

Two Ferguson police officers were shot on March 12<sup>th</sup> of 2015. They were targeted because they were police officers. I remember when it happened and noted that the news pitched the story that the shooter(s) were ‘randomly shooting and hit the police officers’. This is part of our ‘victim’ culture that the media supports and propagates. I found, around twelve hours after the shooting (the morning after the shooting), social media comments were holding the theme of ‘those police officers got what they deserved’.

Let’s backtrack for a minute. Dorian Johnson intentionally lied to the press, in his first interview after the Brown shooting (around ten minutes afterward), stating that Brown had **1.** His ‘hands up’; and **2.** Was running away when shot. This is the nexus of the ‘hands up, don’t shoot’ campaign that led to rioting and looting. It also led to the majority of those engaging in protests lawfully doing so in peace...exercising their First Amendment rights (the hallmark of our Constitution)

The autopsy, and everything in the investigation, upheld Wilson’s account along with other independent eye-witnesses. Brown reached for Wilson’s gun while Wilson was in his cruiser. Brown then punched Wilson three times, in the face, nearly knocking out Wilson. Brown then went away from the cruiser as Wilson got out and drew his firearm. Brown then charged at Wilson. Wilson shot at Brown until the final shot dropped Brown nearly at the feet of Wilson.

Don’t believe this, either? Forensics found blood back-spatter in the barrel of Wilson’s gun that matched Brown. Barrel back-spatter is only found when the person (who is shot) is close enough to the shooter to ‘project’ blood towards the shooter due to round impact. How far the blood spatters ‘backward’ depends on the firearm, caliber of bullet, where the person is shot, and various other laws of physics and trigonometry.

This is the reality. Any other opinion is subjective and based upon emotion. I think that the people that believed Dorian Johnson’s initial account, and then decided to protest, riot, or loot, were too emotionally invested in the myth to later accept the autopsy and factual investigation. They couldn’t divorce themselves from the crowd. The facts are too threatening to the adopted position.

...yet the media was focused on the wrong story. The true story is how the Ferguson Police Department and Municipal Court system were intentionally targeting the poor and minorities...tickets were written for inconsequential civil offenses, such as jay-walking, accompanied by a massive fine that would shock the wallet of those that have money. The city was preying on the most disenfranchised as a means to raise revenue. 20 percent of the 2013 Ferguson city operating budget came from these aggressive and discriminatory tactics.

NOW, let’s separate the Brown event from profiling and racism. They are separate issues because Wilson (in no way) intentionally shot Brown because Brown was African-American. This is what would have to be proven for a federal civil rights violation to be found. This is why no charges were brought against Wilson.

I believe that proactive measures should be employed, by every police department, to monitor (and eliminate) bias in policing. However, this discussion is a separate topic that needs to be held outside of the Brown shooting.

We now have two injured (and innocent) police officers. For what? Ignorance. Bias. Discrimination against police officers found on emotion and not facts. The media has given a pass to Dorian Johnson's intentional lie and those that looted local businesses in Ferguson (as if they are the true victims). This is political correctness gone too far.

I encourage all of you to hold yourself to the highest integrity and analysis. Seek the facts. First intelligence reports are always wrong. Understand when you hold an emotional opinion versus an objective, fact-based one. Criticize the actions of people, not the person. Recognize when you feel, or hold, prejudice and/or discrimination; we all have it yet don't want to admit that we do. Understanding what your prejudices are allows you to employ corrective measures so that they are not lived.

Keep the families of the two officers in your thoughts.