

Opinion

America: A work in progress

By LYNDON ZAITZ

The American experiment is 244 years old this year. The nation, created by uniting 13 very different colonies, was developed our Founding Fathers who borrowed from other governing systems in history—the Magna Carta, the Romans and the Greeks, to cite a few.

After two and a half centuries, America is still a work in progress, and will likely be, forever. That's the beauty of America: we are not static, we are always changing.

The Founding Fathers believed the U.S. Constitution should not be set in stone, thus the ability to amend it through legislation and then ratification by three quarters of the states. Our Constitution is solid, it has been amended only 27 times; that's once every 10 years or so.

The debate over whether the Constitution, as written in the 18th century, is open to interpretation by contemporary citizens, goes on. Interpretation of the Constitution lays at the heart of every confirmation by the U.S. Senate for appointees to the federal court system, including the Supreme Court. Debate over the meaning of the Constitution fuels disagreements on the election campaign trail. It is also the source the passions recently incited regarding police actions, race relations and even face masks are rooted in its the country's founding document.

As Americans, we don't always agree. That is particularly true these

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days. Those who say the nation is more divided than ever before are forgetting their history. Some colonists were loyalists to the British crown and opposed independence. The divide over slavery turned brother against brother. Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal legislation was not met with universal acclaim. Americans have always had disagreements, even elections don't settle them. One side wins this cycle, the other side will win an upcoming cycle.

In our republic, political order lies in a body of citizens entitled to vote for officers and representatives beholden to them. To many of the world's people, the American model of government is the ideal. Change at the ballot box frequently begins with the people taking their ideas into the streets around the country. The Suffragettes, who fought for women's right to vote, are not that far removed from the Black Lives Matter and police reform protesters across the country.

This amazing melting pot has room in its 3.7 million square miles to help those yearning for a better life. How we do that is in the details of legislation and debate. America is as grand and as messy as its people. We need to ensure that all citizens are included in the opening phrase of the Constitution, "We the people." We aren't there yet, but we're still a work in progress, patriots to a one.
(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the *Keizertimes*.)

KPD chief on policing in Keizer

By JOHN TEAGUE

In his opinion in the *Keizertimes* (*Current events call for look at policing*, JUNE 19), Gene McIntyre rightly said, "It appears timely and appropriate to hear from Chief [John] Teague as to what the people can count on from him and our taxpayer-funded police officers..."

Though it necessarily requires some unpacking, which I'll strive to do within these 640 words, what you should expect of us is succinctly expressed in our mission statement: Our mission is to help the community maintain order while promoting safety and freedom and building public confidence.

Modern policing began 200 years ago, and the first principle of that first police department (the London Metropolitan Police Force) was that the "basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder." We at the Keizer Police Department actively try to prevent crime and disorder. We do not carelessly wait for crimes or violations to happen and then numbly compare people's behavior to a set of laws and ordinances and send to jail or to the courts those who are not in compliance. Applying the law is not among the first things we do or want to do, yet this disposition toward the law is far from common.

Most police agencies do not first seek to prevent crime from occurring or recurring. Most agencies measure the performances of their officers by, for example, the number of citations they write, the number of arrests they make, the number of calls they handle. Keizer does not. The ninth principle of modern policing is: "The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it."

Neither does Keizer first police people (except, of course, those persons who chronically, repeatedly make problems of themselves). Policing problems, not people, has the supremely important benefit of being race neutral because officers are initially agnostic toward the cause of a problem—what is the problem? Not, who is the problem?

Combined with Procedural Justice, problem-oriented policing puts the police in a posture of assisting and serving, not of imposing. This should not be overlooked or dismissed as unimportant: a police agency is either oriented toward the law and looking for violators, or oriented toward problems and looking for solutions.

Note our obligations to the public in these principles of policing—every one is cooperative:

- The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval.

- To secure public approval, the police must secure the public's willing cooperation and voluntary observance of the law.

- Public cooperation diminishes proportionately to the use of physical force.

- Police preserve public approval, not by catering to public opinion, but by demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law.

- Police should maintain a relationship with the public that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incum-

bent on every citizen.

These principles are 200 years old, yet they've rarely been fully exercised. There is an almost unavoidable history, a necessary arc to the 200 years it took for these principles to come to fruition. That history is beyond the scope of this piece, but it does beg two closely related comments.

The first is that the sins of our predecessors should not fail to inform our present and future decision-making; subsequently, we should neither erase nor dismiss them and the milieus in which they lived. The second is that there has never been a more appropriate time to engage in original policing than right now. Still, many agencies will not because they are neither vested in it nor structured for it.

It took medicine 450 years to make the turn from an arguably harmful art to an art informed by science, yet policing has only just begun its earnest move toward an evidence base. The move was first attempted 50 years ago, but a misinterpreted experiment left the academics telling themselves and the police that what the police did in response to crime was neither harmful nor helpful, that neither crime prevention nor mass arrests could affect the crime rate. Twenty-five years later, researchers looked again at that experiment and discovered they'd erred, that, in fact, the police can have profound impacts upon crime, people, and their communities. Thus, after 200 years of policing, it's only been within my career of 30 years that this nascent redirection has begun.

Serendipitously, that redirection also includes a prescription for how the police should interact with the public. When I returned to the Keizer Police Department seven years ago, I told the officers that I expect them to treat the public the same way I treat them, the officers—with Procedural Justice: Treat people with dignity and respect; give them a chance to be heard; convey trustworthy motives; and make reasonable, informed, and transparent decisions. This is what you should expect of every important relationship, and it's what you should expect of your police officers.

If one relies upon state and national comparisons (which many do), Keizer Police Department is allegedly underfunded, but we've not asked to be staffed with another 19 police officers (to meet the state average) or another 46 (to meet the national). Frankly, if policing is done reactively—that is, if the police only respond to crimes that have already occurred—then you really can't have enough cops to affect the crime rate. If, however, policing is done as originally designed—to come alongside the community to prevent crime and disorder from happening in the first place—then there is a point of economic stability, a point at which an agency has enough resources to do more than merely react to crime, where it has just enough resources to prevent what crime can be prevented, maintaining the order the community wants but without over-policing it.

Keizer, I believe, has struck that balance, but we've only done it because we value procedural justice and we're actively, thoughtfully, purposefully problem-oriented.

(John Teague is Chief of the Keizer Police Department)

police scanner

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

1:13 a.m. - Arrested for attempting to elude police officer at the intersection of River Road N. and Cummings Lane N.
4:13 p.m. - Traffic accident at the intersection of River Road N. and Sam Orcutt Way NE.
5:19 p.m. - Traffic accident in the 5000 block of River Road N.
7 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 5000 block of Benevan Court NE.
7:29 p.m. - Driving under the influence on Homewood Court N.
7:55 p.m. - Restraining order violation in the 1000 block of Dearborn Avenue NE.
8:54 p.m. - Restraining order violation in the 1000 block of River Rock Drive NE.

MONDAY, JUNE 22

9:09 a.m. - Graffiti in the 3000 block of River Road N.
4:18 p.m. - Theft in the 7000 block of Park Terrace Drive NE.
5:39 p.m. - Traffic accident in the 600 block of Chemawa Road NE.
9:34 p.m. - Vandalism in the 5000 block of River Road N.
11:47 p.m. - Restraining order violation in the 3000 block of River Road N.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

12:29 a.m. - Shoplifting in the 4000 block of River Road N.
5:02 a.m. - Burglary and criminal trespassing in the 2000 block of Allendale Way NE.

6:14 p.m. - Unlawful possession of methamphetamine on River Road N.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

2:08 a.m. - Aggravated assault in the 4000 block of River Road N.
2:30 p.m. - Vandalism in the 1000 block of Marigold Street NE.
6:19 p.m. - Telephonic harassment in the 4000 block of Rickman Road NE.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

1 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle and unlawful entry to vehicle in the 1000 block of Meadowlark Drive NE.
8:38 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 1000 block of Carilor Court NE.
10:58 a.m. - Residence burglary in the 1000 block of Marigold Street NE.
12:50 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 1000 block of Zachris Court NE.
1:31 p.m. - Physical harassment in the 4000 block of River Road N.
6:47 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 1000 block of Candlewood Drive NE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

2 a.m. - Residence burglary in the 1000 block of Mistwood Drive NE.
7:13 a.m. - Unlawful entry to vehicle in the 1000 block of Zachris Court NE.
12 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle and unlawful entry to vehicle in the 100 block of McNary Estates Drive N.
1:35 p.m. - Warrant served in the 4000 block of River Road N.

9:30 p.m. - Fraud use of credit card and unlawful entry to vehicle in the 6000 block of Wheatland Road N.

9:45 p.m. - Vandalism at Apple Blossom Avenue NE.

11:45 p.m. - Driving under the influence at the intersection of Verda Lane NE. and Alder Drive NE.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

12:30 a.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 1000 block of Fir Cone Drive NE.
2:04 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 7000 block of Parkplace Drive NE.
3:02 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 700 block of Lakefair Circle N.
10:25 p.m. - Vandalism in the 700 block of Dearborn Avenue N.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

12:25 a.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged at the intersection of Churchdale Avenue N. and River Road N.
9:11 a.m. - Restraining order violation in the 6000 block of 14th Avenue NE.
11:16 a.m. - Burglary in the 6000 block of Wheatland Road N.
8:54 p.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 5000 block of River Road N.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

1:22 a.m. - Arrested for assault in the 600 block of Rose Park Lane NE.
5:05 a.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 1000 block of Clearview Avenue NE.

19-year-old arrested in DUII crash

A 19-year-old Salem man, accused of driving under the influence of intoxicants, tried to elude a Keizer police officer on River Road North and ended up wrapping his Jeep around a tree.

The incident began about 1:15 a.m. Sunday, June 21, a Keizer police officer saw the driver of a silver Jeep Patriot drive through a stop sign in the southeast Keizer and attempted to initiate a traffic stop.

Instead of stopping, the driver hit the gas and sped away blowing through a second stop sign.

The pursuing officer lost sight of the vehicle as it traveled north on Cherry Avenue Northeast. Not long afterward, the vehicle was discovered in the 4500 block of River Road North having crashed through a utility pole and into a tree.

Salem Electric was called to the



A driver attempting to elude police crashed into a utility pole and then a tree near Arby's on River Road North. Submitted

scene and ensured that the driver could safely be removed from his vehicle. He received non-life-threatening injuries in the crash.

Christian Salinas-Tolento was taken

to Salem Hospital where he was cited for attempting to elude an officer, reckless driving, driving under the influence of intoxicants, and criminal mischief. His bail was set at \$30,000.

crossword

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By Charles Preston

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