

Why Defunding the Police is Not a Good Idea

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The death of George Floyd has galvanized most of America to consider police reforms, including defunding the police that was in the past regarded as radical. Principally, the phrase ‘defund the police’ entails relocating finances away from the police force to other government organizations financed by the local municipality. Nonetheless, there is a debate today across the nation on whether the move is correct or wrong. There is a school of thought that believes that defunding the police will work towards ensuring the officers are responsible. Proponents suggest that this move will lead to severe consequences in the long run (Cobbina-Dungy et al., 2022). Therefore, this is a reaction paper on why defunding the police is an incorrect selection and suggests approaches to enhance police response.

Reasons not to defund the Police

Defunding the police will reduce support for training officers. Most problems of police-including violence happen because officers are poorly trained on how and when to utilize the equipment. Ideally, defunding the police eliminates the resources required to ensure they are adequately trained on aspects including utilization of force continuum alongside de-escalation approaches. Although police abuse of power is rare, just a few times is too many and enough to result in years of unnecessary scrutiny from politicians and the media with anti-police agendas. Police require training to ensure they obey the rules and regulations of the practice (Eaglin, 2020). There are currently inadequate resources to handle practical training and make police better. There are not many times that law enforcement officials break the law and use excessive power on citizens. Defunding the police will only take away the little resources available, which will only worsen the problem in the long run. With police officers receiving little training, it will mean that they will rely on their instincts when handling routine duties. As such, the enforcement

officers will not dwell on the most appropriate practices attained with years of experience by trainers and teachers. Ideally, dwelling on instincts because of a lack of resources will mean law enforcement officers might engage in undesirable activities. Not all law enforcement officers have been involved in unfair practices; therefore, defunding the police because of a few mistakes will not be good (Weichselbaum & Lewis, 2020). The availability of resources is fundamental in training police on how to behave when in operation.

Additionally, defunding the police will hinder officer recruitment and training. Essentially, reduced police budgets will result in fewer officers manning the streets. On the same note, defunding the police will place a more significant strain on available officers and decrease the probability of performing their jobs effectively or quitting because of burnout. By defunding the police, there is little reason for people to consider joining the department. Primarily, the human resource department of police will have little resources to source for additional men to fill the positions when the elderly retire (Loader, 2020). Additionally, the available law enforcement officers might consider quitting the workforce searching for an effective operating environment. Defunding the police will increase the turnover rate, which is detrimental to the country at large. The theory of motivation notes that employees are likely to handle their jobs effectively with proper working conditions. The turnover rate will increase by cutting the available resources as convincing the available personnel to continue work will be complicated. Reduced retention and hiring mean fewer officers will be available to answer emergencies. In such cases, crime rates will vastly increase, people will lose lives, and property will be damaged (Eaglin, 2020). Defunding police, therefore, is not the right idea considering the retention and hiring rates. The process will allow criminals to win and terrorize Americans.

Ideas to Improve Police Response

There is a need to enhance police response in the community. Ideally, the majority of crimes happen because of the slow police response that is routinely witnessed. Improving police response entails having more law enforcement officers on the streets of America. The procedure involves hiring more police officers to match the number of Americans. Hiring additional police officers' entails providing satisfactory working conditions to enable the individuals to perform their functions effectively (Weichselbaum & Lewis, 2020). For starters, there is a need to increase police funding because one of the problems is a poor environment for police officers. Currently, not many people are joining the police department because of the issues and problems law enforcement officers experience. Enhancing the police response entails providing adequate resources. For instance, police are sometimes required to move at odd times of the night to attend to some emergencies. This might fail because of the inadequate resources, in the form of vehicles, among other things (Loader, 2020). The government should implement legislation that entails allocating additional budget to the police department, as this will enhance their response and safeguard the lives of Americans.

Conclusion

There are sections of politicians and the media in America today that is pushing for defunding of the police department. Ideally, the approach might seem desirable to others but will be detrimental. Defunding the police will reduce support for training, which will enhance the number of rogue officers in the streets of America. Additionally, defunding the police will hinder recruitment and retention. The move will also allow dangerous and violent criminals to win and terrorize people. Therefore, there is a need to find practical approaches to handling police

brutality and not simply defunding them. To enhance and improve the level of response, America should consider employing more law enforcement officers to man the streets.

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