

# The BLUE LINE



*We Serve and Protect*

VOLUME 1, No. 8

[www.buffalopba.com](http://www.buffalopba.com)

AUGUST 2025

## From the President

John Davidson



Summer is in full swing and we have seen the anticipated uptick in violent behavior in the City of Buffalo. Correspondingly we have seen incredible and heroic police work to offset this violence so that the residents and visitors can enjoy their summer in the Queen City. It is troubling that we are continuing to see the trend of some people in the media and even government criticizing routine police response rather condemning the actions of individuals partaking in criminal behavior. However, I am finding while speaking to residents and visitors to the City that very little of these complaints are shared by the quiet majority. They are much too busy trying to enjoy their summer, and are appreciative of the safety that you are all providing! It seems that by and large the safety the police provide is not a partisan issue, yet the very vocal minority seems to want it to appear that way. Left, Right, Donkey, Elephant, Independent, or otherwise...people want to be safe. That safety is provided by the members of the Buffalo PBA!

Speaking of enjoying the summer-good luck! There doesn't seem to be a very big window for some of our members to take much time off. The City has hired a dozen recruits and they have begun the Police Academy, however this is only a small dent into the manpower shortages we are seeing currently and anticipating in the future. We already have more members that have retired

*People want  
to be safe.*

in 2025 than all of 2024! We are hopeful that there will be some compromises made between the department and the PBA to better achieve a healthy and sustainable work/life balance.

On a more positive summer note, a good time was had by all that attended the PBA Darien Lake day this year. We had just over 500 thrill seekers this year under the biggest pavilion that they have available at the park. It was wonderful to see so many members and retirees, along with their families, enjoy the day together. I am looking forward to a renewed sense of comradery at this year's PBA Open House Picnic on August 28 from Noon-10! Please plan on attending, there will be plenty of food, drinks, and embellished stories for everyone.

And finally, I would like to congratulate one of our most recent retirees on their retirement and thank them for all that they have done for myself and the Buffalo PBA. Detective Joseph Wendel has been granted a retirement from the State of New York and we could not be happier for him. Joe spent many years planning events that would bring members together, both informally and as the PBA House Chair. We thank Detective Joe Wendel for everything that he has given to the City of Buffalo and for everything that he brought to the PBA!

Please continue to look out for one another, work safely, and God Bless.

~ John Davidson, Buffalo PBA President

## BUFFALO PBA OPEN HOUSE

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28th**

12 PM - 10 PM

**Bison City Rod & Gun Club  
511 Ohio Street**

**All current & retired PBA members  
are invited to attend.**

**COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR PBA AND MEET  
YOUR PAST AND PRESENT FELLOW OFFICERS.**

## Retirements

Congratulations to our most recent retirees,  
and thank you for all  
that you have done for the City of Buffalo.

**P.O. JAMES A. SCHERER, JR.  
07/23/2025**

**LT. DARREN EXUM  
07/23/2025**

**P.O. THOMAS R. DUFFY, JR.  
07/24/2025**

**P.O. STEVEN MASLOWSKI  
07/27/2025**

**LT. STEPHEN ZIPP  
07/30/2025**

**P.O. DUSTIN L. JOHNSON, SR.  
07/30/2025**

**DET. JOHN CARUSO  
07/31/2025**

**DET. JOSEPH WENDEL  
07/31/2025**

‘CROUCH’ING TIGER

By ... Andrew Moffett

We have all heard or read about now the death of Amanda Thompson on S. Ogden in the city of Buffalo and we all know who is primarily responsible for that death. The question that can be raised now is could this senseless tragedy have been stopped in the first place. The “alleged” defendant was out on bail after being arrested for an armed home invasion at the same address and a firearm was recovered after the defendant fled from a traffic stop. That same defendant was arrested two days later for violating the order of protection that was in effect and was subsequently released again on his own recognizance. The same judge on both incidents.

If the same facts of the case remain and an officer was derelict in his duties, whether failing to respond to the incident in a timely manner, failure to report the incident or failure to appropriately apprehend the subject, the officers and the department becomes under immense scrutiny. 911 calls will be FOILed. Interviews will be held. Internal affairs becomes involved. Body camera footage would be made public for every officer that was involved and those officers are most likely going to be riding the pine while an internal investigation takes place. And of course the same activists we know and love would be coming out of the woodwork again calling for accountability.

ACCOUNTABILITY  
is the glue that ties  
COMMITMENT  
to RESULTS

But in this instance police responded and quickly and swiftly made an arrest. The correct people were notified to investigate and made everyone aware what this defendant was capable of. Every officer involved could see the writing on the wall but the fact of the matter is police are the only profession in which our word and actions are not to be trusted according to the court of public opinion. We are the only profession in the country that is scrutinized so severely that they had to place cameras on our chests so they can fact check our own testimony. Imagine any other profession where there will be camera footage at all times that you could look back over if you believe you were mistreated or misguided. How many times have you or someone you know gone to the doctor’s office and been misdiagnosed because the doctor seemingly does not believe what you are telling them? But yet we trust them because they have the most independent knowledge and expertise to help you.

Now, how many times are police officers going to see violent criminals be let out of prison when we, who are the experts in this realm, are screaming from the rooftops to keep them in prison because we know through our experiences these kind of individuals are dangerous. We believed after Adam Bennefield and Andre Whigham that the courts would protect these women from violence but it always returns to the same place and that place is leniency on criminals. We’ve heard the word “accountability” so many times now in the course of our duties, so who is going to be accountable for the death of Amanda Thompson?

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In Memoriam

**Det. Raymond L. Cullinan, Jr.**  
DOB 05/19/1936      Appointed 11/02/1961  
Retired 05/01/1995      Deceased 07/08/2025

**P.O. William Small**  
DOB 10/23/1956      Appointed 07/24/1996  
Retired 07/29/2016      Deceased 07/08/2025

**P.O. Thaddeus Kwiatkowski**  
DOB 05/13/1930      Appointed 08/15/1960  
Retired 12/23/1991      Deceased 07/20/2025

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and pension benefits in Albany.

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or request an application by calling 716-309-9736



*From the ...* **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The Buffalo PBA Family Day at Darien Lake was held July 9 and by all measurements was a big hit. Members, along with their families, spent the day sharing new experiences, food, drinks, and stories in the sun. Thank you to House Chair Robert Grande and Co-Chair Andrew Moffet along with Brianna Gilhooly for putting together such a wonderful event. If you didn't attend, please don't miss this opportunity in the future. We hope to see everyone at the Buffalo PBA Open House on August 28th!





BY ... MATTHEW CROSS

Many others have begun to utilize some of the other resources privately and some incredible discussions have been had during training. The push will continue to get everyone through this course. Moving forward, your opinions and suggestions are needed. What would you like to see? What can be done better from a Mental Health standpoint? Some things in the works: Events for our personnel and your families, potentially upgrading some fitness equipment, guest speakers, and the exploration of additional off-site training options. Your thoughts and suggestions can help mold this program so please feel free to reach out at any time.

BY ... BOBBY GRANDE

Being a police officer in the City of Buffalo and taking an oath to protect and serve this specific community comes with a certain nobility to it. Other agencies and police officers in the surrounding areas often won't see over their entire career what we see in a typical work week. The adrenaline rush you experience while responding to high priority calls is like no other. Giving chase to a fleeing suspect over fences in the dark, going

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