



Police Ethics: *Defining that which is morally right, good, and proper,* *The Exemplary Peace Officer*

By Calvin Handy, Chief of Police emeritus, UC Davis

My pathway into law enforcement began unexpectedly as an assignment during my enlistment in the U.S. Airforce during the Vietnam War. Upon discharge, I began my California peace officer career in the mid-1970s in the San Francisco Bay Area, a choice I made primarily to support and provide for my young family. As a youth in Shreveport, Louisiana, I excelled at music with aspirations of becoming a music teacher—but that’s another story.

During the 1970s, in California and around the Nation, the philosophy and management concept of community policing was experiencing a revival, with much public and professional emphasis on de-escalation in the use of force. Building trust by respectfully working closely with all citizens in all communities being served and protected was its primary goal. Professional and legally certified peace officer standards and training requirements reflected this emphasis.

This more humanistic approach (i.e., less-lethal force) was well-considered and promulgated in the late 60s and beyond by law enforcement leaders like Ramsey Clark, United States Attorney General, 1966-1969, whose statements and perspective at the time were controversial to some in the profession and the country. Clark was a powerful proponent of community policing in partnership with citizens. He wrote, “Law enforcement was once a relatively simple task. Times have changed. Perhaps no activity in modern society is more complex—calls for as many skills—as police work.” Studies and research show that when policing became mobile, a single officer could handle many more calls for service than an officer on foot. This was generally when police departments began losing important personal interaction with their local citizenry for greater efficiency. Chief August Volmer and the Berkeley police department started the use of automobiles in policing.

In context, it is important to point out that full-time professional policing is still a relatively new idea—less than 200 years old. Before the 1829 establishment of “Peel’s Principles of Law Enforcement”—nine principles summarizing the ideas of Sir Robert Peel, the creator of the first modern police force in England, that define a highly ethical and professional police force—the military was responsible for law enforcement, <<http://www.vcpionline.org/pdfs/Peel%27s%20Principles.pdf>>. Peel’s ideas were based on ‘preventing’ crime in part by developing and instilling police forces with professional officers who were even-tempered, reserved, and under government control.

The foundation for contemporary policing in America comes essentially from Peel’s England where, during early colonization, American citizens themselves were responsible for law enforcement in their communities (*kin police*). Citizen law enforcement has evolved many times over America’s history with both positive and negative effects (i.e., slave patrols) on a diverse people and their communities. There are also claims that the modern police department was born out of the desire of the wealthy to restructure society. The swelling population of urban poor, whose miniscule [sic] wages could hardly sustain them, heightened the need for police protection.

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Democratic News

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Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

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Photography:

Luba Schmid

Tues., Dec. 5, 7:00-9:00 pm., DDC Board Meeting, Hosted by Stephen Souza at his home, 2424 Rodin. Regularly scheduled Board Meetings to organize Club activities. All members invited to attend.

Sun., Dec. 3, starting at 6:00 pm. Holiday Party, Good Fellowship, Holiday buffet and seasonal beverages with a political overtone. International House, Davis.

Sun., Jan. 13, 2:00-4:30 pm "A Teach –in" Controlling the Use of Nuclear Weapons (HR 669) Among other distinguished panelists, Rep. Garamendi will participate. Unitarian Church,

Update on DDC Communications and Upcoming Efforts.

by Giles Giovinazzi



The Davis Democratic Club (DDC) continues to expand its communications efforts with representation and support from other local Democratic groups. DDC now has over 740 followers on Facebook (address: <https://www.facebook.com/DavisDemocrats/>) and 75 followers on Twitter (address: <https://twitter.com/davisdemocrats>) – please invite your friends to follow us!

In October, the DDC Communications and Social Media Committee met with ADEM District 4 Delegate and Yolo County Democratic Party Central Committee Communications Director Christopher Myers and California College Democrats Communications Director Elizabeth Oramas Diaz who provided excellent technical advice and support for strengthening DDC's Internet outreach efforts. Chris will be working to upgrade the DDC's website (address: <http://www.davisdemocraticclub.org/>) this winter, and Elizabeth got DDC up and running on Instagram (address: [Instagram.com/davisdems](https://www.instagram.com/davisdems)), linked DDCs Facebook and Twitter accounts and provided tips to improve our social media communication. DDC's monthly newsletter is now circulated via Facebook, Twitter and posted on the website in addition to being mailed to members. And for members who wish to contribute to DDC online, the DDC website has a link to **ACT BLUE** for online contributions.

Since the 2016 election, the nation and this region have seen a surge of Democratic enthusiasm, energy and activism. Just within Yolo County, several new clubs have been chartered by the Yolo County Democratic Party Central Committee, which has had impressive turnout at its monthly meetings. It is worth noting that DDC has a number of members who are also actively involved in other Democratic groups. In addition to Board Members Bob Bockwinkel, Giles Giovinazzi and Jan Agee, Linda Deos, who recently announced her candidacy for Davis City Council, has been leading the DDC's Twitter engagement while serving as Secretary Treasurer of the Yolo County Progressives. ADEM District 4 Delegate Sean Raycraft is also now involved with DDC communications while serving as the Labor Outreach officer for Berniecrats-Labor Alliance as well as on the editorial board of the *Davis Vanguard*. And ADEM District 4 Delegate Derek Pell continues to be involved with DDC communications while becoming increasingly active with the Contra Costa County Young Democrats. DDC will continue to share information, events and postings by other progressive groups in the region and build on the activist energy we have been seeing this year.

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Police Ethics (continued from p.1)

When I was first introduced to community policing as an academy trainee, I found the idea of valuing all citizens and treating them with respect regardless of skin color, gender, religion, etc., miraculous based on my personal cultural experience. I believe in these principles into these troubling times. The strong desire to serve humankind and to help people is the behavior most required in a peace officer. Without that natural human emotional capacity, along with not knowing or understanding one of the prime directives of law enforcement, that of allegiance to the people, has been lost in some socially argumentative quagmire. Former FBI Director, James Comey said, "All of us in law enforcement must be honest enough to acknowledge that much of our history is not pretty. At many points in American history, law enforcement enforced the status quo, a status quo that was often brutally unfair to disfavored groups."

Comey continues, "There is significant research showing that all people have unconscious racial biases. Most cannot help their instinctive reactions, but law enforcement officers need to 'design systems and processes' to overcome that very human part of us all." James Comey, F.B.I. Director, 2015.

Today, the most intense, highly publicized, and visceral grievance (among many citizens) regarding law enforcement in America derives from the many fatal shootings of unarmed African American young men, boys, older men, and women. These shootings continue in situation after situation where basic reasoning and logic does not support the much-used claim, certified by the Supreme Court, 'I was afraid for my life.' This deadly form of apparent immunity regarding these shootings goes on and on, seemingly without end. And yes, police shoot all kinds of people.

To find realistic and honest remedies to outcries from grieving families, diverse politicians, and social and political activists, body cameras were deployed, and these cameras are documenting much of what is happening in varying incidents. But, the effect of video recordings has not resolved what a lot of people think is wrong. I doubt the Supreme Court (*Tennessee v Garner*, 1985 and *Graham v Conner*, 1989) intended to allow the use of blunt or deadly force because a detained or in-custody subject or suspect was reaching for a wallet or vehicle registration from their person or vehicle, when requested by the officer. There are a lot of guns out there that cops must worry about, but such a policy would neutralize the prosecutorial and judicial functions whose role and solemn duties are to determine guilt or innocence and appropriate penalties.

In 2009, the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) and the Josephson Institute of Ethics (JIE) developed a basic academy training course for building and maintaining career-long police ethics training to allow peace officer trainees in the basic academy to strengthen their character by adapting knowledge, abilities, and skills to become an Exemplary Peace Officer (EPO). *An EPO is excellent-an exemplary model.* <http://lib.post.ca.gov/Publications/EPOII.pdf> EPO training reinforces respectful treatment, making good versus bad decisions and applying intelligent and objective judgment. This excellence should translate into better community service and a safer, more successful, and more enjoyable career. This is relevant to current concerns and the divisiveness about policies guiding peace officers use of force.

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In Remembrance:

We regret to report the passing of long-time Club Member and friend, **Tansey Thomas**.

Tansey was a community organizer and political activist, who advocated for civil rights and fairness to all people. As a Navy WAVE, she served her country and recounted fascinating stories of her military service. Included among her many other distinguished recognitions, Tansey had been honored by the DDC with a Life Time Achievement Award in acknowledgement of her commitment to the entire Davis community.



Tansey & her daughter Lisa

A “Teach-in” on Nuclear Weapons 2:00-4:30 pm, Sunday, January 13, Unitarian Church Davis

HR 669 , which currently has 72 co-sponsors including our own Rep. Jon Garamendi, sets forth legislation concerning the first use of nuclear weapons by the President of the United States. This teach-in, which will be conducted by a distinguished panel **including Rep. Garamendi**, will examine current US policies concerning the use of nuclear weapons. As well as the importance of this proposed bill.



Holiday Party

The Annual Holiday Party features a great buffet provided by the Board served with bubbling holiday cheer. (You are invited to share a favorite dish.) The program is not yet finalized but will include prominent guests in addition to local political leaders. Best of all, proceeds from this event will contribute to a victorious 2018-election year. This is an opportunity to have fun while making a difference. Please join us in celebration, **6:00 pm, Sunday, Dec 3 at I-house in Davis.**

NOMINATIONS and ELECTIONS of DDC BOARD OFFICERS:

At its November 7 meeting, the Board has put forth a slate of nominees for Club offices: Stephen Souza, President; Rick Gonzales, Vice President; Ameer Alsawaf, Treasurer; Elly Fairclough, Membership; Richard Yamagata, Recording Secretary; Giles Giovinazzi, Corresponding Secretary, and Elizabeth Oramas-Diaz, Publicity. Election of officers will take place at the General meeting on March 6, 2018. At this meeting, all members whose dues are current as of the start of the meeting may nominate additional candidates from the floor and vote for all offices.

Police Ethics (continued from p 3)**Patron***Continued from p2*

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Career peace officers often do not receive continuous training in the ethics of law enforcement that promulgate and reinforce the principles enshrined in Peel's Nine Principles of Policing, or understanding the founding principle of allegiance to the people/citizenry, or using just the force necessary to obtain compliance and no more, and dedication to the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence, upon which all citizen policing is founded. Over time, the courts have given police associations (now unions) the right to organize to support and protect peace officers from harsh and punitive administrative and judicial judgement. There are instances today in which the balance has swung too far. I understand the reasons for this, but the arguments can be intensely one-sided regarding the subject officer(s) even when the facts dispute the claims. This is disturbing to the American public. Common sense dictates that ethical and long-standing principles do not support having politicized police forces.

The POST Commission, the Josephson Institute, and law enforcement leadership and training organizations around the country, must set standards for instituting certified in-service EPO training regularly for police administrators and peace officers everywhere, and not just in the basic academy. Instilling and maintaining a new/old sense of direction and dedication, based on high ethical values and principles, is a monumental task. Many police agencies around the nation genuinely practice community policing and follow the founding principles of law enforcement. These principles must be revered and practiced by all law enforcement. This profession is about much more than providing for one's family.

American historian and policy analyst Michael Auslin writes: "...an American public ignorant of public policy and how government works, instead of following merely the most artfully packaged disinformation from leaders of both parties & a partisan press while more interested in sports and entertainment, is complicit in the attenuation of its freedom."

Here's to a more safe, just and equitable society.

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Democratic Newsletter

**DDC Holiday Party
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