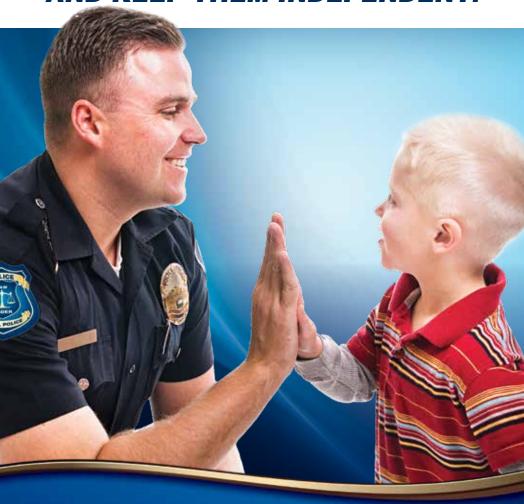
# SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE

AND KEEP THEM INDEPENDENT!



The John Birch Society

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## INTRODUCTION

Police officers. We see them everywhere. Police officers serve the interests of the community. You might even know several of them on a first name basis. They serve municipalities, counties, and states.

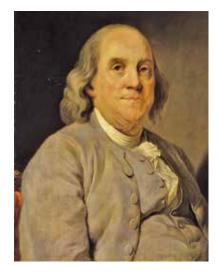
Their function is to enforce the laws to keep us safe at our homes, local high schools, football games, parks, county fairs, downtown, and on the highways.

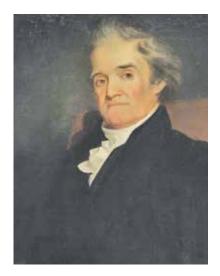
There are an estimated 12,575 local police departments in the United States. The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has a locally controlled law enforcement system managed by locally elected officials at the town, city, and county level.

The jurisdictional overlap of the many local police departments and various other law enforcement agencies is an essential component of the checks and balances that have made this country a free and prosperous republic for over 200 years.

Following the proceedings of the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, a woman approached Benjamin Franklin and asked him what form of government the convention delegates had created. Franklin replied, "A Republic, ma'am if you can keep it."







**Ben Franklin** 

**Noah Webster** 

John Adams, our nation's second president, defined a republic as "a government of laws, and not of men." In our constitutional republic, the U.S. Constitution serves as the law, which both government and citizens must obey. Its main feature is limitation of the federal government's powers.

To help ensure the independence of local and state governments, the Founding Fathers strictly limited the powers of government at the federal level and reserved those "powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution" to the individual States, or to the people, as stated in the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution.

In his famous *An American Dictionary of the English Language* published in 1828, Noah Webster, a renowned lexicographer and reformer of English spelling, recognized the locality of police in his definition of a police-officer: "An officer entrusted with the execution of the laws of a city."

Locally controlled police are the hallmark of a free society. Ultimately, there are just two types of police. The first is locally controlled police. The second is nationally controlled police, who serve the national government, not the citizens.

## HISTORY: FROM REPUBLIC TO REICH

Philosopher George Santayana once wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Sadly, too many today are forgetting the past, condemning all of us to suffer repeats of its errors.

Following the Treaty of Versailles, which formally ended the First World War, Imperial Germany was restructured into a republic, the Weimar Republic.

The birth of the new German republic coincided with the birth of a now infamous political party: The National Socialist German Workers' Party or Nazi Party.

On January 30, 1933, after 15 years of planning, Nazi party leader Adolf Hitler was sworn in as Chancellor of Germany. On February 27, 1933, the German parliament building, known as the Reichstag, was burned down in a horrific fire. Debate still rages about whether the fire was caused by a terrorist member of the Communist Party of Germany (as the Nazis claimed) or by the Nazis themselves. Nevertheless, the fire provided Hitler with the perfect excuse for overthrowing the German republic.



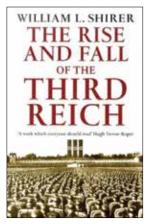
Reichstag fire, Germany

A month after the fire, the Nazi government enacted passage of the "Enabling Act of 1933" that consolidated much of the country's power into Hitler's hands. As a result of this act, the German peoples' civil liberties were lost and Hitler was soon named leader of the German Reich and People, or Führer. This was just the beginning of Germany's descent from freedom to fascism

Hitler and his Nazi Party companions understood that for tyranny to thrive, they must first place local police under central government control and then replace it with a national police force.

In *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, American historian William Shirer identified the point at which Germany became a Nazi dictatorship:

On June 19, 1936, for the first time in German history, a unified police was established for the



whole of the Reich-previously the police had been organized separately by each of the states – and Himmler was put in charge as Chief of the German Police. This was tantamount to putting the police in the hands of the S.S., which since its suppression of the Roehm 'revolt' in 1934 had been rapidly increasing its power. It had become not only the single armed branch of the party, not only the elite from whose ranks the future leaders of the new Germany were being chosen, but it now possessed the police power. The Third Reich, as is inevitable in the development of all totalitarian dictatorships, had become a police state.

Many wonder how German citizens could just stand by and let this happen. Like the frog in the pot, the water slowly heats until the frog realizes it is being cooked. But by that point it is often too late. As noted below, a police state cannot come into existence in one fell swoop; it must be established through a series of transitional steps. Even in the case of Germany under Hitler's rule, it took several years for Hitler to establish his police state. In order to prevent a repetition of the past, we must consider how a police state might be established in America.

## A POLICE STATE IN AMERICA?

The United States is virtually unique in that it has not turned its system of local law enforcement into a national police force. But for one moment, imagine how the transformation would occur if it were to happen here.

In order for our nation's state and local police to be nationalized, an array of transitional steps, such as the following, would be needed.

- **1. CRISIS.** Regardless of whether a crisis is real or fabricated, awareness about it would be enough to sway public opinion in support of immediate government action. This would provide for the acceptance of "solutions" to perceived threats that would otherwise be unacceptable to society.
- **2. AID.** Incapable of dealing with the crisis, local police would accept aid from the military or in the form of funding, grants, and equipment from the federal government. This would eventually translate into the permanence of the "helping hand" of the federal government followed by controls.
- **3. LEGISLATION.** New crisis-targeting laws would be passed. These would place requirements on local law enforcement to adopt measures that would overturn the traditional role of police as local servants and protectors of the community and/or that would also ignore long-standing constitutional limitations and protections. Discontent would slowly develop, fostering animosity between the people and the police.
- **4. PROPAGANDA.** A propaganda campaign would be started by radical groups to discredit local law enforcement. Incidents would also be exploited to depict all policemen as "brutal" or "racist."
- **5. INDOCTRINATION.** As all of this would be happening, the federal government would begin training local police to respond to and prevent future crises, similar to the initial one. This federal training would have two main goals: (1) train local police how to use (and rely) on equipment and tactics coming from the federal government, and (2) indoctrinate local police with information from the federal government about individuals labeled "extremists" or "domestic threats."
- **6. IMPLEMENTATION.** The gradual implementation of these steps would continue to a point where the local police, for all practical purposes, would become an arm of a national police force beholden, not to the people, but to the national government. The people would eventually become conditioned to believe in the need for greater federal government control over their lives and local police.
- **7. NATIONALIZATION.** At this point, a true national police force would become a reality. Local police departments would be assimilated

into a national police force, which would take full charge of the responsibilities and duties of previously local-and state-controlled law enforcement agencies.

The new national police force would supersede local authority and would supervise law enforcement for the whole country. What was initially thought to be temporary would become permanent.

These steps could occur quickly or over an extended period. The actual course would depend on the intensity of the crisis and the awareness of the people.

Let us make one thing clear, as the old saying goes, "there's no such thing as a free lunch," meaning that there is always a price to pay. The same applies to "free" help from federal agencies, particularly when supplied to local police departments. The payment usually comes in the form of more federal control or an eventual police state.

Here are the danger signs that a police state is emerging in America through the seven transitional steps discussed previously.

**1. CRISIS.** On September 11, 2001, a series of suicide attacks using commercial airlines targeted the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

This was the single deadliest day in U.S. law enforcement history. Seventy-two police officers were killed responding to the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

In 2014 and 2015 the riots in Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore, Maryland, in response to alleged police brutality caused major civil unrest. Although these riots were localized to two cities, they led to sympathy demonstrations in numerous cities around the nation.



**2. AID.** Following the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the federal government began providing significant funding and technical assistance to support the establishment of fusion centers where federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel cooperate in response to terrorism and crime.

Following the Ferguson riots in 2014, President Obama announced a \$263 million federal police aid program to fund and train local police forces.



**3. LEGISLATION.** Within a little over a month after the 9/11 attacks, Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed the Patriot Act, which authorized warrantless searches and wiretaps, as well as many other invasions of privacy.

The following year, in November 2002, Congress passed and President Bush signed the Homeland Security Act, which authorized the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

In September of 2014, following the Ferguson riots, the federal government initiated *The National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice*. The Justice Department announced that a three-year, \$4.75 million grant would fund a pilot program in six U.S. cities. This initiative would develop and deploy federal guidance for local police.



Furthermore, over the past two decades Congress has provided more than \$14 billion to the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to advance "community policing," including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of more than 127,000 police officers.

**4. PROPAGANDA.** Many radical groups have emerged over the years with a campaign against local police, such as the ANSWER coalition, New Black Panther Party, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Revolutionary Communist Party, and the Universal Zulu Nation.

In 2011, the Party for Socialism and Liberation officially stated:

Police brutality is a symptom of the capitalist disease. Socialist revolution is the cure.

In 2014 as discontent toward the government among these groups increased, they have exploited alleged cases of police "brutality." As could have been predicted, all five groups mentioned above were on hand to inflame the riots in Ferguson and Baltimore in 2014-15.

**5. INDOCTRINATION.** In order to share information and work closely with local law enforcement, the Department of Homeland Security has created Fusion Centers.

Fusion Centers are information and analysis dispensers that serve as transmission belts from the federal government to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments and private sector partners for the gathering and sharing of threat-related information. Since their creation in 2003, at least 77 known fusion centers have been set up throughout the country.

In 2009, one such fusion center, the Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC), released its now infamous MIAC Strategic Report, entitled, "The Modern Militia Movement."

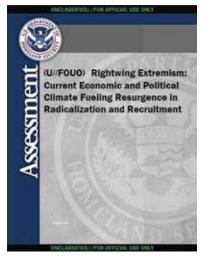
This report, given to local police, sheriffs, and other law enforcement agencies in the state of Missouri, warned that individuals who display political paraphernalia supportive of the 2008 presidential candidates Ron Paul, Chuck Baldwin, and Bob Barr are potential domestic terrorists. Again that same year, the DHS released its own official report, entitled "Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment" (left).

This report, which was distributed to local law enforcement agencies



throughout the country, warned that "disgruntled military veterans" returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars could join "extremist groups." Additionally, the report stated:

Rightwing extremism in the United States can be broadly divided into those groups, movements, and adherents that are primarily hate-oriented ... and those that are mainly antigovernment, rejecting federal authority in favor of state or local authority, or rejecting government authority entirely. It may include groups and individuals



that are dedicated to a single issue, such as opposition to abortion or immigration.

Does this describe you? Are you focused on a single issue of concern about what is happening in this country? Do you oppose abortion or illegal immigration? If you answered yes, then according to the DHS you are a rightwing extremist and thus a potential threat to the security of the country.

Reports such as these are used to train and educate our local police. But who

is supplying the intelligence? A leading source of intelligence for these MIAC and DHS reports is the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). However, a fairly brief online investigation of SPLC will reveal it to be a very biased, leftwing interest group.

**6. IMPLEMENTATION.** In the years since passage of the Patriot Act, Congress has reauthorized and extended it several times. Congress has also continued to provide funds to the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Justice COPS Programs for direct financial aid to local police as well as providing them with real or

questionable threat intelligence.

Then, on December 18, 2014, following the Ferguson riots, President Obama signed an Executive Order establishing the *President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing*, which reveals the federal strategy for implementing a national police force by imposing federal "standards" on state and local police.

The federal Justice Department and its COPS program will take the lead in working with local police chiefs and local elected officials to get them to adopt federal guidelines for "best practices," etc. When the task force released its first report on March 2, 2015, President Obama said that this

federal initiative will "really transform how we think about community law enforcement relations." Which is to say that all of this activity will be leading to federal management of local police forces.



**7. NATIONALIZATION.** The "Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing" (released May 18, 2015) provided further detail on how our nation's local police forces are to be nationalized.

In the concluding section of this "Final Report" entitled "Implementation," Recommendation 7.3 states:

The U.S. Department of Justice should charge its Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) with assisting the law enforcement field in addressing current and future challenges.

This recommendation reveals that the federal COPS program will be taking the lead in nationalizing local police forces. Following this recommendation, a series of bullet points explain how the COPS program will accomplish this. Here are a few examples (Emphasis added to highlight how all of this activity is intended to *nationalize* local police.):

- Create a *National Policing Practices and Accountability Division* within the COPS Office.
- Establish *national benchmarks and best practices* for federal, state, local, and tribal police departments.

- Provide technical assistance and funding to *national*, state, local, and tribal *accreditation bodies* that evaluate policing practices.
- Recommend additional [national] benchmarks and best practices for state training and standards boards.
- Provide technical assistance and funding to state training boards to help them meet national benchmarks and best practices in training methodologies and content.
- POLICE

  FEDERAL

  PROTECTIVE
  SERVICE
- Prioritize grant funding to departments meeting [national] benchmarks.
- Support departments through an expansion of the [national] COPS Office Collaborative Reform Initiative.
- Provide support to *national police leadership associations* and *national rank and file organizations* to encourage them to implement task force recommendations.
- Work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to ensure that community policing tactics in state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies are incorporated into their role in [national] homeland security.



As you read the bullet points above, notice how every one of these recommended actions by the federal COPS program will serve to *nationalize* local police.

Although this review of the current status in the United States of the seven steps generally required to nationalize local police forces doesn't tell us exactly when this nationalization process will be complete, it does reveal

that the forces promoting nationalization have made a great deal of progress since 2001, and especially in 2014-15.

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH NATIONAL POLICE?

Would having a national police force be so bad? After all, don't we already have police at the state level? What would be so wrong with adding another layer of police at the national or federal level?



We already have a partial national layer, in the form of U.S. Marshals (1789), the FBI (1908), the Military Police Corps (1941), and the Federal Protective Service (1971).

U.S. Marshals and the FBI serve a specific function in apprehending criminals who cross state lines or break federal laws. The Military Police Corps is limited to law enforcement within the U.S. armed services.

When we refer to the dangers of national police, or urge support of

independent local police, we are not advocating the elimination of the FBI and U.S. Marshals; rather we want to prevent the consolidation of all police departments, including our local police, into a single national police force.

If the transition from local police forces to a national police force is ever accomplished, then bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. would









Heinrich Himmler (left), Mexican Police (middle), and Russian National Police (right).

dictate the number of police officers and the amount and type of equipment allotted for your local community, as well as mandating detailed police policies for all local communities in the service of national objectives.

This is why The John Birch Society named its campaign "Support Your Local Police and *Keep Them Independent*." We do not want to see local police departments, county sheriffs, state police, U.S. Marshals, and the FBI merged into a single national police force that would be controlled by one federal government agency and tasked with the responsibility of enforcing the laws and regulations of the national government.

Why change something that has worked so well? Simple: there is no need to fix what is not broken.

History has proven that when a country transforms its local law enforcement into a national police force, freedom is greatly diminished.

Under such a national system, police serve the national government rather than the local people. Societies that have national or secret police forces are those with autocratic or totalitarian governments where the state deems it necessary to repress the people.

In *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Empire*, author Brian Crozier notes that following the October Revolution of 1917:

The Marxist revolutionaries were in power, but their hold on it was still precarious. It would be necessary to enforce and perpetuate it with suitable ruthlessness. To do so, on December 20 Lenin made a decision of major and enduring importance: he set up the ancestor of what would become the KGB, under the cumbersome title of All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for the Struggle against Counter-Revolution and Sabotage. It was thereafter known as the *Cheka*, from two of its lengthy set of initials... On the preceding day, December 19, Lenin had picked his man—the Polish born Felix Dzerzhinsky, at that time the commandant of Smolny—to run what would become the most ruthless and pervasive instrument of repression in the world. The ultimate fanatic was now firmly in power, with his hand-picked enforcer to keep him there.

From 1917 to 1991, the Cheka/KGB served as the principal state security body for the Soviet Union, tasked with both intelligence and police law enforcement.

National police, like those empowered in the Soviet Union, were, as Crozier noted, used to ruthlessly repress the people, not to serve or protect them.

In order for our freedom as Americans to endure, it is essential that we support our local police and keep them independent.

## A LOOK BACK: JBS HISTORY AND VICTORY

For nearly 50 years, The John Birch Society has been at the forefront of supporting local police and thwarting efforts to nationalize police forces. The Society first launched its "Support Your Local Police" (SYLP) program during the tumultuous era of the 1960s.

There is an ancient Chinese curse that says "may you live in interesting times." The 1960s were such times. Extensive riots, antiwar demonstrations, hard drugs, free love and sex, had all permeated American society.

## **Civilian Police Review Boards**

In the 1960s, radical leftwing agitators would incite police to take actions against them in order to cite such actions as proof of "police brutality." They would then use these provoked incidents as a springboard for creating local grassroots pressure on their city government to establish civilian police review boards.

City government officials would respond in many cases by setting up a civilian review board and appointing allies of the local agitators as members of the board. Thus, this tactic replaced local control of the police by *elected officials* with control of the police by *appointed officials* who were usually sympathetic with the agitators. This tactic had been designed from the beginning by radical anti-police groups to gain control of and neutralize local police.

In 1966, while writing about the dangers of civilian police review boards, former FBI official and former police chief of Salt Lake City Dr. Cleon Skousen stated:

The idea was to somehow get the police out from under the control of elected officials and subject the police to the discipline of a "civilian" group which the [Communist] Party could infiltrate and control.

Civilian police review boards were used by such radicals to hamper the work of local police through the imposition of restrictions that essentially made the job of policing more difficult.

Such restrictions have resulted in the courts taking action against police. "The courts seem determined to protect the offender by putting legal handcuffs on the police instead of the rapist, killer, and robber," said a police official.

## The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

The federal government responded to the rise of civil unrest, reports of alleged "police brutality," and the creation of civilian police review boards as indications of the need for federal intervention. Consequently,



**President Lyndon Johnson** 

Congress created the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA).

The LEAA was established through passage of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 signed into law by President Johnson.

The measure was created "to assist State and local governments in reducing the incidence of crime, to increase the effectiveness, fairness, and coordination of law enforcement and criminal justice systems at all levels of government."

In 1969, during its first full year of operation, the LEAA's budget was \$63 million. As the "War on Crime" expanded, so did the LEAA's funding. By 1975, the LEAA had distributed over \$3.4 billion to local law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

Along with this aid, the LEAA attached additional regulations and controls over local police departments with the intention of either replacing them or transforming them into a unified national police force.

As unlikely as this may appear, let us for a moment consider the remarks of LEAA Administrator Charles H. Rogovin, who stated:

If local law enforcement fails, then something else will replace it. I do not raise the specter of a federal police force merely to frighten you. Look at the organized crime field. We now see a substantial federal effort there – and not simply because organized crime is interstate in nature. It is also because local law enforcement has failed to do its job.

As a result of these developments, The John Birch Society's "Support Your Local Police" committees expanded their efforts from just supporting local police to also helping keep them independent from the federal government and the LEAA. At the same time, the official motto of these committees was lengthened to "Support Your Local Police and Keep Them Independent!"

## **SYLP Victories**

The national network of SYLP committees witnessed a number of victories throughout the 1960s and 1970s. One of their most significant successes came in New York City, as reported by JBS Founder Robert Welch in the December 1966 JBS *Bulletin*:

[T]he way such educational efforts can eventually produce results at the polls was never shown more clearly than by the vote on this question in New York on November 8. In a state in which Nelson Rockefeller was being reelected governor, in a city of which John Lindsay is mayor, and despite



**Robert Welch** 

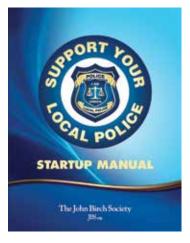
everything the whole Leftwing could do in opposition, the proposal for a Civilian Police Review Board was buried under an avalanche of protest. This was because, by this time, and on this subject, enough people understood what was at stake.

The New York City Civilian Police Review Board had been defeated by the very large margin of 63 to 36 percent.

During the campaign, according to Mr. Welch in the May 1978 *Bulletin*, "at least six hundred members of the New York City police force had been working with tremendous diligence for months on this educational effort, either as members of, or in support of, our local Committee."

So as you can see, even police, such as the NYPD, have supported the efforts of the SYLP committees.

In addition to stopping the creation of many local civilian police review boards, the JBS and its SYLP committees urged members many times from 1969 to 1982 to contact their Representative and Senators, urging them to defund and abolish the LEAA. These efforts paid off in 1982 when Congress finally cut off all funding to the LEAA, thus abolishing it.



Although this was a very significant victory for the JBS and its SYLP committees at the time, the nationalization of police activities of the LEAA eventually morphed into the Office of Justice Programs within the Department of Justice where the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program is now taking the lead in nationalizing local police.

You can be a part of this history and defeat the federal government's current efforts to nationalize local police by

joining or forming an SYLP Committee in your area.

### **Act Now**

Contact the JBS Field Coordinator for your area and tell him of your intention to join or form an SYLP committee.

If you do not know who the Coordinator for your area is, you can find out by calling 1-800-527-8721 or by going to JBS.org. In the top right corner of the JBS.org homepage, click on "Act Now." This will take you to a page where you can type in your zip code under the heading "Act Locally" to find out who the JBS Field Coordinator is for your area. Once you call or e-mail your Coordinator, ask about either joining or forming a committee in your community.

Forming an SYLP committee in your community is the most effective way to support your local police force or sheriff.

The SYLP *Startup Manual* (available from your JBS Field Coordinator) provides a detailed outline about how you can effectively start and develop a local SYLP committee.

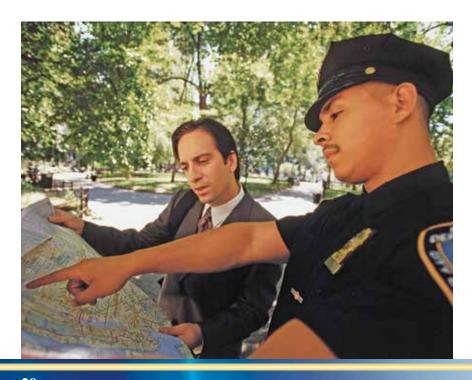
It will be up to you and your SYLP committee to: (1) help your community and county resist the temptation for increased federal government funding for, and power over, your local police and

sheriff, regardless of the crisis; (2) help your community influence the county sheriff and state legislators to interpose between the federal government's police nationalization programs and your local police forces to keep your local police independent; and (3) help your community and local area influence Congress to stop funding the federal programs that are nationalizing our local police forces.

Freedom and power are rarely returned to those who lose it or give it up. Local police are essential to a free republic. This is why it is important that you support them and keep them independent.

Do not let future generations look back and say nothing was done as the federal government gradually eroded the independence of our local police and sheriffs and eventually snuffed out our freedom.

Responsibility for justice in any community is a two-way street. The police need to be accountable to local citizens, and local citizens need to Support Your Local Police — *And Keep Them Independent!* 



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How Can You Keep Your

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The John Birch Speary

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Police are facing a regular storm: They are accused of being too well armed, too menacing, too abusive, and too deadly. We examine the claims, the underlying problems, and the suggested solutions. (September 21, 2015, 48pp, 1/\$3.95; 10/\$15.00; 25/\$31.25) TNA150921



## Sheriffs and Legislators — Reprint

Federal government officials, especially President Barack Obama, are working to undo Second Amendment protections, but state and local officials are planning to nullify any anti-gun efforts in their states. (2013, 8pp, 1-99/ \$.05ea; 100+/ \$.03ea) RPSAL



## Support Your Local Police — Booklet

This booklet provides detailed information on the essential role locally controlled police play in the preservation of our freedom. It examines signs that we are at risk of losing our freedom due to the ongoing transformation of our system of local police into a national police force. (2015ed, 21pp, pb booklet, 1/\$2.95; 10-24/\$2.00ea; 25-49/\$1.50ea; 50-99/\$1.00ea; 100-999/\$0.75ea; 1,000+/\$0.50ea) BKLTSYLP

SYLP — Bumper Sticker (1/\$1.00; 10-24/\$0.85ea; 25-99/\$0.75ea; 100+/0.50ea) BSSYLP





## Support Your Local Police Window Clings

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