

Sorry for being a little tardy with this note. Since the last letter there have been a few issues that have come to the attention of the Assn.

The first was the defacement of the Police Memorial at Headquarters. This act of disrespect for the police was compounded by the decision of the Chief not to respond by protecting the monument at the time it was defaced. This single act of disrespect and the non response of the police was the major news story at the time.

The chief and some commanders were quoted in the paper that they were unaware of the intentions of the demonstrators and as such were unable and unprepared to prevent the act from occurring. I believe that very statement is false because there were several members of METRO-SWAT inside the lobby at the time of the defacement. They were prepared but chose to allow the act of disrespect to take place. This is the now acceptable, Community Organizer Approach to policing in America.

The fact that it was the citizens of Denver who showed up at the memorial with so many flowers that the attitude of the City Administration seemed to change, slightly. Having citizens express their outrage was not what they expected.

I personally attended the events that followed. It was very disappointing to watch as the PPA tried to flex a muscle that had already atrophied. It appeared as though they were trying to get a point across but few people were listening

There has been some talk of turning our backs on the chief if he speaks at the Memorial Ceremony as a way of showing our disdain for his acts. He is the chief, who made detectives reapply for their jobs and demoted most of the Technicians. He is the chief that forced Team Policing on members of the department and made most of their seniority useless. This chief has done nothing to endear himself to the officers he manages.

This chief will never be popular with the officers who work for him. He seems to want to administrate in a way that is politically correct. Being politically correct will only satisfy those elected officials who simply tolerate us. Being politically correct does not warrant our disrespect. Turning your back on the chief only shows your disrespect for him and that disrespect spills over to the names on the memorial. The Memorial Ceremony is not a place for disrespect. Turning our backs on the chief or Mayor only gives them a platform and takes away from the reason we come to the ceremony. If there is a need to protest I would suggest that you stay away from the ceremony and attend the lunch.

The second issue involves the pension audit being conducted by the City. A very generic letter was sent to retirees. No names and no contact information in the letter. A vague insinuation that some retirees were underpaid and some overpaid was indicated in the letter. There was so much left to the imagination that it was scary. The City has never given us a reason to trust them and it is because of letters such as we just received.

After doing some checking I was able to find out that there has been a lawsuit alleging underpayment filed and the City Attorney has asked for the audit prior to trying to settle the suit. The suit alleges that HR uses a faulty calculation in deciding our benefits. I am relieved that there is someone who wants to get it right and maybe it will be an easy resolution.

I was able to convey my disappointment of the lack of communication and was assured that it would be better in the future. We'll see, I'm hopeful.

It was good to see over 200 people at the dinner sponsored by the museum I guess we now know what the word FREE does to an invitation. The museum is a worthy project and I am hopeful that we can be more involved as the years progress.

See you at the dinner at Picolo's.

**John Schnittgrund**  
President