On August 9th, 2014, Michael Brown entered the Ferguson Market at 11:47 a.m. and stole a package of Swisher Sweets. As he did, he shoved the clerk and made his getaway along with his friend, Dorian Johnson. The police were called and officer Darren Wilson, who was nearby responding to another call, made his way to intercept Brown and Johnson.

When Officer Wilson pulled in front of Brown and Johnson in his cruiser, Brown immediately went on the attack, reaching through the driver side window in an attempt to take control of Wilson's firearm. Wilson retained control of his pistol, and Brown began to run away. However, as Wilson got out of his car, Brown turned around and charged Officer Wilson.

The shots fired from Officer Wilson's handgun would not only end Brown's life but spur a national movement and change America forever.

Brown's friend, Dorian Johnson, would tell the media that Brown was on his knees with his hands up, saying, "don't shoot." Johnson would later walk back that statement, but the narrative that grew out of Johnson's lies did not go away. "Hands up, don't shoot," would become a rallying cry among protestors.

In the aftermath of the Michael Brown shooting, animosity towards the police would reach a fever pitch leading to what is now known as the "Ferguson Effect." Basically, the Ferguson Effect says that where there is increased hostility towards the police, crime will go up due to the apprehensiveness police officers may feel doing their job.

Richard Rosenfeld, a St. Louis criminologist, found a 17% increase in homicide in 2015 following the Michael Brown shooting. He also found that the ten cities that saw the most massive increase in homicides—an average of 33%—all had large African-American populations. "The only explanation that gets the timing right is a version of the Ferguson Effect," Rosenfeld would go on to say.

In a 2015 op-ed published in the Wall Street Journal, Heather MacDonald wrote, "Unless the demonization of law enforcement ends, the liberating gains in urban safety over the past twenty years will be lost."

Following the death of George Floyd—protesters once again took to the streets in droves. The movement, led by Black Lives Matter, denounced "systemic racism" and "out-of-control" police brutality.

Prominent politicians and cultural leaders took to social media to announce their solidarity with the protest movement and condemn "systemic racism" in America's police departments. Former President Barack Obama tweeted that it was "tragically, painfully, maddeningly 'normal'" for black Americans to be treated differently by police officers and the justice system.

NBA superstar LeBron James would say in a press conference, "You have no idea how that cop that day left the house. You don't know if he woke up on the wrong side of the bed…Or maybe he just left the house saying that, 'Today is going to be the end for one of these black people.' That's what it feels like. That's what it feels like. It just hurts. It hurts."

Metropolitan areas across America were covered in graffiti that said things like "f*ck 12" (12 is shorthand for the police), "ACAB" (all cops are bastards), and "cop killers are heroes."

The disdain for law enforcement has, perhaps, never been higher, and once again, we are seeing a dramatic rise in crime. According to analysis done by the WSJ, homicides are up 24%, while shooting and gun violence as a whole is also on the rise.

In Chicago, homicides have spiked by over 50% when compared to last year, Philadelphia by over 30%, and New York by 25%, just to name a few.

Due to the pressure but on city officials by the protest movement, mayors and governors in mostly Democrat cities and states have been apprehensive to use law enforcement to quell the chaos in their streets. For example, in Seattle, Democrat Mayor Jenny Durkan refused to disband the "Capitol Hill Organized Protest" zone, and multiple people were shot and killed as a result of her inaction.

The breakdown of law and order spurred on by the protests turned riots, and the degradation of law enforcement has no doubt been a significant factor in the recent crime wave.

In Los Angeles, two deputies were ambushed by a lone gunman and shot at point-blank range. "Protesters" showed up to the hospital where the two deputies were being treated and shouted things like "death to the cops," and "I hope they f*cking die."

The outlook is grim as crime rises as a result of the wide-ranging anti-police sentiment. For many children, the police have always been the symbol of safety—real-life superheroes who put themselves in harm's way every day to keep our communities safe. Police officers were given respect and honor.

Unfortunately, people are being taught to hate the police and that they are the symbol of a racist system. It is going to take a national healing and a realization that the police are our friends to make our cities safe once again. We must STAND WITH THE BLUE in the upcoming elections, if not the America that we know and love may not recover!