

From the Editor

Dear Readers,

I am looking out the window of my flight to the New Mexico Police Chiefs' annual conference. We are somewhere over the Mid-West, one of those "flyover" states that looks like the patchwork of a handcrafted quilt—the one your eccentric relative might gift you this time of year.

Why am I mentioning this? Truth be told, I am never quite sure how to begin these letters. Perhaps more importantly, I didn't upgrade the in-flight Wi-Fi, so ChatGPT® is out. Nevertheless, I hope you will entertain my muddled musings because there is a method behind them that I will now attempt to bring into focus.

I just enjoyed the pleasure of reviewing the feature article of this edition, "The 54th Mile Policing Project: Lessons Learned on Community-Police Relations by Three Police Leaders Walking from Selma to Montgomery," written by Dr. Tarrick McGuire, Assistant Police Chief in Arlington, TX; Dr. Obed Magny; and Dr. Shon Barnes, Police Chief of Madison, WI, and found it to be fitting of my current surroundings.

Oftentimes, as practitioners and academicians, we are in the throes of the battle to complete our never-ending to-do lists. In our attempts to be "productive," we run the risk of near and short-sighted perspectives. The symbolism of the airplane window is the contemplative and reflective nature of the 10,000-ft perspective, expanding the aperture and remembering the broader goals of our work. The feature article reminds us of important lessons learned from history and calls upon us to continue our work, refining and evolving the democratic police process.

Paying homage to Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis, Hosea Williams, Amelia Boynton, and the thousands of people who joined the marches, Chief McGuire, Dr. Magny, and Chief Barnes take readers on their transformative journey as Black Americans and leading figures in policing, walking 54 miles from Selma to Montgomery. Their thoughts are meditative and represent a call to action for police leaders.

Read their feature article to recall the lessons from the Civil Rights Movement and reflect on what it means to truly see, hear, and be accountable to those most affected by policing. Oh, and make sure you find an opportunity to watch the full documentary, *The 54th Mile Project!*

In 2024, I will transition from Vice-Chair to Chair. As a result, I am looking for a dedicated Section member to take over as the *Police Forum* Editor. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact me or Dr. James—details on pages 12-13.

As always, I would like to thank our dedicated readers for their continued support and engagement. Your contributions, feedback, and active participation make the *Police Forum* a thriving platform for knowledge exchange and professional growth.

I encourage you to take advantage of this interactive community by submitting your articles, book reviews, announcements, and job openings for inclusion in future editions. Your perspectives are invaluable and contribute to the richness of our discussions. Your contributions will be valuable to our broad and diverse readership. Please email your submissions to acjspoliceforum@gmail.com.

From my family to yours, happy holidays, and *Na zdrowie!*

Eric Dlugolenski

Editor, *Police Forum*

Vice-Chair — ACJS Police Section

From the Chair

Greetings!

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season and staying healthy. It is a busy time whether you are in academia and finishing up the term or a practitioner attempting to balance family life with the added demands and work stressors often associated with the holidays.

The Police Section plans to hold our reception and awards ceremony at ACJS in March 2024 in Chicago. Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 21, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Marquette meeting room of the conference hotel. We hope to see everyone there to celebrate our award winners, hold our business meeting, and just generally network and socialize with other section members.

The Police Section Executive Board also has two positions available: Vice-Chair and Historian. So, if you or anyone you know is interested, please send the information to me so they can be included in an upcoming ballot.

Also, since it is the end of the year, remember to renew your ACJS and Police Section dues. Even if you are a Lifetime Member of ACJS, you need to renew your Police Section dues. And, if you do not renew your section membership before 12/31/23, the December issue of Police Quarterly will be your last one.

For now, those are all the updates. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Our Section is healthy and thriving, and we now have official Twitter and LinkedIn pages. Please follow our new pages and spread the word to your networks.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ACJS_Police

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/police-section-academy-of-criminal-justice-sciences/>

Veronyka James

Chair — ACJS Police Section

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The 54th Mile Policing Project: Lessons Learned on Community-Police Relations by Three Police Leaders Walking from Selma to Montgomery

By Assistant Chief Tarrick McGuire, Dr. Obed Magny, & Chief Shon Barnes

During the 21st Century, American policing has faced multiple challenges that have fractured the foundation of our Constitution. Working to address these challenges, many presidential administrations, police agencies, community activists, civil rights leaders, and non-profit organizations have sought solutions to reconcile deeply entrenched issues—issues that have hampered the impact that protests, especially those involving social justice issues, have had on the mental and emotional well-being of police officers who have served the community honorably, upholding the oath they swore to.

As police leaders, we have reflected upon key historical moments that caused pause in our nation, resulting in separation between police and community, and asked ourselves, “How do we build a bridge supported by a foundation of trust that heals the divide of the past and constructs a path forward of unification for community and police?” This moment of reflection led us to research and experience what happened in Selma (AL) on Bloody Sunday and execute a national model for American policing that restores and rebuilds relationships.

In Dallas County (AL), along Route 80, sits a small town named Selma (AL). Connecting this town to the rural highway is a bridge named after former Confederate General Edmund Pettus. This bridge not only has significance to American history but offers a case study on failed police actions and leadership. In the summer of 1965, civil rights workers were protesting and seeking the right for Black Americans to vote. Led by Martin Luther King, Jr., thousands of Black Americans, with support from clergy and community leaders of different ethnicities and faiths, marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge—in an attempt to secure their right to vote. But as they reached the other side, their peaceful demonstration quickly turned violent.

State troopers and local police, armed with clubs and tear gas, descended upon the protestors with brutal force. The scene was chaotic as people were beaten and trampled, some even left unconscious. After this horrific event was captured on national television, President Lyndon Johnson later sent the US National Guard and Army soldiers to protect civil leaders and others to safely march from Selma to Montgomery. The five-day march to the Alabama Capital began on March 21st and covered 54 miles. Days later, marchers who arrived safely said, “The end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience. I know you are asking how long will it take? I come to you to say this afternoon, however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long.” The day would soon be known as Bloody Sunday, and it would be remembered as a turning point in the fight for civil rights.

Bloody Sunday sparked outrage across the country and brought attention to the violence faced by Black Americans. It was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, and it led to the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This legislation removed barriers for Black Americans to exercise their right to vote, such as literacy tests and poll taxes. The bravery and determination

of those who marched on that fateful Sunday paved the way for greater equality and justice for people of all backgrounds. Most importantly, Bloody Sunday highlighted the frayed relationship between the police and the community and the leadership failure that resulted in excessive use of force. The outcome was the impetus to project and pass legislation that not only provided justice to Black Americans but established a course for a better America. The legacy of Bloody Sunday will forever be remembered as a testament to the power of unity and the strength of the human spirit in the face of injustice.

Understanding this research in relation to the progress made after the national implementation of the 21st Century Policing report in US police agencies and the use of force events that resulted in national protests, caused us to take the same journey that civil rights leaders took walking from Selma to Montgomery in 2021. As leaders in policing and Black Americans, we identified with the desire of those who sought justice for unconstitutional police use of force and police officers who felt unsupported and left behind, working tirelessly to protect communities.

In a time when defunding and abolishing the police was at the forefront of community conversations, we chose a different approach to achieve our goal of improving police-community relations. We felt a sincere responsibility to use our voices and platforms to uplift this pressing issue and offer a solution that would unify our nation.

In August of 2022, together, we began a three-day journey walking from Selma to Montgomery; the recent passing of Congressman John Lewis, who believed that the soul of America needed to be redeemed, weighed heavy on our minds. As we embarked on this journey, we were united by a collective conscience, determined to advance a policing model for a just

society. With the support of a documentary filmmaker, we walked in the steps of late civil rights leaders Dr. Martin L. King Jr., John Lewis, and American citizens of all racial backgrounds who heeded the call to stand for righteousness.

Over the next three days, we felt the hot August Alabama scorching heat with sweat dripping down our faces and burning pavement that penetrated the soles of our feet. As we made our way through the small towns and countryside, we encountered all kinds of people. They were curious about our trek, and we had many of conversations with them. It was amazing to see the diversity of the individuals we met: young, old, white, black, male, and female. Some offered food and water, while others were amazed when we told them our purpose. Motorists continued to stop, offering words of encouragement, reaffirming our purpose. One of us received a phone call from a civil rights leader who reminded us, “This is not a physical journey, but a spiritual transformation.” That statement stuck with us and gave us the strength we needed to keep going. We were not just walking; we were experiencing a deep and powerful transformation within ourselves. As we finally reached our destination, exhausted but fulfilled, we realized the true impact of our journey. It wasn’t just about walking from one place to another but about the lessons we learned from those we encountered. As we entered the last mile, we approached the Alabama State Capitol, seeing it as a landmark symbolizing the completion of our journey. Our physical journey ended, but our efforts to heal and strengthen community-police relations needed to be modeled through a plan of action.

In reflection of this plan, there were three key lessons we learned:

I SEE YOU:

In today's conversations, there seems to be a belief that being pro-police means being racist, and supporting Black Lives Matter means rejecting blue lives. However, this thinking only causes division and disharmony. Many Black Americans have experienced police misconduct, which brings up deep-rooted pain that may never fully heal. As leaders who want to improve the justice system, it is our responsibility to continually work towards better serving underserved communities. This does not diminish the bravery and sacrifice of the officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect us. As leaders in policing, we must also recognize and honor those who truly embody the principles of our calling. By understanding the past, we can prevent it from repeating in the future. A simple yet powerful phrase, "I see you," means acknowledging someone's humanity above all else. Sadly, during the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965, Alabama State Troopers saw activists as enemies rather than human beings. In our roles as police leaders, we should be the strongest advocates for civil rights and equality, setting an example for all.

I HEAR YOU:

Albert Einstein said, "The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it." The challenges we have as a nation are not rooted in policing or government. They are rooted in the moral failure to enact changes in policy, systems, and legislation that perpetuate public harm. "I hear you" means one will take fundamental steps to implement changes for improvement. The Selma to Montgomery

March of the 1960s challenged the unjust nature of the law and ultimately led to the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We as a nation are overdue for legislative reform of our criminal justice system to reduce disparate impacts on black people and advance fair, equitable justice for all.

I AM ACCOUNTABLE TO YOU:

Dr. Martin Luther King stated, “People do not get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don’t know each other, they don’t know each other because they have not communicated with each other.” Police play a vital role in keeping communities safe, but we, the police, must be able to listen and feel uncomfortable for the truth to be spoken. Police and communities must engage in progressive dialogue and work together for sustainable change to take place.

Today these three pillars are being designed through a national initiative called the 54th Mile Policing Project in partnership with the National Policing Institute. This national project uses the documentary from our journey from Selma to Montgomery and lessons learned from civil rights events in Selma (AL) to establish a curriculum on racial reconciliation and resiliency for the police and the community. Most importantly, this training will educate police executives on how to have difficult conversations with community members, support their officers, and work in collaboration with stakeholders to build public trust. Equally, community members will engage with the police in creating an action plan to build unity. In support of this work, the US Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance has provided federal funding for the development of training. All efforts considered, this serves as a symbol of hope and validation for all involved.

As police leaders who believe in the importance of research and evidence-based policing, we believe in using data to inform modern policing practices and policies. We desire to rebuild and restore trust to change the national narrative of policing, which is at an all-time low. To bridge the gap in community-police relations, collaborative efforts are paramount. *The 54th Mile Policing Project* aims to inform police and community about the lessons learned in Selma, and emphasize the importance of dialogue, cooperation, and shared responsibility between police leaders and community input. Together we can change the course of history by establishing platforms for open communication and creating proximity to communities by establishing actions that are integral in building bridges between police and community. Learning from Selma's Bloody Sunday, modern policing can strive towards a more equitable and harmonious relationship with the communities they are entrusted to protect and serve. Subsequently, the community will have the resolution to support the police in the noble pursuit of their mandate. Working together, we can build stronger communities.

Dr. Tarrick McGuire is the Assistant Police Chief in Arlington, TX. He is a leading authority on police-community relations, evidence-based policing, and police reform. He has been awarded the Anthony L. Sutin Department of Justice COPS Office Award and the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Governmental Leadership in recognition of his local and national efforts to advance public safety.

Dr. Shon Barnes is the Police Chief of Madison, WI. He is recognized for research on racial disparities and is a national expert in Neighborhood Oriented Policing, focusing on smaller police beat response, police neighborhood ownership, and community engagement. He was honored as a National Institute of Justice LEADS Scholar for using innovative technology to reduce crime. He is a member of the National Police Institute's Council on Policing Reforms and Race.

Dr. Obed Magny is a management consultant and Founder and CEO of Magny Leadership. He formerly served as a police officer at the Sacramento Police Department (CA). He was honored as a National Institute of Justice LEADS Scholar and is a co-founder and executive board member of the American Society of Evidence-Based Policing. Dr. Magny is a fellow with the National Policing Institute and is widely recognized for his expertise in emotional intelligence, evidence-based policing, officer wellness, organizational health, emotional intelligence, police reform, job satisfaction, and public policy.

Call for Award Nominations

Section Awards:

The Police Section of the ACJS confers two awards annually at its general business meeting during the ACJS Annual Meeting. Nominations for the 2024 meeting awards are closed. Please join us Thursday, March 21, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Marquette meeting room of the conference hotel in Chicago to recognize our newest recipients of the Outstanding Service and O.W. Wilson Awards.

Outstanding Service Award

Awarded to people who are deemed deserving of special recognition for their outstanding contribution to the Police Section. The Police Section Outstanding Service Award was established as an annual award to honor the person who has provided significant service to the Police Section.

O.W. Wilson Award

Given to recognize outstanding contributions to police education, research, and practice. The nominee should be a practitioner, policy maker, researcher, or educator who, over a number of years, has exemplified and supported the following ideals:

1. Quality higher education for the police field.
2. Careful and scientific police research.
3. Cooperation and collaboration among police educators, researchers, policy makers, and practitioners.
4. Effective, equitable, and accountable policing.

*The nominee is **not** required to be a member of the Police Section.*

Executive Board Nominations

The Police Section Executive Board would like to formally announce the Vice-Chair position opening. Veronyka James will transition to the Immediate Past Chair, and Eric Dlugolenski will become the new Chair. As a result, the Vice-Chair position will be open for election. Please send nominations directly to Dr. James via veronyka.james@harriscountytexas.gov. The ballot is upcoming. Please follow our social media for a formal announcement of the closing date.

The Section would also like to thank Dr. Lucy Hochstein for all of her work as our section's Historian and open a call for nominations. Please email veronyka.james@harriscountytexas.gov if you or someone you know is interested in serving as our new Historian. We can put you in communication with Dr. Hochstein and facilitate the transition.

Lastly, we are looking for a new Editor for the *Forum*. Eric Dlugolenski has served in the role since 2021. Dr. Dlugolenski is the incoming Chair for 2024. As a result, the Section seeks a dedicated member to assume his role as Editor of the *Forum*. Please contact Dr. Dlugolenski, edlugolenski@ccsu.edu, or Dr. James, veronyka.james@harriscountytexas.gov, if interested.

ACJS Lifetime Membership

Please remember that you still must pay the Police Section dues annually to remain a member of the Police Section. Membership is \$37 per year and includes a subscription to *Police Quarterly*. Payment of dues is made to ACJS.

Call for Papers, Authors, Applicants

If you are working on a project and need authors for book chapters or encyclopedia entries, let us know. We'll include that call in *Police Forum* for free.

Or, if you are hosting a conference or seminar and need participants, let us know that too. We'll be happy to help spread the word for free.

Or, if you have a job opportunity—particularly of interest to those teaching or researching in areas related to policing—we'd love to help you announce that position. Send any announcements that you would like to have included in the next issue of *Police Forum* to acjspoliceforum@gmail.com

Submission Guidelines for *Police Forum*

Format Criteria

The format criteria for all submissions are as follows: reasonable length (less than 30 pages), double-spaced, and in a font similar to 12 pt Times New Roman. All submissions should be in Word format. All charts, graphs, pictures, etc. must be one page or smaller and contained within standard margins. Please attach these at the end of the submission as appendices. Due to formatting limitations, all appendices must be in a Word, Excel, or similar format - PDFs cannot be used.

Feature Articles

Feature Articles can be quantitative or qualitative. Tables, figures, and charts should be kept to a minimum and should be inserted at the end of the document with an appropriate reference to placement location within the text. The page limits are flexible, however, the editors reserve the right to edit excessively long manuscripts.

Practitioners Corner

Articles written from the perspective of persons currently or formerly working in the field, expressing personal observations or experiences concerning a particular area or issue. Page limits are flexible, however long articles may be edited for length.

Academic Pontification

Articles for this area should focus on making an argument, presenting a line of thought, or formulating a new conceptual idea in policing.

Point/Counterpoint

Authors are encouraged to work with another person to develop a point/ counterpoint piece. The initial argument should be between 2 and 5 pages. The initial argument should contain roughly 3 to 5 main points. Following the exchange of articles between debating authors, a 1 to 3-page rejoinder/ rebuttal will be submitted.

Research Notes

Research notes should describe a work in progress, a thumbnail outline of a research project, a conceptual methodological piece, or any other article relating to research methods or research findings in policing.

Reviews

Book reviews on any work relating to policing. Reviews of Internet sites or subjects concerning policing on the Internet are also welcome.

Policing in the News

News items of interest to the police section are welcomed in any form.

Legal News in Policing

Reviews of court cases, legal issues, lawsuits, and legal liability in policing are welcomed submissions.

Letters to the Editor

Questions, comments, or suggestions about a given Criminal Justice topic, article, or research.

This Date in History

Submissions on prior hot topics, research, or research methods in Criminal Justice from the past.

Good News

Submissions relating to professional and personal good news for our members - promotions, new jobs, etc.

How to Submit

Submissions may be made electronically by sending a copy in Word format to acjspoliceforum@gmail.com.

Disclaimer

This publication's editor(s) reserves the right to edit any submissions for length, clarity, or other issues.

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Police Section

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Open for 2024

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