



## **#WeAllMatter**

It's been approximately one year since the last time I wrote my article on the "War on Police." Unfortunately, war has been waged on police throughout this nation, and it hasn't changed—in fact, it has only gotten worse. The war is coming from all fronts, making it more and more difficult for police to do their job. Police officers are videotaped, photographed and humiliated on social media by left-wing websites and anti-police groups, all for doing a job most people aren't willing to do.

What's disheartening is that it has spread to some politicians who have plans or future plans to run for political office in order to "secure the vote." Again, an attack on the police is an attack on society as a whole. It's an attack on an established order and the brave men and women who protect that order. Law enforcement officers throughout this country have a duty to safeguard lives and property, and the vast majority do it with pride and honor. Police throughout the nation sense a growing anti-cop sentiment driven by a handful of racially-charged incidents, and it is making the job of policing even more dangerous.

Some of these high-profile cases, which have no merit and oftentimes involved only part of a cellphone video, have been criticized by the media, anti-police groups and politicians who are making it a difficult and extremely dangerous climate to police in. The Black Lives Matter group was allegedly formed to bring awareness to police brutality in the United States against African-Americans. Some media outlets call this movement the "New Civil Rights Movement." Actions speak louder than words, and from what I see, the Black Lives Matter group is an organized anti-police hate group. To affiliate themselves with any civil rights movement is a slap in the face to the men and women who fought and gave their lives for equal rights.

In 2016, it seems that police officers have been increasingly targeted. Five police officers were shot and killed in Dallas and three were killed in Baton Rouge. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund mid-year fatalities report: Ambush killings of unsuspecting law enforcement officers is the leading circumstance of the firearms-related fatalities, with 14 thus far in 2016—spiking more than 300 percent over the three ambush killings in the same period last year. Thirty-two officers have been killed in firearms-related fatalities this year, a dramatic increase of 78 percent, compared to 18 deaths during the same period last year.



In May, Louisiana's governor signed the so-called "Blue Lives Matter" bill into law, making attacks on police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel potential hate crimes. And other states are also considering Blue Lives Matter bills. New Jersey and Pennsylvania introduced similar bills. We are waiting on California to introduce and pass a bill making crimes against police officers a felony-level hate crime.

*WE ALL MATTER*, and until we can all agree that no human being is superior to another, the racial divide will always be prevalent. Groups that advocate racial divide and prejudice cannot exist in our society. We all can say *NO* to that. Don't give groups like "Black Lives Matter" a platform to be our *VOICE*. Community members who advocate for *REAL* dialogue and collaborative efforts to work together to build a better relationship should be our voice.



The three law enforcement officers killed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, were, from left, Montrell Jackson, Brad Garafola and Matthew Gerald.

Blatantly ambushing officers because they wear a uniform is a war on the police.

Is the war waged by everyone in our society? Absolutely not. But it's being waged by some who are getting all the attention. I write about this topic because the increased violence against police officers is real, and sugarcoating the reality will do none of us any good. Be safe, my brother and sisters in blue, be diligent, your life matters, too!

If there is ever anything I can do to better support you, do not hesitate to reach out to me at [JerrettaSandoz@lappl.org](mailto:JerrettaSandoz@lappl.org), or call me at (213) 545-4903. Be safe.