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Night-Time Traffic Enforcement and Enhanced Quality of Life Details

<http://www.northjersey.com/opinion/opinion-letters-to-the-editor/the-record-letters-thursday-aug-25-1.1650191>

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to help clarify some points made in Mr. Alfred Doblin's column of August 22, 2016 titled: *In Paterson, residents are connected to the matrix.*

There seems to be some confusion regarding our night-time enforcement initiative, which I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify.

Throughout my tenure as Police Director loud music, disorderly conduct, double parking, urinating in public, panhandling, blocked intersections, the obstruction of public passageways, prostitution and various incidents of careless driving have been among some of the most consistent complaints made by residents. All of these issues are significant contributing factors to a community's overall quality of life, and it is my duty and obligation to be responsive to those concerns and provide solutions.

In formulating a response, it is my belief that the residents of Paterson deserve a coherent plan and decisive action, and so I decided to step-up enforcement initiatives such as "*hot-Spot policing, expanded traffic details, improved code-enforcement and business curfews*"...as part of an overall strategy to help make Paterson a safer city. Enhanced enforcement of street-level activity often leads to a corresponding decrease in more serious crimes, similar to what was achieved by New York City during the 1990's, something that I was a part of as a former NYPD officer. Since the onset of these initiatives we have seen a 45% decrease in the number of homicides and an overall 12% reduction in the number of violent crimes, including a 79% reduction of criminal activity within targeted hot-spot zones.

The expansion of the Traffic Division's hours to include a night detail was something that had been discussed and planned several months prior to any issues related to the city budget and the recent passage of the tax levy by the city council. To suggest that it was part of a financial

strategy to cover budgetary deficiencies is simply misguided. Naturally, an increase in enforcement efforts would correspond to short-term increases in revenue through the additional fines generated. It is also true that from a long term perspective any additional revenue produced is temporary at best, since once greater compliance is achieved the amount of summonses issued likewise subsides.

To that end, it is important to note that utilizing summonses as a planned form of revenue generating tool would be tantamount to having quotas, something contrary to my sworn obligation as leader of a law enforcement agency and contrary to NJSA 40A:14-181.2, which states in part, "That police ticket quotas for motor vehicle violations are prohibited and are only permitted for use in statistics. Any such arrests or citations, and their ultimate dispositions, may be considered in evaluating the overall performance of a law enforcement officer.

Mr. Doblin's reference to the movie the Matrix, pardon the pun, should really be about metrics and fails to consider the real numbers and real time crime statistics that we have compiled which directly affect people's lives.

Leaving aside political passions, it is important to note that the residents of Paterson deserve plausible action plans not references to science fiction movies.

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