Law Enforcement in Society

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Policing in the world today is very different than how it was a long time ago. There are a lot more regulations and rules and procedures. Which is a good thing because it has gotten better and more common. There is a lot more police officers and technology than there was a long time ago, and they are there to help and protect police officers and people in today's society. I recently got to go on a ride along in my hometown of Waldron Arkansas, and although it was not my first ride along it was interesting and I learned more about policing and what goes into policing. I have been on three ride alongs so far and every time I have went, I have learned something new and seen what policing is like and how different it is, and how it has come a long way, and changed for the better. I also learned all the things that are a part of policing like paperwork and

procedures and how it is not just arresting people and putting them in jail. I learned how working with the public can help policing and help the community.

Most people think policing is just arresting bad people and putting them in jail, but it is not there is a lot that goes into policing, and it is something I wish more people knew and noticed. Something most people don't know, and it is something I didn't know before I started studying Criminology and going on ride alongs was there is a lot of paperwork that goes into policing. Everything an officer does he or she has to write it down most of the time. On my last ride along I was told policing is 80 percent paperwork and 20 percent field work. The officer said 10 minutes of fun can be and two hours of paperwork which doesn't sound fun, but it is a good thing to write everything that happens because it is a case and can make the job a lot easier and make sure that if you arrest someone you can make sure they don't get away with breaking the law and can make sure they go to jail for their crimes and can't get away with their crimes.

In the last ride along I learned that policing it like a new world you see some of the strangest and most unique people in the world, especially when they are on drugs. You usually don't catch people on a good day most people don't call 911 or want the police around when they are having a good day, most of the time it is because of an emergency or something out of the usual for them to come look at and make sure nothing is wrong. I also learned on the ride along that when you are in policing long enough you can watch how people act and notice when something is wrong or when someone is doing something wrong or fixing too. The officer I went on the ride along said that "most of the time you can tell it something is not right and most of the time it is drugs, like a person sweating in negative degree weather is something definitely out of the usual and things like that are what you can watch for in policing and it gets easier to notice the longer you are in policing", and it made a lot of sense and it showed me that in policing

paying attention to everything that is going on is the most important thing to do as an officer and something all police officers have to do in order to do their jobs to the best of their ability. It was cool seeing how the officer on the ride along knew all the vehicles of people she had come in contact with and knew if she needed to check and see if they had warrants or if they had expired licenses or was driving without a license. She paid attention to everything that was going on and was very observant and knew what to look for. The officer was nice and knew how to communicate with the public and tries to interact with the community to show her presence and tries to go to school events and help where she can to get more involved with her community and see what is going on and it helps her for if anything was to happen she knows them and might be able to help or de-escalate a situation if she had too. Community policing is very important to policing because it gets law enforcement closer to the community and can show that they can help just having an officer present can prevent people from breaking the law and if they do break the law the officer can be there to stop it.

There are many procedures and protocols officers must do and take when they are doing their job and one of them is the use of force. They must know when to use it and when not to use it there is a time to use it and a time not to use it. Police department policies on the use of force need to cover when and in what circumstances officers are authorized to use force, including both deadly force and physical force; training that ensures all officers know their department's use-of-force policy; procedures for thoroughly and fairly investigating use-of-force incidents to determine whether an officer acted according to the department's policy; and mandatory use-offorce reports to facilitate investigations and to permit the department to identify problems that need to be corrected (Walker & Katz, 2018, p. 14). For the Waldron police the procedure is to use the use of force necessary for an arrest which means if use of force needs to be used to make an

arrest it can be, but it needs to be the last resort. If the situation can be de-escalated without the use of force, then that is always the best. Sometimes there is a need for force, and it is to protect the officer and the people around. Most of the time a situation can be de-escalated and made where the use of force does not have to be used. Another procedure I learned on my ride along was when an officer is making a traffic stop or dealing with someone or out of their car, they call into dispatch so they know what the officer is doing and so if something goes wrong dispatch can know. Police have three major responsibilities controlling crime, maintaining order, and providing services to the public (Walker & Katz, 2018, p. 18). This Is why they do what they do to protect people and to try and stop crime and make sure that everything is the way it is supposed to be, and they make it safer for the community. The procedures and protocols that they have help them do that and make it safer for them and the community. Some people don't like the police and think that the police are bad and have too much power, but what most of them people don't know is if they could not use force or be able to arrest people then the people breaking the law could not be stopped and could hurt people or worse and the police are there to protect them and not just to abuse people they do what they have to do to keep people safe and put their lives in danger every day so people do not have to worry about anything that could hurt them or their families. They present themselves to the community as the protectors of public safety (Walker & Katz, 2018, p. 19). There are bad cops, but that does not make them all bad, they are still good, and it doesn't make the system all bad either, it just makes it misused by the wrong person. That is why there are procedures and protocols to make sure that that does not happen and if it does it can be noticed and taken care of.

The day the first American police officer went out on patrol in 1838, he had received no training, patrolled on foot, had no two-way radio, could not be dispatched through a 911 system,

and carried no weapon (Walker & Katz, 2018, p. 27). Policing has come a long way since 1838 it is so much different and better. Now there are vehicles for police officers and multiple agencies and there is training. It is much safer for officers now, and it has made crime rates go down having police and the new things they have made for police agencies has helped tremendously in policing and hopefully it keeps improving and making crime rates go down more. This is not all because of the new things like vehicles and radios it is also because of the new training methods and procedures that have been put in place to help and protect officers and the public. The police throughout the years have learned from all of the things they have seen and came across and found ways to help improve the way they do their jobs and this is important to policing and hopefully the police keep learning and making new things to help protect them and the public.

Citation Page

Walker, S., & Katz, C. M. (2022). *The police in america: An introduction*. McGraw Hill LLC.