



ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Together We Make A Difference.



Sheriff Brian VanVickle Sworn in as Illinois Sheriffs' Association President

Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle was sworn in to serve as President of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association (ISA) on February 11, 2021 at the Virtual Winter Training Conference.

Executive committee members are responsible for directing the association in the development of policy and legislation encompassing all facets of law enforcement, corrections and court security as well as developing programs that encourage professional growth.

Sheriff Brian VanVickle is in his 13th year of law enforcement and started off as a police officer with a local municipality prior to running for the office of Sheriff. He was elected Ogle County Sheriff in 2014 and is currently serving his second term.

Sheriff VanVickle has been married to his wife, Marla, for 26 years and they have two adult children, Zech and Ali. Marla is a Family Nurse Practitioner, Zech is employed as a firefighter with the Byron Fire Protection District and Ali is a telecommunicator with the Dekalb County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff VanVickle's professional associations include Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) Treasurer, Co-chair Illinois Incident Management Team (IL-IMT), Northwest Illinois Incident Assistance Team, Co-chair/Incident Commander and Rochelle Township High School Board of Education.



What will happen to Illinois Families if HB 3653 is signed by Governor Pritzker?



CRITICAL SITUATIONS

There is an Active Shooter at a local high school. Police arrive and the suspect flees the scene. Uniformed officers catch up to the suspect who is still armed, no longer actively shooting and forcibly resisting arrest. The officers know who the suspect is and he could be identified & apprehended at a later date. Officers cannot use force against the suspect even though he just shot people moments ago.



CRIMINAL TRESPASS

You arrive home and notice an **unknown person sitting in your backyard**. You call the police and wait for them to arrive. The police confront suspect and he refuses to leave. The individual cannot be arrested & no force can be used to make him leave, only a ticket can be issued.



DISORDERLY CONDUCT

You own a local store and an individual is causing trouble. **The suspect is being loud and yelling obscenities at customers.** Police arrive and realize he's disturbing the peace of the store. The suspect will be issued a ticket, a court date within 21 days and officers will leave. The suspect cannot be forcibly removed & the store owner is left with the same problem.



OBSTRUCTING

Police are investigating a homicide. A body is on the ground & the area is surrounded with crime scene tape. A person decides to enter the area after being told not to by a uniformed officer, walks through the crime scene and jeopardizes the investigation. This person would no longer be arrested for obstructing a police investigation & force cannot be used to remove the individual from the scene.

MORE DANGEROUS LEGISLATION ON THE WAY

Sheriff Jeff Bullard, Jefferson County

As we all wait to see what the Governor is going to do with the awful police reform bill HB3653, anti-police reform groups continue pushing bills to the General Assembly seeking to further weaken our system of justice and ability to protect our communities. Even worse, **one particular bill would make our children less safe** from potential threats of violence at schools.

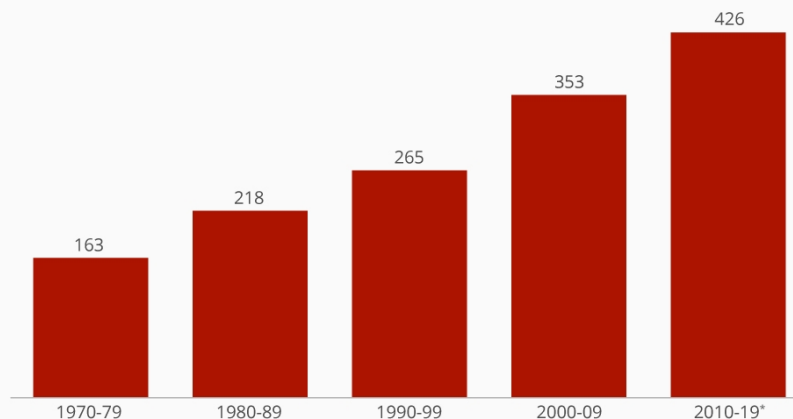
The first bill is HB29, sponsored by District 81 Representative Anne Stava-Murray, which provides law enforcement officers shall not maintain a presence on school grounds unless there exists an imminent threat of danger to students at the school in question or there is reason to believe that urgent and immediate action is necessary to prevent such danger to students. This language would, in essence, eliminate the School Resource Officer.

The biggest problem with the concept of this bill is that the occurrence of most trouble or violence cannot be predicted. For the police to not be on school grounds until a threat becomes "imminent", "urgent", or "immediate" is not only unrealistic, but dangerously irresponsible. These are some of the same politicians that believe in gun control and not allowing voluntary armed and properly trained school staff. So, when armed violence does break out in a school, just how would they propose school personnel stop it when their laws remove the very tools and resources needed to end a violent attack? They don't have an answer for this.

Supporters of this legislation believe school shootings are rare, so SROs are not necessary, and might actually be "harmful" to children, having to be in the presence of someone armed with a firearm each day at school. This, of course, is not an accurate assessment of reality. While the probability of school attacks remains low, it is rising, with more recorded attacks in the first 21 years of this century as compared to the entire last century.

Number of School Shootings Increased Every Decade

Number of K-12 school shootings in the U.S. (1970-2019)



* As of Nov 14, 2019

@StatistaCharts

Source: Center of Homeland Defense and Security K-12 Shooting Database

statista

School Resource Officers (SROs) have been a popular and effective tool for school and student protection since their onset. In Jefferson County we have witnessed different schools take advantage of SRO programs for several years. They are an important part of comprehensive school safety plans. After the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT in 2012, President Obama developed a plan to reduce gun violence, that included adding up to 1,000 SROs nationwide. This philosophy coincided with that of the Killology Research Group, headed by retired Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, one of the premiere public safety experts in the nation, who has advocated for SROs or armed security in every school for decades. Further, the Obama administration believed “when SROs are integrated into a school system, the benefits go beyond reduced violence in schools. The officers often build relationships with students while serving as a resource to students, teachers, and administrators to help solve problems.” <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2013/03/28/school-resource-officers>.

The other bill is HB180, which if passed, would ban “warrior-style training”. While the desire by anti-police groups to eliminate qualified immunity is bad enough, this might be the most dangerous and reckless attempt to damage policing yet. This bill, sponsored by 31st District Representative Mary E. Flowers, defines “warrior-style training” as training for, “employees exercising the powers of a peace officer that dehumanizes people or encourages aggressive conduct by peace officers during encounters with others in a manner that de-emphasizes the value of human life or constitutional rights, the result of which increases a peace officer’s likelihood or willingness to use deadly force.”

When I first read this bill, I was stunned by the continued and deep lack of understanding possessed by the proponents about police training and use of force. In my career I have well over 6,000 hours of training, a significant amount of that with tactical teams, and at no time have I ever been trained to dehumanize people, deemphasize the value of human life or constitutional rights. Neither has any officer I have known or any reputable training organization in this nation that I am aware of. On the contrary, officers are taught how to recognize imminent threats of great bodily harm or death to ourselves, or others, and given a skill set to defend and protect life, which might include the use of deadly force. We are trained how to win, so lives can be saved, because life is precious.

The truth is violent criminals have devalued life in our nation. These predators and repeat offenders are the ones who dehumanize their prey as they victimize others. Even the drug dealer on the street corner has no respect for people and children they sling their poison to. Further, these monsters place no value on the lives of the peace officers who stand in the way of their potential victims. When a person chooses to try and commit a violent crime against a citizen or a police officer, that offender had decided their intended victim has less value than they do. The officer(s) present in this moment, must make a choice between whose life has more value: the good (innocent person / police officer), or the evil (offender trying to harm them). The choice is easy and an honorable one, which is to protect good. These decisions must be made many times in split-second situations, which require quick and aggressive actions.

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-SHERIFF JEFF BULLARD, JEFFERSON COUNTY

Warrior-style training is conduct that is aggressive, but it is not defined the way supporters of HB180 would have people believe. It not only is training to give the physical skillset of a warrior, but also the mindset as well. Having a warrior mindset means doing whatever it takes to be prepared because warriors don't just survive, they overcome and win. Having a warrior mindset means not quitting in the face of fear, injury, or death.

Proper warrior-style training is a must in the policing world. It has to be this way, because in the real world outside of the General Assembly, quick decisions can save or cost lives. If an officer observes fight or flight indicators from a suspect, the officer must act quickly to maintain control and protect themselves. Imagine if an officer is presented with a lethal threat they have not been appropriately trained for. They will be at an immediate disadvantage and might not recover. Unfortunately, there have been too many instances, some caught on video, over the past few decades proving that very point when officers have been killed in the line of duty. We use these videos to train officers in hopes of increasing learning and survivability.

Police training has evolved over my career to become better, more professional, and more effective in controlling suspects and protecting lives. This evolution has been guided by the federal court system in decisions like Tennessee v Garner (1985), Graham v. Connor (1989), Deorle v. Rutherford (2001), Scott v. Harris (2007), Perea v. Baca (2016), McGrew v. Duncan (2019), and many others. Part of this evolution has included training officers with the warrior mindset, so they can prevail against any threat of lethal force directed towards them.

When you compare these two bills with much of the language changes in HB3653, a clear pattern emerges. A true disdain for law enforcement officers shown by those who drafted them. In HB29, proponents want to remove officers from schools. Officers who have served honorably and have great relationships with students and staff. In HB180, they want to twist the true intent of quality police training into something it isn't, then outlaw it using completely subjective language not easy to interpret, which in turn would make officers less likely to receive the full skillset needed to overcome lethal threats against them or innocent members of the public. Further, the proponents of bills like these are trying to undo the protections guaranteed to officers in many court decisions. An officer appearing in court about their use of force will testify to their observations, training, and experience as evidence for justification of their actions. As a strategy to assist the criminal community, the bill's proponents seem to be trying to use legislation to attack that evidence outside of the courtroom.

As I wrote earlier this month, policing leaders will continue to hold the line and defend the profession. Just like our efforts to protect the communities we serve, we need the public's support also to help protect our profession. Please contact your local General Assembly members and ask they not support HB29 and HB180. Thank you everyone!

ISA College Scholarship Applications

ISA College Scholarship Applications are

2021 UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jail Medical Summit

available on our [website](#) under the "Youth Outreach" section or from individual sheriff's offices

The deadline to submit applications is:
March 15th, 2021

PeaceKeepers College Scholarship Applications will be posted on: March 1st, 2021

August 26, 2021
Peoria

Sheriffs Summer Training Conference
September 19-21, 2021
East Peoria

Chief Deputy & Jail Administrators Conference
October 12-14, 2021
East Peoria

Administrative Assistant Conference
October 21-22, 2021
Springfield

"I Support Local Law Enforcement" Apparel, Solidarity Kits & More!

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