

## **Mr. Sneed responds to question: Have you thanked a police officer recently**

First let me preface my comment, I have the utmost respect for our law enforcement professionals. I have several good friends who work and have worked as police officers with both the county and city. One friend who has worked his way up through the ranks from patrol deputy to Major in the Sheriff's Dept. I've known for over thirty years. The tragic events of this last week makes a person realize the risk these men and women take every day when they go to work. Myself, due to the respect I have for the law and those who would enforce the law, I have never had any type of run in with law enforcement. I say this only to say I have no grudge or have a personal ax to grind with any law enforcement officer or agency.

To answer the question, no, I have not told any officers how much I appreciate what they do. Those people I know in law enforcement I have expressed my appreciation for what they do. But, I believe the officers who are on the street every day do not wish to be approached by total strangers just to be thanked for the job they do.

The attitude of, not all, but most police officers is that, if you are not one of them then you are most likely a criminal and they look at everyone as a suspect of something. So when the average person approaches them about anything, they feel threatened and immediately take a defensive posture. Last summer I approached an officer before the 4th of July parade to let him know a traffic barrier was not put into place to block traffic and cars were driving through where people were set up to watch the parade. As I came up to the police officer from the front, I didn't sneak up behind him or anything like that, he saw me coming, he chose to chastise me in front of my wife and family and everyone else who was there. I only use this example to say that our officers are unapproachable for the most part. However, I still respect our officers and I do appreciate the work they do and always hope they will come home to their family at the end of their shift.