

Police Accountability Task Force Presentation

September 17, 2020

My name is John Connell, father of three and grandfather of three.

I am 74 years old, live in Cheshire where I moved two years ago after living in Dallas, TX for 20 years.

I was born and raised in Fort Wayne, IN, attended college in Chicago and Cincinnati.

I've lived in Fort Wayne, Lafayette, IN, Shelton, CT, Coppell TX, Dallas, TX and now Cheshire.

My father was a truck driver and Mom was a stay at home mom for most of my early years. I was raised Roman Catholic and attended Catholic education for all of my education except kindergarten and first grade.

I was taught and behaved accordingly to respect authority and obey laws. I do recall a police scandal (a robbery ring with about 20 police involved) in Fort Wayne when I was ten but other than recalling it was quite the discussion among adults I don't have much memory.

As I have lived through the years I have observed the racial divide issues of each era. As I have matured I reflect on just how much I contributed by my early year actions and later year inactions which has me complicit in some of our country's racism.

While I recognize that in any profession most of us have been quality law abiding members; however, some of us act out in ways that are detrimental to others; let's put in safeguards against those acts.

I believe that police forces are no different than other professional groups when it comes to behaviors and practices of its members. I think all groups should have in place mechanisms that allow for external as well as internal reviews with public disclosure of those reviews especially for tax based service organizations.

Put in place a process which has built in checks at least annually with community and law enforcement participation that can be altered as successes and failures are identified at each review. Many organizations are audited financially ... this would be a practice and policy audit. Much needs to be done.

John Connell

136 Southwick Court

Cheshire, CT 06410-3462

214-769-4977