

Critical Understanding of Modern Criminology and Criminal Justice Issues

In our technologically advanced age, one of the pressures I feel as a member of law enforcement is the demand for immediate answers from the public. Commonly referred to as the “CSI Effect” citizens seem to believe that law enforcement have access to state of the art technologies and that results return almost immediately (Roberts, 2017). Technology is affecting law enforcement operations in a few different ways. In the three following works I’ve presented, you will review three interesting impacts on law enforcement operations.

First, the issue of white collar crime is evolving. As technology advances, access to multi-millions of dollars as well as millions of victims has become more available. While these crimes are not violent, they are often devastating to their victims. There is a disparity, however, in the way our judicial system is sentencing criminals in these cases. In the case study provided, you will read about a man who sold faux vintage wine and earned millions. In another incident, a company mislabeled substandard eggs which resulted in several people becoming very ill. What I find most interesting about the two cases is that seller of the harmless faux wine received such a substantially harsher sentence than the egg farm owners who ultimately cause many people to get very sick.

The next article for your review is in regards to crime reporting. In this article, I review how inaccurate crime reporting may lead legislators to not fully understand true crime statistics. California for example, only submits Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data. Due to the “hierarchy rule” that means California only tracks the most serious crime of an incident. (Muenzer, 2007). Inconsistencies in reporting systems may lead law makers to pass laws, such as Proposition 47, due to not fully understanding the totality of all crimes committed.

Finally, I present an article regarding law enforcement leaders influenced by politics. In this particular case, an exemplary officer was involved in a high profile, controversial incident involving an active shooter who killed several people. This officer reported activating her body worn camera, but no footage was captured. The District Attorney was incredibly upset and put pressure on the Chief of Police who was determined to fire the officer. In this case, I review not only the negative impacts that hastily firing the officer would have on the department, but also the tone and precedent that would be set if the Chief failed to rationally and thoroughly investigate the situation and based her decision solely on the emotions of the District Attorney, or any political figure. We’ve seen in recent years, as with Marilyn Mosby in Baltimore, the haste to place the blame and prosecute officers for wrongdoing before allowing a full investigation to occur. Law enforcement and political leaders must be cautious not to victimize officers for the sake of appeasing the public, yet must also seek justice when wrongdoing has occurred.

References:

Muenzer, L. (2007, November). IBR/UCR Basics. *NetRMS Blawg*, 1(2), 2-3.

Roberts, Michael. "How the CSI Effect Influences American Jurors." *The Balance*. N.p., 3 Mar. 2017. Web. 03 Apr. 2017. <https://www.thebalance.com/csi-effect-1669447>

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