



## Police Chiefs Should be Elected Officials: A Brief Commentary of the Neglect of the Poor by Mayors and Governors

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### Abstract

If you want to lessen or eliminate the politics in policing, then make Police Chiefs elected officials. The systemic/underlying problem of racism and problematic police policies can be directly addressed if the Police Chiefs were elected officials. Police Chiefs should be elected officials, never appointees. When Mayors appoint Police Chiefs, the Police Chief becomes a political tool of the Mayor. Proof of this is when the Mayor orders the Police Chief to pull officers from areas to prevent use of force during riots and unrest, when use of force is likely. Police Chiefs who are elected would not back down to protect their citizens even when under scrutiny.

### The Problem

Who are elected officials? In most States, elected officials include but are limited to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Mayor, Attorney General, County Sheriff, County Attorney, State Supreme Court Justices, Comptroller, Treasurer, City Council members, Commissioner of Agriculture, Chief Financial Officers, Auditor, Treasurer and State Tax Collector, School Superintendent, Commissioner of Public Lands, Insurance Commissioner, State Senators, and State Legislators (Wikipedia, 2020). Why are Police Chiefs not elected by the people they serve? The Police Chief is just as important as any of the above mentioned elected officials.

Interestingly, Police Chiefs are appointed by Mayors. Why? Most Sheriffs are elected by the people and for the people they are elected to serve. Few problems seem to occur with Sheriff departments in general. Most Police Chiefs are appointed by the Mayors, which means that they have political bias. In addition, they must do the Mayor's bidding without regard for the community of people they serve, or they are at risk of being fired immediately and replaced. Imagine a Mayor telling the Police Chief that they are to pull their officers back and allow for looting, violence, arson, assault, and rape to

occur, ordered to have the police withdraw from sight and allow the destruction of neighborhoods. Why is this? Why do we allow Police Chiefs to be appointed instead of elected?

Do low-income areas not matter? I hear that *Black Lives Matter*, but that appears to exclude Blacks in low-income neighborhoods. People include all races, all sexual preferences, all religious preferences, not just those people in middle and upper income neighborhoods. It is imperative to recognize that if all lives matter, then those in low-income areas matter as well. Where is the humanity demonstrated in low-income neighborhoods when Mayors order Police Chiefs to withdraw officers and allow the violence to occur?

How is it that time and time again, after major tragedies, Mayors and Governors in some States allow for the destruction of low-income neighborhoods? People of these neighborhoods who depend on leaders to care for them, to protect them, and most of all, recognize their humanity. The main problem with appointed Police Chiefs is that the Chief must obey the Mayor's directives, even when told to abandon the community they are charged to protect. This is evident after every major situation in America- people protest and then anarchists and antisocials move in to create

destruction, looting, arson, assaults, rapes and other crimes. These anarchists and antisocials are protected by the Mayors who order the retreat of Police Officers and allow them to engage in their violent behavior. What do we see in America after every major situation of a Police Officer using excessive or unjustified lethal force:

- The Mayors' failing to allow the Police and when needed the National Guard to protect neighborhoods from riot, destruction, assault, rape etc.
- Taking away from the People of the neighborhood the recognition of value as human beings, as People.
- Sacrificing the poor neighborhoods to violent people, Antifa, white supremacist, anarchists, and antisocials.
- Failing to even identify and condemn groups of domestic terrorists who set out to only feed their greed by looting and creating a sense of chaos and other violence.
- Mayors that prevent Police from maintaining order and protecting their community only because the Mayor does not want the image of police using force against those hell bent on destruction.
  - a. Malfeasance- failing to do their job that the public entrusts them to do.
  - b. Aiding and abetting criminal acts.
  - c. Abandoning the public, the low-income neighborhoods and leaving the people defenseless against the violent criminals.
  - d. Interference of Police- by failing to allow Police to protect their community.

Why do so many in the news media and elected officials justify the behavior of individuals who engage in violence, those who loot, commit arson, assault, and fail to hold those criminals and criminal/domestic terrorist organizations accountable? Is it not the job of Mayors, Governors, and Police Chiefs to protect and serve the People of the community?. Why do we not hold the elected officials accountable for allowing the destruction of low-income neighborhoods? The focus turns to how to blame the Police and others for handling the crimes and violent people rather than admit that by having Police retreat is directly supporting the mayhem and violence that ensues. Intervening in violent acts is always a messy situation. The Mayors and Governors responsible for not allowing Police to do their job should be arrested and charged with a multitude of crimes, including but not limited to: The Mayors and Governors who allowed the violent mobs to destroy neighborhoods, to burn buildings (arson), who raped and assaulted community members, should be held accountable as allowing these crimes to occur and prosecuted. This is called aiding and abetting criminal acts. Interestingly, the mayor of Atlanta pleaded to Antifa and others not to burn down CNN- that CNN was telling *their* story. Really, what story? It was not the protesters attacking CNN but Antifa and other violent mobs and antisocials. Was CNN telling the violent criminal story or the protesters' story? And why not burn down CNN- as if somehow CNN is

in any way more important or more valuable than the low-income neighborhoods she and other Mayors and Governors allowed to be violated and destroyed. Don Lemon on CNN made it clear that he had security and a "safe-room" if needed. Really, do People in low-income areas have security and a safe room- no they do not, in fact, the Mayor made sure that they did not even have Police to protect them.

Remember that the low-income neighborhoods include high percentages of Blacks, the very people the Mayor and others claim to support yet allow those Blacks and all People in low-income areas to be victimized. Imagine the helplessness, dehumanization, fear and terror, of knowing that your leaders have abandoned you to violent criminals, thugs, antisocials. Why don't Antifa, White Supremist groups, and the other violent groups and antisocials terrorize the wealthy neighborhoods? Oh wait, I know the answer to that question.

### **Because the Leaders Would Vehemently Defend and Protect those Neighborhoods**

Somehow, other neighborhoods matter more. That is not equality but criminal. It is not justice but injustice. How hypocritical of the Mayors and Governors who order Police not to protect the low-income neighborhoods. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". This mantra and humanity-based statement is echoed in the Christian Bible and more recently in history by Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior. Interesting that Dr. King's message was not just about the equality of Blacks, but rather a larger message. It appears he was speaking of the underlying cause of racism and other social problems. He appears to be wanting to attack the problem of people not being equal when the lack of equality anywhere increases unrest and inhumane treatment. If all People are to be equal, all People, all races, all sexual preferences, then the goal is to unite "People" as one, equal under the law and equal in humanity. In essence, understanding the larger message if they can hate you, they can hate me, True justice must be free of political influence and "of the people, by the people, and for the people", as it is written in the U.S. Constitution. People includes all of any race, any sexual preference, any religion.

If fair and just police practice is wanted, then it stands to reason that Police Chiefs should be elected, not appointed. Sheriffs are mostly elected, not appointed. They tend to manage their departments well and treat People in their jurisdictions fair and equal. People should have the right to elect their Police Chief as well. That requires the candidate for Police Chief to interact with, meet, dialogue with, and to earn the trust and respect of the People that elect them. This also places the onus on the Police Chief to keep promises and support the People in their jurisdictions. By doing so,

this would likely help community policing go further and be more effective. The Police Chief accountable to the People they serve, not to the Mayor who appoints them. I cannot imagine any Police Chief or Sheriff choosing to abandon the people they are entrusted to protect if they had the power to do so. Independent, elected Sheriffs and Police Chiefs help build community trust and even more important, give the power to the People by allowing the People the right to choose their law enforcement leaders. I am not sure why all other City, County, and State officials are elected, but

Police Chiefs are not. Return the power to the People- of the People, for the People, and by the People, not the Mayors. Lastly, stop allowing Mayors and Governors to get away with aiding and abetting violence and destruction of low-income neighborhoods [1].

### References

1. Wikipedia (2020) List of U.S. statewide elected officials. Last edited.