

MPA “Man on the Street”

By Rick Pedrini
MPA Executive Board

Greetings brothers and sisters. As I write this we are three months into the new administration in Washington and I am hopeful that the eight-year War on Police is over and better days are to come. That said, I hope you all enjoyed the Holidays and got to spend some quality time relaxing with family and friends.

First things first, with the passing of Sen. Ken Donnelly earlier this month, we lost a real friend. Rest in peace.

This year's Convention in Springfield was a smashing success! The annual MPA Scholarship Golf Tournament was a GREAT time for a GREAT cause even though it was a bit chilly out in Agawam.

Milwaukee Sheriff David Clarke was our Doherty Award recipient and keynote speaker. His speech to the assembled delegates and honored guests was "spot-on" and he did an outstanding job. It was about time we heard someone who was willing to show some real leadership, speak the truth about the state of our country, and offer no apologies to the radicals and cop-haters out there.

The awards ceremony was amazing as well. Special thanks to Executive Board member and Awards Committee Chair Alissa Burke for all her hard work in putting the ceremony together. We were able to honor our own in a way that truly recognizes them for their bravery and dedication to duty. Some of the more touching moments included members of the MSP STOP Team hugging members of the Tarentino family on their way to the podium and Plymouth County Deputy Lt. James Creed and his wife, Laura, being recognized for their heroic actions at the Silver City Galleria. Congratulations to all the award recipients. Your courage is inspiring.

Thanks to outgoing MPA President Tim King of Waltham. Tim has shown tremendous leadership over the last two years and we all wish him well. Congratulations to incoming President Alan Andrews of Lawrence and newly-elected MPA Treasurer Mike Kiely of Somerville. Our Association is in good hands.

A special "Thank You" goes out to long time MPA Executive Board member and outgoing Treasurer Doug Mellis of East Longmeadow. Doug's service to the organization has been exceptional. He is a fine gentleman and a real "believer" in the profession and the membership. His presence will be missed.

I'm sure you all heard about the apology made on our behalf out at the IACP conference in San Diego. Funny how the chief who made that apology worked it into a full-time gig with the IACP for his post-retirement career. Much like the former cop/current "professor" at Merrimack College, it appears that bashing cops pays...big. As I've said before "every man has his price".

Post-Election Report: I am cautiously optimistic about our new administration. The election results reaffirmed that there is a big country called America out there. We just don't live in it. I got such enjoyment out of watching the post-election riots (let's be honest here, they were not "peaceful protests"). Remember when the left was appalled that Trump wouldn't commit to accepting the results of the election? Remember how they laughed when he said things were "rigged". The childish antics of the left began the very next day as they rioted, demanded recounts, and alleged voter fraud. "Paging Doctor Stein..." Lenin was right about "useful idiots". I was hoping that the BLM movement and Sen. Warren would become increasingly irrelevant after the election. Seems I was wrong. The inflammatory rhetoric and false narratives of the "reformers" are not going anywhere.

How about the assorted malcontents, America-haters, and Hollywood "stars and starlets" (and harlots) who promised to move out of the country if Trump was elected? I hear Afghanistan is beautiful this time of year. Speaking of Afghanistan, after 15 years of war, the President finally give some real authority to the commanders on the ground over there. One commander calls for the use of a MOAB on an ISIS stronghold and the left immediately condemns the attack as overly violent. C'mon man....

A majority of the Commonwealth's voters supported the legalization of marijuana. No surprise there. Unfortunately for the rest of us, the ballot question was poorly-written and it created all kinds of uncertainty when it comes to OUI-Drugs and other public safety concerns. Marijuana became fully legalized on December 15th. Fittingly, that morning a Gloucester man "toked-up" and plowed his car into a school bus. Who could have seen that coming? He admitted to being high, but the cops couldn't prove it so he wasn't charged with OUI-Drugs. Too bad the folks who did the political spots for the free-range chickens couldn't have done some work for the anti-weed side. I still can't believe that I'm going to have to go to NH to save a few buck on veal cutlets. C'mon man.

The Body Camera legislation has reared its ugly head for this session. Reading the draft, I find its mandates to be impractical, unsafe, cost-prohibitive, and highly prejudicial...towards the working police officer. More on that as things progress but it seems to have been authored by the Committee for Public Counsel with some assistance from the BLM movement. The "reformers" and "criminal advocates" have also filed some other anti-police bills that we are watching closely. Most of them seem to be filed in the interest of "micromanagement". There are some bills that we are supporting. The Governor and some reps have filed legislation making ABPO with serious injury a felony. There is also a bill authorizing 100% disability pensions for officers injured in the line of duty as a result of a violent crime.

In closing, be safe out there, watch each other's backs, and continue to get the job done. There really is a silent majority out there that supports us and our mission. Don't let them down.

That's all for now. Until next time, stay safe out there and see you in DC in May.