

Interview with Ottawa Police Officer

Q: What are your thoughts on racial profiling?

A: My thoughts would be that I wish it didn't exist, but unfortunately it does. My thoughts would also be that it exists everywhere and not only in policing, but I'm confident in saying that it doesn't play as big of a role as some people or the media portray it to.

Q: Is racial profiling often discussed within the workforce?

A: It's not a topic within my group of co-workers, as like I said before, it doesn't play a role in the way I police and how I've seen my co-workers police. My interactions with people are based on how they interact with me, not the colour of their skin.

Q: Why is there a disconnect between the police and the communities they serve?

A: This question should be specific to the city and the police service that polices within it, but regardless of where, most people have their own preconceived ideas about police anyways. The police services may be doing good things for the communities, but regardless of what the police do, some in the community won't feel that it's good enough.

And yes, there are some police services that are disconnected, and those services need to make efforts to regain or strengthen those connection. By regaining the trust of that community, or getting more involved through other positive forms of policing.

Q: As a black cop do you feel any added pressure when dealing with minorities?

A: I do feel pressure when dealing with other minorities. I don't stray from my original way of policing, but I often have the person I'm dealing with expect special treatment, based solely on the fact that we're both minorities or the same colour. Again, I don't allow them to stray my judgement, but I remind them that I don't police that way.

Q: What do you feel needs to happen to make things better?

A: We are getting better, compared to how it used to be. Minorities, women, etc. are now a big part of many police services. Are there still issues that need attention? Yes! But I believe we (police and communities) are improving. I feel that the public has to be better informed. They literally draw their conclusions and ideas about police from movies and the media. Simple research can help people to be properly informed.

Q: Are there bad police officers?

A: I would be a fool and be in denial if I said there wasn't any. Are the majority of police corrupt? Not even close! But yet because of the actions of a few, all police officers get painted with the same brush. The same applies to the justice system. If people in Ferguson put their emotions aside and looked at the evidence in front of them, there wouldn't be any rioting happening today.