

Dear Editor

Are you aware that on July 1, 25 members of the Santa Rosa Republican Women Federated delivered grosses of cookies, muffins, apples, brownies, chips and drinks to every police department, CHP, and sheriff's office from Petaluma to Cloverdale to Sebastopol to Guerneville? No, of course you're not, because the Press Democrat won't report it. We did it to honor, support and thank all our law enforcement departments for what they do every day to keep us and our communities safe—often at their own peril.

Are you aware that when you throw in with Black Lives Matter you are supporting a militant organization that wants to defund, dismantle, and abolish police departments? Go to blacklivesmatter.com and you'll see. I cannot imagine our cities and county without law enforcement. Have you figured out what "defund" actually means and how you will accomplish it? When you kneel to BLM, you capitulate. They will demand more.

How effective do you think a social service worker will be when deployed to a 9-11 home invasion call? Or a domestic violence call with a weapon involved? Or a store break-in? Will there be a police officer to protect our home when BLM comes marching and rioting through again—like Shirley Zane had in front of her home? Who will investigate and arrest the gang-bangers that threaten citizens, recruit middle schoolers, and take over parks, apartment complexes, and city territory?

Gun shops have been declared "essential" during COVID-19. That's the good news. Are you aware that there has been an increase in first time gun purchases, not a big spike, but yes, an increase, mostly by single women living alone. That's how much confidence some of our residents have in law enforcement's ability to protect us if they are defunded or "reimagined" as the new euphemism says.

Have there been retirements yet among our law enforcement agencies? As of May 25, 503 NYPD police have filed for retirement. Who can blame them when there's no support from city leaders? How many positions short are our police departments and sheriff's office now? Do you plan to further reduce them?

No civilized society can function well without law enforcement. I fully support our law enforcement agencies and do not believe that defunding them will solve any perceived problems (there's not a police problem, there's a crime problem). You ought to think long and hard before you give in to any group that demands defunding, dismantling or disbanding our honorable law enforcement agencies. Anarchy will reign and all your virtue-signaling in the world won't be able to overcome it.

Respectfully,
Sandy Metzger
Santa Rosa