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#1
Respect of Authority

A Defunding Consideration

Less Lethal = More Violence

Shame

Shrapnel #1

Thanks for checking out Shrapnel, this is just a collection of views and opinions written by everyday people with everyday problems in the raw. Hopefully you will find something that resonates with you and if not thanks for at least taking the time to read this. All authors are and will always be anonymous.

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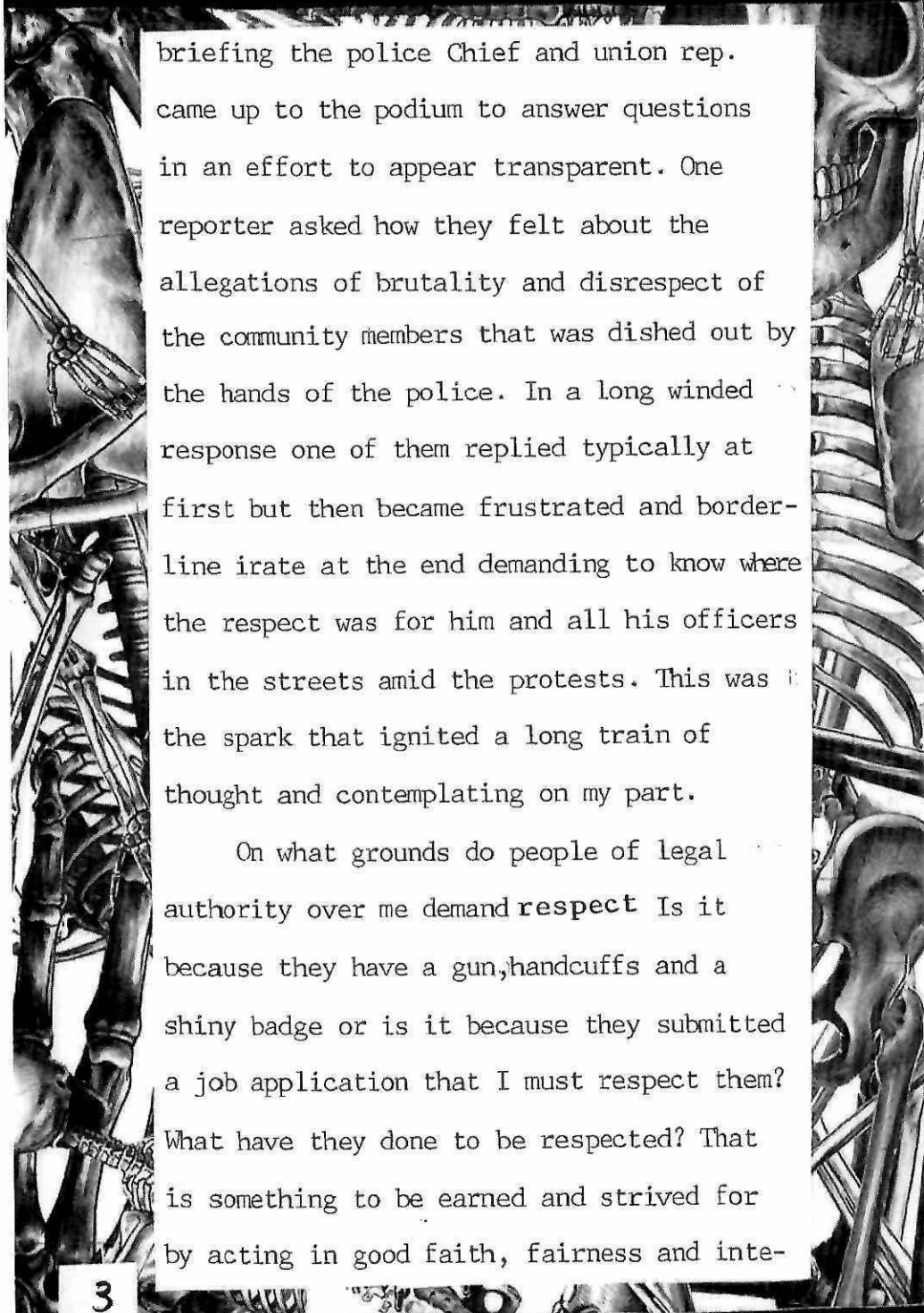
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Respect of Authority

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past year, there is no way that you haven't heard about the recent police shootings and protests that ripped through the country soon after. While none of this sort of violence is new by any means and has a long history of being underreported in the media and other news outlets, I am however noticing a difference in how police departments are responding to each incident. Some are doing the right thing and take ownership of their departments and officers behaviours while others, are deplorable and skirt around the issue never taking responsibility while deflecting as much as possible. Not too long ago there was such a shooting and as we have all come to expect, the police started up their P.R. campaign to ease the public.

It started out as the normal briefing that we have all become familiar with, bland and vague information. Towards the end of the



briefing the police Chief and union rep. came up to the podium to answer questions in an effort to appear transparent. One reporter asked how they felt about the allegations of brutality and disrespect of the community members that was dished out by the hands of the police. In a long winded response one of them replied typically at first but then became frustrated and borderline irate at the end demanding to know where the respect was for him and all his officers in the streets amid the protests. This was the spark that ignited a long train of thought and contemplating on my part.

On what grounds do people of legal authority over me demand **respect** Is it because they have a gun, handcuffs and a shiny badge or is it because they submitted a job application that I must respect them? What have they done to be respected? That is something to be earned and strived for by acting in good faith, fairness and inte-

her firearm, even when no death or injury occurred, there is at least some investigation that takes place but the same could not be said for tazers or O.C. spray in most cases. So we are left in the end with no investigation, no accountability, and no action taken yet stuck with all the violence and then some.

-Anonymous

minutes the officer returned, opened his foodport and assaulted him with O.C. spray for what could at most be considered a noise complaint. Not only is this level of violence completely unacceptable it accomplished nothing and actually intensified the issue and the officer was never held accountable for what he did. Even on the street when an arrest is happening how common is it to hear someone shout, "stop resisting," just before a tazer deployment? Often times they may not even be resisting anymore and those words are just a cover to seek revenge on the individual.

And so, as previously mentioned, Less lethal does absolutely nothing to improve the conditions of oppression driven by the violence that surrounds us, it actually exacerbates the problem in new ways. It seems odd that if a cop discharges his or

grity, it should never be given arbitrarily to anybody for just doing a job. Otherwise, what do they have to work for? On the other side of that, what if someone is compelled to respect authority automatically? How could anyone ever question their motives or actions when they do step out of bounds and commit injustices? Any sort of questioning of what they are doing or why, even when obviously illegal, leads to a direct confrontation instead of self reflection and correction because of their perceived disrespect. Not every action needs to be predicated on a respect/disrespect basis and it is exactly these thought patterns that cause authorities to feel disrespected whenever they are met with anything less than the utmost respect, which could lead to possible violence. Even though I do not advocate for the arbitrary respect of authority, I can neither condone the arbitrary disrespect either but instead

-Anonymous

body that's scared has an elevated risk of acting with aggression and violence and teaching this seems to be at odds with the deescalation practices they are also taught. We have more to fear from them than they do of us anyways.

In my own experience I have seen people maced and tazed by the police who are intent solely on inflicting pain and suffering on another human being. Take for instance a severely mentally ill person that I was in county jail with. He wahaving some type of outburst in his cell and occassionally he would kick the door and yell, mostly at himself. The officer on the deck approached his cell door and aggressively told him to, "Shut the fuck up or I'll shut you the fuck up!" I don't think anybody would respond well to that and especially not somebody in his situation or state of mind and so he continued his ranting and raving in his cell. Within

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A DEFUNDING CONSIDERATION

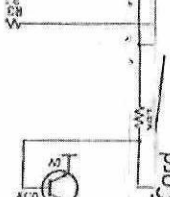
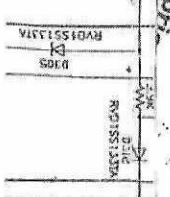
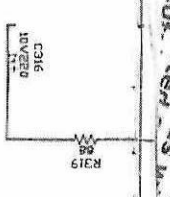
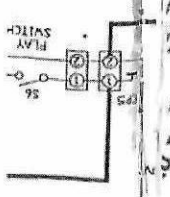
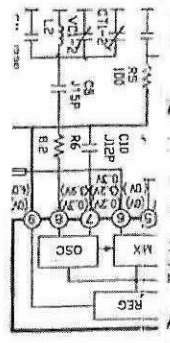
2014 Drops (2014)

Given the current political climate the topic of defunding the police, either fully or partially, is a fairly common conversation these days. Both sides have strong opinions of the matter and depending on the side you'll hear arguments along the line of, it will lead to lawlessness, chaos and disorder or you'll hear from the other side about civil liberties, oppression and brutality but very little attention is ever given to how police will go about funding themselves if either fully or partially defunded and the consequences that could follow. Especially so in the states that allow policing for profits.

If we are to defund the police in any degree we must have the foresight to consider the ramifications of that decision. We

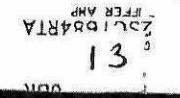
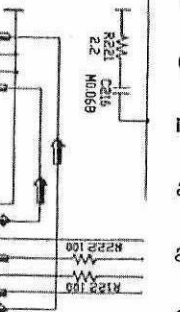
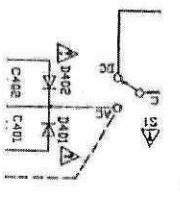
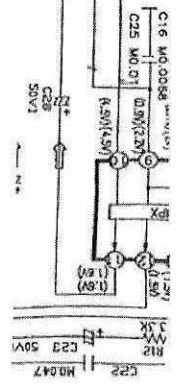
likelihood of death occurring. Generally that does sound like a good thing, and it is in some aspects and in certain situations if used that way.

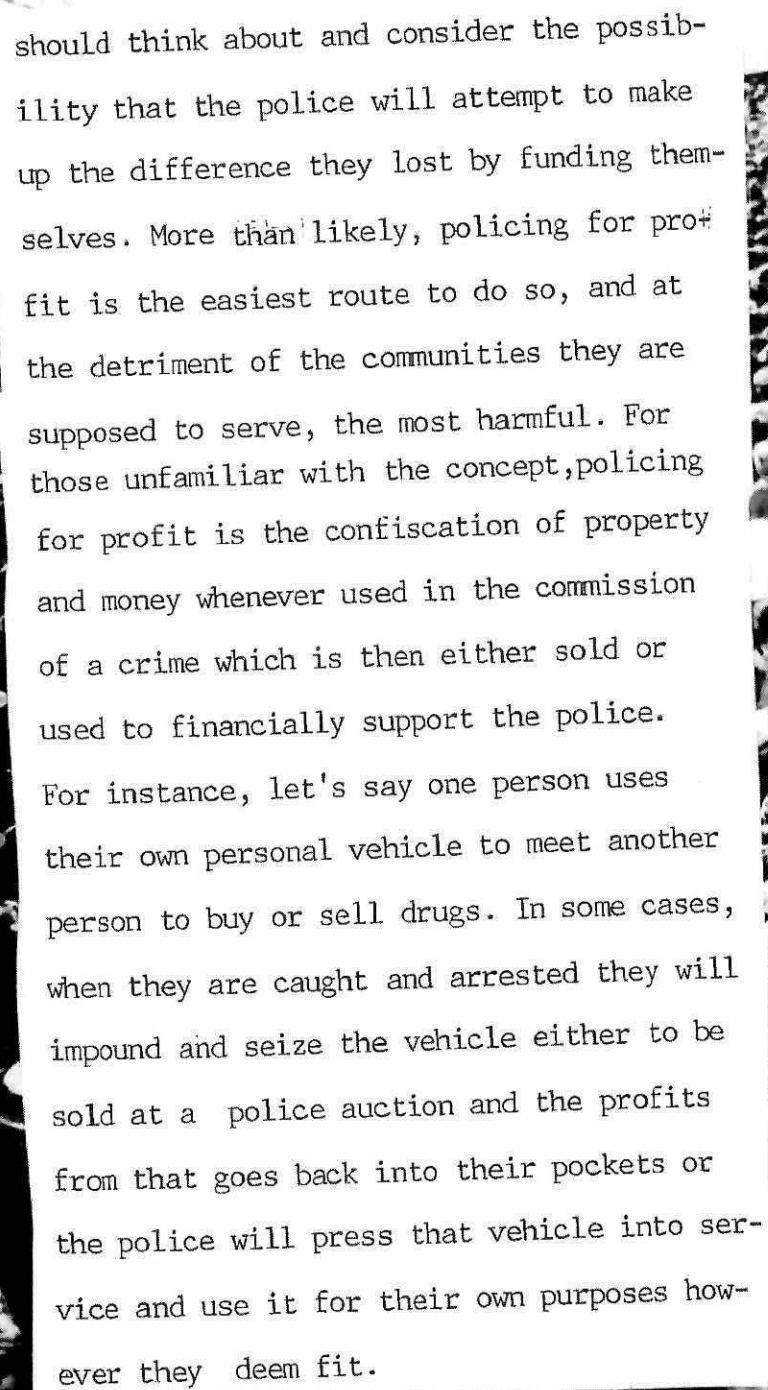
What they fail to realize is how less lethal devices are used or abused and the much looser regulations surrounding them than firearms, in addition to the decreased risk of being investigated in the aftermath of being deployed. This makes officers more apt to resort to an unnecessary confrontation and escalation of violence instead of deescalation and actually doing real policing. A compounding issue is how and what cops are taught which is often times conflicting in it's self. One example of that is they often are told, "you are one mistake away from not seeing your family again" or variations of that. This instills a certain fear into them which has the same effect as training them be aggressive. Any-



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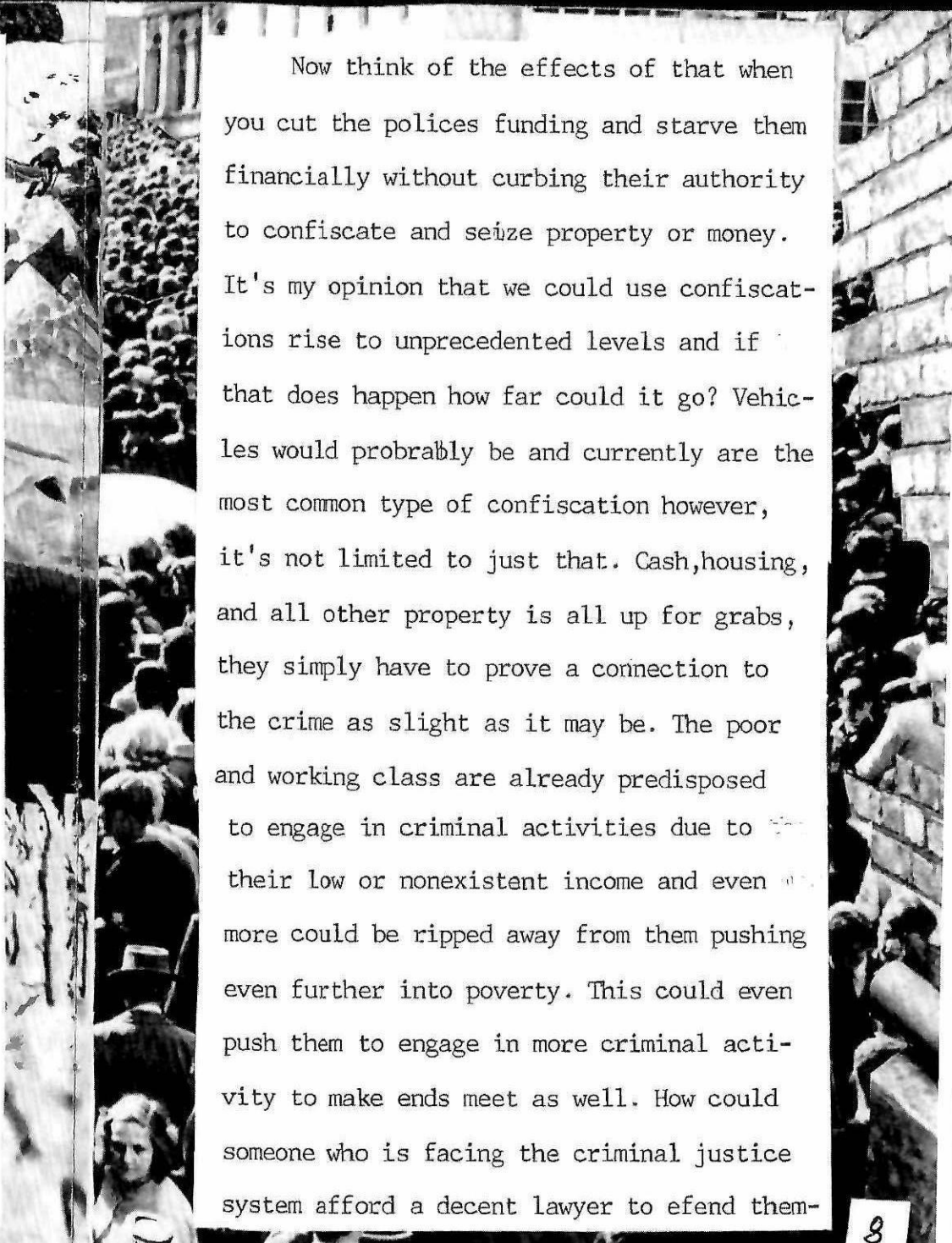


should think about and consider the possibility that the police will attempt to make up the difference they lost by funding themselves. More than likely, policing for profit is the easiest route to do so, and at the detriment of the communities they are supposed to serve, the most harmful. For those unfamiliar with the concept, policing for profit is the confiscation of property and money whenever used in the commission of a crime which is then either sold or used to financially support the police. For instance, let's say one person uses their own personal vehicle to meet another person to buy or sell drugs. In some cases, when they are caught and arrested they will impound and seize the vehicle either to be sold at a police auction and the profits from that goes back into their pockets or the police will press that vehicle into service and use it for their own purposes however they deem fit.

LESS LETHAL=MORE VIOLENCE

Most police departments these days have already adopted some type of less lethal devices in addition to their firearms in a way to curb deadly force used by them. Because of this it seems apparent that they recognize a problem with how they go about policing. However, I think they are missing the mark here, I do not believe it is the use of deadly force that is necessarily the problem in itself. I believe it to be the general use of violence in order to gain compliance of someone. If we aren't correcting the core issue but instead introduce new weapons that don't have consequences of deadly force but still maintain the level of violence is that what we want?

Proponents of less lethal or less than lethal devices consider them to be tools as another option to firearms as a way of controlling or subduing someone without the



selves in court with any valuable assets they may have had already impounded or confiscated? Most couldn't and they would end up with a sub par public defender at the complete mercy of the state. Then when it's all said and done and have completed their sentence, whatever it may be, are left with nothing and what then? Where do they turn then?

I understand that this is a lot of speculation with as many "coulds" and "woulds" as there are "this" and "that's" but I do believe it is necessary to consider all the possible outcomes. In my opinion there is no doubt that we need to reduce police funding but in conjunction with that we must also limit their authority to confiscate and seize property. Otherwise without these limits in addition to reform and defunding the possibility is very real that they will abuse their power in new ways to regain what they once lost.

-Anonymous

Now think of the effects of that when you cut the police's funding and starve them financially without curbing their authority to confiscate and seize property or money. It's my opinion that we could use confiscations rise to unprecedented levels and if that does happen how far could it go? Vehicles would probably be and currently are the most common type of confiscation however, it's not limited to just that. Cash, housing, and all other property is all up for grabs, they simply have to prove a connection to the crime as slight as it may be. The poor and working class are already predisposed to engage in criminal activities due to their low or nonexistent income and even more could be ripped away from them pushing even further into poverty. This could even push them to engage in more criminal activity to make ends meet as well. How could someone who is facing the criminal justice system afford a decent lawyer to defend them-

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