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Coursework



Without any doubt, the police force in any country plays an important role in protecting the civil rights and fairness of the public with the use of the law system. Furthermore, the ability to serve and protect the population lays at the foundation of a prosperous and successful society. The police force constitutes the persons, who are entitled by the governing body to use the laws of the given state, in order to achieve civic order and peace when needed. The police represent the most omnipresent structure of the community, and happen to be the most obvious source of force of a society as a whole.

The police are supposed to be the most reachable, energetic unit of power for any individual. A police officer carries on many duties and responsibilities while serving the community to the best of abilities. Their most crucial roles on the job are to keep the law and the order intact at all times. The nature of work of a police officer varies in complexity and laboriousness, depending on the rank and position. Some police officers perform simple tasks, such as the checking of traffic meters, traffic or neighborhood patrol, while others have to go on the assignments of investigation, which sometimes involve situations of personal danger. The police officers have to obey by certain social duties as well. Their behavior must always comply with the roles and obligations that they carry in the society. For example, a remarkable police officer should be helpful to all the members of the community, ensure that a victim of a crime is well taken care of when needed, assist and encourage the interests of the less fortunate population of the community that they serve.

Even though the police force plays an outstanding role at maintaining order in society, and there would indisputably be much chaos without the police, recent



debates raised the question of whether a police officer should acquire a college degree before he or she can be hired by an agency. The dispute on the educating of police officers has been at the burner of debate in the United States since the 1900s. At that time, only one of every 10 officers had a high school diploma. Later on, in the 1930s, a few national committees suggested that agencies had to take into account higher education as a need for recruitment, and a way to enforce the educational capabilities of the police force, ameliorating its general figure in the community. There is much controversy among different kinds of individuals when this question is brought up to discussion. Undoubtedly, the recruitment of a police officer is a very vital and responsible process because these are the persons, who are chosen to protect others, who are at question.

Therefore, the police agencies should insist on the recruitment of the officers, based on some type of higher education degree. It does not matter if it is a completed four-year, or only a two-year program; a potential police officer should be trained in an education atmosphere in order to instill psychological and mental qualifications that will be helpful on the job. Especially, since the job responsibilities of a police officer demand not only strong physical conditions, but also other abilities, such as education, adherence to the moral standards, and high-personal traits (tolerance, politeness, verbal/non-verbal communication skills, and deep respect to surrounding). Recent studies have shown a lot of positive outcomes from hiring the officers, who possess a college degree. At any rate, taking into consideration the long-simmering argument, a new study proves that police officers with some college education are less likely to apply physical force, than those without a college education. It is quite noticeable on a case-to-case basis that if the officer possesses more education, the likelihood of force application is much lower.

There are a few other indisputable reasons for the police officers to have taken a college program. Since the police officers have the responsibility to control the maintenance of the fundamental law among members of society, they should have complete knowledge of the laws and regulations on the state, and federal level as well. In such a manner, they would be better prepared to oversee the discipline in the community, and take immediate actions, in case of violence, according to the laws. Furthermore, the police officers should strictly adhere to the United States Constitution, and perform their duties within the scope of their own authority. In this case, police officers should directly avoid ethical, financial, and personal interaction with the potential criminals, who can considerably influence officer's integrity and honesty. Consequently, this is another example when it is highly recommended to go through the necessary classes or trainings that would teach the police officers such attributes as the code of ethics, and would provide officers with the necessary knowledge to apply on the job.

Inevitably, there are opponents to the idea of the schooling requirement of the police officers. They argue that being a police officer requires more skills than knowledge, and also the education part may not be available to everyone from the financial point of view. However, it is shown that there are more police officers, who represent minorities, and their performance is higher than of those without the education. The one fundamental evidence is that the police officers, who have a college degree, are less likely to abuse their authority. Thus, the education plays more of a moral training in some cases, and it becomes important for the society as well. The relevance of the moral education to the police officers, teaches them how to protect the community discreetly, and apply the psychological knowledge when needed. Thus, the notion of degree programs should also become useful along with the technical education and the



job training. A college degree also offers the ability to free the individual's mind, and thus, prepares police officers, who are more likely to deal with the potential situations that require psychological training, and could not be otherwise acquired only through a training program. A college degree could encourage a police officer to rethink the methods of applying their moral outlooks on a particular situation. All in all, the promoters of police education insist that a better-educated police officer will increase the positive outcomes of their work, and would lead to the creation of a more humane society.

Management of any police department is a difficult and challenging process that involves a great deal of experience. The seriousness of the everyday issues that policemen deal with requires the managerial authorities to be effectively trained. The police managers follow certain management philosophies that in turn, lead to the choice of the managerial style being used. The various police management styles are as follows: the administrator, the top cop, the politician, and the statesman. A police administrator is the police officer, whose duties include the management of a whole police department. Such an individual should possess strong organizational and leadership abilities, superior verbal and decision-making skills. The figure of a role model is also an inalienable part of the position. A police administrator needs to demonstrate such qualities as trustworthiness, exemplary behavior, promptness, and integrity. The most significant quality of an administrator is the ability to compile information, and be on top of the activities of every department. As a governing body, there should be full awareness of the interaction between departments, and the integration of resources in order to benefit the prevention of crime occurrences.



Another computerized innovation that has helped the management of the police agencies is the Compstat. It is an electronic database that was first created in New York City, with the purpose of tracking the crimes and disturbances by territory. Compstat is considered to be one of the reasons for the crime rates to decrease, and it is now a leading management program that is being used by many other states. The given management tool improved the approach of personnel monitoring and the ways of crime reduction analysis.

All in all, the work of a police officer is one of the most difficult in the modern jurisdiction, since it requires not only deep knowledge of current legislation system, but also experience and ability to adapt to immediate changes. Therefore, the education part for the recruitment on the police force should play an important role. At the same time, it is advisable to train these officers in an advanced manner with the use of special training programs as well, since they conduct dangerous tasks and protect humans from potential crimes. Only through a collective effort of the management department and the police officers a better and safer environment to live in will be achieved.

