

* Matthew wrote:
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“the Bella Vista Police Dept. hired a lying, cheating cadet named Scott Vanatta in 2008. Vanatta was caught cheating on a police academy exam, and was initially punished with a two year suspension before he could re-apply to the academy. But former Bella Vista Police Chief, Jim Wozniak, went in front of the Arkansascommission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training on July 10, 2008, and successfully begged thecommission to reverse the two-year penalty and allow him to hire Vanatta. Among some of the most notable quotes from Wozniak, in support of Vanatta include: "Black balling Scott Vanatta for two years is like giving him the death penalty."

“Wozniak continued, "The fact that he was dismissed and the fact that he will have to start over is enough. He has to live with that every day."

“I, too, am extremely outraged at the over-reaction of this former officer, causing people to question the character and integrity of every man and woman who currently "serve and protect" this city, county and state.”

“Benton Co AR has a real problem; #1 I think that the Pros., Mayor, and Chief of Police are Legends (in their own minds) I moved here in 1985 from Wis. and some of the good old boys up there still think they are back home in Ill.”

“Several individuals have informed us that they are now being targeted by local police because they have spoken out about the murder of their friend and brother. This is standard protocol for police departments all across the country, when they are conjuring a story to cover murders under color of law. One resident said Bella Vista Police have been circling their home at night, and they may have to move for the sake of their children.”

“A message needs to be sent to these over zealous police officers that they are not above the law and cannot do whatever they want! Police officers are not God they are just human beings like the rest of us and do not have the right to take a life.”

“The police have fostered ill will between themselves and the public for years. This will be reflected by the jury in the criminal trial (regardless of where the trial is held).”

“I wonder if there is a mechanism for a citizens group to file a suit against the mayor and police chief for malfeasance. Just a thought.”

“Let's just see what this 'good ole boy network' is capable of doing.”

“The cops not only shoot people they cover it up, and you are forced to pay for 2 governments even if you don't use any of the services the POA provides.”

"I was arrested by Brackney once. He put the handcuffs on me so tight I had a dent in my wrists for days. When I asked him if he could loosen them he told me "suffer". That guy has some real head problems."

"Can Bella Vista Mayor Frank Anderson see beyond his own arrogance to fully understand who he works for?"

The time has now arrived for Bella Vista taxpayers to show Frank Anderson the exit door! Please exercise your right to vote and bring the current regime to an end!"

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 1:03 PM Matthew wrote:

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"Bella Vista Police Chief Ken Farmer has NOT been forthright with the public in releasing the "basic facts" in a timely manner in this unfortunate circumstance; therefore, he has no doubt under mined public confidence which has fostered an unhealthy atmosphere regardless of whatever "unknown" outcome."

"The so called "experts" forget who they work for - The taxpayers. Sorry, I'm not one of the sheeple nor do I wait this duration in time for a public spoon feeding. As a resident and taxpayer of Bella Vista, I'm ashamed to have Ken Farmer as my police chief!"

"Think very carefully before you move to Bella Vista. Granted James killing is an extreme situation but normal traffic stops can be turned into a terror filled event due to the rage and anger the local cops have. We have to know their attitude is coming from the top down. These cops would not act the way they do if the city officials did not foster this attitude. Bella Vista cops attitude is 'guilty until proven innocent.'"

"Recently I was forced to pull onto a gravel road in a very deserted area around 1:30 in the morning as I was coming home from grocery shopping. I don't even drink due to medical issues. How would you feel if your wife, daughter or another female in your life was stopped the way I was. The cop that came up to my car was very angry. He was ranting at me about driving drunk. I told him I did not drink, he breathalyzed me and then had me get out of my car to do an eye exam on me to see if I was under the influence of drugs. At least he had the good sense to get back-up. Lord only knows what might have happened if someone else had not been there. The breathalyzer was clean and evidently I passed the 'eye exam'. Cops always call in your car tag before a stop to see if you are wanted or is this something BV does not do? I feel certain this cop knew who I was when he stopped me. It was to me just a terror tactic."

"...The Bella Vista Police Department's SILENCE in regards to this unfortunate incident has been and still is DEAFENING!"

"I hope he's right and it goes to a grand jury. I feel it's probably the best chance for Justice.

In the time I have lived here there's been, I believe, five incidents of police

shooting and killing people. It's crazy to me. I lived my entire life in a city and there where less police shooting, and killing, citizens then down here. And there were probably 6 to 8 times the number of people. I really think this one was so far out-a-bounds even down here theirs having a problem justifying it."

"Totalitarianism is now the rule in small town America. This crime by the officer is one that Nazi Germany would be proud of. Shoot the driver if he is clearly about to harm or kill someone...but he was no longer moving. No longer a threat. This is tragic, as are some of the posts here. To suggest that driving drunk should result in death for the drunk is just ignorant...for all you who think this is God's will, you are equally ignorant. RIP"

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 1:07 PM Matthew wrote:
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"It is time to question the actions of the police chief, mayor and city council. They all saw the evidence and knew Brackney was lying YET they allowed Brackney to stay on the force (suspended with pay). This will most certainly be brought up at the Wrongful Death Suit trial. Maybe Farmer should consider dusting off his resume and the Mayor should consider ending his political career (or have that end forced upon him). This should be a wake up call to all of those police chiefs who have Brackney's (loose cannons) on their force. Time to do the right thing and clean house."

"It kind of sounds to me like the whole police department needs to be investigated from the top down, and that includes the Mayor. The only problem is it would be cops investigating cops, just like what is going on now. This autopsy is going to take longer than Michel Jackson's if they don't get on the ball."

"The Bella Vista Police act more like a street gang than legitimate cops. And all this after the city just rallied for a tax increase for public safety."

"WE NEED ANSWERS! If a citizen is suspected of a crime police don't try and hide the evidence, it's out for everyone to read and see...why is it when its one of your own that messed up you can hide it?"

"I hope that the family gets answers. I hope that this case gets national attention, and that official heads roll, and that this exposes the way the "Good Ol Boy Network" and the "Good Ol Boy's Second Wives Club" level of corruption in NWA."

"A retired cop from Chicago was telling me "I can't believe how much of this goes on down here. We would need to see a guy pointing a gun at you before a cop would fire."

"I hope the FBI takes this over. I would have complete faith."

"Can Bella Vista Mayor Frank Anderson see beyond his own arrogance to fully

understand who he works for?

The time has now arrived for Bella Vista taxpayers to show Frank Anderson the exit door!"

"My rights have been violated by Bella Vista's finest also...specifically Dumb Ass Lazy Detective Ryan Harmon...I would love to protest for your cause."

"I am against all these police chases in residential neighborhoods! We are safer with that officer OFF the road with a badge or license to take risky behavior whether it be with his car or with his gun... let's get those officers some better training or a new chief?"

"Officer Brackney is employed on behalf of public taxpayers so his actions and lack thereof are subject to scrutiny. Even if a legal process would determine him innocent, a taxpayer is still entitled to their opinion, regardless of the outcome. If Officer Brackney does not like any public scrutiny, then he was in the wrong line of work."

"I hope the ACLU is all over NW Arkansas, and some of these crooked city officials face justice."

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 1:14 PM Matthew wrote:

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"Bella Vista doesn't want a wrongful death suit it would bankrupt them. Farmer also knows he will be searching the help wanted ads soon. He is a flat out liar, you know it and so does everyone else. I hope he hasn't slept a wink since this happened. The cops know exactly what happened, so do the witnesses to this murder, why is the public left in the dark. Liars and deceivers, at least we know that someday they will receive their final judgment."

"Wow, someone has just recognized the heart of the problem about rumors and speculation because our Bella Vista public servants have fostered this very unhealthy atmosphere...In truth, nothing is in the newspapers or on the local TV news because Bella Vista Police Chief Ken Farmer who is employed on behalf of the taxpayers has not released "basic facts". It appears to me that he forgets who he ultimately works for."

"Were the police officer trained? Sounds like he flunked the course."

"The officer should be charged with murder. I hope the city is sued by the family of the murdered man. The city and the chief should be held accountable for hiring such a moron. I know that cities in Arkansas have a history of employing such low brow idiots as this one."

"And for the record I do think that the BVPD Chief and Mayor should stand down over the way they have handled this matter."

“Get caught with a gram of the wrong dried plant matter and see where you spend the night. However if you wear a badge and gun in Benton County you apparently get real "get out of jail free" privileges.”

"HOW WE SEE IT - Basic Facts Should Have come Out"

"As a newspaper, we admit to having a strong interest in obtaining accurate information on a timely basis. But this isn't just about us. The longer questions are left unanswered and the longer the public is left in the dark, the longer people are left to fill in the gaps with rumors and speculation. That's not healthy. When questions about police conduct go unanswered for a long time, the public's confidence in their police department will be undermined. It leads one to believe officials are trying to hide something because the truth might be damaging to someone within the organization."

“And to think some B.S. like this went down in Bella Vista -- a rather quiet retirement / golf community. WHOA”

“At this time, one may ask if the issue at hand is ultimately that of justice being served or could this possibly propagate into a circumstance of which is the root of all evil, money?”

“Does anybody wonder why this goes on here? This cop is told to direct traffic, but instead, has a better idea I'll get my shotgun and kill a mentally ill human being. And this is his punishment? Give me a break! This crap will continue until the justice system gives one of these guys the sentence he deserves.”

“It is time that the actions of the Police Chief and Mayor be questioned. What else are they trying to hide?”

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 1:26 PM Matthew wrote:

CONTINUED...

“Was Justice served here? Hope this kind of justice is stopped, sounds like this case is not the first in the area... Don't Arkansas citizens deserve competent, committed law enforcement representation in their communities?”

“Several years ago not too long before Sheriff Ferguson took over, Andy Lee was Sheriff and Bella Vista was under the Sheriff's Office. I want to say it was either 2001 or 2002, the Sheriff's Office made a tougher Fire-Arms Qualification course. The course was harder to score and had SHOOT-DON'T-SHOOT scenarios. Chief Wozniak and his upper brass complained that the course was too hard and didn't believe that the Bella Vista division needed to take the course. Some complaints were even that it caused them aches and pains to have to shoot the course. Bella Vista didn't have to complete this qualification. It was left at that. It is not right for them to deny us this information. It's obvious they messed-up and appears they still don't take their roles serious. People should get together and encircle the office, (or offices if it takes it). We should in peace and prayer demand that these people, who claim to be our servants, serve us - THE

PEOPLE.”

“So my Ma was looking for a place to retire from Brooklyn, and we’ve seen those Erik Estradacommercials on Arkansas... Hot Springs, Bella Vista... and we were about to come down for a visit. Good God, thank Jesus I came upon THIS! Are you kidding me? Cops killing people for drinking? Arresting people for saying "Jesus"? My Mother wouldn't make it 5 minutes in Arkansas. Good Luck sorting out your Law Enforcement Issues... we'll be striking Bella Vista from Ma's list.”

“Monday June 7th, be at the Benton County court house on the square to protest Van Stone and this officer. Van Stone must be removed from office, and the officer should face murder charges.”

“I too received my first speeding ticket in over 15 years last summer by the Bella Vista pd. The officer that pulled me over did the exact thing that you mentioned. Rapped on my trunk and put his hand on his firearm. He was very arrogant, demeaning and rude for the entire stop, and the implied threat of violence from him having his hand on a weapon was very strange. It was as if he was terrified of me...”

“Since the public has basically not received at least some basic facts which should not ever change, and we are approaching 1 month of utter constipation without facts, this leads Bella Vista taxpayers to believe that Mayor Frank Anderson supports and endorses the apparent silence of Ken Farmer on behalf of the police department.”

“To all these worthless people I can only hope you have to go through some cop killing your loved one. Tell me how you feel about that when it happens.”

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 1:32 PM Matthew wrote:

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“Bella Vista has made some poor hiring decisions for their police dept. They currently have an active patrolman Scott Vanatta, who was expelled from the police academy for cheating (he possessed an illegal copy of test answers, and gave the info to another cadet). This officer has shown from his past actions that he has no credibility and is not to be trusted.. Not sure if he was at the scene of this shooting, but this is an example of the type of officer that is patrolling the city... God help us...”

“It absolutely infuriates me that this took place and how corrupt these police are down there. I want to see justice in my best friend's murder and it was not right what that police officer did. This police officer is a MURDERER and I want him to pay for it.”

“The actions and lack thereof by Chief Ken Farmer highly questions his ability as a leader since he has undermined public confidence with the Bella Vista Police Department which also reflects upon the City of Bella Vista and its elected officials. Yes, this includes Mayor Frank Anderson.”

“As the constipation of releasing so-called facts on day 14 continues to foster an atmosphere of raised eyebrows and mistrust with the public, one may question if the situation is turning into a defensive posture with a puppet regime working in collusion with city attorneys?”

“Well, is this unfortunate issue really about providing the public real truth or has it now progressed into the formulation of plans for legal maneuvering despite the circumstances for the best possible outcome in the protection and preservation of the City of Bella Vista treasure chest?”

“It is time for Farmer to step down. It is obvious he is not able to perform his duties with the public in mind. One small point everyone seems to forget is the police here in America are here to "PROTECT AND SERVE". They are NOT here to chase down and murder the residents of the community they are here to protect and serve. I do not feel protected or served in this community. Farmer should have come out long ago and admitted there was no justification for a cop shooting and killing Jim. It is not possible to justify murder.”

“This should not be tolerated by the taxpayers. Please exercise your right to attend and speak at the next Bella Vista City Council public meeting and bring others with you. Share with them your thoughts at the microphone with newspaper reps in attendance and TV camera in operation!”

“It seems in this area, law enforcement can do about anything and get away with it? What is needed are higher standards and better supervisors. I have watched the Chief and although he might be a fine fellow, I can see he should not be a chief of police.”

“Police are not capable of policing their own with something this serious. Too many examples to argue the point, the State Police have an especially poor record. The only way that justice will be served is to send this to a GRAND JURY, made up of our fellow citizens.”

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 1:36 PM Matthew wrote:

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“I live in Bella Vista, and make my living here. I am not at all surprised by this uncalled for deadly excessive force used by the Bella Vista Gestapo. I have had a few run-ins with them. One night my girlfriend and I were heading home from a night out. We had an argument and she wanted out of the vehicle, I pulled over let her out, and got out myself. I proceeded to walk home. I got more than a mile down the road when an officer pulled up put his lights on got out of the car and told me to get down on my face, as there are no sidewalks I refused. He promptly threatened to taise me if I did not comply. I asked him what was the problem and why I should get on the ground in 2 foot tall, wet from dew grass? He again said on your knees or I'll taise you. I was

wearing shorts, sandals and had left my shirt in the vehicle. I was just walking down the street... Nice going BV Gestapo!"

"I agree with much that has been said hear. This is not the first time or the last that something like this has or will happen in NWA. The headlines are littered with ignorance and wrong doing by many in law enforcement. There are wonderful and smart men and women doing a great job "Protecting and Serving" but since Arkansas Standards are so low, any high school drop out can bcome a police chief or ALETA Instructor. If the leadership is not there, the standards are not going to be either and those that are educated and trying will suffer they imagine too. I can see this is going to have to be resolved from within the ranks by those that have the insider knowledge to stop this cycle."

"I do not have to be there to know what the prosecutor says in hiscomplaint. Why did Brackney simply stay behind his car door and shout for Ahern to exit the car, while waiting for backup to arrive. This was clearly done out of anger and arrogance. This was not doing his job."

"First of all most cops are good guys doing there jobs. The problem is there's a handful of idiots. The good cops know who the problem is, but don't have the stones to call them out."

"You just kind of got hypnotized by the word cop and then had a few "Walker Texas Ranger" TV show flashbacks and somehow forgot that police do not have the most hazardous job in the world."

"Beware you might be next when you are dealing with icompetence, it will happen again."

"I have a thought! Farmer needs to send acomment card to everyone who received a citation in the last six months. Ask them to grade the officer andcomment on his professionalism. Don't you think you would know which guys are the problems? And then can a couple of the problems. It would put others on notice. The million dollar question is does Farmer have the stones to be good management?"

"And yes I think there is a great deal of damage control going on behind the scene (or at least an attempt at damage control). If I had the responsibility that the Mayor has I would be doing my best to try to lessen the liability that BV will be facing."

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 1:49 PM Matthew wrote:

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"As for everyone on this forum who want to side with either the Mayor or Police Chief consider the fact that they both know what happened and if Brackney were innocent they both would have been in the media proclaiming that their boy was in the right. Their silence tells the story. Knowing what happened and not being willing to "man

up" and do the right thing is an indictment of both their ability to do the job and of their character."

"I don't live in BV but I do own property there. I have spoken to a couple of my tenants and the general feeling is that there is a cover up going on and the longer it lasts the worse it will be when the facts docome out (as I have said before I don't buy off on the cover up, I think that this is just a stall for the sake of damage control). Obviously not a scientific sampling but just the thoughts of a couple of people who run small businesses there."

"Part of the BV economy is made up of people from other towns buying lots in undeveloped subdivisions so that they can play golf (and pay property taxes and spend money locally while they are playing golf). There longer the investigation lingers the greater the damage will be to the reputation of BV. Even if Brackney gets a lengthy prison sentence people still think that there was an attempt cover this up."

"Yes and the good folks of Bella Vista are paying this officer's salary while he sits at home on his butt. Of course, better there than out shooting someone. It's elementary, my dear Watson. If this had been a "justified" shooting the details would have been released in less than a week. I think everyone knows what's going on here. COVERUP!"

"Here we are in the "bible belt" where their morally above the Yankees that now live here, yet they will lie and cover-up a murder. Both of which are sins. Don't you find that ironic? I believe by not truly calling one of these idiots out and punishing one of these rogue cops they not only fertilize this happening again, but they put such a distrust of all the good cops. It's wrong."

"You know this is just leading to a cover-up, WE WONT FORGET"

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Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 1:55 PM Matthew wrote:

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"I have lived here in Bella Vista for more than 12 years. About 6 months ago I received my very first speeding ticket. I was leaving for work (I am a nurse)and was 2 blocks from home in a residential area. I was going at a blazing speed of 31 in a 25! I

was immediately pulled over and as the officer approached my car from the rear he rapped my trunk and popped the snap on his gun! He requested my information and I nervously looked for it in my glove box. I could not find my current insurance cards so I phoned my husband to see where they were. I still could not find them. As I was looking another policeman pulled up and proceeded to get out. About that time my husband arrived to help me find my card. These police officers went ballistic on him...threatening to take him to jail for obstruction of justice..come on we were looking for my insurance cards! I begged my husband to go home and just let me get my ticket so I could get to work. He did leave. The officer took about 20 minutes to write out my ticket, so while I was waiting I thought it would be a good idea to let my supervisor know I was going to be late. About that time the first officer got out of his car to give me my ticket and the second officer was SCREAMING at him to tell me to "GET OFF THE PHONE!" I had had enough! I said I am talking to my boss and I will not get off my phone! I do know my rights! Give me my ticket so I can get to work. He gave me my ticket and then followed me down to town center. I am a 40 something mother of 6 who has no record no accidents and I HAD no traffic violations! I am not saying that I was not speeding and that I should have gotten off...my point is that those officers used excessive verbal and emotional abuse on a law abiding citizen! I find it very believable that this is common practice in Bella Vista. We have just become a city and we have officers that I certainly could describe as Barney Fife with a mean streak! We will NOT accept this substandard justice."

"They should have named this town 'Speed Trap' the way these officers prey on good innocent people. They lie, cheat, steal, and apparently now murder! And Mayor Anderson and Police Chief Farmer unfortunately support this crime syndicate rather than the honest taxpayer. I might mention that the local Property Owners Association is equally as crooked. People, please stand up against crime, otherwise it is only going to get worse, and in this town that is extremely difficult to fathom."

"...I also know a few police officers in the area and they tend to look forward to high speed chases and gun play, though I am sure giving tickets and such is quite boring."

"I do not like the way this has gone at all. Glad to hear there will be a suit filed and hope the legal team gets real answers. Not for the victim's family but for the public in general."

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 1:59 PM Matthew wrote:

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"Bella Vista has made poor choices in the hiring of some of its officers. They currently have as an active patrolman, an officer who was expelled from the police academy for cheating. All other cadets involved were fired by their departments but the Bella Vista Police dept. convinced the police academy to give their cadet another chance. It's difficult to understand why a police department would keep an officer who has proven himself to be dishonest and have no credibility."

"I was a former police officer, up north from 60 to 75 in a larger city with many problems. When people start talking and thinking like you do I guess it is time the public should also carry arms to protect then self from a mental midget like this with a badge that thinks he is a police officer. I am 71 years old and this is about the worst I have seen or heard. This is out right murder and them are the charges he should be facing. I know and have several close friends in police work in n/w ark. I respect them and yes, we need them. Now they will suffer for some time because of the actions of this mental midget that once wore a gun and badge to protect the public not to Murder them."

"I was the one who spoke about being arrested in my own driveway after saying 'Jesus Christ'. I was 45'-2" from Officer Tomlin with my back turned walking into my house when he called me back, handcuffed me, and charged me with a criminal count for disorderly conduct. This was after four individuals came onto my property, illegally entered my house, made several threats to kill me, pulled a shotgun on me, and physically assaulted me. I called 911 and even after admission by two of these thugs, the police refused to arrest them or allow me to personally file criminal charges. They also refused after numerous requests to allow me to file Orders of Protection. I also know of four other men arrested for simply talking on their own property."

"Doesn't seem to be a whole lot of love between the citizens of Bella Vista and their police dept."

"In my work I have seen many cops in action and some are truly Gestapo, so beware when you deal with them you might be tomorrow's headline."

"Additional thought, they do a toxicology on the guy that was killed, but don't perform one on the guy who pulls the trigger. How messed up is that!"

"Unfortunately the Bella Vista cops have little experience in matters like these and that can lead to bad things, they have most of the experience in catching and running in stray animals....OH boy...the stray dogs and cats in Bella Vista better watch out from now on.... the cops in Bella Vista are serious and they can get the bullet out of their pocket."

"We all see now just what lengths the cops go prove they have the upper hand."

"It is over-kill; this cop needs to do life, and if you want to defend him - well, you're probably on the payroll of the Bella Vista Police force, so never mind. You don't deserve to have an opinion."

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 2:02 PM Matthew wrote:

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"I got stopped last winter in Benton county for a crack in my windshield and when they ask for my registration I got in my console to get it when the officer seen a

cheesecracker wrapper in there and they made me get out of my car while they searched my car for "drugs" that I don't use. That was very humiliating standing there like I was a criminal on 540. They was just jumping to conclusions again. Should have I been shot too just because they thought I was doing something wrong. It makes it scary when they do pull you over."

"Most cops are hard working and do their best at trying to keep the peace. There are, however, many who wear a badge that are nothing more than jack booted Nazis with an extreme attitude. The public is the enemy to them. I personally do not trust either BVPD or ASP to investigate this."

"I live in the village and though I haven't seen the type of public outcry that we see on this forum, it is a definitely a topic of conversation among my friends and neighbors and those in othercommunities. They are curious, but an overall distrust of our PD is developing. Not just from this single instance. I think most of us have heard talk about the increased police presence, traffic stops, officers speeding on side streets with no lights, hiring of an officer who was expelled from the police academy. Instances such as these cast a bad light on the BVPD. Part of these issues began before Chief Farmer took control (Having lived near our former Chief, Jim Wozniak and having nothing but respect for him I was concerned and confused by the police academy issue. Frankly, still do not understand that decision)"

"As for the damage that this is causing I can assure you that this is just the kind of bad publicity that can drive business away. There are plenty of places for people to play golf. I don't want to see BVPD to earn the same reputation as the police departments in Elkins, Cave Springs or those eastern Oklahomacommunity police departments that were raided by the FBI a couple of years ago."

"BV will pay a heavy price for this but will the city council and mayor learn anything from the experience? I think not."

"The actions and lack thereof by Chief Ken Farmer highly questions his ability as a leader since he has undermined public confidence with the Bella Vista Police Department which also reflects upon the City of Bella Vista and its elected officials. Yes, this includes Mayor Frank Anderson."

"At this time late in the 4th quarter, the question of issue is, will the public receive true facts or manipulated facts?"

"Police have to support and defend the US Constitution, that doesn't mean they "uphold" a person's right to 'free speech'. If you'll carefully review the second paragraph of the US Declaration of Independence, you'll see that the right to free speech is endowed on persons by their creator or nature, not cops."

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 2:26 PM Matthew wrote:

CONTINUED...

"HOW WE SEE IT - Basic Facts Should Have come Out"

"As a newspaper, we admit to having a strong interest in obtaining accurate information on a timely basis. But this isn't just about us. The longer questions are left unanswered and the longer the public is left in the dark, the longer people are left to fill in the gaps with rumors and speculation. That's not healthy. When questions about police conduct go unanswered for a long time, the public's confidence in their police department will be undermined. It leads one to believe officials are trying to hide something because the truth might be damaging to someone within the organization."

"A problem is officials are so hyper-focused on the incident in itself that they fail to see the "big picture" ramifications this is having on the community of Bella Vista. Basically, leadership has failed to separate the forest from the trees. Many local residents have no doubt lost faith in the Bella Vista Police Department while some now actually are very cautious, skeptical, or fear those who serve the public while wearing a police uniform.

This in turn, has created a very unhealthy atmosphere in Bella Vista for one of the functions of a competent police force is to maintain public confidence. Public confidence MUST eventually be restored."

"Also for what it's worth I personally visited police chief Ken Farmer just days before this incident (in his personal office) and very politely told him that he had corrupt cops on his force, and that I knew this to be fact. He was eating lunch and said "OK I'm listening", but as I continued, rather than show legitimate concern, he instead asked me to write it down. My thought was that maybe he could right it down, or perhaps remember it and do something proactive about it. Yes, same police chief who openly brags about this town being a 'cash cow'."

"Why does everyone keep saying he HAD to shoot him? He did not HAVE to shoot him. He CHOSE to shoot a drunk unarmed man."

"My point concerning corruption is that it is a corrupt practice to use a police force as a means of generating revenue. That was clearly happening in BV and will be easy to prove when a financial audit is completed by the Legislature. A good attorney will probably have a private agency do that audit as a part of the discovery before trial."

"To the person who put the sign in front of Jim's memorial on 3/3/10. Were you approached in that way? I am only guessing but you went to so much trouble with that sign. Please don't hide behind a sign if something like this happened to you by a public official. Please go and tell your story to whom ever you think is the right person to tell it to. I hope you can be brave enough to come forward to tell your story. Why else would you go to so much trouble to make that sign that took a lot of work and time? No I don't think it was done by a nut job, I think it was done by a very troubled man."

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 3:01 PM Matthew wrote:

CONTINUED...

"In an effort to instill public confidence, basic facts should be provided in a timely manner and the current lack thereof is completely unacceptable - Period!"

As a Bella Vista resident, I will say that I'm ashamed to have Ken Farmer as my police chief!"

"Chief Farmer's FIRST duty is to PROTECT AND SERVE the citizens of Bella Vista. He has no "duty" to any of the people who he supervises; rather he has a duty to keep his employees in line."

"My view of law enforcement has been shaped by my service during jury duty, the first time more than 20 years ago and again 4 years ago. Both times I sat through a criminal trial where we the citizen jury found the defendant not guilty. In both cases the entire jury saw the police lie while under oath.

So, Bud, and anyone else who has complete and total faith in the police you should take a page from our nation's founders. They loved America but had a healthy skepticism of the government."

"This is just another example of how the "fine" CITY of Bella Vista is ill-equipped to deal with matters of law. What a joke and not at all humorous to those close to the victim and most of the residents of this CITY. From the Mayor to the Police Chief - this place was not ready to be a CITY and they are certainly showing that for all the world to see."

"...what do you think the BVPD should do now to regain their reputation back? Do they need to disband and rebuild with new officers or replace the Chief or what? Do you think you need to come out of retirement and run for Chief? The BV community does not have much faith left in its P.D. and some are just plain scared to call them if needed."

"Here is an idea...How about when this is all over the BVPD fires all of its officers and they have to apply for their jobs again with a higher qualification needed and the hiring panel is to be made up of independent people? This would lessen this type of thing happening again."

"I would like to think that I am wrong in my assessment as to the number of bad apples. Certainly in larger departments there are more resources to screen applicants (and more money to pay for good employees). Small departments seem to have a bigger problem with poorly qualified officers and many times the local mayor and city council use them as a means of revenue production. "Vigorous Enforcement" of questionable traffic laws does not make for good community relations."

"In reality, the involved officer's name was already posted or floating around on the internet before the official announcement. In catch-up to dispel rumors, Bella Vista

Police Chief Ken Farmer basically said on local TV that we would rather you get the name of the officer involved from us rather here it from someone else....”

“Maybe while we're at it, we can rid ourselves of a complete legal system for who needs it when any law enforcement officer has the ability or is fully empowered to be judge, jury, and executioner?”

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 3:05 PM Matthew wrote:

CONTINUED...

“As noted above, this unfortunate incident basically 'directly' involved one public police officer, Coleman Duke Brackney but leadership starts at the very TOP of which IS an elected official, Mayor Frank Anderson, then NEXT under the Mayor is the appointed public official/officer, Police Chief Ken Farmer. It appears to me that some folks appear unfamiliar with an organizational chart. Leaders do and should receive credit for those under their command when times are good and everything is running like a well-oiled machine. In fairness, when times are not so good, leaders take and should share the responsibility. Police Chief Ken Farmer needs to take responsibility for the actions of the officer under his command, Coleman Duke Brackney, while Mayor Frank Anderson needs to take responsibility for Police Chief Ken Farmer.”

“The old paradigm of police somehow being constables of peace and lawfulness is disintegrating fast! Once in a blue moon they might perform some heroic deed (in which case they should be recognized) but in-between they seem to be more preoccupied with bullying and harassing the very people they are sworn to protect. Or better yet, hiding in the bushes waiting to screw passersby out of house and home.”

“Yes the leadership in BV does look bad and will look worse when the facts finally do make it to the surface.”

“I would like to know why he turned the audio off. Is that something he could disable, unlike the dash-cam? If he did that is it premeditated?”

“As for my agenda it is simple: I put little trust in what passes for small town government and I am disgusted that a once proud profession of Peace Officer has been corrupted in to nothing more than petty shake down artists. It seems that the primary objective is to write minor traffic tickets instead of foster good community relations. Instead of getting the respect that the occupation deserves the behavior of a growing number of patrol officers and their supervisors makes even the most civic minded person distrust the police.”

“No one wants police officers killing the citizens of a community over a traffic violation just like most "civic minded" people don't appreciate people with agendas to make more out of this than there should be by trying to breed and foster an unnecessary mistrust between the people of the community and the officers that were hired to protect them.”

“I did not foster this mistrust; it is a product of the misbehavior of those so called professionals who have corrupted their respective police forces. I find it hard to make more out of this than it is. It is a case of a law enforcement officer recklessly abusing his authority and killing an unarmed and disabled (at the time) individual. I can clearly see why many people consider this murder.”

“Yes the leadership in BV does look bad and will look worse when the facts finally do make it to the surface.”

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 3:16 PM Matthew wrote:

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“Did you all know that a few years back there was a shoplifting incident at Allen’s supermarket in Bella Vista where the shoplifter was tazered? Guess what? It is the same cop that did the tazing that is going up on manslaughter charges.”

“Both are supported by tax dollars, both serve the public and not themselves, and both their existence are meant to instill public confidence. Prior to this unfortunate incident, there were reported issues.”

“I could not agree more. Most people may have need of, or come in contact with, a police officer once in his/her life. The "first impression" the officer gives reflects his/her character, integrity and professionalism, as well as that of the department, and may last a lifetime.”

“The job of a police officer is to stay calm in tense situations--police officers spend hundreds of hours preparing for situations like this--and this police officer failed miserably in this case.”

“But from my perspective with the laws in play. The cop in this situation did not follow his training, or lack thereof, and used lethal force when it seemed unnecessary. Now as an armchair quarterback, the officer had plenty of non-lethal options at his disposal, and failed to use them. This officer has proven he is undeserving to represent the badge and has lost a harmful amount of respect from the community and the department hasn't done a very good job either.”

“Where corrupt city governments use their police departments as a means of revenue generation then they become nothing more than "petty shakedown artists". I also know for a fact that Anderson was warned to put a lid on the "aggressive traffic enforcement" and redirect the efforts of the police by more than a few business owners. And yes Anderson was thrown into a bad situation but that sometimes goes with the job. If he was not up to the challenge he should have not run for Mayor.”

“Both Anderson and Farmer will be compelled to tell a jury why they kept Brackney on the payroll for so long after the facts were known. Question my qualifications all you

want. It is you and the other citizens of BV that will be on the hook for the multi-million dollar judgment that is forthcoming. Maybe then there will be enough of a public outcry to finally clean out the BVPD and give the city the type of police department it deserves."

"Bella Vista Mayor Frank Anderson appointed Capt. Ken Farmer as police chief effective Oct. 1. Farmer has been second in command of the Police Department since 1997."

"My point concerning corruption is that it is a corrupt practice to use a police force as a means of generating revenue. That was clearly happening in BV and will be easy to prove when a financial audit is completed by the Legislature. A good attorney will probably have a private agency do that audit as a part of the discovery before trial."

"Actually, they need to start executing lying cops."

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 3:21 PM Matthew wrote:

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"The Bella Vista Police Department spend more time as dog catchers than doing police work."

"I am sure he is innocent. Sorry he has to go through all this trouble for a misdemeanor for shooting an unarmed man 6 times with the last to the back of the head."

"I live in Bella Vista, and I have read the police report. James Ahern was murdered by an officer who was unstable. Most people of Bella Vista fear the heavy hand of the BVPD."

"LITTLE ROCK — I wish Bella Vista Police Chief Jim Wozniak all good fortune in his appeal on behalf of officer Scott Vanatta, who, along with three other officers, recently was expelled from the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy for allegedly cheating."

"This is the first case of alleged cheating at the academy in 13 years. All except Vanatta later were fired by their employers."

"All four officers were just three weeks away from graduating from the three-month program and becoming certified. What a shame, and for what?"

"The Dixieland mafia took a hit!"

"Bella Vista has twice too many cops now on staff. So yes riding 2 to a car is a great idea. They seem to really come out at night! And speed around in two cars together anyway.."

“If the video was clear about what happened, I wonder why it took so long to bring this information to light and charge this cowboy officer. Something tells me they were looking for a way to spin it and get the officer off the hook. When that was finally deemed impossible, the charges came forthwith.”

“...when you are given a deadly weapon, yes, you are expected to be careful with it and not shoot at anyone who doesn't listen to you. In this case it appears the suspect was complying and the officer STILL shot and KILLED the man. That's not a simple mistake, bonehead, that's murder.”

“The evidence that we know about is damning enough, I wonder what else we will discover about BV and its police force.”

“He executed AHERN..plain and simple ... Ahern was not afforded due process of law. This cop was Judge Jury and Executor.”

“Was this fellow a fleeing felon? I don't think so and all we have to go by is the officer and the state police, PA and I guess his own department found him to be a liar. This was not a cop protecting himself or the public at the time of the shooting. It was an execution and not manslaughter in my view.”

“That's like saying "if my wife hadn't provoked me I would never have killed her, therefore it's her fault I killed her." Would anybody buy that?”

“This is why there should be more screening in the hiring process for a police officer. Many unstable people who enjoy the power-trip want to be police officers. This exact situation describes perfectly why certain people should not be carrying loaded weapons and should not be police officers!”

“The former actions of Officer Coleman Duke Brackney reflect discredit upon himself, the Bella Vista Police Department and the City of Bella Vista.”

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 3:25 PM Matthew wrote:

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“Why did the Police Chief and Mayor, both whom had seen the evidence, refuse to do the right thing and go ahead and charge the officer. They have no balls and should be dismissed for their inaction in this matter. I hope the deceased mans relations get a large settlement for the murder and inaction by the Bella Vista Police. I now have absolutely no confidence in their actions. They have no Honor and deserve to be dismissed and have to explain to other potential employers why they were so tardy in their efforts to see justice done. I hope Brackney gets what he deserves in Prison. What a bad joke on the Taxpayers of Bella Vista!!”

“Newspaper quote below courtesy of Benton County Daily Record- 04/21/2010,

"Officer Charged In Chase Shooting", "PROBE REVEALS INCONSISTENCIES" By Bob Caudle

"Brackney began the chase and told investigators he did not recognize the car, nor Ahern, despite Ahern's police record."

"OVERALL responsibility rests upon the public role model, Officer Coleman Duke Brackney who was formerly trained via taxpayer support to perform his duties in the utmost professional manner regardless of the circumstances. Furthermore, after the incident, Officer Brackney had a public duty to provide an accurate account of what actually transpired of which was reported, and apparently lacks integrity and truth.---SHAME

"As for whether the mayor and police chief are good men or not, that will matter very little when a jury is deciding how much BV will have to pay for Brackney's actions. Their handling of the matter after it was put in their lap will be the issue. I have said previously that the Mayor will most likely retire from politics and the police chief will find another job far away from the controversy. It will be difficult for either to be effective once this matter is settled. In the end the public view of government in general and the police in particular is damaged."

"I still think that at the end of the day the Police Chief and Mayor do not survive the fallout."

"As for the Mayor and Police Chief, they may have indeed met their "Waterloo"; however, I am more concerned with the final disposition of Brackney's case than I am with the fate of the Mayor or Police Chief, or the outcome of any civil litigation, if and when there is any."

"In my opinion, being a good police officer requires 95%common sense and 5% knowledge of the law. Those lackingcommon sense don't tend to do well as police officers."

"To those that much is given, much is expected". The police are given a great deal of authority (and in some instances poorly supervised). When this authority is abused nothing less than the Wrath of God should be the response."

"The ugly truth of this situation will be forced to the surface soon enough. What will you do then when your beloved BVPD is shown to be the uncontrolled thugs that many believe them to be?"

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 3:38 PM Matthew wrote:

CONTINUED...

"Cited and released" as if he had gotten a speeding ticket or something. Justice for all? I think not. At least his paid vacation may be over."

“Sure, I understand that many deals are cut on the golf course in support of private profit making business but this is a whole different situation because this is public business on behalf of the taxpayers who hold their officials accountable for the leadership they provide in times of both good & bad. You see, a problem is that some people to include leaders appear unable to separate public business from their personal business or relationships.--Some folks call this a good ole boy network.”

“Being a former officer in another state I would like to add a little to this. I love AR. but have a real problem when a officer uses deadly force and a victim is killed and then the officers own dept. does a investigation of there own officer. They should not be permitted to investigate or disturb the scene and another outside law enforcement agency should be brought in from the start. Chief Farmer who I do not know stated right from the start that this was a first for him; therefore I do not feel that he should not have gotten involved. I know many officers in n/w AR. and feel there good and bad cops.”

“I deal with these small town governments frequently and I am more than qualified to assess the performance of these governments including BV. My criticism of the Mayor and Police Chief is founded in the fact that they knew Brackney's sworn statement and the video evidence were at odds. He should have been fired at the point when the lies were evident. Instead he was kept on the payroll for an additional 12 weeks. I call that icompetence (at best). You can bet that fact will be hammered at the wrongful death suit trial and will cost the BV taxpayer plenty.”

“I've said it before and ill say it again...The BVPD needs to be disbanded and they ALL need to reapply for there jobs back at higher standards and the hiring panel need to be made up from independent people. No more "good old boy" network.”

“This is exactly why I think cops should run in pairs. If one gets an adrenaline rush and wants to start shooting at people, you need a second body to try and talk some sense into him. All he had was a gun, a radio, and a dash cam. None of those devices seems to have diffused the situation with tragic results.”

“I was clearly referring to the local police department and their "aggressive enforcement" of traffic laws that began shortly after the switch from village to city. I will be interested to see how much BV has collected in traffic fines in the previous year. That information will be available from the Arkansas Joint Legislative Auditcommittee later this year.”

“The newness of the city and department will not be much of a defense. The city is responsible for the behavior of its police department, no matter how new.”

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 3:42 PM Matthew wrote:

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“Check your officers killed in the line of duty stats and you will find that most were killed in automobile accidents caused by their own negligence. Why don't you make a

list of all the "good" cops gone bad that have been convicted of rape, murder, theft, harassment, etc. I'm sure your list will be a long one. How many women have been terrorized by a cop because of a snubbed sexual advance? How many piece of crap cops have planted evidence to obtain a conviction. If all cops were so good and pure I guess they would not have an internal affairs unit."

"I have repeatedly stated "most of these are good guys doing their jobs". On the other hand you act like their all angels, I have family that are cops and they'll tell you some of these guys aren't wired right."

"As for a conspiracy I don't think there was one, at least not a well planned one. Anderson did turn a blind eye to Farmers management of the department (aggressive traffic enforcement, rude behavior and such) and did so aftercomplaints from the businesscommunity.

As this saga unfolds in court and in the new outlets there will be people who willcome forward and say as much. There are many people saying as much privately now. The Brackney incident was the culmination of a police department with inadequate or icompetent supervision and a Mayor and City Council unwilling to rein them in. This was not simply the single action of rouge cop, rather the tragic result of a culture within BVPD that allowed this killing to take place."

"ABSOLUTE FACT: There have been Bella Vista taxpayers who addressed both Mayor Frank Anderson and Police Chief Ken Farmer about police issues at other city public meetings PRIOR to the unfortunate shooting incident. This served as a beacon on behalf of resident concern in advance!

ABSOLUTE FACT: There have been taxpayers who addressed concerns with Police Chief Ken Farmer at his personal office about issues with certain police officers under hiscommand just weeks PRIOR to the unfortunate shooting incident!

ABSOLUTE FACT: There have been taxpayers who attended BV City Council Meetings (post shooting) to address other former police issues relative to the actions or lack thereof for certain BV Police Officers of which is public record.

ABSOLUTE FACT: Documentation to support these aforementioned claims does exist and most likely will be forwarded in due time as applicable."

"After seeing the KFSM report it is clear that Brackney lied on his report and any testimony he gives at trial will be tainted. I hope Stone does not offer Brackney any sort of plea deal, a jury needs to decide his fate.

"One thing is for sure Van Stone is dishonest and no one knows what will happen. I have seen what they call "justice" in Benton County and it is not in the people's best interest. Unless you are politically connected..."

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 3:57 PM Matthew wrote:

CONTINUED...

After seeing the dash cam and reading the conflicting report from Brackney, the police chief chose to keep him on paid suspension for 3 months. The chief should have fired Brackney immediately after those facts came to light. I am sure there was pressure from the Mayor and city council. They will keep their mouths shut until the trial (they seem skilled at that)."

"I hope Ahern's family proceeds with the wrongful death suit. I will bet that there is a lot more that will come out about BVPD and their tactics."

"Once again Bella Vista doesn't want people asking too many questions."

"I was in my mid 20's when I served a juror the first time. I had no ill feelings towards the police (or government in general at that time). I took that job seriously and part (not all) of the not guilty determination was made because a uniform police officer clearly was not telling the truth. At the time I was shocked by the fact that a cop would lie. A lifetime full of experience has made me very skeptical of the police. I don't have to say that many (if not most) of the people who work in law enforcement are doing their best to PROTECT AND SERVE. The problem I have with the police is that bad behavior is tolerated in their ranks. They simply cannot police themselves."

"In further, I'm aware of other concerned residents who are indeed communicating and from the written correspondence that I've seen, there were proactive residents who expressed their concerns with Mayor Frank Anderson and Police Chief Ken Farmer about issues with the BV police department before this unfortunate incident occurred. I've personally seen evidence to support this claim and depending upon the circumstances, I'm thinking this evidence has the potential to reach any party in need of further support."

"In addition, as another example, I'm aware of a concerned resident who exercised his right to contact the FBI. To my understanding, his call was returned. In other areas of concern, the late Mr. Ahern had friends and immediate family in Omaha Nebraska so Bella Vista, Arkansas is no doubt on the radar screen. (They are monitoring these postings.) The public desires truth and justice while basic facts do not and should not ever change...."

With leadership comes responsibility and at this time frame, despite the "unknown" basic facts, I would hope the public does not later witness justification that is not within reason and/or legal maneuvering to potentially avoid responsibility and liability."

"The sixth and fatal shot was fired after investigators said it appeared Ahern was trying to surrender. They said Ahern also would not have been able to fire a shot had he had a gun because of injuries suffered from the first five shots."

"Basically, what I'm saying here is the police officer is the public role model here and regardless of the "unknown" circumstances that occurred AT THAT TIME, the

officer must always conduct himself accordingly while relying on his training.”

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 4:01 PM Matthew wrote:

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“One thing is 100% true for sure ... Brackney is a liar. If he had a legitimate excuse for murdering the guy, why not just tell that to begin with? As for the prosecutor, I assume the local voters will take care of that smelly issue at their next opportunity.”

“I'd want to hear the audio made during the chase to see if the cop made threats during the chase like if he doesn't pull over soon, I'm going to kill him" or "he's going to die for running from ME'. See if he planned on killing the victim before he got out of his car.”

“The penalty for him should be greater than a "normal" citizen he was a officer of the law...”

“The man fired six (6) shots IF it was a case of self defense one would have done the trick seeing how the squad car was right behind him and his car was in the ditch. Then again... that tells it WAS NOT self defense it was murder...”

“Justice Rules! This is sad but I would not want this officer free on the streets with a gun. He needs jail time for sure.”

“One thing is for sure Van Stone is dishonest and no one knows what will happen. I have seen what they call "justice" in Benton County and it is not in the people's best interest. Unless you are politically connected...The Camera does tell the tale and it took them 3 months to do anything in the case. If you are getting "ran over" you will be busy getting out of the way. The cop is a liar.”

“...This "officer" is a liar and that has already been proven and 5 shots at about 25 ft and then one final coup de grace to the back of the head at point blank range to be sure.”

“It doesn't matter the video backs up lies and murder. The 6th and fatal shot was totally unnecessary if this case goes to trial I think a jury would rule a little different than manslaughter, this guy was a loose cannon with a barney fife mind, I hope justice is served”

“All of the will be brought up at trial and is a dark stain on an otherwise great little town. I would really hate for the new city to gain the reputation that places like Cave Springs and Elkins have earned.”

“Simply an honest assessment of a poorly managed police agency with poor oversight. The real troubling aspect is not my views, rather that this sort of thing is still allowed to happen in this day and age. The only thing that is needed for evil to succeed

is for good men to do nothing. Same today as it was 200 years ago.”

“I find it preferable to speak up about what I consider government misconduct than to simply look away and ignore the situation. The civil trial will determine the extent of the corruption involved unless BV decides to buy off the family with a settlement in an attempt to hide the facts.”

“Just like in the military officers are taught to identify the target, not fire unless in a situation that calls for it and know what’s beyond the target so not to hit innocent people. This ex-cop now criminal didn’t use any judgment he just acted and now it time to pay the price.”

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 4:05 PM Matthew wrote:

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“Rather than speculate, as a B.V. resident I decided to visit the incident site. I was deeply hurt by what happened and the continued plight of our city(and the POA)to defraud its citizens and their rights. I personally spoke to an eye-witness asking him to share with me exactly what happened. His reply was "Murder, that's what happened." I asked if he in fact witnessed it and was positive. He told me that he came outside upon hearing the crash, and continued "The cop ran up to the guy's car, kicked the door a couple of times and then stood back and fired 4 or 5 shots into the car at the man. He then yelled at Mr. Ahern to put his hands up and get out of the vehicle." Now with no disrespect to the victim or his family, I would like to note that following the cops orders might be somewhat difficult once deceased. The witness said that a couple of his neighbors came out to investigate and that the cops yelled for them to go back inside. They immediately threw up some sort of white tent to obfuscate visage from onlookers. So, I personally would call this murder.”

“This investigation has an odor about it, the same way the Larry Norman investigation stunk to high heaven. The threat of a grand jury felony indictment was the thing that forced Norman to accept the sweet heart plea deal. And yes I do trust a jury of my fellow citizens more than I trust the mayor and police department in this case.”

“So even if it is agreed that the use of a weapon was warranted, why would an officer professionally trained to react in stressful situations; one skilled in the use, care, and application of a handgun and all other applicable weapons; one physiologically and psychologically tested for competence; one educated in law, policy, process, and tactic; one sworn to protect life; why would this individual unload 4,5,6 rounds into Mr. Ahern. What I’m asking is why not fire one round into his shoulder, or perhaps reposition and shoot his leg or lap. Most people never have or never will be shot. Having said this, I am quite confident that the shock of realizing that somebody just shot you would be enough to subdue anyone. Albeit there was certainly chaos abound after the crash, the cop had the time to consider the actual effect of his gunshot. To kill or to maim? He could have just shot out the back window for that matter. Surely that would be startling enough! The laws of physics would suggest that there is never the need to apply any more force than

is necessary to achieve the predetermined result. Which would suggest that at some level the cop wanted to barrage the victim or kill him, even if this decision did arise from temporal fear or hostility generated from stress or subconscious precondition.”

“He WAS STOPPED when he was murdered in cold blood. The same thing would have happened if he had stopped sooner. Brackney knew who he was and fully intended to kill him and then try to lie and cover it up.”

Reply to this

* 11/18/2010 4:13 PM Matthew wrote:

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"The Brackney incident was the culmination of a police department with inadequate or incompetent supervision and a Mayor and City Council unwilling to rein them in. This was not simply the single action of rouge cop, rather the tragic result of a culture within BVPD that allowed this killing to take place."

“I would respectfully submit to you that it is far more important to the law enforcement community to keep good relations with the prosecutor than it is for the prosecutor to keep good relations with law enforcement.”

“The point I continue to make is that public servants and elected officials, especially those with the authority given to the police, must act in a manner that serves the entire public and gives the public the sense that the police are the good guys. In our free society the public has the absolute right to demand the truth in this situation. Anything less has caused and will continue to cause the public to question both the process and the participants.”

“I HAVE SEEN ALOT OF COVER UPS IN MY LIFE BUT THIS ONE WINS THE PRIZE. CHIEF FARMER SHOULD GO BACK TO RUNNING RADAR IF THIS IS THE BEST HE CAN DO.”

“Maybe the BVPD need to do something.”

“Ahern was killed...Plain and simple.... this moron cop fires five times I do not care if he failed to stop or not...Hell Rodney King was only night clubbed after a high speed chase and a struggle outside of the car. Jimmy was executed.”

“I also believe that the BVPD Chef and the BV Mayor should step down over the way this was handled.”

“Chief Farmer knows he is in trouble for giving Brackney bullets. 4 months they know it was not a justified shooting. They are trying to cover tracks, the cops, the city, the law suits. They know what happened and if it was in their favor this would have been over. Farmer knows his butt is on the line too.”

“This case really reeks of police misconduct , James Ahern's widow needs to

contact the policecomplaint center .org , they are the only ones that will investigate the police, unfortunately the police here in Arkansas are not real good at investigating themselves. I am dealing with a similar case that has received no media attention yet here in Sebastian County. I am a former police officer .firefighter and paramedic and I have witnessed first hand the corruption of law enforcement here in Arkansas, wake up people familiarize yourselves with the Constitution and Bill of Rights. !!!!!!!Never Surrender!!!!!!!"

"Scenario:Cop arrives at police station with prisoner in back of car. Prisoner is covered in blood and bruises. What happened? If there was a recording, it would show either the cop beat up the prisoner or (for someone wanting to sue for brutality) the prisoner threw himself around in the back of the car hurting himself."

"I hope Ahern's family sues the *\$!@ out of Bella Vista. I hope everyone one in Bella Vista sees their POA dues climb sky high to pay off the law suit for them executing Ahern."

Reply to this