

The

BLUE

LINE

We Serve and Protect

VOLUME 1, No. 10

www.buffalopba.com

OCTOBER 2025



From the President

John Davidson

As the political climate surrounding our profession continues to run in extremes I wanted to take a moment and weigh in. While I am not looking to throw political haymakers (at this time) in this corner of the Blue Line, I do think that it is important to remind people and politicians that we are the police. It is our job to keep the residents of Buffalo and it’s visitors safe. Do I think that there are people breaking the law due to poverty and mental illness? Yes, I absolutely do. Do I think that these people should be provided assistance and second chances? For the most part, depending on the crime committed, yes I do. Do I think that they should be arrested for breaking the law and that these necessary services can THEN be provided, after the fact, in an effort to rehabilitate and treat these individuals? Again, yes I do. If someone is caught breaking the law and unweaving the fabric of our community then I believe that they need to be removed from society until they can follow the good orderly direction of society. Sometimes that removal is only momentary and sometimes it needs to be for much longer. Sometimes years. Sometimes for life.

I also firmly believe that there is good and there is evil. It is fair to believe that most of the people that come into contact with the police really were dealt a bad hand or created their own bad hand through repetitive poor choices. However, some people unfortunately cannot be reached, rehabilitated, or turned around. Some people are evil. I have seen it. It is a sad and uncomfortable truth. This is likely a much smaller percentage of people in society, however to believe that evil does not exist is a fallacy, and a very dangerous one.

As police we see that these truly evil people often prey on the struggling members of our community who in turn create the majority of our crime. The truth is that the police are often the only people willing and available to interrupt this cycle and stand between law abiding citizens, the struggling citizens, and true evil. I hope that the quiet majority will again openly acknowledge this truth before it is too late to recover. Regardless, the honorable members of the Buffalo PBA, who work for the Buffalo Police Department, will be out in your neighborhoods representing the Good Guys.

IT IS OUR JOB TO KEEP THE  
RESIDENTS OF BUFFALO  
AND IT’S VISITORS SAFE.

In Memoriam

P.O. Joseph Audino

DOB: 03/25/1931  
Appointed: 08/01/1956  
Retired: 04/28/1977  
Deceased: 02/08/2025

P.O. Sheldon Howard

DOB: 12/29/1963  
Appointed: 07/29/1988  
Retired: 10/04/2013  
Deceased: 09/10/2025

P.O. Pamela Gorski-Schillo

DOB: 07/21/1964  
Appointed: 02/21/1991  
Retired: 06/28/2019  
Deceased: 09/11/2025

Capt. Martin Jurewicz

DOB: 09/14/1944  
Appointed: 01/13/1965  
Retired: 02/27/2002  
Deceased: 09/16/2025

Apparently my Buffalo Police career overlapped Niagara District Councilman David Rivera’s. I had never heard of him as a police officer, which on its face isn’t all that uncommon. People work in different places. Then I heard him on the radio say that he was unhappy that police officers didn’t cooperate with a sham investigation into a Property Damage Only(PDO) accident for which they issued a summons and took an accident report. Something that is done thousands of times a year. Rivera was upset that these officers did not speak with the Niagara County DA about their actions. These officers were placed on administrative leave and given no guarantee of immunity. This immediately implies some kind of misconduct and takes on an adversarial nature. The officers exercised their rights, as any citizen would. Apparently their apprehension was warranted. Rivera is now calling for Letitia James to investigate the officers and the PDO response with the full force of the NYS Attorney General’s Office. The same Letitia James that is currently targeting Police Officers that have the nerve to assist our federal partners enforce immigration laws and is under investigation for mortgage fraud herself.

I went to Councilman Rivera’s City Council website and began to understand his ignorance of real world policing and why police officers distrust of a politician who “assure” them that they are not a target of any investigation without a guarantee of immunity. Rivera lists confidential aide to Jimmy Griffin and Sargent in the General Investigations Unit as his accomplishments. He did such a bang up job in GIU that it no longer exists. Was it every young officer’s dream to investigate garage burglaries in the GIU or was it a cushy assignment for him that came down from his years as a confidential mayoral aide, while he awaited his pension so he could then begin his own political career? Detective was a political appointment back then, so without knowing for sure one must wonder if Rivera’s police work or his proximity to the mayor earned him his sought after promotion. This guy



pimps out his career as a police officer whenever he wants to slander cops as if he was Serpico, when the reality is that nobody can recall a single thing he ever did on the job.

This brings us to Rivera’s colleague Zeneta Everhart. Everhart who lists her accomplishments as aide to NYS senator Tim Kennedy, as his Director of Diversity and Inclusion and a Humanist, whatever that is, immediately tried to crucify a police officer for saving a life. In

Everhart’s statement regarding an officer involved shooting from her website “I have seen the video and I am disgusted...I am still working to get more information and will be viewing the body cam footage”. Which is it? Did you see it or not? “Far too many times we have seen black and brown people shot by police officers with little or no explanation I am tired of it”. Every single police shooting is investigated by the same Attorney General of the State of NY who is clearly no friend of the police. Every single time a Buffalo Police Officer is forced to use deadly force due to a suspect’s actions, the officers are exonerated when the body cam is released. Body cam footage is the police officer’s best friend and without it your dangerous narrative may have been taken at face value. As I write this the body cam footage hasn’t been released but when it is I hope that you will have the integrity to apologize to these officers with the same ferocity that you condemned them.

What’s even more gross about these two is that this is by far the best the Buffalo Police Department has been in my career. Policing is harder now than at any time in history due to politicians like this. Crime is way down and murders, specifically, are lower than I can ever remember it in this city. The majority of this is due to the hard work of patrol officers. Unfortunately, sometimes force needs to be used like when a mentally disturbed person is stabbing someone in the head. It’s sad that politicians would rather condemn good officers and threaten them with statewide investigation than applaud them for a job well done.



PROPER TRAINING

By ... Robert Grande

Training is a key role to stay up to date with policies and procedures as a police officer. Everyone knows we go to the same trainings on the same topics every year. As much as that does help in those aspects I don't believe we need blood-borne pathogens training every year and sometimes twice because I feel like I do that training multiple times a year. Don't go near blood, bodily fluids etc; without the proper PPE. However, flipping our whole system for lab submissions at the CPS lab without an in person training on how to set up our account or how to properly submit crucial evidence by using the computers at the lab seems flawed. The integrity of a criminal case oftentimes depends on proper lab submissions.

As technology advances in every job in America, it is good to have the understanding and training of how to utilize the technology to prevent people from messing up the process due to a lack of in person training. While I agree with certain bulletins coming out on Power DMS that only need a signature acknowledging that you have read and understand the material, Other trainings need to have an in person class showing how to properly follow procedures, fill out forms, etc. In the past when something wasn't properly submitted you would get an email or a letter in your mailbox stating that you did something that needs correcting or updating and that you would have to follow up. Utilizing new technology within our profession is good but sometimes, as the saying goes, "if it isn't broke, don't fix it." This may be illustrated in the fact that if you ask questions about how to follow these new procedures, no one really has an answer for you because they haven't had any pertinent training either.

While the shift toward digital platforms over paperwork for evidence submission can enhance efficiency in the department it must not come at the cost of having meaningful training to understand the process. As we embrace technology, let us not forget the foundational importance of education and training in effective policing. Sometimes Buffalo police erroneously have a rep that we are big dumb city coppers who can tackle a guy with a gun but don't excel at following through with the corresponding paperwork, and not providing the proper training is only going to confirm this adage to surrounding agencies.

Retirement

Congratulations to our most recent retirees,  
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OFFENSIVE "FACTS"

By ... Andrew Moffett

It has become a norm in our society for people to produce "facts" or what they believe to be facts. But unless someone is speaking in terms of quantitative statistics, those facts are actually misconstrued by how the brain interprets what one sees or reads. Statements are always being made by people, events and actions are ongoing, those are facts. How we view people's statements and people's actions during events are called interpretations. Those interpretations become one's beliefs. Those beliefs then trigger our brain into how we justify our own behaviors and how we justify our own beliefs and opinions. Differing opinions and beliefs has and always will be the foundation of this country. It is our reaction to those opinions and beliefs that can change it for better or worse.

We as police officers have seen, either in the media or experienced it firsthand, how a narrative can be misconstrued so volatily leaving you questioning what that individual heard or observed that you did not. Do they truly believe it? Do they see what their mind only wants them to see? Or did they consciously or subconsciously create a storyline that fits their opinions and beliefs? What becomes problematic is when those people spread those storylines and present them as facts.

It is common knowledge that media outlets such as CNN and MSNBC is and will continue to lean towards the liberal mindset and FOX is historically a conservative line of thinking. People choose to watch one over the other simply because they feel the desire to hear from someone who thinks as they think. Humans will always flock to those who they share common ground with.

The more time you spend on this earth, the more you may realize changing someone's beliefs is like trying to stop the drug trade. It's impossible. It is more important to not divulge and work yourself into a frenzy over pointless debates, specifically on social media. Social media has become the new cesspool for complaining and victimization. No matter what difficulties arise whether within local politics, on a personal level or within the constructs of doing your job, there will always be others who have a similar mindset as you.



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- ✓ **Divorced or Widowed:** Review current situation to help ensure lifestyle remains the same
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**PBA GOLF TOURNAMENT:** The PBA Golf Tournament was held September 9, 2025 at Diamond Hawk and was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to our winning foursome with a -14: **John Gravius, Nick McLean, Lucas Maciejewski, Zach Wyzkowski** . There are many to thank for an event of this size, as it took quite an effort to pull off an undertaking that included golf, games, raffles, and dinner. A big thank you to Bobby Grande, Andrew Moffett, Justin Tedesco, Sherry Holtz, Jimmer Otwell, Kristen Russo, Nick Pobocki, Melinda Kaska, Gerry Lewandowski, Gio Massimi, and our girls from the office Bri and Tracy!



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BPD Hockey Ships Up To Boston For Irish Heritage Series

By ... Joe Panek



The Buffalo Police Hockey team took a weekend trip to Boston mid-September to face off against Boston Police and Ireland’s National Team. With many key players not able to make the trip we had to go outside the department to fill out our roster. With permission from both opponents, we added firemen Mike Ratchuk and Patrick Isch to the team. We also added friends of the program Jake Giacobello, Kevin Keane, Quinn Griffin, and Zack Isch; all regular attendees at our weekly BPD pickup skate. Griffin is the son of retired PO and BPD Hockey legend Brian Griffin.

The team arrived Saturday afternoon at Boston University to take on Boston PD. The game was played at Walter Brown Arena located right on BU’s campus. An awesome arena that is home to BU Women’s Hockey program. The rink was also home to BU Men’s Hockey program from 1971 until 2005 when they opened up their new rink, Agganis Arena which is where our bus driver accidentally dropped us off. After a long walk across campus from Agganis to Walter Brown the team was greeted by special guest head coach Lt. Christopher Fields, who extended a personal trip he was on in Boston to come see the team play. He was joined behind the bench by PO Bailey Kessler as his assistant coach.

Boston PD was coming off a 7-2 loss to Ireland on Thursday night. They came out with a small lineup only fielding 10 skaters and a goalie. With numbers heavily in our favor we came out fast and took a 1-0 lead with a goal from PO John Garvin. Boston PD responded with an offensive outburst that was answered by an absurd goaltending performance by Det. Derek Brennan to keep us in the game. With Brennan getting little to no help from the rest of us, Boston was able to tie the game 1-1 before going into the first intermission. PO Mike McCarthy broke the ice in the 2nd period by beating the goalie with a nice shot from the slot giving us a 2-1 lead. Later in the period Capt. Donald Myers crashed the net and buried a goal on his backhand to make the game 3-1. After a bonehead turnover in our own zone by me, Boston PD took advantage and made it a one goal game going into the 3rd. The 10 skaters on Boston PD did not show any signs of slowing down and their goaltender was impressive all game. Boston was all over us again in the 3rd and without Brennan making a few more SportsCenter Top Ten saves the game could have easily gotten away from us. Brennan pitched a shutout in the 3rd and we were able to sneak out of there with a 3-2 win with Myers’ goal holding up as the game winner.



Next up was a 45 minute bus ride to Kingston, Massachusetts to play Ireland’s National Team. Team Ireland was hosting their “Irish Heritage Series” which consisted of games against Boston Police, Boston Fire, Massachusetts State Police, and Buffalo Police. Going into our matchup Saturday night Team Ireland had already defeated Boston Police(7-2) and Boston Fire(7-5) and they would go on to beat Mass State Police(8-1) on Sunday night.

The game started at a fast pace with both sides getting some early chances. Giacobello was able to net the first goal of the game off a nice centering pass from Garvin to give us a 1-0 lead. Brennan picked up where he left off shutting out Team Ireland and giving us the lead going into the first intermission. The defensive play of PO Neil Sullivan and Lt. Garrett O’Neill helped limit Ireland to only a couple decent scoring chances in the 1st. The 2nd period was a stalemate until Ireland was able to get one by Brennan late making the score 1-1 going into the 3rd period. After playing five periods of hockey the offense finally clicked. Ratchuk, myself, and McCarthy were all able to find the back of the net in a five minute span to give us a 4-1 lead. PO Brendan Barren picked up 2 assists as well. Ireland scored off a rush with under five minutes to play to cut the lead back to two. Giacobello scored his second of the game shortly after to deliver the dagger and give us a 5-2 win.

Brennan easily earned MVP honors for the weekend with two Hasek-like performances. POs Matt Krug and Brendan Cullen both had solid games. Lt. Jimmer Otwell was all over the ice vs. Ireland even drawing a penalty that gave us an important power play. Detectives Jimmy Hynes and Pat Garry played great. Defensemen Pat Isch and Quinn Griffin were a shutdown pair who also contributed offensively. Zack Isch and Kevin Keane were a big help as well.

Our team had a great weekend taking in a Yankees-Red Sox game, hanging out with Team Ireland who hosted us at a local pub, and watching the Bills game Sunday at a packed Bills backer bar. All in all another great trip that would have never happened without all the hard work and planning put in by Brendan Barren.

**“The Blue Line”** is the official newspaper of the Buffalo Police Benevolent Association, Inc., and will be printed monthly. It is distributed to law enforcement agencies nationwide, Federal, and State Governmental agencies at the local level, as well as throughout the Buffalo Metropolitan area.

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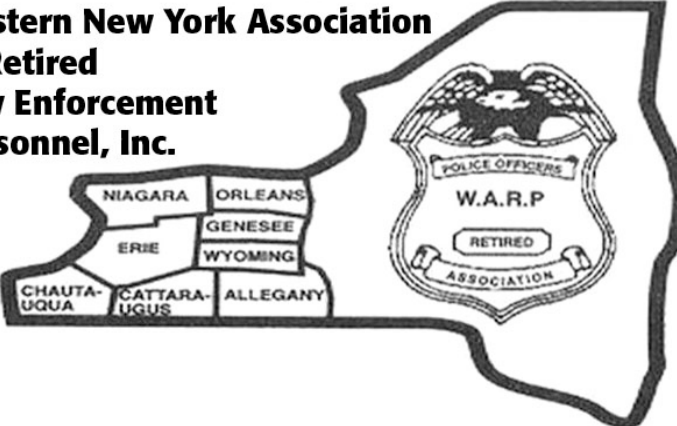
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