

Chloe Rasmussen

Lakeview Technology Academy
9449 88th Avenue Pleasant
Prairie, WI 53158

I am a 17 year old girl attending Lakeview Technology Academy. I am apart of the Supermileage Vehicle Club and I play softball for Kenosha Sting Fastpitch. I hope to soon study criminology at Pennsylvania State University.

The effect of law enforcement within communities varies greatly throughout the country. The location, personality, and how the agencies' use their power play a role in this variation. The perception of police and other law enforcement agencies' is influenced by not only people's experiences, but also the way they are portrayed within media. In many cases, the relationships between law enforcement and their respective communities is very poor. People express their distrust of the police and proceed to influence the views of their friends and relatives. The relationships, more often than not, do need improvement. While improvements may not be easy to implement, making the littlest of changes is possible.

The relationships between citizens and those who should be protecting them can often be weak while there are also cases where it is not. In many cases, police have used their power for unlawful reasons, causing unnecessary harm and further severing their relationship with the public. This is further influenced by the media's portrayal of the agencies. These images are not entirely true, but show the law enforcement to be poorly run and corrupt. While there are many instances in which the police and others prove to be people with poor morals and corrupt ways, I do not believe this is the case for all. In cities with higher crime rates, there seems to be a correlation with the extent of the force the police use on their citizens. While in smaller, less crime filled cities, such as my own, the police do not hold as bad of a reputation.

Improving the relations of the people and the law enforcement agencies should be something that the people work on. Due to the hostility that often occurs within exchanges between police and the people, this proves to be difficult. Because of these problems, an immense amount of people have lost their trust in the police which shows the relationships need to be improved. There are multiple circumstances in which people have so little trust in the system that they fear asking for help. It as been made quite clear by various people that these relationships need improvement. Though solutions are quite easier said than done.

In an attempt to improve the relations between law enforcement and the community, there have been events police host in an attempt to better their image. The police also have the opportunity to attempt and bond better with their community. If the police were to converse normally and learn about the people they are serving, the trust between the two would likely improve. When approached

by someone within law enforcement, the outcome is expected to be negative which causes the person being approached to become defensive. Simply learning about one another and creating a sense of trust is an easy way to lessen any tensions.

The relationships between people and the law enforcement agencies they have encountered at some point in their lives most often represents a negative event. These relationships clearly need improvement and there are multitudes of ways to solve this. Putting on events or even just a simple conversation are two ways to improve the way law enforcement officers are perceived.