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Sent Date: Fri, 24 Jan 2020 07:01:02 -0500 (EST)  
Subject: PERF Daily Clips: Rogue NYPD cops are using facial recognition app Clearview  
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**Friday, January 24, 2020**

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**National News**

**New York Post: Rogue NYPD cops are using facial recognition app Clearview**

Rogue NYPD officers are using facial recognition software that the department's own facial recognition unit doesn't want to touch because of concerns about security and potential for abuse, The Post has learned.

The NYPD's facial recognition unit kicked the fires on a controversial app, Clearview, which has scraped millions of photos from social media to help ID suspects. The department, though, ultimately passed on using it, with one department insider likening the program to "playing with fire."

But that hasn't stopped several dozen cops from outside the department's facial recognition unit from using the app. By snapping a picture of someone and uploading it into the app, a user is provided with public-posted photos of that person in Clearview's database, culled from millions of websites including Facebook.

One fear, a source said, was the potential to abuse the system for extracurricular searches. "It only takes one cop to put in his ex-girlfriend's photo in there and see who she's dating now," said the insider.

On Wednesday, Twitter issued a cease-and-desist order to Clearview, telling it to stop mining the site for photos.

### **New York Times: A new face of white supremacy: plotters expose danger of the 'Base'**

The plans were as sweeping as they were chilling: "Derail some trains, kill some people, and poison some water supplies."

It was the blunt, bloody prescription for sparking a race war by a member of the Base, a white supremacist group that has come under intense scrutiny amid a series of stunning recent arrests.

Federal agents, who had secretly recorded those remarks in a bugged apartment during a domestic terrorism investigation, pounced on seven members of the group last week in advance of a rally on Monday by gun rights advocates in Richmond, Va. Three members of one cell in Maryland affiliated with the group plotted attacks at the rally, hoping to ignite wider violence that would lead to the creation of a white ethno-state, law enforcement officials said.

The details that emerged in court and in documents from active cases in three other states — Georgia, Wisconsin and New Jersey — unveiled a disturbing new face of white supremacy.

### **New York Times: People are calling SWAT teams to tech executives' homes**

Over the first week of November, the police in San Francisco and New York responded to a series of telephone calls claiming that hostages were being held in the homes of Adam Mosseri, a senior Facebook executive.

The calls appeared to be coming from inside the homes. Officers arrived in force and barricaded the streets outside. Twice. But after tense, hours-long standoffs, they realized the calls were hoaxes. There were no hostages, and no one in the homes had called the police.

Mr. Mosseri was one of a number of tech executives who have been targeted recently in so-called swatting incidents. Swatting is online lingo used to describe when people call the police with false reports of a violent crime of some sort inside a home, hoping to persuade them to send a well-armed SWAT team.

These incidents have become more common in communities rich with tech companies and their billionaire executives, like the Bay Area and Seattle, according to six police departments contacted by The New York Times.

### **Associated Press: Feds allow use of opioid funds to stem meth, cocaine surge**

Alarmed by a deadly new twist in the nation's drug addiction crisis, the government will allow states to use federal money earmarked for the opioid epidemic to help growing numbers of people struggling with meth and cocaine.

The little-noticed change is buried in a massive spending bill passed by Congress late last year. Pressed by constituents and state officials, lawmakers of both parties and the Trump administration agreed

to broaden the scope of a \$1.5 billion grant program previously restricted to the opioid crisis. Starting this year states can also use those federal dollars to counter addiction to "stimulants," a term the government uses for methamphetamine and cocaine.

## **Local News**

### **Minneapolis Star Tribune: New gear, new plan: Duluth announces new policy for police use of riot gear**

Duluth announced a policy dictating when police officers can wear protective riot gear, the conclusion to a monthslong process that allowed community members to weigh in on the law enforcement agency's new crowd control protocol.

Starting in February, police will use a four-tiered system to respond to civil disturbances. Only when there are threats of violence to people or property can the chief deem a situation worthy of a Level Four response and instruct officers to don riot gear.

Talk of purchasing new gear to upgrade and replace the city's old and mismatched "crowd control protective equipment" — which in Duluth now consists of a ballistic helmet, a clear shield, a 36-inch baton and protectors for officers' chests, groins, shins and arms — has drawn controversy locally since late 2017, when the almost \$84,000 expense listed on the city budget caught the eyes of residents.

In response to public outcry, city leaders tasked Duluth's Citizen Review Board (CRB) with developing a set of rules laying out circumstances in which riot gear can be deployed, as well as proper processes for doing so.

### **MLive.com: Recreational marijuana stalled in Michigan's largest city as police blame black-market weed for violence**

Detroit is likely to extend a ban on recreational marijuana businesses in Michigan's largest city until at least March 31.

That announcement came on Tuesday, the same day Detroit Police Chief James Craig in statements to the Detroit News blamed black-market marijuana for "most" of the city's increased violence this year, including a total of 17 homicides and 32 nonfatal shootings.

By 2015, there were an estimated 150-plus unlicensed marijuana dispensaries operating inside Detroit's 140-square-mile border. While increased enforcement has impacted the proliferation, many unlicensed businesses continue to operate, whether from brick-and-mortar buildings or otherwise, Detroit police say.

The state Marijuana Regulatory Agency issued medical marijuana dispensary licenses to 42 businesses, but holdups in City Council continue to delay the recreational market.

### **NBC Connecticut: Connecticut State Police create program to help first responders manage PTSD**

The state is taking new measures to help first responders who may be struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

"When you see it on television, that is difficult. It is a lot tougher when you are there," said Sgt. Troy Anderson.

Anderson retired from the Connecticut State Police after more than 20 years of service, but he is coming out of retirement. Anderson is filling a newly created position, heading up a wellness and resiliency program. The veteran law enforcement officer will be tasked with creating programs and finding resources to meet the wellness needs of all six divisions of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

### **KSL Salt Lake City: Salt Lake County program aims to combat the opioid crisis from inside jail**

Salt Lake County has a new strategy to combat the opioid crisis from inside the county's jail.

Speaking at the sheriff's office on Wednesday, Salt Lake County Mayor Jemmy Wilson announced the expansion of the jail's medication assisted treatment program. The new approach seeks to address the opioid epidemic by administering medication designed to treat addiction and providing patients with substance abuse counseling while they are in jail custody.

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### **International News**

#### **The Guardian (UK): Knife crime at record high as overall charge rate falls**

The proportion of recorded crimes in England and Wales that resulted in a suspect being charged or summonsed to court has fallen again, figures reveal, as knife crime surges to a record high.

In the year to March 2019, 7.8% of all recorded offences resulted in a charge or a summons, against 9.1% the previous year, figures on crime outcomes from the Home Office show.

The figures were released after the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its quarterly crime statistics, revealing a 7% rise in offences involving knives or sharp instruments in the year ending September to 44,771 offences, the highest on record. However, there was no change in the number of overall violent offences.

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### **Police Executive Appointments**

#### **Dayton Daily News: Meet University of Dayton's new chief of police**

University of Dayton said Tuesday that Savalas Kidd, a 25-year decorated police veteran, is the new executive director of public safety and chief of police.

Kidd was assistant chief of police since 2017 at the private university of 11,300 students. Kidd will replace Rodney Chatman, who is leaving Feb. 7 to become the chief of police for the University of Utah.

#### **CBS 46 Atlanta: The city of Canton appoints a new police chief**

The city of Canton has sworn in a new police chief.

City Manager Billy Peppers officially named Interim Police Chief Stephen Merrifield as the new Chief of Police.

Chief Merrifield served as the deputy chief for the past five years.

He has been the interim police chief since September 7.

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## **Good News of the Day**

### **Hattiesburg (MS) American: Police officer, seeing kids on streets during patrol, launches after-school program**

When Officer Shkira Burt joined the Lumberton Police Department in 2019, she soon started hearing from members of the community that they wanted to get to know their police officers and first responders.

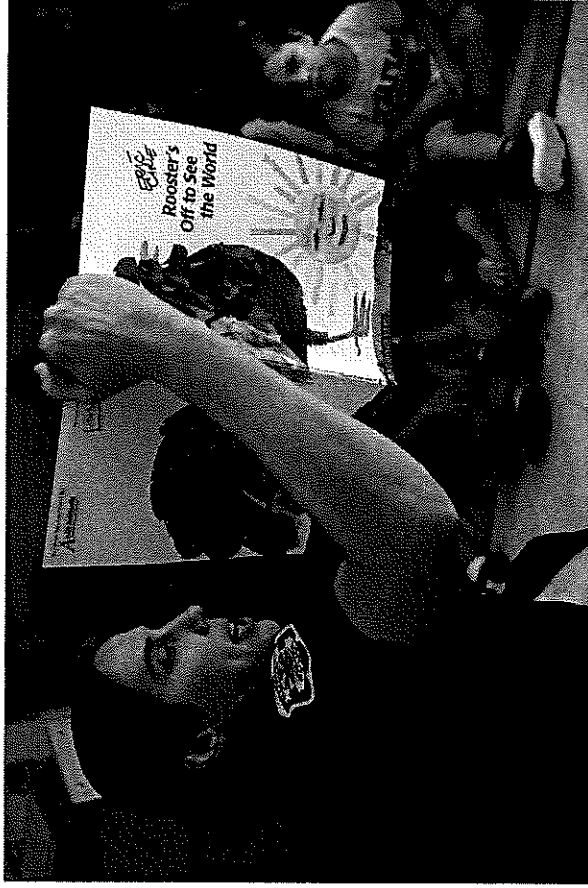
On Nov. 9, Burt put together a "First Responder Meet" with officers, paramedics and firefighters from around the Pine Belt. But she didn't just stop there.

She added a petting zoo, complete with a camel, to keep the children interested.

One hundred people showed up. That's how Burt does things. She goes all the way.

Her latest project is an after-school program for children ages 10-17 called 9th Street Hub.

## **Photo of the Day**



Clearwater Police Department

Lt. Natalia Ilich-Hailey visited Skycrest United Methodist Church as part of the Officer Friendly Book Club, a collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County. Police officers go to

local preschools once a month to read the latest book supplied to us by the coalition. It's a great partnership designed to fuel an early interest in reading. As you can see, the kids love the reading and they love getting the chance to hug and high-five our lieutenant!

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