

# POLISHING THE BADGE

The Spawn Group, LLC

August 2016

## Contemporary Issues in Law Enforcement and Public Safety.

Welcome to our inaugural edition of *Polishing The Badge* where we discuss today's issues, and progressive approaches to these challenges. We discuss a variety of themes in public safety: Topics ranging from investigation, sex offenders, harm reduction, highway safety, and more.

### Who Are We?

A career cop and a Hollywood television producer make up the husband-and-wife team of The Spawn Group. Mark Spawn is a retired Police Chief and Jeanna Spawn is an experienced producer of various television, film and digital productions. Together, they create audio and video products on many issues which affect law enforcement and public safety. More inside.

---

*"We discuss a variety of issues in public safety. Topics ranging from investigation, sex offenders, harm reduction, highway safety, and more."*

---



### In This Issue

- Supervised Injection Facilities
- The LAPD Museum

Read our inside story about the LAPD Police Museum—see page 3



Jeanna Spawn



Mark A. Spawn

## Who is The Spawn Group?

### Hollywood Meets Law Enforcement

Jeanna Spawn is an Executive in Charge of Production in Hollywood. Mark Spawn is a former Chief of Police from upstate New York. Together, they are The Spawn Group. Their projects tell the stories of law enforcement—for the police community and for the public. There are accounts of bravery, courage, and compassion. Some of Jeanna's projects have included *Crisis Point*, *Moments of Impact*, and *Most Shocking*—television shows which have showcased inspirational and dramatic stories from real police officers. Mark spent 24 years in law enforcement, including service as a street cop, detective and police chief. He has been a consultant on projects ranging from general policing to sex offender management and harm reduction. Together, Jeanna and Mark have produced several audio and video productions about police officers, officer safety, public health, sex offender management, and more. They have both consulted on television and movie productions, lending their combined experiences for genuine portrayals of the men and women behind the badge. Learn more about them at [spawngroup.com](http://spawngroup.com).



**Follow  
Us!**

Check out our website at [spawngroup.com](http://spawngroup.com) and follow us on Twitter @spawngroup to keep up on our projects and activities.



Peter Frerichs, Polizei Pres./Ret.  
Frankfort, German



Dr. Marianne Jauncey  
Kings Cross, Australia, German

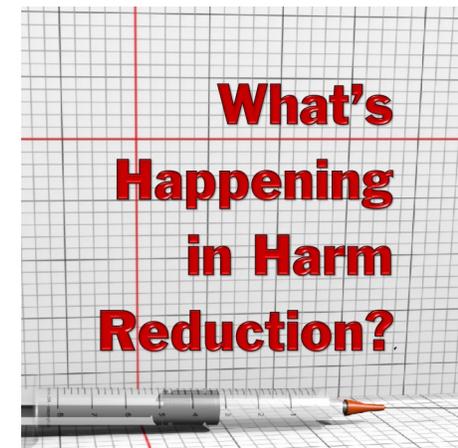


Sen. Larry W. Campbell  
Ottawa, Ontario

## Supervised Injection Facilities

The heroin epidemic continues to have a dramatic impact on the health of people from all demographics. In response to the increase of overdoses in New York State many public safety personnel, as well as members of the public, can now

carry and administer lifesaving Naloxone (Narcan) after a short training. But there are a number of other health issues related to injection drug use. Wound abscesses, infections and bloodborne diseases are problematic and can be life threatening, too. While there are no officially sanctioned supervised



injection facilities (SIF) in the United States today, the time may be coming when we will see centers similar to those in Amsterdam; Vancouver, Canada; Frankfort, Germany; and Kings Cross, Australia.

*...many supervised injection facilities or drug consumption rooms provide medical oversight and advice to injection drug users to help minimize the risks...*

(Continued on page 4)

*...many supervised injection facilities or drug consumption rooms provide medical oversight and advice to injection drug users to help minimize the risks...*

*(Continued from page 3)*

While there are different models, many supervised injection facilities or drug consumption rooms provide medical oversight and advice to injection drug users to help minimize the risks associated with injection drug use until the user is prepared to stop. But similar to the opposition that continues to be seen with syringe exchange programs, there is resistance to the concept of providing this type of support to persons with addiction. There has been a change in thinking in recent years – that the ‘war on drugs’ from the 1980’s did not work, and that we have essentially criminalized addiction. And because the prevalence of opioid and prescription drug addictions has reached every age, ethnic, economic and social group, the compassion and empathy for persons with addiction has also increased. But harm reduction programs are often challenged as enabling people to begin an addictive lifestyle, or that they contribute to crime and disorder. However, there are credible studies and statistics to the contrary. The more we all know about harm reduction efforts the better the acceptance can be about the validity of these programs. This can be a challenge depending upon your perspective. Until you see addiction as a first responder, or as a parent or friend of someone with addiction, you may not appreciate the value of harm reduction strategies.

I had the opportunity to interview three experts about their experiences: Peter Frerichs – a former police official from Germany who worked with an injection facility in Frankfurt; Larry Campbell, a former coroner and now a Senator discusses his experiences with the Vancouver program called *OnSite*; and Dr. Marianne Jauncey who is the Medical Director of the Uniting Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in Australia (all pictured on page 3). You can listen to these interviews on our YouTube channel or in the iTunes Store. Discussions in New York State include public statements from the Mayor in Ithaca, New York to host the nation’s first SIF. Ironically, Dr. Jauncey was born in Ithaca

*(Continued on page 5)*

*By investing on the front end with harm reduction initiatives, we can provide care, counseling, alternatives, rehabilitation, and earlier opportunities to quit, resulting in improved health and a better quality of life*

(Continued from page 4)

and lived there about ten years.

### **Listen to the Podcast Series:**



#### **What is a Supervised Injection Facility?**

Interviews with a former RCMP officer and coroner who became Mayor of Vancouver and now serves as Senator in Canada; a former senior police official from Frankfurt, Germany Police; and a doctor in Kings Cross, Australia about Supervised Injection Facilities.



**One Doctor's Experiences** – An interview with Dr. Marianne Jauncey about her experiences and observations working with drug users at the Supervised Injection Facility in Kings Cross, Australia.



#### **Acceptance and Resistance to Harm**

**Reduction** – Why are some people opposed to needle exchange and safer injection facilities? An interview with Dr. Marianne Jauncey of Kings Cross, Australia about Supervised Injection Facilities.

Once we all become better informed about the risks to drug user health and to overall public health, I am confident that many people will begin to understand that harm reduction programs such as needle exchange, Narcan/overdose prevention, and SIFs are legitimate and practical. While some may have frustrations about publicly-funded programs for addictive behaviors, the bottom line is, we are already spending money, time, and energy on the *back end* – responding to infections, wounds, overdose and death. By investing on the *front end* with harm reduction initiatives, we can provide care, counseling, alternatives, rehabilitation, and earlier opportunities to quit, resulting in improved health and a better quality of life. An ounce of prevention...

## Infamous LAPD Cases

1910 - Bombing of the Los Angeles Times building

1922 - William Desmond Taylor murder

1925 - Hellman bank robbery and murder of Officer Wylie Smith

1927 - Kidnapping and murder of Marian Parker

1947 - Elizabeth Short murder (Black Dahlia case)

1960 - Red Light Bandit

1963 - Murder of Officer Ian Campbell (Onion Field)

1968 - Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy

1969 - Manson murders

1969 - Black Panther shootout

1974 - Alphabet Bomber

1974 - SLA shootout

1977 - Hillside Strangler

1979 - The Freeway Strangler

1984 - Night Stalker

1994 - Nicole Brown Simpson murder

Source: Los Angeles Police Historical Society; [laphs.org](http://laphs.org)



One of the older cruisers on display at the LAPD Museum

## A Visit to the LAPD Museum

A recent visit to the Los Angeles Police Department Museum in the Highland Park section of L.A. was well worth the time. The museum itself is housed in the former Highland Park Police Station #11. Historic photographs, police equipment, and jail cells from 'back in the day' are all displayed. Inside, visitors can see LAPD police equipment including call boxes, uniforms, badges and other equipment. There is a display of items from the 1997 North Hollywood bank robbery shootout – a must see! There are displays from a number of high profile cases including the 1965 Watts riots, and 1974 shootout with the SLA.

There is memorabilia from Dragnet and Adam-12, television shows which gave LAPD national popularity in the 1960's and 1970's. In the outside exhibits you can see vehicles from LAPD's past including a variety of cruisers, a bomb disposal truck, and a helicopter. If you a current or former law enforcement officer, or just a police buff, the LAPD Museum should be on your list of 'places to see' when visiting Southern California.

# The Squad Room

Commentary by Mark Spawn

In *The Squad Room* we discuss contemporary topics in law enforcement.

Earlier this year I participated in a webinar with other panelists to discuss Innovative Frameworks to Expanding Harm Reduction to people who use drugs. Specifically, I discussed strategies to build relationships with law enforcement. The webinar was hosted by the HIV Prevention Justice Alliance. You can click on the image to the right to view the [webinar](#).



Other panelists in the webinar include:

Mona Bennett, Associate Director, Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition; Tessie Castillo, Advocacy and Policy Coordinator, North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition; Kenney Miller, Executive Director, Down East AIDS Network & the Health Equity Alliance; Donnie Varnell, Special Agent In-Charge (retired), North Carolina Department of Justice; Mark A. Spawn, Chief/Ret. Fulton Police, Director of Research and Training at New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Consultant for The Spawn Group, LLC; Philomena Kebec, former Staff Attorney/Child Welfare Prosecutor for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; current volunteer with the Gwayakobimaadiziwin Bad River Needle Exchange; Van Ingram, Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy; Joel Merry, Sheriff of Sagadahoc County, co-leader of Law Enforcement Workgroup for Maine Anti-Opioid/Heroin Initiative.

Moderator: Mary Beth Levin, Associate Professor, Georgetown University School of Medicine.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services

**The Spawn Group, LLC**  
Los Angeles, CA

323-474-6651

[info@spawngroup.com](mailto:info@spawngroup.com)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.spawngroup.com](http://www.spawngroup.com)