

## **A Few Minutes with the Boss**

By: Joseph Andalina

### **How ironic**

Representative John Cabello, a Rockford police detective on leave, is a lead negotiator of Senate Bill 1307, which “authorizes police body cameras.” Senator Kwame Raul, a Democrat from Chicago, was a lead sponsor.

Mr. Cabello thinks this will improve policing and community trust. It has been reported that lawmakers from the GOP and the Democratic party, the governor, various police groups, and our beloved ACLU have backed this new legislation which our Governor, “Rauner the Bruce,” recently signed into law.

They tout safety, relationships and holding cops accountable as a need for the bill. They say “while the bill may not thrill everyone” (really?) it is real progress as a Kumbaya movement. They say it’s color-blind. Nice, but I thought policing was always color-blind.

So what does Senate Bill 1307 actually do? Well, Batman, I’ll tell you.

- Authorizes the use of body cameras — it does not require them.
- Sets rules for its use and storing of data.
- Orders fair-policing training (whatever that means).
- Re-training for officers if you piss off some members of the citizenry, politicians, or make a turn signal, license plate violation, or some other ticket that someone complains about.
- Provides a database for fired cops or those who have resigned while being investigated.
- Provides independent investigators in officer-involved deaths.
- And here’s the ironic part — adds a \$5 charge on a traffic ticket to help fund the camera and data storage.

Let’s explain. A \$5 fee will be added to traffic tickets beginning January 1, 2016.

Does anyone else see the hypocrisy here besides me from my space on this lonely planet? After the Department of Justice condemned Police and many news outlets and magazines, like *Mother Jones* and press editorials blasted cops and municipalities for their “collect and serve” policies where they accused cops of being revenue generators from minorities, it’s okay for these people to pass a bill to generate money that the state doesn’t have to fund this program — from the public?

How many stops are they going to press cops to make to pay for this boondoggle? And are they only going to stop white folks so the beefs are minimized? Is this not the same thing that the Department of Justice and the press have condemned? Do you see the dark side here?

It's **always** the politicians who direct the cops to generate revenue, and that's what gets our police officers in trouble.

Guys and gals in blue, when your time comes, maybe you should rethink this and use your discretion.

Because they want to use you to write tickets to pay for their program to record you, actually so they can investigate you, retrain you, and throw your ass out if they don't like what they see on camera.

All I can say is "Mi sento molto male."

Vita é bella