Brevard County, FL 10-13 Club

President Al Boettjer

March

Newsletter

Club Website www.bc1013club.org

National Website www.nyamer10-13.org

A National Organization of Retired And Active New York City Police And Associate Agencies Police Officers of all Ranks

FROM

Brevard County 10-13 Club

P.O. Box 410157

Melbourne, FL 32941-0157

Mail To:

Board of Directors

President	
Al Boettjer	321-508-3797
Vice President	
Marco Calderon	321-453-0807
Secretary	
Joseph Fills	914-960-6279
Treasurer	
Ron Schule	321-507-4743
Sgt.-at-Arms	
Bill Rohan	321-953-8368
Director 3yr	
Patrick Moynihan	321-952-9303
Director 2yr	
Bob Sullivan	321-223-2473
Director 1yr	
Bill Martinez	321-725-9438
Associates Director	
Art Navarro	321-259-1554
Health & Welfare	
North	
Larry McCormick	321-427-2285
South	
John Worth	321-613-2822
Immediate Past President	
Nick Miele	321-243-6753

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POPPA-PSO	
Bill Donovan	321-243-6530
Chaplain	
Rev. John Britto Antony	321-637-9650
Chaplain Emeritus	
*Rev. Anthony Palmese	
President Emeritus	
Bernie Corrigan	
Newsletter Editor	
Nick Miele	321-831-6925 321-243-6753

*deceased

Past Presidents

Bernie Corrigan —'78 '79

*Joe Canuel —'80 '81

*Bill Schmidt —'82 '83

*Richie Montenero —'84

*Chet Bertron —'85 '86

*Ed Cooper —'87 '88

*John Kuveke —'89

*Ed Rainis —'89 '90 '91

Bill Martinez —'92

*Ken Jacques —'93

*Jim Savage —'94 '95

Nes Estefani —'96 '97

Al Cordova — '98 '99

*Bob Stein — '00 '01

Nick Miele — '02 '03 '06 '12 '13 '17 '18 '19

Jim Glover — '04

John Diegnan — '05

Sam Esposito — '07 '08

Patrick Moynihan — '09 '10

Marco Calderon — '11

Al Boettjer — '14 '15 '16 '20

* deceased

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Pension Section	866-692-7733
PBA Funds Office	212-233-5531
DEA Office	212-587-1000
DEA Health & Welfare	212-587-9120
CEA & LBA Office	212-964-7500
SBA Office	212-431-6555
NYPD Operations Unit (Death of member)	646-610-5580
Davis Vision	800-999-5431
Employee Benefits	212-513-0470
Social Security	800-772-1213

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AETNA PPO	888-267-2637
GHI	800-358-5500
Empire Blue Cross	800-433-9592
Medicare	800-633-4227
NYC Healthline	800-521-9574
NYCERS	347-643-3000
POPPA (retirees)	800-599-1085

IN MEMORIUM

Hibbard, Jim	1980
Dolson, Sam	1981
Heany, Bill	1982
Montenero, Richie	1985
Canuel, Joseph	1988
Bellman, Fred	1989
Smith, Norville	1989
Daly, Martin	1993
McCleod, Miles	1993
Nolan, John	1993
Wood, Harry	1995
Cronin, John	1996
Drew, Archer	1997
Arendt, Walter	1998
Martino, Thomas	1998
Fagan, Bob	1999
Herbert, Denis (H)	1999
McNally, Raymond	1999
Menke, Paul	1999
O'Hara, Joseph	1999
Povelaitis, Joseph	1999
Van Dyke, Vincent	2000
Hipper, Jack	2001
Kranz, William	2001
Carney, Robert	2002
Hudak, Kenneth	2002
Magee, Jack	2002
Marko, Owen	2002
Norbury, William Sr.	2002
Pensabene, Andrew	2002
Robsman, Igor (H)	2002
Burke, John B.	2003
Moran, James	2003
Carroll, James	2004
Gallagher, Jim	2004
Wedelsteadt, Edward	2004

IN MEMORIUM

Cooper, Edwin	2005
Ellison, Robert	2005
Williamson, Russell	2005
Willis, Robert	2005
Bertron,Chet	2006
Dondiego, John	2007
Moriarty, Carol	2007
Savone, Peter	2007
Breslin, Eileen	2008
Mandick, Walter	2008
Moriarty, Patrick	2008
Rice, Kenneth	2008
Scott, Stonewall (A)	2008
Gibney, Joe	2009
Kuveke, John	2009
Lowery, William	2009
Bergstrom, Carl	2010
Brutto, Louis	2010
Griffin, Lawrence	2010
Kries, Warren	2010
Neubauer, Rudy	2010
Scarano, Edward	2010
Stewart, Val	2010
Palmese, Rev. Anthony (H)	2012
Sattler, Werner	2012
Bastie, Joseph (A)	2013
Vaughan, Emmett	2013
Ballou, Charles	2014
Dinnegan, Michael	2014
Hoffman, George (H)	2014
Jaques, Kenneth	2014
McCann, J. Patrick (A)	2014
O'Neal, Charles (A)	2014
Phieffer, Peter	2014
Rainis, Edward	2014
Smith, Donald	2014

IN MEMORIUM

Ferrante, Joseph	2015
Fitzpatrick, William	2015
Husslein, Fred	2015
Redmond, Thomas E.	2015
Rosado, Miguel (A)	2015
Stein, Robert	2015
Cona, Steve (H)	2016
Freck, Jack	2016
Lent, Jack	2016
Lopopolo, John (H)	2016
Savage, Jim	2016

IN MEMORIUM

Bansley, Walter	2017
Cleland, John (H)	2017
Jacobson, Irwin	2017
Knab, Royal	2018
Monahan, Charles	2018
Rosenfeld, Howard	2019
Schmidt, William	2019
Haughwout, Dana	2019
Alenski, Joseph	2019

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2020 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES

MAR 12	APR 9	MAY 14	JUNE 11
SEPT 10	OCT 8	NOV 12	DEC 10

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DATES

MAR 3	MAR 31	MAY 5	JUNE 2
SEPT 1	SEPT 29	NOV 3	DEC 1

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DUES ARE DUE $35.00

LIFETIME MEMBERS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE A MINIMUM $5.00 DONATION IN SUPPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SEE PAGE 9 FOR DELINQUENT MEMBERS

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ANNUAL PICNIC

THE ANNUAL PICNIC IS SET FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH. READ THE FLYER IN THIS NEWSLETTER, ON PAGE 7. WE WILL BE COLLECTING AT BOTH THE MARCH AND APRIL MEETINGS. PLEASE SEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: NICK MIELE, ART NAVARRO OR JOHN WORTH; OR FILL OUT THE FLYER INFORMATION WITH A CHECK UTTERED TO: "BREVARD COUNTY 10-13 CLUB" AND MAIL TO P.O. BOX 410157—MELBOURNE, FL 32941-0157

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I would like to thank all members that attended the February meeting, first for the great turnout and secondly for their participation in discussing the pending House and Senate Bills for disabled first responders. I will carry the message at the Presidents Meeting.

We had a full house at the National Luncheon and although Nick Miele had made specific reservations to keep our members together, they scattered us all over the facility. The catering was not so hot. The food was very good however, by the time it got to our table the front of the room was finished with their dessert. The comradery was great, and their fifty/fifty was substantial. $1,000.00 first prize, $500.00 second prize and $350.00 third prize. Let's hope next year they get the seating and service right. It is worthwhile to attend. Hope to see you there next year, going doesn't affect our meeting as shown by the club attendance that night.

Survive First sent us a beautiful thank you for your generous donation. I know a lot of our guys attended comedy night which was a great success. The Policeman's Ball is scheduled for June 13th, 2020. The cost is $75.00 per person. The proceeds go directly to assist our fellow Law Enforcement and Fire personnel. Attending is a nice way to enjoy and evening with your significant partner. I hope to see you there. Feel free to contact me for more information.

We would like to start a couple's night once a month, for those for those interested please contact myself, Art Navarro or Ron Schule.

The HR218 shoot went well considering our cooks Bobby Sullivan and Art Navarro were out sick and I was called out for an emergency, causing me to leave early. I got word that a couple of people missed out on burgers. Sorry for that but, I thank the new cooking/serving crew for their hard work in any case.

If you haven't paid your dues, please get them in by the March meeting. Please let Nick Miele know if you plan to attend the April Club picnic. Feel free to pay up in advance.

Special thanks to Richard Schwartz for signing up 20 new members. Richie you are the man.

Al Boettjer - President

EDITORS NOTE: With respect to the Florida State Senate and House Bills affecting ALL disabled first responders, they will never come out of committee. The house bill is being held hostage by the speaker (Chris Sprowls), who also happens to be the son of a disabled first responder — retired NYPD Joe Sprowls, former Treasurer of the Suncoast 10-13 club. It will not be passed in the 2020 legislative session and likely remain available only to disabled Florida first responders in the future.

I spoke to Jim Bomford a retired, disabled NYPD police officer for over an hour regarding this issue - who has been at the forefront of this battle for inclusion of all disabled first responders longer than anyone else.

I explained our clubs position, he presented valid points in opposition. However, it now remains moot as I have described.

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DUES ARE DUE

SEE PAGE 9

FOR DELINQUENT

MEMBERS

IF YOUR NAME IS LISTED AND YOU HAVE FORWARDED A CHECK IN PAYMENT OF DUES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO MARCH 2, THE DAY THE P.O. BOX WAS CHECKED BEFORE THE NEWSLETTER WENT TO THE PRINTER, PLEASE DISREGARD THE NOTICE.

The General Meeting's are held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Father Gabriel Council, 2150 Dairy Road, West Melbourne.

The following menu will be provided for the Buffet Dinner on Thursday, March 12th, 2020.

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Rotisserie Chicken

Tossed salad

Potatoes

Carrots

Soda Bread

Rolls and Butter

Iced Tea

Coffee Station

Assorted Desserts

Please call Club Vice President Marco Calderon at 321-453-0807 no later than Sunday, 6:00PM March 8th, to indicate you are having dinner. If no answer, leave a message.

e-mail mcalderon1113@gmail.com

If you are not having dinner, but will be attending, please extend the courtesy of also notifying Marco as tables and seating must still be provided. WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE DON"T JUST SHOW UP AND EXPECT TO EAT OR BE SEATED WITHOUT CALLING. COST IS $20.00 pp Happy Hour 5PM-6:30PM Dinner 6:30PM-7:30PM— Meeting 7:30PM.

COMING UP !

April 25th, 2020 Picnic at Suntree Rotary Park

6495 U.S. H 'way 1 Melbourne—East side of U.S. 1

at Suntree Blvd. (1.8 miles north of Pineda Causeway - Exit #188 on I-95 – Go east to U.S. 1)

Members, Spouses/Significant Others, their Adult

Children, other relatives & friends $10.00

Children under 18 - and

Widows of Deceased Members - FREE

Hot Dogs w/pushcart onions, Hamburgers, Italian Sausages, Baby Back Ribs, Baked Beans, Cold Salads, Beer, Soda, Diet Soda, Water, De-Caffeinated Coffee & Spanish Coffee

Food Will be Served Starting at 11:30AM - until it runs out. Get there early!

Name_____

 # Adults_____ # Children_____#Widows_____

Mail form to our P.O. Box together with your check or bring to the meeting. Please cooperate as we need to know as soon as possible the number of people coming so we can properly prepare for an adequate supply of food and beverages.

Any questions, call Committee Co-Chairman Nick Miele

321–243–6753 or e-mail miele19@bellsouth.net or

Committee Co - Chairpersons:

John Worth 321– 613-2822 or Art Navarro 321- 259-1554

We will start collecting at the March & April meetings

DUES DELINQUENT MEMBERS

REGULAR DUES $35.00 **LIFE MEMBERS $5.00**

Bande, M.
Butler, M.
Carraro, J.
Commer, G.
DeCurtis, A.
Elsasser, R.
Frey, T.
Grove, C.
Isom, A.
Klein, B.
Loeffler, G.
Mauro, M.
Paulin, L.
Reynolds, J.
Rosario, M.
Street, T.
Szilagyi, S.
Vendrell, M.

(35)

Barbieri, J
Butler, M.
Cavanagh, K.
Connor, A.
Denni, T.
Flammio, D.
Glossza, S.
Hourihan, K.
Joseph, M.
Lemite, G.
Lorenz, G,
Panebianco,T.
Puhalski, W.
Reynolds, K.
Smith, K.
Stroud, A.
Thomas, R.

Bologna, S.
Burke, M.
Devlin, P.
Estefani, N.
Ferguson, M.
Foley, B.
Fufidio, M.
Grassie, G.
Harrington, K.
Jordan, M.
Kane, E.
Kestner, W.
McKee, R.
Murphy, E.
Peragrine, S.
Riffone, E.
Roberts, J.
Ryan, M.
Salvaggio, C.
Schachtel, W.
Stelzer, G.
Williams, G.
(22)

The following have various credits but owe:
Pernice, L. credit of $30.00 owes $5.00
Thompson, A. credit of $5.00 owes $30.00
Weppler, J. credit of $30.00 owes $5.00

Brevard County 10-13 Membership Meeting

February 13,2020 @ Knights of Columbus, Melbourne Florida.

Meeting was called to order at 1830 hours by President Al Boettjer.

President Boettjer led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Marc Worchel gave the invocation.

All the Board was present except for Nick Miele who was excused.

Meeting was suspended at 1835 hours to allow everyone to eat.

Meeting was re-started at 1920 hours.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting:

A motion was made by Mike Mauro, second by Art Navarro to waive the minutes of the last meeting and was approved by the membership.

Sick Report: John Worth stated that President Al Boettjer was involved in a traffic accident and although he was injured in the accident he was doing better. President Boettjer thanked everyone for their concern and stated he appreciated all the prayers and well wishes for his Son and Daughter who also have been battling health issues but were doing better.

Treasurers Report by Ron Schule:

Opening Balance of $2522.67— Deposits of $2524.27.

Expenses of: $576 to Survivor First; $82.53 for the Newsletter;

$99 for the Web Master; $2354.80 Balance

Motion was made by Pat Moynihan, second by Sam Esposito to approve the report. It was passed by unanimous vote.

House/ Senate Bill to waive taxes for 1st Responders who receive disability pensions.

President Boettjer opened the discussion by stating that after he has had numerous discussions with County and Local officials regarding the impact of this bill on Brevard County and their

responses were that they weren't sure how the bill would affect Medicare/ Medicaid responsibilities.

He stated that he would be attending the Presidents meeting and would like a vote from the membership on whether to support this bill or oppose it. He further stated that it was his understanding that all the other clubs would be supporting it. He then opened the floor up to discussion.

Sam Esposito stated why don't we shelve the vote until we get more information on the impact of the bill.

Vinny Vavaro and Bill Donovan both stated if the other clubs aren't opposing it why are we?

Ron Schule stated that the Board's thinking was the NYPD retirees who are out on a disability pension are well compensated and our concern was how this would affect officers from other agencies who don't have a pension system like NY state.

Sam Esposito made a motion to table the vote until we were able to get more information. With a second by Pat Moynihan, the motion was passed.

National Club Raffle Tickets:

President Boettjer presented to the membership the boards idea to take the clubs proceeds from the February, March and April Meetings and purchase two (2) tickets each month for a total of six tickets.

A motion was made by Art Navarro to accept this plan, with a second by Al Cordova. The Motion was approved.

Mr. Espresso Donation:

Art Grenci informed the membership of the donation he had received from Mr. Espresso and that the board had approved the purchase of a plaque to thank the owner. He also stated that he would like to see the donation used to maybe have an Oldies Night in the future for the membership as a fund raiser for the club.

St Patrick's Day Parade:

Bob Sullivan stated that this year's parade would be held on

March 14, 2020 kicking off at 11:00 am. The parade committee asked that all those wishing to march be in formation at 10:00 am. He also stated that the parade route has changed and will not start from the railroad tracks and go west. He stated that families and friends were welcomed to march and asked members to wear club apparel if they could.

New Business:

Rich Schwartz stated that it was his understanding that the NYPD was going to require a psychological test for members looking to renew gun permits.

John Carraro wanted to make members aware that the Maryland State Police were not honoring HR218 Cards

50/50

$50: Joe Fills who donated it back to the club

$40: George Stammer

$15: Dom Minerva

Attendance Stick:

Robert Stelzer was not present. The March drawing will be $30.

Sam Esposito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2015 hours, with a second by Norman Youngs and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Fills

Recording Secretary

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MESSAGE FROM HONOR CHAIRMAN BOB SULLIVAN

Hello Honor Guard:

This years Annual Melbourne Saint Patrick's Day Parade will take place on Saturday, March 14, 2020. The parade commences sharply at 11:00 AM. Marching participants

are requested to be at the parade assembly area prior to that time for positioning and line up. Also, consider parking availability may be limited. I will be there around 10:00 AM to meet with the Parade Officials.

NOTE: The parade assembly area has been changed to: The Large Empty Lot NW of US1 and Melbourne Ave.

The parade will then proceed West on New Haven Avenue, in the opposite direction of the previous years.

The uniform for the HG will be Black Tie, White Shoulder Braid and White Gloves. HG member Ron Schule will bring his convertible vehicle and will transport as many persons who may have difficulty walking as possible. All members of our club and their families are invited to march with the HG. Please wear your club shirt if you have one.

Thanks!

Bobby

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A LITTLE NOSTALGIA

From very long time member Fred Fernez:

For the last 20 years or more, I have hosted dinners at my home for my four generations here in Florida. I am the Chief Chef! As I watch the television show "Blue Bloods," I can't help but see the similarities between the show's law enforcement family and my very own. Both families gather around the table, share stories, laugh and of course, eat a lot of delicious Italian food! Both families start with the great-grandfather (me in our family) and go all the way down to the youngest great-grandchild (sweet baby Cataleya in our family). Many years of public service, whether law enforcement or other government employment, come together to compare notes and educate the young on the ways of the world. Thirteen total seated at the table, spending quality time together and making great memories over a home-cooked meal.

Great Grandfather: Myself--48 years Law enforcement 20 years Retired Inspector Suffolk County P.D. N.Y., Retired Police Chief Indian Harbour Beach, Fl. 28 years.

Son/ Grandfather: Stephen--Retired Melbourne P.D. Florida 34 years, his wife Joanne, active private security guard, two step-grandsons, Shea and Thomas

Grandson: Stephen – Lt. Brevard County Fl. Sheriff Dept, 17 years, his wife Maria, agent, same dept., 15 years, Great-Grandchildren Gabriel, Isabella and Cataleya.

Granddaughter: Danielle Stern, Chief of Staff to Brevard County Commissioner, 15 years, husband Gary and Great-Grandson Lance.

for more information call me at 321-773-0845

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Cop says NYPD orchestrated revenge for arrest of 'well-connected drunk'

By Larry Celona, Joseph Konig and Laura Italiano

NY Post January 25.2020

NYPD Police Officer Joseph Stokes, 40, holding one of his many awards he has received as an NYPD officer.

It started as just another police DWI stop on Manhattan's Lower East Side — a gold, two-seater Audi with three people crammed inside, including a driver who reeked of booze.

But when Officer Joseph Stokes pulled over the fancy sports car at 5 a.m. on April 19, 2018 — and the driver allegedly spat out,

"I'm going to make you f–king pay!" and flashed phone photos of himself with top police brass, including then-Commissioner James O'Neill — the cop's life was forever changed.

In legal papers, Stokes says the NYPD has orchestrated a campaign of revenge against him, - including a harrowing Internal Affairs sting, a demotion and the leaking of false accusations that he was a dirty cop — all, he says, because he arrested a well-connected drunk.

"I lost the love for this job after seeing how dirty they are," Stokes, 40, told The Post.

"I wouldn't even want my kids to be a cop anymore," said the dad of seven, who has filed a notice of claim alerting the city he intends to sue it, the NYPD and the Manhattan district attorney for $100 million.

On the day he pulled over the Audi, Stokes was a decorated, 12-year veteran, a "training officer" who taught new cops the ropes at the 7th Precinct.

"His integrity is unquestionable, and his compassion," said his lawyer, Joseph Murray.

Then he and three other officers pulled over the driver, identified in Stokes' court papers as "the Motorist," but who The Post has learned through arrest records was Brooklyn restaurateur Johan Dawood, 38.

In a failed attempt to avoid a DWI rap, Dawood scrolled through his cellphone and "showed Stokes several pictures of the Motorist with O'Neill and [NYPD Chief Jeffrey] Maddrey," and tried to phone O'Neill and Maddrey, "all with negative results," Stokes claims.

Dawood, who owns three restaurants and also uses the name Jouhan Daoud, blew a .153 percent blood alcohol content on his roadside breath test — nearly twice the legal limit — and was charged with driving while intoxicated, records show.

Then began almost two years of what Stokes calls harassment. First, "the Motorist" falsely told NYPD Internal Affairs that Stokes stole $30,000 in cash from the Audi — something he and the three officers with him deny and were never charged with, the court papers state.

Then, on Oct. 29, IAB conducted a sting in which an undercover pretended to be a drunk with $1,500 cash in his car — in a failed attempt to entrap Stokes into stealing the loot, the court papers allege.

Stokes had vouchered the undercover's cash in the presence of other precinct cops and with his bodycam rolling, but was still arrested and held for seven hours.

In that time he was transported from the 7th Precinct to prosecutors' offices on Wooster Street, then to the DA's main offices at 1 Hogan Place, then to Manhattan North Internal Affairs, where he was released with no charges and later demoted to a new assignment in The Bronx.

"Nobody ever signed off on this," Stokes overheard an angry official say while he was at 1 Hogan Place, the papers allege. "This was not authorized … we're leaving.

Meanwhile, a story about Stokes' arrest was maliciously leaked to news outlets, including The Post, the papers state.

And Stokes was denied access to a lawyer or a union delegate, in violation of his legal rights and NYPD policy, Murray said.

He was "never fingerprinted, never photographed, never nothing," Stokes told The Post.

O'Neill and Maddrey targeted Stokes "in retaliation of Stokes' lawful and dutiful arrest of the Motorist, who is a friend and donor to O'Neill and Maddrey," the papers allege.

The NYPD, O'Neill and Dawood did not comment on the allegations.

EDITORS NOTE: Your starting to get the picture why P.O. Pantaleo was thrown under the bus during O'Neill's administration. And why O'Neill made a quick exit….

What a disgrace the leadership of the department has become and of course the "City" administration.

Let's pray some miracle happens!

A LITTLE HUMOR

From member Jim Kennedy:

Two aliens landed in the Arizona desert near a gas station that was closed for the night. They approached one of the gas pumps and the younger alien addressed it saying, "Greetings, Earthling. We come in peace. Take us to your leader."

The gas pump, of course, didn't respond.

The younger alien became angry at the lack of response.

The older alien said, 'I'd calm down if I were you.

The younger alien ignored the warning and repeated his greeting. Again, there was no response.

Pissed at the pump's haughty attitude, he drew his ray gun and said gruffly, "Greetings, Earthling. We come in peace. Take us to your leader or I will fire!

The older alien again warned his comrade saying, 'You probably don't want to do that! I really think that will make him mad.'

Rubbish,' replied the cocky, young alien. He aimed his weapon and opened fire.

There was a huge explosion. A massive fireball roared towards him and blew the younger alien off his feet and threw him in a burnt, smoking mess about 200 yards away in a cactus patch.

Half an hour passed. When he finally regained consciousness, he refocused his three eyes, straightened his bent antenna, and looked dazedly at the older, wiser alien who was standing over him shaking his big, green head.

What a ferocious creature!' exclaimed the young, fried alien. 'He damn near killed me! How did you know he was so dangerous?'

The older alien leaned over, placed a friendly feeler on his crispy friend and replied, 'If there's one thing I've learned during my intergalactic travels, you never mess with a guy who can loop his penis over his shoulder twice and then stick it in his ear.'

Adam, that's another fine mess you've gotten us into.

De Blasio's New NYPD Commissioner Is A Registered Republican. Does He Support Trump's Anti-Immigrant Agenda?

By Jake Offenhartz The Gothamist January 30, 2020

Mayor Bill de Blasio often describes New York as the country's progressive beacon, a city where residents understand the importance of diversity, immigration, and compassion for their fellow human beings— values that are antithetical to the rhetoric and policies of President Donald Trump. Indeed, more than two-thirds of the city's registered voters are Democrats, and roughly 80 percent of New Yorkers voted for Hillary Clinton during the last election.

But even as he positions himself as the liberal leader of a Democratic stronghold, de Blasio isn't above promoting a longtime Republican to one of the city's most influential posts. He did just that, when he swore in Dermot Shea as the new Police Commissioner of the NYPD.

Public records show that Shea, a 50-year-old Manhattan resident who recently moved from Putnam County, has been a registered Republican since 1994. He last voted in the 2016 presidential election.

The NYPD declined to make Shea available for an interview, and a spokesperson did not respond to questions about whether he backed Trump in 2016 or will support him in the upcoming election. According to one poll, 84 percent of working police officers nationwide backed Trump during the 2016 election. The city's major police unions have openly courted Trump and far-right figures, while deriding progressives as lazy and anti-police.

"Keeping 8.6 million New Yorkers safe simply isn't political," said Devora Kaye, an NYPD spokesperson. "The Police Commissioner is a cop through and through, and that's how New York City will continue as the safest big city."

An analysis of publicly available data shows that de Blasio has only appointed one other Republican besides Shea to a city agency: Deanne Criswell, who took over last year as the commissioner of the Emergency Management Department after Joseph Esposito was fired. Of the nearly 30 agencies overseen by the Mayor's Office, the rest were headed by Democrats or those not affiliated with either party.

The three police commissioners who preceded Shea — James O'Neill, William Bratton, and Ray Kelly — were not registered with any political party.

Kelly later emerged as a Trump surrogate (and was rumored to be in the running for FBI director), while both O'Neill and Bratton have been outspoken in their criticism of the current president.

As commissioner, O'Neill frequently reminded the department not to comply with Trump's immigration orders, and didn't shy from sparring publicly with the president. Shea has not made similar proclamations in his first ten weeks on the job. Kaye, the NYPD spokesperson, said the city's so-called "sanctuary city" policies are codified in local law and remain unchanged.

City law prevents police and jails from honoring most detainer requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which would require holding someone past 48 hours in order to facilitate a transfer of custody to federal authorities.

Local officials have defended this policy, as the Trump administration has vowed a renewed crackdown on cities that don't meet their requests.

Criminal justice reformers argue that Shea's political preferences are relevant for other reasons, including his staunch opposition to the newly-enacted bail reform package. While the mayor has also raised concerns about the new laws, Shea is seemingly leading the fight to walk back the reforms, frequently raising public safety concerns that advocates say amount to Trumpian scare tactics.

“The NYPD is running a racist fear-mongering campaign to undermine bail reform — apparently pitching their own stories regularly to the New York Post — so am I surprised that the commissioner is a Republican who doesn’t live in NYC? No," said Paulette Soltani, political director of VOCAL-NY. "But it’s certainly disappointing that Mayor de Blasio has set Shea off the leash to do his dirty work. The Mayor should rein in his commissioner and get on the right side of this issue."

Asked for comment, mayoral spokesperson Freddi Goldstein would not say whether the mayor took issue with Shea's party affiliation. "The mayor is concerned about the safety of New Yorkers, just like Police Commissioner Shea," she said. "Their conversations revolve around strategies to further reduce crime and make our city both safer and fairer."

De Blasio's choice for the role of top cop had rankled some observers even before his political party became public. In appointing Shea, the mayor passed over the NYPD's second-in-command, Benjamin Tucker, who would have been the second black police commissioner in the department's history. Records show that Tucker is a registered Democrat.

***CORRECTION*: A previous version of this story misidentified Shea's place of residence. He lived in Putnam County until 2018, but currently resides in Manhattan, according to the NYPD. He is now registered as a Republican in New York City.**

2020 Census: Fact vs. Fiction

by Colleen Tressler, Consumer Education Specialist, Federal Trade Commission

The Federal Trade Commission is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help you guard against potential census scams. Knowing how the 2020 Census process works, what information you will — and won't — be asked for, and some red flags will help you spot and report scams.

The Process

In mid-March 2020, the Census Bureau will start mailing out (and, in some areas, hand delivering) invitations to participate in the 2020 Census. You should get yours by April 1. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail.

The Census Bureau has an important job: to count every person living in the United States. Starting in May 2020, census takers will start visiting homes that haven't responded to make sure everyone is counted. If you aren't home or can't come to the door, the census taker will come back up to six times. Each time, they'll leave a door hanger with a phone number, so you can call to schedule a visit.

The Questions

The census questionnaire asks how many people are in the home at the time you complete the form; their sex, age, race, ethnicity; their relationships to one another; phone number; and whether you own or rent the home. For the full list of questions on the 2020 Census, visit Questions Asked.

Signs of a Scam

Scammers may pose as census takers to get your personal information — and then use it to commit identity theft and other frauds. But there are ways you can identify official census takers.

Census takers must show a photo ID with the U.S. Department of Commerce seal and an expiration date. If you ask, the census taker will give you a supervisor's contact information and/or the census regional office phone number for verification.

If you suspect fraud, call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative. You also can file a report with the FTC at FTC.gov/Complaint. Your reports may help law enforcement agencies launch investigations that could stop imposters and other fraudsters in their tracks.

The Census Bureau will never ask for your full Social Security number, bank account or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party. The 2020 Census will not ask citizenship status.

The Census Bureau may call you as part of their follow-up and quality control efforts. They also might call if you're not home when a census taker stops by or when a personal visit is not convenient. Calls will come from one of the Census Bureau's contact centers or from a field representative.

Make sure you have the latest and most accurate information about the 2020 Census. Visit 2020 Census Rumors to fact-check and ask questions.

If you suspect fraud, call 1-800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative. You also can file a report with the FTC at FTC.gov/Complaint. Your reports may help law enforcement agencies launch investigations that could stop imposters and other fraudsters in their tracks.

Verifying a Call is Really from the Census Bureau

The Census Bureau uses two contact centers, one in Jeffersonville, Indiana, and the other in Tucson, Arizona. The caller will identify themselves and the name of the survey. If they are unable to reach you, they will leave a message with a case ID associated with your survey.

Most Census Bureau calls asking you to participate in a survey originate from one of the following numbers:

(812) 218-3144, Jeffersonville Contact Center

(520) 798-4152, Tucson Contact Center

If you receive a call and wish to independently verify that a number is from the Census Bureau, you can call one of the following numbers: (see page 23)

1-800-523-3205 Jeffersonville, IN

1-800-642-0469 Tucson, AZ

1-800-923-8282 Customer Service Center

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NYPD union leader Ed Mullins under investigation for declaring 'war' on de Blasio, sources say.

Mayor Bill de Blasio's fiercest critic — the outspoken head of the NYPD sergeants union — is under internal investigation for tweeting a declaration of "war" against Hizzoner, sources told The Post on Friday.

De Blasio said "there should be consequences" for the bellicose bombast of Sergeants Benevolent Association boss Ed Mullins on Feb. 10, and the probe began that week, sources said.

The investigation also will examine other controversies involving Mullins, who has repeatedly launched verbal fusillades at both de Blasio and former NYPD Commissioner James O'Neill.

"The probe will look at Mullins' history of rash remarks to determine if they conflict with his commitment to public safety as a sworn officer," a source said.

Mullins upped his rhetoric against de Blasio on Feb. 9, following the wounding of two cops in separate shootings in the Bronx over a -12-hour period.

"Mayor de Blasio, the members of the NYPD are declaring war on you! We do not respect you, DO NOT visit us in hospitals," Mullins tweeted.

"You sold the NYPD to the vile creatures, the 1% who hate cops but vote for you. NYPD cops have been assassinated because of you. This isn't over, Game on!"

The next day, de Blasio responded by telling reporters that "it's sad when someone feels they can be openly divisive and get away with it."

"I think there should be consequences for that kind of speech," Hizzoner added.

Mullins was also questioned by internal affairs in early January after he publicly asserted Barnard College freshman Tessa Majors was fatally mugged in Morningside Park last year after going there to buy pot, sources told The Post.

That grilling came after de Blasio blasted Mullins' remarks as "heartless" and "infuriating."

"We don't shame victims in this city," de Blasio tweeted on Dec. 15.

During Mullins' questioning, he was asked where he got his information about Majors' visit to the park, a source said.

Mullins, who was summoned to One Police Plaza with two other members of the SBA executive board, responded that he'd been a cop for 38 years and "guessed it," the source said.

The NYPD Patrol Guide prohibits cops from "engaging in conduct prejudicial to good order, efficiency or discipline of the Department," and the city Administrative Code also gives Police Commissioner Dermot Shea the power to impose punishment for "conduct unbecoming an officer."

Penalties can range from a reprimand to firing, but only after conviction at a departmental trial.

Under the SBA's constitution, only active NYPD sergeants can be nominated to run for president, but the rules don't say what happens if the union's president gets fired mid-term.

Asked to comment on the investigation of Mullins, mayoral spokeswoman Freddi Goldstein said, "Ed Mullins is supposed to be a leader in this city. It's time he act like it. His comments were clearly inappropriate and he should be held accountable."

Mullins declined to comment.

EDITORS NOTE: However, he did comment, see on the following pages.

Dear Fellow Sergeant,

Mayor de Blasio is clearly attempting to undermine the leadership of the SBA, and you should know the truth about it.

You have recently read reports in the media which indicate I am being investigated by Internal Affairs for comments made by me in my capacity as your President, including my declaration of war on Mayor de Blasio's failed leadership following the recent attempted assassination of two Bronx cops, the chaos that took place during the subway "protests" in Brooklyn, and the rape and murder of a ninety-two year old woman in Queens. The press also reported information leaked by a "high level city official" taken from a confidential IAB interview, in an attempt to impugn my character. In a retaliatory attempt to assault my reputation and fracture the solidarity of the SBA – a clear and obvious violation of State and Federal labor laws, and of my First Amendment right to speak out on matters of public concern – the same source claims the Department is investigating my salary, suggesting I receive pay to which I am not entitled.

First, let me assure you in no uncertain terms: I WILL NOT BE SILENCED BY THREAT OF DISCIPLINE, NOW OR EVER!

All of my criticism of Mayor de Blasio is well-deserved and will not cease until he abandons the policies that are placing all members of the SBA and the NYPD at greater risk of injury and death while making it more difficult for us to do our jobs. I am confident that my comments enjoy broad support among the SBA membership and members of the NYPD overall – you have repeatedly told me so – and I will not be intimidated by the coercive tactics employed by City Hall. I assure you a " retaliatory targeted investigation" by the Department, will be met with quick legal action by the SBA.

If the Mayor's response to my criticism is to threaten and retaliate against my First Amendment rights, he is once again sorely misguided. Because of his failed agenda, including decriminalization of quality of life offenses and hands-off policing, we continue to experience spikes in crime, preventable homicides and violent crime, worsening relationships with our brother ICE officers, and the deterioration of neighborhoods throughout the City.

His continued support of the disaster known as bail reform has released career criminals back into the community time and again: criminals are mocking law enforcement, boasting that they will be released within hours while we are still processing the arrest.

Perhaps the Mayor simply wants to create a distraction so the media will forget the Eight Hundred Fifty Million dollars which disappeared from ThriveNYC under his wife Chirlane's McCray watch.

It does not matter: I will continue to tell the truth, to highlight what really goes on and defend the men and women in law enforcement loud enough for the elected Mayor to hear, and I will fulfill my role as your advocate and exercise my First Amendment rights on all issues that affect your ability to protect the City – and most importantly go home safely.

It is no surprise that I am a target for City Hall; the SBA Twitter account has the second largest law enforcement following in the country. The SBA repeatedly highlights the failed progressive policies that threaten to destabilize the nation's largest cities, New York first among them. Mayor de Blasio has ventured on a very slippery slope, first misusing the Patriot Act to seek a reporter's telephone records, now employing the Internal Affairs Bureau and leaks to tabloid media to muzzle a union president who advocates for his members. What is surprising is that the Mayor is so obvious, threatening my position while we are in the midst of collective bargaining: this threat is an unmistakable effort to force the SBA to accept a contract that has already been rejected by 75% of the uniformed services, and a clumsy shot at removing an SBA administration that has successfully sued the City and won in excess of Forty-Five Million dollars in damages for our membership.

It is troubling that information allegedly taken from a confidential Group 1 investigation has been leaked. Fortunately, I am confident that the appropriate notifications have been made, the source of this "leak" will be swiftly discovered, and the leaker will be promptly and expeditiously held to account.

Finally, in a desperate effort to besmirch my integrity, City "sources" claim the Department is investigating me for accepting night differential despite not working at night. This is a blatant lie, easily disproved.

I am paid no different than you, a NYPD Sergeant, based on the same collective bargaining agreement that covers each member of the SBA.

The City is reimbursed the salary of each police union official who has been granted an excusal to perform union duties as part of the collective bargaining agreement, and has been in effect for over 50 years, long before I became SBA president. The NYPD/City of New York determines the rate of pay for each union official through our collective bargaining agreement: not the union. I have never asked for nor received any additional benefit. The salary I receive is determined by the Department in accordance with that formula that the City has created. I have never submitted any request for night differential or overtime since becoming your President. The City knows this: it is their records which would prove it. Once again this is just another LIE manufactured by the city.

You elected me your President to represent you without fear, and to put the interests of the members first. To me, that means communicating our message in the terms needed to get the message heard. I pledge once again that I will not be bullied into silence by the Mayor, or anyone else, as long as I have the privilege to serve as your President.

I am not afraid of Mayor de Blasio. I fought the crack war in the 1980's with five years in this department all while Bill De Blasio *was in Nicaragua as an ardent supporter of the ruling socialist government, the Sandinista National Liberation Front. We don't threaten "consequences" when we are offended or our egos are a little bruised. Real New Yorkers stand up and defend themselves on the merits. Mayor de Blasio needs to defend his programs on the merits, truth is he cannot. I make no apology for defending law enforcement.

Fraternally,

Ed Mullins
President
Sergeants Benevolent Association

***EDITORS NOTE:** **At that time he was a student using his given name Werner Wilhelm. He changed it to DeBlasio (his mothers maiden name trying to hide all the problems he created in his youth). He truly is a communist and so is his wife.**

NYPD chief sends video message to cops to crack down on press leaks

NYPD brass is cracking down on cops leaking information to the press — warning officers that this behavior "will not be tolerated."

Chief of Department Terence Monahan sent an internal video message to all department cops last Friday, warning them that whoever leaks photos and videos "will be subject to the strongest possible discipline."

"It's unbelievable to me that someone in our department would leak these videos and yet someone did," a stern Monahan said in the video, which was obtained by The Post on Tuesday.

Monahan was referring to the leaked dramatic surveillance videos that showed the moment a cop-hating gunman opened fire inside the Bronx's 41st Precinct stationhouse and wounded a lieutenant just hours after the suspect was caught on video ambushing a pair of cops, shooting and injuring one, earlier this month.

The chief begins the video message by saying how while he was at Lincoln Medical Center because of the "two assassination attempts on our fellow officers," he "saw videos of the violent attacks circulating on social media" and noted that it was "before the suspect was even caught."

"These were cops who were shot. Our family in blue. A reckless social media posting is not how we want their families to be notified," Monahan said in the clip, which sources say was posted on the NYPD's intranet.

Two officers were stripped of their guns and badges for leaking the graphic videos to the press, it was previously revealed.

"Making it possible for this material to be circulated by the media prematurely hinders our investigate efforts," Monahan said in his video message. "I assure you the information leaked could have been detrimental to the prosecution of a violent criminal."

He added that "video from security cameras is not reality TV."

“It is not entertainment. Circulating it shows a lack of common sense and it’s a violation of the patrol guides,” said Monahan, who noted that it is “not the first time” the department has had leaks.

“Photos of crime scenes have made it to the media when investigations were only hours old,” Monahan stated. “Making this information public when it should not be can have very serious consequences.”

Monahan said “behavior like this will not be tolerated.”

“We should all be proud that the NYPD is known as one of the most professional police departments in the world, protecting it and your fellow officers should be your priority,” he said.

Monahan continued, “I have no doubt that many of you agree with me. For the few who don’t, let me be clear: Anyone who leaks information — photos, videos — will be subject to the strongest possible discipline.”

Over the weekend, The Post reported that members of the NYPD’s Internal Affairs Bureau have been more focused on plugging leaks to the media instead of corrupt cops, according to sources.

“When was the last time IAB caught a dirty cop and made an arrest?” one insider had told The Post.

After photos showing the gory aftermath of a quadruple homicide from a dice-game shooting in Brooklyn were obtained by The Post’s police bureau chief in October, the IAB tried to identify the source — and went as far as subpoenaing Twitter for the journalist’s data.

The NYPD only withdrew its request after The Post’s lawyers contacted the department.

Florida Gov. DeSantis signs bill that bans HOA restrictions on police vehicles

CLEARWATER, Fla — Law enforcement officers in Florida are now allowed to park their work vehicles in their driveways, despite what HOA has to say about it.

On Friday, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed S.B. 476 -- the law enforcement vehicles law -- which protects law enforcement officers from being told by their HOA they can't park their work vehicles in their own driveways.

Holiday Isles Management is the company that manages the HOA. They told ABC Action News in October 2019 the company can make recommendations and consult for the HOA, but they say final decisions lie with the HOA's board.

The HOA of Eastlake Woodlands sent the Clearwater police officer and her husband a letter that threatened them with violation costs if they didn't stop parking a marked police cruiser in their driveway.

The family told the HOA they were grandfathered in by a former board president but the HOA did not recognize that letter at first. After ABC Action News reported on the story twice, the HOA changed its tune and decided to honor the grandfather letter but told the family if they sell the house, they must inform the next owners of the HOA rules.

"My gut reaction was 'this can't be real, this flies in the face of common sense,'" Chris Sprowls, a House Rep. for District 65, previously told ABC Action News.

Sprowls posted about it to Facebook and linked our article saying it's time to clarify the law. Ed Hooper, State Senator in District 60, agreed.

"Having that visible deterrent in plain sight — if I were someone who was looking to [commit a crime] that, it would certainly tell me like maybe stay out of this neighborhood," Hooper previously told ABC Action News.

"It's a waste of a lot of peoples time and it's beyond silly." Dan Parri, a family friend of the officer involved.

But he says it needs to be done because he doesn't want this to happen ever again.

The Clearwater police chief, Dan Slaughter, previously told ABC Action News it's crucial officers get take-home cars because they need to be able to respond from anywhere at a moments notice.

"A car is not a perk," he told ABC Action News in October. "It's part of our emergency strategy."

He found out about the issue back in August -- months later he's thankful to see lawmakers tackle the issue on a state level.

"Even in law-enforcement we have a rule that if you misuse laws or authority then you lose it. And I think that's what really happened here," he told ABC Action News in October.

EDITORS NOTE: SS 718.129, 719.131, and 720.318 F.S.; providing that community associations may not prohibit a law enforcement officer from parking his or her law enforcement vehicle in certain areas.

Section 718.129—Law Enforcement Vehicles.— An association may not prohibit a law enforcement officer who is a unit owner, or a tenant, guest, or an invitee of a unit owner, from parking his or her law enforcement vehicle in an area where the unit owner or tenant, guest, or invitee of the unit owner, otherwise has a right to park.

Section 719.131—Law Enforcement Vehicles.— An association may not prohibit a law enforcement officer who is a unit owner, or a tenant, guest, or an invitee of a unit owner, from parking his or her law enforcement vehicle in an area where the unit owner or tenant, guest, or invitee of the unit owner, otherwise has a right to park.

Section 720.318—Law Enforcement Vehicles.—An association may not prohibit a parcel owner, or a tenant, guest, or an invitee of a parcel owner, from parking his or her law enforcement vehicle in an area where the parcel owner or tenant, guest, or invitee of the parcel owner, otherwise has a right to park.

Leftmedia, Not Russians, Biggest Threat to U.S. Elections

The news media only reinforces Russia's disinformation efforts by pushing its false narrative.

Thomas Gallatin · Feb. 24, 2020 The Patriot Post

The Russians are at it again, seeking to interfere in U.S. elections. We're shocked — *shocked*. The Russians have been playing this game for generations now. That this is considered pressing headline news only serves to highlight the gross bias prevalent within the mainstream media.

Case in point: Following last week's intelligence briefing before the House Intelligence Committee, in which lawmakers were notified of Moscow's continuing efforts to interfere in our nation's electoral process, the mainstream media's headlines declared that Russia favors President Donald Trump in 2020. "It's 2016 all over again," declared leftist political pundits and Democrats as they dusted off the false narrative that Trump's victory was due to Russian interference.

Once again, there is no evidence that our nation's actual election process was compromised, rigged, or manipulated by the Russians or anyone else. The interference being breathlessly reported is largely that of a disinformation campaign waged mostly online via social media. While serious, it only becomes problematic when Americans lose trust in those ostensibly tasked with objectively reporting the news.

On Friday, a new headline hit declaring that the Russians are working to boost Bernie Sanders's campaign. The news was based on the leak of a classified briefing Sanders received a month ago in which he was notified by U.S. intelligence officials that Russians were actively engaged in an effort to support his campaign, evidently in a similar fashion to that of Trump's. There is little doubt that the Russians are doing exactly that, especially given that, ideologically, they have much more in common with Bolshevik Bernie's policy platform than Trump's.

The problem, however, is the obviously timed leak to the media. Responding to the news, Sanders alluded to this, stating, "I'll let you guess, about one day before the Nevada caucuses, why do you think it came out?"

In any case, Sanders disavowed any Russian help, insisting, "I don't care, frankly, who [Vladimir] Putin wants to be president. My message to Putin is clear: 'Stay out of American elections, and as president I will make sure that you do.'"

Trump also blasted the media report, declaring, "MSDNC (Comcast Slime), CNN and others of the Fake Media, have now added Crazy Bernie to the list of Russian Sympathizers, along with Tulsi Gabbard & Jill Stein (of the Green Party), both agents of Russia, they say. But now they report President Putin wants Bernie (or me) to win." He then observed, "The reason for this is that the Do Nothing Democrats, using disinformation Hoax number 7, don't want Bernie Sanders to get the Democrat Nomination, and they figure this would be very bad for his chances. It's all rigged, again, against Crazy Bernie Sanders!"

The problem is not the MSM reporting on Russian efforts to interfere; it's that the MSM plays along with Moscow's false narrative suggesting that the Russians' objective is seeing a certain individual win the election, i.e. Trump or Sanders. The real objective of Russia's disinformation campaign is to sow distrust in America's electoral system, with the aim of further dividing our nation and weakening our government. Would Putin prefer a feckless Democrat such as Sanders to Trump? Most definitely, but his greater and longer-term goal is permanently disabling Americans' trust in our electoral system.

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The Sanders Insurgency Takes Nevada

Bernie busts out as the clear front-runner after dominating the latest caucuses.

Nate Jackson · Feb. 24, 2020 The Patriot Post

Bernie Sanders trounced the rest of the still-crowded Democrat field in the Nevada caucuses Saturday, coming away with nearly 47% of the vote and 14 delegates (with 96% reporting as we go to press). Joe Biden finished a distant second with 20% and the first four delegates he has ever won in his three presidential runs. Pete Buttigieg was third with nearly 14% and two delegates, while Elizabeth Warren came in fourth with just under 10% but no delegates.

And then there were other candidates like Amy Klobuchar, whose sixth-place finish (4% and behind billionaire Tom Steyer) showed that, no, she did not have momentum coming out of New Hampshire. Next up is South Carolina on Saturday, followed closely by 15 contests for a third of all delegates on Super Tuesday, when Michael Bloomberg will show up on ballots for the first time.

There are two particularly noteworthy aspects of the Nevada results. First, due to the way the state's caucuses work, a candidate must exceed 15% at each location to move forward. Voters faced with having to choose another candidate did not coalesce around a more "moderate" choice, however. Instead, Sanders actually *increased* support as the second choice of voters. Second, Sanders won 53% of Hispanics and 27% of blacks in Nevada. That's strong minority support, and it undercuts the appeal of Biden in particular.

Longtime Democrat strategist James Carville says a Sanders nomination will be "political suicide" for the party. But Democrats have only themselves to blame. They've spent decades selling ever-more fantastical promises to voters, who are miseducated in Democrat-run government schools. They see Bernie as "authentic" — a virtue to be prized above all others for many Millennials. In other words, Bernie actually believes what he says, while Democrats like Carville (and the rest of the field) have made a living just saying whatever it takes to win.

If Democrats didn't see it coming before, they do now — their own replay of the Republicans' 2016 primaries. A crowded field of GOP candidates enabled Donald Trump, who was a Democrat until Barack Obama became president, to keep winning and racking up delegates. Without a single alternative candidate to rally behind, Trump won the GOP nomination despite not winning a majority of the votes. He won due to justly deserved massive dissatisfaction with the Republican Party.

Democrats now face the increasingly real prospect of nominating a guy who has remained staunchly "independent," not registering as a Democrat until it suited his desire to run for president.

They'll be nominating a guy who honeymooned in the Soviet Union and praised its breadlines, while just this weekend giving some love to Fidel Castro's "massive literacy program" in Cuba. But if Sanders wins, it will be due to justly deserved massive dissatisfaction with the Democrat Party.

The big difference is that a crass and philandering former Democrat ended up being just the guy to *save* the Republican Party from self-immolation and the country from the Obama years. But a former "independent" socialist is unlikely to unite America behind his demands for exorbitant and punitive taxes and regulation. That's why we may witness a growing Never Sanders movement, even as he gains momentum toward the Democrat nomination.

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What a Guy

Bernie Sanders is truly special. He never held a job until he was finally elected mayor of Burlington, VT at age 53. He lived off of welfare and four different women, had a child out-of-wedlock with one, and the three marriages did not work out.

In all his years in the Senate, he introduced 364 bills. Three passed. Two of those were to name rural post offices.

The following is condensed: Bernie Sanders' father was a high school drop-out, who tormented his family with rants about their financial problems. He blamed society and economic inequality for his plight, though as a white male in a middle class neighborhood, he was hardly among the downtrodden. This was Bernie's inspiration to take up the cause of economic justice, though he would spend half of his life as an able-bodied college graduate living off of unemployment checks, and the women in his life, between odd jobs.

By his own admission, Bernie was not a great student, starting at Brooklyn College and transferring to Univ. of Chicago, but this enrollment kept him protected from the draft. He joined socialist organizations and dabbled in far-left politics.

He participated in the 1963 March on Washington, a few demonstrations, and was arrested once, but his activism for civil rights ended when he became obsessed with socialism.

NOT “democratic socialism”, but oppressive far-left Marxism.

Bernie married his college sweetheart, Deborah Shilling, and spent his small inheritance on a summer home in Vermont on 85 acres. The shack had a dirt floor and no electricity, maintaining his proletariat credibility, but not impressing his new bride. He refused to get a steady job, so his wife didn’t stick around long. They divorced after 18 months.

The Viet Nam war was escalating, and when the next draft was announced, Bernie applied for a conscientious objector deferment. His deferment was denied, so he dodged the draft by having a child out of wedlock in 1969 with his new girlfriend, Susan Mott, even though he STILL wasn’t working, and had no way to support the child.

He continued to subsist on odd carpentry jobs, unemployment checks, and occasionally selling $15 articles, including the one about how women fantasize about gang rape. His girlfriend left him. In 1988 he married Jane Driscoll, and took a cold-war era honeymoon in communist USSR. His new wife supported Bernie financially through his many attempts to win a public office, and shared his radical leftist political views. They visited the pro-Soviet Sandinista Government in Nicaragua known for their human rights violations, support for anti-American terrorists, and the imprisonment and exile of opponents. Bernie blindly overlooked the carnage to stand with fellow socialists.

They traveled to Cuba in hopes of meeting Bernie’s hero Fidel Castro, but access to him was denied. Bernie Sanders managed not to hold a full-time job his entire life or vote in a single election, until he finally ran for Mayor of Burlington at the age of 40. After several failed elections, he finally won the office of Mayor of Burlington, VT, and eventually a Seat. For all of his years representing Vermont, Bernie Sanders passed a total of three bills, and two of them were for naming post offices. He’s a draft-dodger, a deadbeat dad, a globe-trotting communist dilettante, and a petulant detractor of hard-working honorable Democrats.

His one skill is yelling about how unfair the world is, and how everything SHOULD be.

But he has no plans for how to make it happen, and no idea what goes on in the rest of the world or how to deal with problems overseas. His excuse for not having a foreign policy or national security plank on his platform: "I've only been campaigning for three months."

His socialist friends are bitter about what they see as a betrayal of their values by Bernie's pursuit of the Democratic nomination. His former wives and girlfriends run when they see reporters and will not speak to the press. Bernie's past, including a brief stint living in a kibbutz in Israel, is cloaked in secrecy.

Former employees and coworkers describe him as hostile and belligerent.

The people who know Bernie best cannot stand him. His supporters cannot explain how he is qualified to be president. Yet, the hard left, clueless students, college professors, and many suburbanites overlook his personal history and fawn over his un-affordable policies. What a guy!

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Important Changes for the 2019-2020 Tax Filing Season: Part 1 and 2—by Barry Lisak—The Chief Ledger 1/27/20

With the New Year come new tax laws. The new tax law, commonly called the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act," is the biggest Federal tax law change in over 30 years Below are some significant changes affecting individuals. Except where noted, the changes are effective for tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2018.

Seven individual tax rates. The tax rates will be: 10 percent, 12 percent, 22 percent, 24 percent, 32 percent, 35 percent and 37 percent. The top rate of 37 percent would be assessed on income over $612,350 for married couples and $510,300 for single taxpayers. Note that this is also the level at which the highest long-term capital-gain rate (i.e. 20 percent) kicks in.
Increased standard deduction. The standard deduction will increase to $24,400 for a joint return, $18,350 for an unmarried individual with at least one qualifying child, and $12,200 for single filers. Personal exemptions are eliminated. Because of the larger standard deduction, many taxpayers will no longer itemize their deductions.

Alternative minimum tax (AMT). **The bill increases the AMT exemption amounts to $111,700 for married filing jointly taxpayers, $71,700 for single taxpayers, and $54,700 for married filing separately. The bill also increases the AMT phase-out exemptions for $1,020,600 for married taxpayers filing jointly and $510,300 for single taxpayers. It is estimated that only 200,000 taxpayers will be impacted by the AMT rules.**

Medical-expense deduction. **The Secure Act passed late in 2019 reverts the medical-expense deduction floor from 10 percent to 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI).**

Mortgage-interest deduction. **The mortgage-interest deduction will be allowed for debt up to $750,000 on debt incurred after Dec. 15, 2017. Mortgages incurred prior to the Dec. 15, 2017, are grandfathered and subject to the $1-million limitation. The deduction for home-equity interest is eliminated, unless used to substantially improve one's main home. The Tax Policy Center estimates that the number of returns claiming the mortgage-interest deduction for 2019 will drop to 16 million.**

State and local income tax and real-estate-tax deductions. **The state and local deduction is now grouped together with real- estate tax deduction. Taxpayers may elect to deduct sales, income or property taxes up to $10,000 ($5,000 for married filing separately).**

Charitable-contribution limitations **will be increased on cash contributions. This is increased to 60 percent of AGI. The Tax Policy Center expects only 16 million filers to take advantage of this deduction for tax year 2019, down from 36 million before the enacting of this law.**

Miscellaneous itemized deductions. **These deductions, normally subject to 2% of your AGI, will be suspended until 2026. This bill eliminates various deductions such as tax preparation expenses, union dues, investment management fees, and unreimbursed business expenses. Regardless of your income tax bracket, it is very likely the TCJA will impact you in your filing for 2019 and the years that follow. Additional changes that will affect taxpayers for this filing year are discussed on the following pages.**

Important Changes for the 2019 Tax-Filing Season: Part 2

Below are additional tax changes for individuals for the 2019 tax -filing season.

Withholding. More than 90 percent of workers saw bigger paychecks throughout the year due to the tax overhaul. Taxpayers are advised to fine-tune their withholding by filing a new W-4 form.

Alimony payments. The TCJA eliminated the above-the-line deduction for alimony payments. The effective date for this provision is for divorce agreements executed after Dec. 31, 2018. Divorce decrees entered into prior to this date are grandfathered. One should be careful amending grandfathered divorce decrees in subsequent years.

Enhanced child-tax credit. The bill will increase the child tax credit to $2,000 (with up to $1,400 refundable). The bill also increased the AGI thresholds for claiming the credit. It will be allowed at higher income levels, phasing out beginning at $400,000 of income, in place of $110,000.

Family Tax Credit. The bill will provide a new family tax credit of $500 for each dependent, other than a qualifying child.

Gain on the sale of primary residence. The current law allows a couple filing a joint return $500,000 gain exclusion as long as the home was the primary residence for two of the past five years. This will remain the same going forward.

Estate-tax exemption will be increased. This will be increase to $11.2 million (with inflation adjustments) for singles, $22.4 million for married couples effective for decedents dying and gifts made after 2017. The Tax Policy Center estimates that 1,700 estates are expected to owe that tax for 2019. For 2017, an estimated 5,300 estates owed the tax.

Individual health-care mandate. There is no longer a penalty for failure to have the required health insurance under the American Care Act effective after Dec. 31, 2018.

Moving expenses. Most taxpayers will no longer be able to deduct job-related moving expenses.

'529' plan changes. For the first time, taxpayers may use 529 plan assets to pay for tuition in connection with enrollment at an elementary or public school, private or religious school. NYS did not acknowledge and opt into this new legislation; therefore, only college tuition is acceptable. Regardless of your income bracket it is very likely the TCJA will impact you in 2019 and the years that follow.

New Tax Law for 2020: The SECURE Act

The SECURE Act (Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019) was passed on Dec. 20, 2019 and is now effective for the 2020 tax year. It made many changes to how you save money for your retirement, how to use your money in retirement, and how you can better use your Section 529 plans.

Some highlights follow:

RMDs Start at Age 72—Before the SECURE Act, you generally had to start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your traditional IRA or qualified retirement plans in the tax year you turned 70.5. Now you can wait until the tax year you turn age 72.

No Age Limit for Traditional IRA Contributions—Prior law stopped you from contributing funds to a traditional IRA if you were 70.5 or older. Now, if you have earned income, you can make traditional IRA contributions at any age, just as you could and still can with a Roth IRA. This change applies to contributions made for tax years beginning after December 31, 2019.

Elimination of the "Stretch" IRA Provisions—Inherited retirement plans (non-spouse beneficiaries) would no longer permit the "stretch" for beneficiaries to take RMDs over their own life expectancy. Generally, the accounts will now need to be liquidated within 10 years.

Birth and Adoption of a child—Taxpayers would be able to take a distribution from a retirement plan of up to $5,000 without the 10% penalty in the event of a birth or adoption. This distribution must be within one year of the event.

529 Distributions for Student Loans—Qualified educational expenses of 529 plans will now include monies used to pay student loans. There is a $10,000 aggregate for amounts that can be distributed. Caution: To date, New York State has not adopted this Federal law. Whether you are age 35 or age 75, these new tax laws affect you.

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Our I.D. Card Renewal Messenger (Gary Gorman) submitted some interesting statistics to analyze with respect to — the current coronavirus.

These pandemics did not affect any of my immediate family. Sorry for those families it did affect. I have been around for three world pandemics and humanity and the world survived but I am not making light of this illness either. There are 7.7 billion people in the world 7,700,000,000

HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC (AT ITS PEAK, 2005-2012)
Death Toll: 36 million
Cause: HIV/AIDS
First identified in Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976, HIV/AIDS has truly proven itself as a global pandemic, killing more than 36 million people since 1981. Currently there are between 31 and 35 million people living with HIV, the vast majority of those are in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 5% of the population is infected, roughly 21 million people. As awareness has grown, new treatments have been developed that make HIV far more manageable, and many of those infected go on to lead productive lives. Between 2005 and 2012 the annual global deaths from HIV/AIDS dropped from 2.2 million to 1.6 million.

ASIAN FLU (1956-1958)
Death Toll: 2 million
Cause: Influenza
Asian Flu was a pandemic outbreak of Influenza A of the H2N2 subtype, that originated in China in 1956 and lasted until 1958. In its two-year spree, Asian Flu traveled from the Chinese province of Guizhou to Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United States. Estimates for the death toll of the Asian Flu vary depending on the source, but the World Health Organization places the final tally at approximately 2 million deaths, 69,800 of those in the US alone.

FLU PANDEMIC (1968)
Death Toll: 1 million
Cause: Influenza
A category 2 Flu pandemic sometimes referred to as "the Hong Kong Flu," the 1968 flu pandemic was caused by the H3N2 strain of the Influenza A virus, a genetic offshoot of the H2N2 subtype. From the first reported case on July 13, 1968 in Hong Kong, it took only 17 days before outbreaks of the virus were reported in Singapore and Vietnam, and within three months had spread to The Philippines, India, Australia, Europe, and the United States. While the 1968 pandemic had a comparatively low mortality rate (.5%) it still resulted in the deaths of more than a million people, including 500,000 residents of Hong Kong, approximately 15% of its population at the time.

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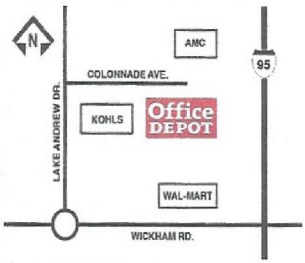

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Dan Dawkins
General Manager

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