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LA Set 4/5

Argumentative Essay

Police Officers Need to Double Up

A police officer in Chicago had just seen a person sprinting out of the store with a face of guilt like he had just stolen something. The police officer's first instinct was to drive up to the suspect in his police car, however, once he caught up with the suspect, he turned around and gunshots were fired right into the police officer's heart. With all the recent incidents like this one regarding police officers, shouldn't police officers be doubled up while on duty? In the past ten years, there has been an average of one death every 58 hours. Police officers need to double up for safety and for additional support, backup, and witnesses.

The first reason police officers should always have a partner is to ensure their safety while on duty. In 2014, nearly 130 police officers were killed. Twenty of those deaths resulted from car accidents, duty-related illnesses, gunshots, and stabbings(Cosgriff). If police officers were doubled up, it's likely that those 130 police officers that were killed, would go down to nearly none. When police officers are doubled up, there is a quicker response time and it also allows one person to be on the lookout while the other officer can concentrate on driving. It also allows one of the police officers to call for backup in case of a serious issue. Having police officers in my family, including my father, it is really frightening to know that they are in so much danger.

Doubling up police officers on duty will provide the officers more support. Having a partner can ensure there will be a witness during a traffic stop, arrest, and other incidents. Having two police officers can also be more intimidating to a suspect and may cause him to think about what he or she is doing before they do it. Typically, a suspect will make up stories and try to get the police officer in trouble for excessive force or other illegal acts. Having another officer will provide a reliable witness who will know exactly what happened and can testify in court.

Those opposed to police officers doubling up may say that doubling officers will increase the amount of hours they work because there will be less staff, but really it will be more efficient for two people to do the job and will be much more safe. We may need to hire more officers but that will better our society because tons of people are in need for jobs in our country. Would you rather have our officers in danger, or have more officers on duty to protect them from danger? I know that I'd rather have my father work longer than have him risk his life for someone else's bad decisions. Police officers all around the United States have to risk their life to enforce the law. We need to make it as safe as possible for them to do so.

If Darren Wilson, the cop in the Michael Brown incident, had a partner, Michael Brown still may have been alive because the partner could have helped with the arrest and used a non-deadly weapon. This case proves my point exactly. All in all, doubling up police officers will provide an additional witness, support, and a safer environment. Go out now and tell you community why it is a great idea for police officers to double up while on duty.

Works Cited

www.odmp.org/search/year/2011

Cosgriff, Chris. *Officer Down Memorial Page*. 2013. 1/29/15