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Mike Ferguson Situation Update #1

Thank you for caring, signing up and spreading the word ...

For further information
email:
fergusonhelp@armiger.net

So far, the response has been very encouraging in the support for Mike. Word is now beginning to spread quickly thanks to the efforts of folks like you. Lots of people despise these "forward this message to as many people as you can" campaigns, and for good reason. Many of them are scams or are just plain stupid. This issue can and has had significant effect on the law enforcement community.

It will likely take a while to get the ball rolling, but once we do more and more officers will have the courage to speak out against this injustice. There are a good number of officers who feel they cannot or should not speak up for fear of reprisal. This is not the time to remain silent. Find a way to do SOMETHING even if it an anonymous donation to whatever fund might be set up to challenge this historic and ill-founded decision.

Part of the problem with the apathetic response from officers and the public since this situation began its downward slide is the belief that "it can't happen here" or "it can't happen to me." Neither could be further from the truth. In his lectures, Kenneth Murray speaks of the Unintended Consequences of Well Intentioned Training, where good people got up in the morning and had the intention of doing the right thing. But at some point, they crossed the boundary between "before" and "after" ... a point from which no one could step back.

That point was not crossed at the moment Darren Varley attempted to wrest control of a firearm from Mike Ferguson. Darren Varley made a mistake. It cost him his life. Mike Ferguson took correct action. It cost him his quality of life.

This was the final dominoe in a collapsing row of dominoes that had been set in motion by outdated training practices and improper staffing issues, and this perfect storm was set in

motion well in advance.

It's impossible to imagine what the families of either Mike Ferguson or Darren Varley have had to endure following this situation. Both families have a perfect right to be angry about their respective losses ... but their anger is misdirected. It should be directed at a system that permitted each of these separate wrongs to have been avoided. There are SO many things wrong with this situation, but the expedient solution is to mollify the grieving family and crucify the responding officer. Shame on the system.

There were no winners from this confrontation, only losers. And if the system isn't fixed, this is only the beginning.

Here in the USA, many of these issues have been addressed, and clear precedent established that has guided the actions of officers who are locked in mortal combat as they struggle for control of their gun. Canada, that considers itself a much less violent culture, is only now beginning to experience many of the issues the USA had to come to grips with years ago. This is evident by the call by the RCMP for higher power weaponry (See Blue Line Magazine headline "RCMP - We Are Outgunned!") and the arming of all border protection officers (up until now they are given vests because of the possibility of being shot at, but no guns to shoot back!) The RCMP have lost more officers in a 12 month period than ever in history. This is not a blip on the radar ... it is the commencement of a trend.

It is not the intention of any of these writings to attempt to be preachy, or to tell Canada how to run their legal system. But as evidenced by the dramatic rise in assaults on officers and outright killings, if Canada is to take the slow road to beginning to develop and adopt policies on how to deal with such rising violence, there will be unnecessary bloodshed.

It is essential for those of you who are beginning to witness the turning of the tide to search out the training methodologies that are undeniably making officers safer, and hence providing a higher level of protection to the citizenry they have sworn an oath to protect.

The consequences of simply looking the other way are self evident.

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