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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** I find it very disruptive. I heard it and I didn't have to do it. All right. So we'll just begin. Chief, thanks very much for joining us. So on the 4th of July, when you saw what happened in Highland Park, Illinois, as a former police officer, police chief and citizen, what was your reaction?

[00:00:25] **Speaker 2** My reaction was just just utter despair for the people that were there. You don't expect from a law enforcement standpoint and from a citizens standpoint for something like that to happen at a parade. It wasn't you know, it's not an urban center, although it's adjacent to Chicago. You just don't expect that. And I think parents and people in attendance were just in shock.

[00:00:51] **Speaker 1** And so are we all kind of potential targets then at any time for a mass shooter?

[00:00:58] **Speaker 2** Yeah. You know, when you start talking about parades, grocery stores, elementary schools, you just never know where this is going to going to happen. So that is why I know that Congress passed major legislation a few weeks ago on, you know, the whole complex issue of guns and gun safety and mass shootings. But I don't think we're finished with this, not not by a long shot. There's tremendous fear. And this tremendous fear cuts across all kind of boundaries, racial boundaries, religious boundaries, age, you know, where as a as a parent, as a grandparent, you know, because I think every American, when they look at that, they think of themselves and what they would do. They can relate to that because it's happening in common places.

[00:01:55] **Speaker 1** So if we're not finished, what's to be done?

[00:01:59] **Speaker 2** What should be done is I tend to go to gravitate to the people that talk about this is a multifaceted approach. I think splitting it into a dichotomy, saying it's guns or it's mental health does the dialog does not do the dialog any any good at all because it's complex. You take this particular situation, you know, how does a red flag law work? Even when you get down to an and this this this particular situation is still evolving. But we expect a lot from parents and relatives to be the ones that would contact law enforcement and say, hey, look, my child was doing this. This looks out of place. But they also have a loving relationship with their child. And so it's a very complex. No one wants to see their kids in handcuffs. But the question is, no one also does not want to see their kids harm someone or end up in prison for life or even worse.

[00:03:02] **Speaker 1** Meanwhile, we learned after the fact that the suspect in this Highland Park mass shooting made his way to Wisconsin and Madison potentially with some idea of doing something similar here. When you heard that, what did you think?

[00:03:20] **Speaker 2** Well, again, it gets closer, closer to home, so it becomes personal. And so so what I thought was a number of things and things in my from a personal standpoint, I started to think about where we were, where where my sons were, where my grandkids were that day and what we were doing. Could they come into harms place from a law enforcement standpoint? It was, you know, how are they responding? What what are some of the techniques that they're using to respond? Because it's it's not common for a mass shooter to leave the scene. Generally, they are typically they're arrested or there's a, quote unquote, suicide by cop or they're arrested pretty close to the scene. So for someone to leave a mass shooting with that much devastation, make it not only across state lines to another city that that's that's rare. And thank God it's rare. But it it was it was really a tense moment, I think, for a number of people in the area. Well, what.

[00:04:24] **Speaker 1** Do you think about whether or not the populace here should have been warned about that?

[00:04:30] **Speaker 2** Well, I think that is something that that I believe law enforcement the law enforcement agencies should get together and discuss that. How does that happen? Who who notifies the public what information should come out? Because there is a balance. You know, I think everyone understands what you do when you're notified of an Amber Alert. But what what information comes out when you have a mass shooting and you notifying a public. You don't want the public to get too upset and where they're paralyzed and acting. But in this particular case, you want people to take the proper precautions. What were the proper precautions under the scenario?

[00:05:13] **Speaker 1** What is your opinion as former law enforcement of these military style assault rifles in the hands of civilians?

[00:05:23] **Speaker 2** They have no place not in a domestic setting that that that is that is not even in an argument or debate. You the high capacity the ability for human destruction on the body. I understand the Second Amendment. I support the Second Amendment. I understand that so many ways. And it is something that people hold near and dear to. It is a constitutional right. But but I have read the Constitution all the time. And I've I've yet to see a constitutional right to an AK 47.

[00:06:02] **Speaker 1** As a police officer. Do they scare you?

[00:06:06] **Speaker 2** Yes, especially where the trends are going right now. The last 3 to 4 years, more gun purchases, more people wearing possessing them in public places, in public spaces. And here's the downside of where where this is going to go. If you are based upon some of the recent Supreme Court rulings, are you more able to carry open carry your concealed carry? That means the interaction between a police officer and the citizen. That could change the dynamic of what takes place. We have relied on our ability to communicate with citizens, the ability to build a rapport built trust. And if the first thing you're thinking about is, is this person armed all the time, then what do you do? The second thing, from a tactical standpoint, when you have mass shootings and everyone is is armed. Where do you go with that? Or when you have mass shootings and you're looking for the suspect and there are people coming at you better arm. How do you distinguish who is the person of suspect or the person of interest? Because it becomes a more complex and a rapidly evolving situation that officers have to determine.

[00:07:27] **Speaker 1** On another matter, the arrest of the suspect in the Highland Park shooting was described as without incident. People are talking about kind of the stark difference between that arrest of a suspect and a mass murder, essentially, and the arrest of a young black man in Akron, Ohio, who was gunned down during a traffic stop. What do you think of that?

[00:07:55] **Speaker 2** Well, let me first start by saying both of these are still under investigation. But I do think without getting into the specifics of the case, I do think historically and currently with today's social context and what African-Americans in particular believe, there's a question in terms of, you know, how do I respond to police when I'm asked to to stop at a traffic stop or when I'm told to comply? Police officers, on one hand, they have a right to expect that you're going to follow their commands. They have a right to expect that. But when you get situations like what happened six years ago with Philando Castile in Minneapolis, where not only was he complying, but he he was complying with the officer's demands, but he even told the officer that there was a gun in the car. And so he's complying, but he still ends up getting shot. And so that that creates an ambiguity around what do what do I do? You know, do do I comply? If I comply with, I still be shot. And so you should comply. We want people to comply. And I don't want to suggest in any way, shape or form that when just because there's an element of race, that we should go to the lowest common denominator. We should we should treat it should be equal justice under the law, and everyone should be treated the same. I think that is the issue. But historically and with today's social context, I personally and I have relatives, I have friends. There is a bit of confusion, a bit of fear that if I comply, what will happen? If I don't comply, what will happen? And again, that is a dialog that needs to take place seriously, needs to take place between the police and many communities that they serve.

[00:09:59] **Speaker 1** All right. Thank you very.

[00:10:00] **Speaker 2** Much. Thank you.

[00:10:03] **Speaker 1** There's a lot more to talk about there.

[00:10:05] **Speaker 2** Yeah. Yeah, it.

[00:10:06] **Speaker 1** Is. So that I just end it because.