

A Few minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Darien, Illinois Police capture the bad guys

Can we have a better example of cops doing their jobs? Recently, in Darien, Illinois, that village suffered a horrible crime when a lone gunman broke into a home in the middle of the night. After destroying a front window with a hammer, the dirt bag entered the residence, located his victims, then shot and killed a mother, father, and their 20-year old son. Three other people, including the main object of this attack, hid and were able to escape without physical injury. The offender shot all three victims multiple times, then utilized the coup de grâce with one more bullet to each of their heads. A horrible execution of a family, and a town's nightmare.

This piece of garbage then fled, and apparently drove to Florida, stopping on the way to discard evidence, the gun, and the clothing in a dumpster behind an Indiana restaurant. The coward was located and arrested while sleeping in his vehicle outside his parents' home. That's what cowards do—run to momma for protection.

But now the only protection he has is what will be given to him behind bars while he is tried and convicted, and hopefully sentenced to die. One could only hope that justice eventually would allow family members to put some bullet holes in him as retribution but alas, if he should get the ultimate penalty, he will be humanely put to sleep, just like a beloved pet. Makes no sense but we must remain civilized while the brutes of the world run roughshod over an unsuspecting public.

As reported, the police already had in custody the possible mastermind of this “hired” plot, the daughter's (who escaped) ex-boyfriend and father of their child. So in a week, the case was wrapped up pending indictment, trials, convictions, and incarceration. The details of the case (within limits) pending the upcoming court proceedings are available in various print/media outlets.

But the point here is that the chief kept things calm and controlled and allowed his patrol officers, detectives, and evidence people to work tirelessly to apprehend these killers, one within hours and the other within days. They also worked flawlessly with other agencies and obtained a video taped confession from the shooter, who allegedly implicated the ex-boyfriend as the original plotter, seemingly over domestic issues involving the ex-girlfriend and the child. What a waste of life.

But here we had a police agency act in a meticulous, professional and efficient manner to protect the public, close out a horrible crime (for now) and bring some element of justice to the grieving survivors. It was policing at its best.

I hope that while they get all the respect and applause they deserve, that the actions collectively illustrate what a fantastic job that cops do. In a time when a lot of chiefs, mayors, politicians, and press continuously harangue police over conceding wages,

benefits, taking furlough days, altering pensions and seniority, we as police officers consistently rise above the harassment and mistreatment we receive on a daily basis. It is what we do. We take our oath seriously.

Can they all not see that is why you pay your public sector decent police wages and benefits? Give them rights in the collective process and provide a comfortable but not excessive pension in their later years after so much time protecting the public from the horrors they see every day? They get that pension because we are “sin eaters,” absorbing so much bad that the public hardly ever sees.

Professional police do just what Darien did. Maintain their composure, work tirelessly to protect and serve, and conduct themselves in a dignified manner in order to bring offenders to justice. They do this with all the attacks, both physically and mentally thrust against them.

Our employers need to be on our side once in a while and the press needs to see through the propaganda that comes from our employers to dismiss our benefits. They need to recognize that this is what we do and continue to do as professionals. The Darien Police Department has shown you why you need cops and why you have to support them. So give us all in law enforcement a break and realize that the public needs a professional force that is not constantly maligned by politicians.

Stay safe.

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