

A Few Minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

Would you?

Would you what, you are asking. It's a question you see on numerous news shows lately.

Would you, as a police officer or a wannabe, continue to stay with or apply for a job when so many hate you—that is the public we serve. The politicians, in an effort to save money strive to cut your wages, benefits, and pensions. And of course, we are racist, brutal public servants.

And of course the press and media who tell half-truths about us and look to skewer you for the way we police. Making mountains out of molehills and framing our reaction to criminals in a way to fit their anti-cop agenda is frightening.

And now they report “The Ferguson Effect” blithely proclaiming that the police are backing away from their jobs due to what transpired in Missouri last summer. A white cop shoots a black suspect who attacked him. Riots ensued, activists, and others lied and ginned up a minority population when the officer was not indicted and destroyed their own community.

It's not just Ferguson. It's New York, Baltimore, Florida, and other places where cops have to use deadly force. Some other areas police have used excessive force and cops were charged. No excuses for those officers who have acted criminally but most don't. But the citizens, press, and political hacks demonize us all before the facts are in and even when we are exonerated. Keeping the peace is different and sometimes we have to be less than peaceful to be effective and provide for safety.

So it has been reported that due to officers being arrested and indicted, injured, and left out to dry as scapegoats for municipalities that we are backing away from doing our jobs. Making less contacts, writing less tickets, ignoring minor crimes and taking their time getting to calls.

In response, a community senses this and in order to partake in more criminality, have increased the crime rate, shootings rate, and homicide rate. Murders are up in Chicago, New York, Baltimore, Houston, and Milwaukee as well as many others.

Police report when they go into these minority areas, which are mostly affected, they are surrounded by mobs of people. But it is obvious that being thrown to the wolves by the brass and fear of being arrested for doing their jobs has, without a doubt, has an impact on policing.

And that is the question I ask: Would you continue to do your job, or even want it, if by doing so and you are caught up in this insanity that you risk your job, your life, your reputation, your pension and your image if for the sake of expediency you are hung out to dry?

Remember the officer in Missouri had to appear before a grand jury. Was vilified by the press, black activists, POTUS, and the DOJ, even though he was exonerated by a grand jury and later by a DOJ who tried mightily to find fault in his response to a guy trying to main or kill him.

He had to resign, lost his cop job, got no severance, lost his reputation and has gone into hiding because of numerous death threats. He can never be a cop again.