



There Should Be No Exceptions Made to Chokehold Ban

Yet again, the Fire and Police Commission will be bring up and discussing possible exemptions to the chokehold ban. BLOC supports a full chokehold ban with no exceptions. The police union wants an exception to the ban in case the officer feels like their lives are in immediate danger. Police want flexibility to use lethal force in case they feel threatened. The problem with that exception to a ban, is that “feeling threatened” is subjective. The officer that shot Jacob Blake said he felt threatened even though Jacob was actively walking away. Instead of having the flexibility to use a tactic that has been known to be deadly, how about police deescalate the situation? Apparently 12 year old Tamir Rice was a threat. 13 year old Adam Toledo was apparently a threat and they lost their lives. If cops are scared of 12 and 13 year olds, then they don't have any business being cops.

Just a few weeks ago Lt. Nazario had his hands up inside a car while cops had guns drawn and when he said he was scared and felt threatened, and the officer with his gun drawn said “You should be. So we can fear for our lives and feel threatened as residents but police can never feel threatened on a job they signed up for.

The pain and trauma we have all collectively witnessed not just over the last year but the last several generations have all led us to this moment. It is unconscionable to make any exceptions to a ban that sparked a year of protests. By adding this subjective language, you can guarantee that this will be abused. Police officers have routinely abused the power they already have and do not need any more flexibility, in fact the opposite needs to happen. Expanding the flexibility to further murder and traumatize our communities is a slap in the face to everyone who had their hearts ripped out by watching the murder of George Floyd on video. You have the ability to stand up and prevent another George Floyd.

Police prioritize their own protection and safety. Why are we not offered that same chance? What does the community do when they feel threatened by those same people who are supposed to protect and serve us?