Rebuttal to Accusations: 5/13/2021

On Sunday, May 2nd, 2021, Deputy Willoughby of the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office sent an email to several local and state public officials. The intent was simple, to discover where local and state leadership stand on a statement made by US Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib. The email sent was a straightforward question requesting a response. Literally, no more, no less.

In response to this honest question, many of these officials became so heated that they complained directly to the Sheriff’s Office. Rather than responding to the writer, or even questioning the intent, they went for the jugular. It is common knowledge that those who hold elected seats will be asked questions by the people and communities they serve.

Some of the adjectives used by these officials, to describe the Deputy’s email include: “intimidating,” “inappropriate,” “weird” “un-friendly” and “hostile.” One office holder described Deputy Willoughby as “using strong-arm intimidation”. Another stated that Willoughby’s email reflected poorly on the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office.

Let’s take a close look at the email, which initiated an internal affairs investigation and has these County Supervisors and State Representatives sleeping a little less at night:

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US Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, Democrat from Michigan, recently tweeted:

***“It wasn't an accident. Policing in our country is inherently & intentionally racist. Daunte Wright was met with aggression & violence. I am done with those who condone government funded murder. No more policing, incarceration, and militarization. It can't be reformed.”***

 I want to know where you stand on Tlaib’s tweet.  Please choose from the following:

1.  I strongly agree with her

2.  I agree with her

3.  I somewhat agree/disagree with her

4.  I disagree with her

5.  I strongly disagree with her

Please do not respond with a long, politically correct answer, just a number and which political party you most align with.

Thank you,

Deputy Willoughby

Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office

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My name is Deputy David Willoughby. On Friday, May 7th, 2021, I was taken away from my duties, which includes serving restraining orders, to sit in an Internal Affairs Office and give an explanation for an email I wrote. Think about that… I could have been serving restraining order(s) that operate as a layer of safety for many victims, but instead was forced to defend myself from the attacks of several politicians.

The email I sent highlighted a tweet from a current US Congresswoman (which was re-tweeted to millions). She used the words “racist” and “government funded murder” to describe my profession. My intention was to find out where some local elected officials stand on her tweet. The options were simple, answer 1-5, or don’t answer at all. I did not state my opinion on the topic. I was not mean, rude, intimidating, hostile, un-friendly or any of the other words used by the real aggressors. Nothing but “please” and “thank you” from me. I have every right to ask questions, especially of those who serve us.

I believe these individuals have taken advantage of their positions to attack an officer of the law. Because of their false accusations, I am the one now losing sleep at night. It is I who feels intimidated and bullied. I feel very strongly that their responses were unfriendly, hostile, and inappropriate. It is wrong that these officials made such colossal assumptions about my intent.

At this point, it doesn’t matter what their answer is. I feel it is safe to assume that these aggressors do not support law enforcement, or they would not have attempted to slander a Deputy Sheriff like me. That being said, it was wonderful to receive numerous replies from individuals on my email list that felt zero hostility and simply answered my question.

I used my title and place of employment with my signature because it was extremely relevant to the subject. I believe a random citizen penning a letter like this would have been ignored.

Deputy Willoughby (That is my current title**.** I earned it!).

Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office (My place of employment, of which I am proud).

I also sign my name: “Corporal Willoughby, United States Marine Corps”, or “Firefighter Willoughby”, or “Coach Willoughby”, or “Daddy”. It just depends on the topic of the day. Law enforcement/policing was clearly the topic of the Congresswoman’s tweet and my email.

Law enforcement is under attack. We hear “defund the police”, and “abolish the police” from massive crowds running around, rioting, and destroying property. Now, we hear and see people in positions of great power (Congress), saying “no more policing” and calling us “racists”. I speak for myself and the brothers and sisters of the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office, that I have had the honor to work with, when I say that we are not a racist group. We love to protect, defend, and serve the citizens or Milwaukee, regardless of their skin color.

I will not apologize for my email. That being said, I will not sign any future correspondence to public officials with my job title.

Sheriff, I respectfully ask that you let this go.

Deputy Willoughby

Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office