

MCCA President Tom Manger's Reaction to the President's Comments on Use of Force

Our job got tougher last Friday. As a cop for the past 40 years, I was appalled when I heard the President of the United States condone injuring an individual in police custody. This violates our Constitution, our Department policy, and the public trust.

While any elected official can give their views on how the police should do their jobs, it is the actions of police officers that speak directly to who we are.

Applauding those remarks just confirmed to those who don't like or trust the police that we give a wink and a nod to excessive force. We don't. And anyone that does should not be wearing a badge.

Every police officer that I've spoken with in the last two days was dismayed by the President's words. My hope is that those present were just caught up in the moment and perhaps thought it was a poor attempt at humor.

For the past 3 years, the actions of a small number of police officers have shaped the narrative of policing in this nation. Through the magic of social media, some of the public is convinced that there is an epidemic of police violence in this Country. The fact is that police use of force has gone down over the years and accountability has gone up. We still have more we can do to keep this trend moving in the right direction, but the training being given to cops today has never been better. Accountability measures that have been put into place are stronger than ever before. Again, that good work continues.

I first became a cop in 1976. I'm not naive as to the way policing has evolved. I also know that cops today are as courageous and professional as ever in our history. We are better at hiring the right people in the first place, investing in their training throughout their career, and holding them accountable for their actions.

I'm proud of my cops. They risk their safety, and their lives everyday they go to work to keep the public safe. They feel a keen sense of responsibility to keep everyone safe. That includes the people we arrest.

Chief J. Thomas Manger
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