



Berkley Public Safety Video Update Part 7

Another spiraling incident that occurred, or is being talked about more recently too, surrounding the movement is the flags on our vehicle with the blue line. I know it has been a topic of conversation regarding the symbolism and everything that it represents, but can you talk about if there is anything being discussed internally regarding the stickers on our public police vehicles?

Sure. I take my job very very seriously, and I have my entire career. I have lost a lot of sleep between the pandemic and moving in the current climate, and the thin blue line flags. I have thought about it quite a bit, and have talked to a few people. That symbol means nothing but honoring our fallen and injured officers. This is an emotional thing for me, I had two good friends of mine in my former department that were both shot in the line of duty. One of which was working for me, because I bumped her off day shift, and she was working in a situation that I could have or maybe should have been in. I've also had two good friends that were killed in line of duty in Oakland County. One in a neighboring department, and one neighboring department where I worked for, so to me that's what that represents. I understand that there's been some other meanings or perceived meanings for it. I will tell you I have never used the term other than "thin blue line". I've heard "blue lives matter", never heard a police officer say that. I know it was waved in a rally in Charlotte, which was completely inappropriate. That is not what it means to us, it is not what it means to me, it is honoring our fallen, that is all it means. I don't want anybody to take it the wrong way, I don't want anybody to feel uncomfortable at all. I have lost a lot of sleep over it. Some of these other things that have come up in the last couple years, that flag's been around for a long time and it's been nothing but honor. I've had that flag in my office for years before it was taken by a group and misused in my opinion.

We have talked about it quite a bit at length, we are exploring whether possibilities, we are trying to do the right thing, but that flag would never be on a police car if it meant anything other than honoring our fallen. It has nothing to do with blue lives matter, or any type of hate and it is there just to honor our fallen. I know there has been a different meaning, maybe in the last couple years. The people I've talked to, I've said, think of something that's really near and dear to you that means a lot to you and have somebody else use it for something that wasn't, are you prepared not to use that when it's only about honoring our fallen officers. There are a lot of people here that have lost friends in the line of duty. Again, even in Oakland County, with it being a safe county, in a safe area, but we have had officers around cities around us that have been killed in the line of duty. So the long answer to your question is we are looking at it very hard, we have had hours of discussion and trying to figure out maybe what we can do.