

VERY LONG POST ALERT!! I felt it necessary to give the back story to the recent attorney letters you all have seen on here. There have been quite a few misconceptions as to the intent and purpose. I understand not everyone has the same opinion or interprets the law the same. That is totally ok. I will never fault someone because they have a different opinion. I would however expect that same respect the other way around. There are a few of us who have spent countless hours reading, researching, reviewing, and compiling every bit of constable statutes, titles, common law, acts, case law, etc..... There is now a 150-page binder available with all our findings. If you care, truly want to learn, and become more educated on who and what constables are in PA, I'd strongly suggest reading the binder. (I'd give shout outs and credit to all those who helped but there are too many and I don't want to miss anyone) It has been stated that other agencies do not view "Today's" constables as they were in the past. That is 100% true. But why is that??? Some say that our authority and powers are archaic and do not apply in today's world. Can someone please show me where it states that our power and authority "expire" or are no longer valid after a certain time frame?? I have yet to find this rule or law anywhere. Just because there is an OPINION does not make it fact or even relevant. It is simply just that... one's opinion. I said this before and I'll say it again. Yesterday's constables didn't do today's constables any favors. They sat back and allowed their duties (note I did not say powers) to be taken away and given to other agencies as they were formed. There are some of us that are quite content with the current situation as they have made nice cushy situation for themselves. This also is 100% ok. That is great, I applaud them. This however is not the case with most areas. We still have courts hand selecting who they use and blocking out the rest or putting limits on the number of warrants you can serve or not paying unless the defendant pays. Yes... Sometimes being selective is warranted. Let's be honest, there are constables amongst us that absolutely should NOT be in that position. Unfortunately, we have no control over that aspect. This is one of the major complaints/concerns from those other agencies. I was like many of you when I first started out as a constable. I had no one to show me the ropes and it was figure it out on my own. Trial by fire. Eventually you learn how things work in your specific area. I never took the time to read up on the history of constables, any of our statutes, rules, laws, or case laws. I simply went by what PCCD and other seasoned constables told/taught me. This was a mistake. I should have taken the time to read up on our powers and authority as well as our history. I would have been better educated and would have had an entirely different view of the position.

Now what prompted these letters. Let me start by saying WE DID NOT START THIS FIGHT!!! did you hear that?? I'll say it again. WE DID NOT START THIS FIGHT. I own a business. That business contracts out other constables throughout the state. One of our bigger and busier contracts has us in a city plagued with violence. While providing services to this client, we would often find ourselves in very close proximity to shots fired, a shooting, robbery, burglary, etc..... The local police department was severely understaffed and had only but a few officers to respond at one time. Let them handle it by themselves, right??? NOPE. We would respond to the area or address and assist with whatever was needed. We formed a GREAT and I mean GREAT relationship with this police department, its chief, patrolmen, etc..... Hell, we were even in the mist of contracting with one of the city's downtown districts to provide officers for peacekeeping/patrol. EVERYONE WAS ON BOARD!!! YES, I had red and blue lights by this time and also had a vest that read State Constable Police. Why use the word "Police" you might ask.... BECAUSE NOBODY KNOWS WTF A STATE CONSTABLE IS !!!! Police is a general term to describe a very broad group that everyone understands. The situations we were responding to and assisting with, it was very important that the area understood who we were.

Then.... Some of the upper brass (old timers) in the department and FOP decided we were a threat to them and started making waves. One area police chief from a department I never had dealings with made it his personal mission to destroy me/us. He obviously didn't succeed. What he did do was spread misinformation to other departments, the county DA, and a laundry list of others. So what does one do when attacked like this.... I call an in-person meeting. There were 3 constables, 2 police chiefs, 2 county detectives and a lieutenant present at this meeting. We presented an entire slide presentation. We even played devil's advocate and spoke about some of the negatives of us. There was only ONE person that seemed to actually partially listen but didn't speak out or up due to all the others lack of interest. I think the one chief was playing candy crush on his phone while we were doing the presentation. This just showed the total lack of respect or willingness to listen. I believe the only reason for the meeting was to belittle and bash us in person. Their minds were already made up no matter what we said. We were threatened with arrest if we conducted any operations in their jurisdiction. I quote "We don't want you here, we don't need you here, you are not welcome here." Keep in mind this was a department and chief I have NEVER had any dealing with. Why such hatred, why such an unwillingness to listen and possibly learn. BULLY.... That's why. He is nothing more than a big bully who thinks his balls are bigger than anyone else's. Some more emails were sent around from this chief after our meeting which put the constable topic back on top of peoples list.

I was putting together a program with my local municipality and its police department where I have a good relationship. Word got back to the DA in my area, and I was sent a warning letter quoting all kinds of inaccurate statements and segments from case law. The funny thing was that the small segments of case law quoted only benefited their argument and neglected to list all of it. Kind of like the media when they edit video to only benefit their narrative. Same exact thing was occurring here. Rather than react with emotions and anger, I'm being tactful and attempting to educate through an attorney.

Wayne County.... These gentlemen were providing services (contracted) to a few municipalities for ordinance enforcement as well as some peacekeeping/ patrol due to PSP extended response time most times. There was an incident with a large quantity of drugs. PSP was contacted, said they were busy but would come out as soon as they could. 4 hours later, the new barracks commander came on shift and said they weren't coming or getting involved and to just let them go. Well, you can't just let that quantity of drugs go so they got all the defendant's information, secured the drugs and released them. The drugs were turned over to the County detectives who eventually filed charges against the suspects. This municipality held their monthly meeting, and this was one of the topics talked about. There just happened to be a reported from a local newspaper present. This topic ended up going to print. Presto Bingo... large pissing battle began. There was a meeting held with the DA, these officers, and Attorney Winter from Prince Law. The DA was completely on board with what services they were providing. He even said he didn't care about them having red and blue lights. Ok Great. Everything is good at this point.

At one of the next township meetings, a PSP Trooper stood up and basically MF'd those constables in front of the entire meeting. Made statements about no authority, not law enforcement, etc..... There was some other interaction with this same trooper. During the conversation, the constables were trying to educate him. They presented him segments from the binder where it very clearly stated certain

things. He was not having it. At one point he stated, and I quote "It doesn't matter because we have lots of attorneys and will bury you in legal fees". This obviously didn't sit well, and a complaint was lodged with the PSP IA department. A few weeks later that county's very same DA that was 100% on board with everything sent out his letter that you have all read. Hmmmmm what changed.... Bullying and political threats is my guess. He has to get reelected somehow. Can't exactly have largest police force (besides constables) in the state pull their support from you.

Steven Wiggs... I'm not sure where to start. He is a great guy. He has a good heart, and his intentions are in the right place. He would give you the shirt off his back and back you up even if coming from a far distance. He is young and newer to this position. People make mistakes. I will say this, and I've said it to him many times, I do not agree with his methods most times. I don't think being a bull in a China shop will work out the best. You might get the result you wanted but at what cost. BUT... at least he is standing up for what he believes in and is not a coward. He has taken more punches, belittled, trash talked, criticized, and charged more than any one I know. Guess what... He's still here. Steve is so brash and brazen; don't you think that he would be in jail by now or have had a ton more traffic cases if he was truly doing something illegal.??? Read the binder. His case is in there too.

So, you see, there is way more going on here than about using the words "Police" just because we want to walk around wearing it. There is a purpose. The red and blue lights... Same thing. Very useful in various situations. You will find a very good argument in the binder. This fight was brought to us, not the other way around. I've seen comments saying things like "Don't we have better things to worry about than red and blues and police". The answer is YES. YES, we do. I wish I didn't have to defend myself and could concentrate on those other issues. We refuse to sit back and just go with the flow because we're told to. We will not be a "Yesterdays Constable" If I end up being wrong, Ok Great. At least I had the balls to stand up for what I thought was right. I don't blame you if you want to live in your comfy climate. Like I said, we are ok with that. Just because something is different doesn't make it wrong. Just because we have different opinions doesn't make either of us wrong. It simply makes us different. PLEASE before you pass judgment on any of us, take the time to ask, learn and listen to what we are doing and why. Then form your newly educated opinion. Should you choose to remain a keyboard ninja and pass judgments, criticize, belittle, etc.... I obviously can't do anything about it. You will just be one of those "Yesterday Constables" and part of the problem and not the solution. I am a Sheep dog not a sheep... What are you?