

Christie, I never think you are being shifty and shady, in fact I always admire you for being the one that comes to places like HBO and being as forthcoming as you possibly can. Perhaps that was the wrong way to word things, but I was trying to express how I often perceive the public sentiment. I really do think that the majority of officers act responsibly and with respect to the citizens they are paid to serve. the ones I have dealt with at the bar and in my personal life have been great, for the most part.

I think the problem as I see it, from reading many comments on news articles and public forums, as well as talking to customers at work, is that there seems to be a certain amount of vagueness and an apparent unwillingness to share the nitty gritty details. I am aware that there are laws preventing the public disclosure of a certain amount of information, but many people are frustrated by that. There are simply many, many unanswered questions still lingering in the air.

Was officer Kelley dismissed? If he continues to remain on duty, that fact is confounding to people who may worry about him wielding a weapon in various situations that may arise in the future. What became of the other officers involved? Was there indeed an attempt to cover up the situation? Why did the initial report refer to the dog as a vicious pit bull when this was clearly not the case? Why wasn't pepper spray used on the dog instead of a deadly weapon? Why wasn't an attempt made to contact Mr. Jones inside the restaurant? Was it legal for officers to enter Jones' vehicle to snatch the dog away? Can the public put their fears to rest that their pet won't have a fatal end similar to what happened here? Why was the investigation so seemingly delayed? There are many more questions lingering in the air you could read on some of the other news articles or forums.

Some people might say, "it was just a dog, the police department has admitted wrongdoing, get over it", but I think quite a few people see the whole thing as a symbol of an over aggressive police department. Whether that perception is right or wrong, it is in the air. It exists. Is that something that will ever be addressed?

Personally, I do appreciate the results of the investigation being shared with the public and am basically willing to leave it at that and move on. But I can see why many folks continue to be frustrated. I don't necessarily think it would take a lot for disillusioned people to regain trust and respect for the CDA PD, but a healthy serving of blunt honesty, openness and directness would be a great start.