

January 20, 2022

I am a PROPONENT of HB 2133

Chairman Owens and the House Corrections and Juvenile Committee Members:

The house I currently live in was previously a rental property. In any given week I receive numerous pieces of personal mail, bills and advertisements addressed to the prior renters. One lady in particular (I will call her Jane) is a frequent flyer in my mailbox. Tossing aside her mail is frustrating at best but more alarming are the personal visits from government officials in search of Jane. Last year alone we were visited by a member of Children's Services, an employer looking for the whereabouts of Jane and an armed Sheriff's Deputy attempting to issue a summons.

Another interesting incident happened last year, not to my family but to a family in Minnesota. A little after 6:00 am on a February morning, a single mother, home with her pre-teenaged daughter and friend were awakened to the chaos of screaming men, breaking locks and smashing doors. Flashlights and guns in their faces, the occupants were zip tied by police conducting a No Knock Raid. Unfortunately, the police were unable to apprehend their intended suspect. The raid was conducted on the wrong house; the address for the suspect was an old address on file with the court. Luckily, nobody was seriously injured during the raid but this is not always the case. Breonna Taylor's case comes to mind. This Minnesota family could have easily suffered the same fate if they were armed or attempted to protect themselves from these unknown intruders.

No Knock Raids are one of the most catastrophic tools in the "War on Drugs" arsenal. They abruptly insert violence into a non-violent situation. Unsuspecting families are terrorized hundreds of times every year in this manner. We only give national press coverage to the most outrageous or politically advantageous incidents. The only thing that differentiates a 12 member SWAT team from a group of domestic terrorists is government funding. This is terrorism. And afterwards? Qualified Immunity protects the police from retribution and enables them to continue this reign of terror.

Consider an event when police do make a raid on the correct house. Is the very real possibility of multiple fatalities worth it, to catch a bad guy in his sleep? Are the war zone tactics and countless dollars of taxpayer money spent on training, arming and payroll worth it, to pin drug charges on the lowest men on the totem pole? Why continue to use a chainsaw when a scalpel will do the job?

Our Minnesota suspect actually did have a current address on file with the court system. The wrong house did not need to be raided. Little to no due diligence was done

by either the police department or the judge who signed off on the warrant to raid. This is the norm, not the exception. There are rarely consequences for errors of this magnitude so why even bother with accuracy? When will the SWAT team show up at my house looking to finally take custody of Jane? I hope to God that my testimony is not prophetic. No citizen is immune from this, not you and not me, unless we put an end to it.

In Liberty,

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