle reader, how does someone here illegally not only attend college, but become an "advisor(?) to the Senate majority (not for long tee-hee) leader. I guess Massachusetts isn't the only place illegal isn't illegal!



Comedian Bill Cosby has come under fire for allegations of sexual abuse. One of America's all-time favorite TV dads, Cosby has been accused by dozens of women claiming Dr. Huxtable drugged them and played "doctor." Now correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't we have a President who did something similar (minus the drugs)?? Remember, in America, everyone is innocent until proven guilty. If Cos did it, shame on him, if not, he need look no further than Clinton to gain his reputation back.



Recent events in Ferguson, and New York City, highlight the dangers Police Officers face every day. The "hands up don't shoot" meme turned up everywhere – despite it being proved inaccurate, and false by eyewitnesses. The media continued to refer to the Officer's tactics in NYC as a chokehold, even after being informed it was taught at one time in their Police Academy. The continued controversy is being fueled by the media, and race hustlers like Al Shar-

ton. Why even the top law enforcement official in the US, Attorney General Eric Holder has referred to the Police as an "occupying force". Let just one of these phonies walk a beat-and encounter what we do on a daily basis. How would they deal with a 300 pound man intent on taking their gun? Or trying to handcuff an uncooperative giant? Just speculating here, but if the outcome were different-say Mike Brown got Officer Wilson's gun? Would he have been satisfied to shake hands, and call it a day, or tell the Officer he'd drop it by the station later? No, he was enraged and high, and made poor choices that day- which ruined many lives, least of which was his own. Cops know when you're fighting over your duty weapon neither party is "unarmed." I suppose if Big Mike got that weapon and shot Officer Wilson, the media portrayal of both parties would be a lot different – and everyone reading this knows that to be true. It would be bag pipes and flags. Brown would be locked away, and there would be no Ferguson. The case of Eric Garner is a bit more interesting, in part because of the video shot during the incident. Again, this is an industry specific publication. We have all been involved in struggles while trying to arrest a suspect. The fact that he was being arrested for a violation of city ordinances does nothing more than muddy the waters. If he were being arrested for murder or rape, would there be a media frenzy? Even a passively resisting offender takes at least four cops to handle, let alone a guy the size of an NFL lineman who didn't want to go. Garner's health issues were known to him, not the Police. If it was such a b@!!&#!+ charge, take the pinch – it wasn't his first – and let the judge throw it out or fine you. HE chose to resist, and again, it cost him dearly. But what if the NYPD just let him go? Would the Officers then face the wrath of their supervisors, an irate City Councilor, Public Health Official? Don't forget, this is the place that wanted to ban soft drinks! And Garner was selling – GASP... untaxed cigarettes! The loss of a life is a tragedy, and to be avoided at all costs, but in some cases this is how it ends.



A little heavy for the Christmas issue, I'll agree. I could have gone on about the holiday tree-creche on the square, Santa, and the lot, but got caught up in my deadline. So, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Don't forget to vote in the upcoming Union election. Despite who you may support, nothing says watch out for us more than a good showing at the polls. If we turn out, the City knows we are energized and involved. It's your union – be heard. Stay safe!

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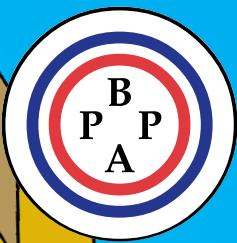
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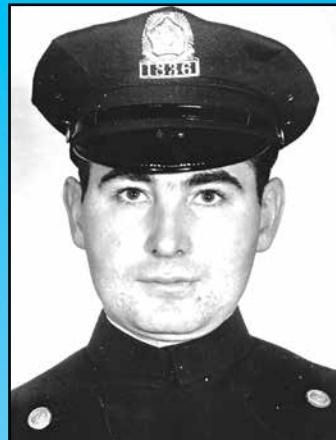
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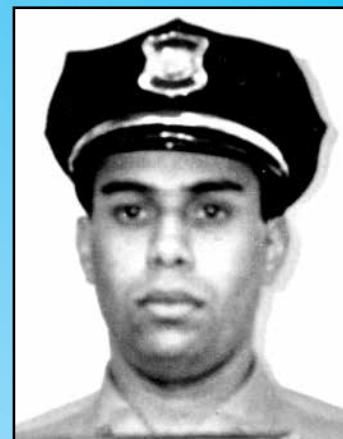


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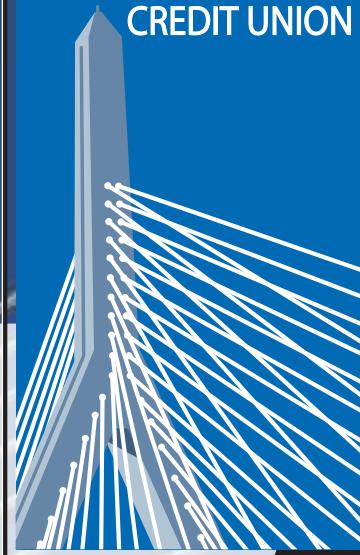


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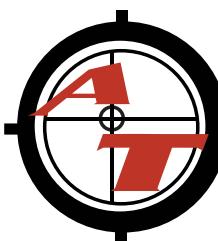
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