



Dr. Tre Pennie

President

The National Fallen Officer Foundation

Testimony before

House Committee On The Judiciary

Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security

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On behalf of The National Fallen Officer Foundation (www.nationalfof.org), I am honored to appear before this committee to speak on a topic that's near and dear to heart – protecting our police and our communities.

As a law enforcement advocate, I speak on behalf of the hundreds of “police families” across this nation that have lost a family member in the line-of-duty – when I say “Enough is Enough”!

According to FBI crime statistics, in 2021, 73 police officers were shot and killed in the line of duty. That was the highest number of police officers murdered in 20 years. Additionally, the FBI notes that anti-police sentiment has led to a rash of attacks against police. Last year alone, there were 86 premeditated “ambush-style” attacks on police officers in which 26 of those officers died. **People Are People Too!**

These are tragedies that can no longer be ignored nor tolerated in our civilized society.

So... Why is this happening? Many families have asked...

Well, one reason why is because of *online radicalization* – the widespread “indoctrination” of individuals using negative content to incite violence and division.

Not only have American citizens traveled abroad to join extremist groups like ISIS, some have even been radicalized here at home and have “taken up arms” against our police and the American people.

On July 7, 2016, the world watched in horror as a lone-gunner ambushed police officers in downtown Dallas, Texas during a Black Lives Matter protest. During the attack, 12 police officers were shot and 5 of them were killed. Four of which were personal friends. During the investigation it was found that the shooter was radicalized online and was obsessed with police-involved shootings in the Black community.

In 2017, based on formal research and a keen understanding the existing problems with social media, I filed a federal lawsuit against Facebook, Google and Twitter for failing to manage their platforms and allowing extremist groups to recruit, radicalize and fundraise on their sites.

Although the companies admitted to knowing that their platforms were being used for nefarious means, the Court was reluctant to move against the immunity protection provided by Section 230 of the 1996 Communication Decency Act, so nothing was ever done to rectify this problem.

Advancing five years, the problem has worsened and our police officers have been caught in the middle of corporate profitability and government limitations. In fact, even today, we have seen those platforms being used in the same manner, facilitating attacks against our nation’s law enforcement and the government itself.

For example, during the George Floyd riots in 2020, social media was being used not only to facilitated the riots, but also to help radical groups fundraise off the agenda. The riots led to more than 2 billion dollars in property damage, several hundred police officers being injured and 19 U.S. citizens being killed. Among them was a 77-year-old retire police officer, David Dorn, whose murder was broadcasted live on Facebook.

During the riots it was reported that more than 17,000 people were arrested, but to this date there have been very few prosecutions. In fact, the tide has turned the opposite direction and progressive DAs across the country are now prosecuting police officers who responded to the George Floyd riots!

It’s simply time for our legislator to do the right thing! Unfortunately, there appears to be more advocates in the court system for criminals than there are for the victims.

Last year, of our country’s 40 most populated cities, 2/3 of them saw a dramatic increase in homicides. This pains me deeply because I’m from one of those cities: Houston, Texas.

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Since 2019, Houston has seen a 73% increase in homicides. The judges in Houston-Harris County have released 113 defendants charged with Capital Murder back onto the streets and those same offenders have contributed to more than 150 new murders while out on bond.

More specifically, recently, a 17-year-old murder suspect in Houston was released on bond after shooting his girlfriend 22-times and killing her. This is the reason why I have openly advocated for a “no-bond” system for violent offenders.

However, it’s no secret that America has become unsafe on the heels of social justice movements, bail reform initiatives and intentional efforts to defund the police across the country. These initiatives have not suppressed crime. In fact, it has made it worse, especially for people living in the inner-city communities.

The solution to our nation’s crime crisis is simple... Keep the violent criminals behind bars, punish bad behavior, and hold corporations accountable. If we remain consistent in upholding the rule of law, we will make America safe for everybody.

Thank you.

I look forward to responding to your questions and assisting members of the Committee in the coming weeks help resolve these issues.

Demetrick “Tre” Pennie

1025 Connecticut Ave NW Suite #1000
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 355-9487

Website: www.nationalfof.org / Facebook: National Fallen Officer Foundation/ Twitter: @Nationalfof

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