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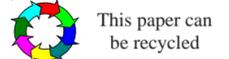


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RAPPIN' Thomas Wyatt

He Said It, I Didn't!

See, I know some of you think I'm out of mind. Some of you believe I'm "talkin' out the side of my neck" on issues I feel are deeply effecting our community. But I also know some of you agree with me wholeheartedly because "we're here!"

Whichever way you're leaning; it's all good. I respect your opinion, whichever side of the fence you're on.

By now, I'm sure most of you are aware of the Casey White and Vicky White manhunt that ended this week in Indiana. Vicky White was an assistant director of corrections for the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office in Alabama. She broke a convicted murderer out of prison and attempted to make a daring escape to Canada. She died when law enforcement closed in and captured her and Mr. White.

But her boss, Lauderdale County Sheriff Rick Singleton, made three statements that should not, nor ever, go unnoticed; nor be forgotten: 1) "The lesson I've learned, the lesson everybody's learned; you don't know who you can trust." 2) "A policy is a piece of paper, it can't prevent anything." 3) "I've learned you just don't know people sometimes."

Are you surprised to hear this coming from a 15-year career law enforcement official? Let me tell you what I believe.

I believe Sheriff Rick Singleton knew a lot more than he is letting on. And as I have stated before, there is two rules of law: One for them (the people inside law enforcement) and one for us (the people outside law enforcement).

In this case, people knew there was a "special relationship" between Vicky and Casey. People knew that she was breaking rules by giving him extra food and other favors. Not to mention, Mr. Casey White was covered in racist jailhouse tattoos all over his body. Yet, this is the person Vicky White chose to love and spring from prison.

So I ask you, of Sheriff Rick Singleton's statements; how are law enforcement officials supposed to govern us if they can't govern anyone within their own departments?

APD Chief Chacon on no-knock warrants and Prop A



Austin Police Chief Joseph Chacon



By Audrey McGlinchy KUT 90.5

(AUSTIN, TX) - Austin Police Chief Joseph Chacon said he will follow the "will" of voters and ban his officers from using no-knock warrants.

"I think the will of the voters has kind of spoken on this and how, as a community, they feel the police department should be handling this," he told KUT. "My plan is to implement what the city ordinance

says into policy and to fully restrict their use."

Chacon said he thinks he would still have the ability to petition the city's law department to use a no-knock warrant, but he couldn't anticipate a case where he would.

"I and others realize the danger that there is in [using no-knock warrants]," Chacon said.

Police who have a no-knock warrant do not need to announce their presence before entering a property to search it. The use of these kinds of warrants gained national attention in 2020 when police shot and killed Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky., after entering her house while she was sleeping.

Proposition A,

which passed with overwhelming support last weekend, requires Austin police officers to announce their presence and wait 15 seconds before entering a building. Eighty-five percent of voters supported the measure, which also codified an already existing police policy that decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana.

A spokesperson for the city said the proposition will become city law once council members canvas the election results on May 17.

The head of Austin's police union told KUT a day after the vote that because state law dictates the use of search warrants, he believed the department was still entitled

to use no-knock warrants.

"To me [Prop A passing] really doesn't mean anything," Ken Casaday told KUT on Sunday. While the union did not spend any money to oppose Prop A, Casaday has publicly touted the necessity of no-knock warrants in especially dangerous situations.

"If we need to do a [no-knock] search warrant because we have an Austin bomber on the loose, we're still going to do it," he said. "You can't control state law through local elections."

APD began tracking how often it uses no-knock warrants in 2020, after City Council members asked it to. It found police executed only three no-knock warrants last year.

Texas court orders that illegal voting conviction against Crystal Mason be reviewed

by ASHLEY LOPEZ | npr

(npr news) - Texas' highest criminal court on Wednesday ordered a lower court to take another look at the controversial case against Crystal Mason, a Texas woman who was convicted of voting illegally during the 2016 election.

At the time Mason voted, she was on supervised release from prison after serving time on federal tax evasion charges.

Alison Grinter Allen, Mason's attorney, has said Mason had no idea she couldn't vote because she technically hadn't finished her sentence. Mason wasn't on the voter rolls at the time, so she voted using a provisional ballot — which eventually wasn't counted.

But in 2018, Mason was convicted of illegal voting, which was a second-degree felony, and was sentenced to five years of confinement. She's currently out on bond.

According to the ruling from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, when a lower court upheld that conviction, it made a mistake by "failing to require proof that [Mason] had actual knowledge that it was a crime for her to vote while on supervised release."

Tommy Buser-Clancy, a senior staff attorney at

See ACLU, page 3



Crystal Mason

Photo credit: Nitashia Johnson for The New York Times

INSIDE



College coaches, NIL and athletes at a crossroad See PAID Page 2



Church to celebrate Woman's Day See 78TH Page 3



Major cities are exterminating Black residency See REPORT Page 6

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