



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

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Conversation

Another perspective on Policing

One issue that has not been addressed in the conversation on Policing in America. The tools of the trade.

Professionals in any Trade or profession rely on the latest tools in order to provide the best services to their clients. Whether it be Auto Repair, Physicians, Scientists, these tools are an essential part of their workplace, and they cannot perform at a top level without them.

However, it seems that for the most essential part of policing, the safe apprehension of suspects or dealing with an emergency situation, especially involving firearms, this does not exist.

When a split-second decision must be made, why are the only options a gun, nightstick, or a limited effective taser the only options.

Our scientific community is second to none, and when faced with an emergency can provide amazing services. A great example of this is the creation of the COVID vaccines. Our government created unlimited funding, and a relaxation of Bureaucratic hurdles to come up with effective treatments and vaccines in less than a year!!!

Gun violence in this country is no less an existential epidemic as COVID, and we suggest that we apply the same tactics in order to develop a safe means for police to protect the public, but not act as jury and executioner in the process.

With a focused campaign, our scientists could come up with the tools so that those split-second decisions that police are often forced to make will not result in a death, but will allow for a safe apprehension of a suspect.

Most of the new tools that have become part of our police arsenal come from the military, and are designed to protect police and apprehend a subject, dead or alive. This is not working out well.

From January 1, 2015, to June 30, 2020, police officers shot and killed **5,442** people. Better training can help, but we know that given a non-fatal option, perhaps using some sort of energy

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pulse not depended on wires, or perhaps some sort of tranquilizing agent, is essential to reducing fatalities.

So, we call on the government to institute an “Operation Warp Speed”, not for vaccines, but for new tools to deal with the pandemic of gun violence.