



City of Lima, Ohio

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Jim Krumel, Editor
The Lima News
3515 Elida Rd.
Lima, OH 45807

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to a column written by Thomas J. Lucente, "Fourth Amendment Under Attack Everywhere," published in the March 10, 2013 edition of The Lima News.

I would first like to thank Mr. Lucente for reminding the Lima Community of the dangerous and – in the view expressed by Mr. Lucente – the thankless job undertaken by all law enforcement officers. The "furtive movements" of which Mr. Lucente complained are exactly the types of movements that result in criminals pulling out guns and shooting at officers in an attempt to kill them. Officers never know what will happen on a traffic stop, especially as in this case, a traffic stop of someone who just came from a suspected drug house, and officers must be prepared for all situations that may arise.

Mr. Lucente's assertion that the officers' actions violated the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution, though, is simply wrong as a matter of law. The judges of Allen County Common Pleas Court and the Third District Court of Appeals, in their individual judicial reviews of the matter (a total of 4 different judges with a combined 149 years of legal experience), confirmed the officers acted in a constitutional manner.

High visibility or saturation patrols in high crime areas are an invaluable tool used by the Lima Police Department in our efforts to reduce crime within Lima's neighborhoods. Mr. Lucente's column demonstrates the effectiveness of these efforts, and our local judges have confirmed the constitutionality of the officers' actions in this instance. This was a job well done by Ptl. Link and Ptl. Harrod, two hard working and dedicated members of the Lima Police Department.

The Lima Police Department will continue to do all that we can to reduce criminal activity within our community and we encourage the residents of Lima to help us. We will be far more successful in our efforts with the public's help.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Martin, CLEE
Chief of Police
Lima Police Department

