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Everyone has a right to raise their children in the manner they see fit. All of us have different sets of values and beliefs; however, the one thing we’re immersed together in is culture and the laws of our society.

Over the past few years, most of us are aware of police incidents that many people have found disturbing to watch when they are caught on video. In some instances, it is truly disturbing and other times it is actually justified based on the underlying facts or background information not initially revealed.

The purpose of this column isn’t to stir up emotions for one side of the political aisle or the other, or to convince you of any particular point of view. It is to enlighten you on a perspective that can protect your children.

There are injustices here and there. There are evil people here and there. In every profession there is a “bad apple” somewhere. We can only hope that the leaders and managers of those professions engage and weed them out. All they can do is either prevent those “bad apples” from “getting in the barrel” or they can hold them accountable and deny them the opportunity to ever carry out a disgraceful act again. Nonetheless, when it comes to the police, the time to discern whether the police officer is a “bad apple” or not, or to retaliate with

## If you want to protect your child, teach them respect

a sour attitude or bad behavior, is not when you are commanded to “put your hands up.”

David Clarke, former Sheriff of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, from 2002 to 2017, recently spoke about the matter. (By the way, Sheriff Clarke is a black man and understands the challenges associated with being a person of color.) There is much wisdom in his words. Here is what he said:

“It’s not the police who need to be retrained, it’s the public. We have grown into a mouthy, mobile phone wielding, vulgar, uncivil society with no personal responsibility and the attitude of ‘it’s the other person’s fault, you owe me’. A society where children grow up with no boundaries or knowledge or concern for civil society and personal responsibility.

When an officer says, ‘Put your hands up,’ then put your hands up! Don’t reach for something in your pocket, your lap, your seat. There’s plenty of reason for a police officer to feel threatened. There have been multiple assaults and ambushes on police officers lately. Comply with requests from the officer, have your day in court. Don’t mouth off, or fight, or refuse to comply--that escalates the situation.

Police officers are our sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters. They’re black, white, brown, all colors, all ethnicities, all faiths, male and female, they are us. They see the

worst side of humanity--the raped children, the bloody mangled bodies of traffic victims, the bruised and battered victims of domestic violence, homicide victims, body parts--day after day.

They work holidays while we have festive meals with our families. They miss school events with their kids, birthdays, anniversaries--all those special occasions that we take for granted. They work in all types of weather, under dangerous conditions, for relatively low pay.

They have extensive training, but they are human. When there are numerous attacks on them, they become hyper vigilant for a reason--they have become targets. When a police officer encounters any person, whether at a traffic stop, a street confrontation, an arrest, whatever, that situation has the potential to become life threatening. You, mister and misses, miss civilian, also have the responsibility of keeping the situation from getting out of control.

Many law enforcement officers are Veterans. They’ve been in service to this nation most of their lives, whether on the battlefield or protecting us here at home. They are the only thing that stands between us and anarchy in the streets.

If you want to protect your child, teach them respect.”

- Sheriff David Clarke

~ The End ~