From:	David Grossman
To:	Mayor Staff; Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Cc:	Jaeson White
Subject:	"Malicious and defamatory comments" by Mayor and City Counsel of Missoula
Date:	Friday, February 25, 2022 11:45:35 AM
Attachments:	Word Missoula Response.docx

To: Mayor John Engen and the City Council of the City of Missoula,

Information respectfully submitted, in text below, and attached Word doc.

Lt. Col. Dave Grossman

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To: Mayor John Engen and the City Council of the City of Missoula,

I am Lt.Col. Dave Grossman. Recently, there were clearly malicious and defamatory comments made by elected officials and the *Missoulian* newspaper regarding my work. I intend to bring civil action against those who participated in this derogatory conduct. However, prior to doing so, I am extending the courtesy of explaining my actions -- a courtesy that was not extended to me before Council Member Daniel Carlino made his defamatory comments at a public Missoula City Council meeting.

Aside from this deliberate and malicious "character assassination" by using one video clip maliciously and obscenely out of context (to be addressed shortly), what other information was provided to the public to make an informed decision?

My Credentials:

What kind of elected official would comment about me, and never mention my many published books, or my academic qualifications and achievements? Even the name of the book purchased, *On Combat,* was maliciously reported as “bulletproof mind.” (Because, God forbid anyone would actually look up the book and find out more information, or maybe even purchase a book to find out for themselves.) *On Combat* has sold over a third-of-a-million copies, with 5-stars and over 1,500 reviews on Amazon. And it has been translated and sold in 5

languages.

My book *On Killing* has over 2,300 reviews on Amazon with 4.5 stars. It has sold over a half-million-copies in English and is translated and sold in 7 languages. Google Scholar says it has been cited in scholarly references over 3,200 times. [https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C14&q=on+killing+dave+grossman&oq=] This is where the scholarly concept of "killology" was introduced. Criminology is not about teaching people to be criminals, and killology is not about teaching people to kill. It is about understanding the factors that enable and restrain killing in society.

I am the author of a dozen other books, to include a *New York Times* Best Seller co-authored with Glenn Beck, and *On Spiritual Combat* which is a prestigious Christian Book Award (CBA) Finalist.

I have written 23 book chapters, and 35 book forwards. I was called upon to write the peer-reviewed entry on "Aggression and Violence" in the *Oxford Companion to American Military History*, three peer-reviewed entries in the *Academic Press Encyclopedia of Violence*, and I have authored or co-authored 43 articles in journals and periodicals, to include peer-reviewed articles in *Pediatric Annals,* and the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy.*

I helped train mental health professionals after the Jonesboro school massacre, and was also involved in counseling or court cases in the aftermath of the Paducah, Springfield, Littleton, Virginia Tech, and Nickel Mines, PA Amish school massacres. I been an expert witness and consultant in state and Federal courts, to include serving on the prosecution team in UNITED STATES vs. TIMOTHY MCVEIGH.

In the aftermath of the 1998 Jonesboro, AR school massacre, President Clinton cited my research in a national address. In 2018, after the Parkland, FL school massacre, I was invited to the White House to serve on President Trump's Round Table on Violent Video Games. In 2019, I was called again to the White House, to brief Vice President Pence. I testified before U.S. Senate and Congressional committees on three different occasions, and testified before numerous

state legislatures.

I have presented to over 100 universities and colleges, with accolades and appreciation, to include an *Honorary Law Degree* from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. I have presented "Psychiatric Grand Rounds" at many hospitals and mental health facilities, to include a (US Department of Defense) DoD-wide presentation simulcast to over 100 medical facilities world-wide. I have presented on a podcast to all of New York City's ER MDs, and I presented a podcast to medical personnel across the United Kingdom, during the height of the pandemic. https://www.pondermed.com/performance/pondermed-17-lt-col-dave-grossman-a-warriors-toolbox/

I have been inducted as a "Life Diplomate" by the American Board for Certification in Homeland Security, and a "Life Member" of the American College of Forensic Examiners Institute.

During my military career (1974-1998) I served as a paratrooper, an Army Ranger, a West Point Psychology Professor, and a Professor of Military Science. As a law enforcement trainer (starting in 1998), I believe I am the only trainer to ever be "POST Certified" (or the equivalent) in all 50 states and in Canada. I have had the honor of training every US Federal Law Enforcement agency. After almost a quarter of a century training our law enforcement officers, I have been noted by many as "America's number one law enforcement trainer."

As to that Video Clip:

One clip, of my two-day presentation on the physiological responses to life-and death situations, was taken intentionally and maliciously out of context. In the full presentation, I state that the yearning for affirmation and sexual intimacy happens to crime victims, and it often terrifies them. The same thing can be seen in EMS and fire personnel after a traumatic event, and again it can be deeply troubling to them. Frank Herbert called it, "that profound drive shared by all creatures who are faced with death—the drive to seek immortality through progeny."

Biologically speaking, it is a backlash from fight-or-flight sympathetic nervous system response, to a parasympathetic rest-and-digest or feed-and-breed response. (Do a quick online search for “feed and breed” and see for yourself.) Yes, it also happens to police, and it is profoundly important for them to understand what is happening to themselves and others. And if we can find a way to laugh about it, if we can find some humor in the situation, then it is 1) embedded in our memory to “be there” and be reassuring if needed, and 2) it is far less troubling if it occurs.

Most importantly, the context of this presentation is completely lost, because it is cut off just before I say, “… Relax and enjoy it. OFF DUTY! Wait! Until you are off duty. I promise it will still be there. It is amazing how many first responders get in trouble every year for having sex on duty. If you know this is your body’s natural response, then you will be far better able to deal with it appropriately.” (Incidentally, similar dynamics can happen to politicians, and a similar warning is appropriate.) Once again, the humor 1) imbeds this warning in their minds, and 2) makes them more likely to recall and apply this warning.

I recently presented this information to all the US Army sexual assault counselors and investigators, giving essentially the same information in the same way, and it was very well received. I pointed out to them that we all understand violent "fight-or-flight” responses, and especially among military and law enforcement (where we have the tools and skills to harm others) we understand the need to bring these natural biological fight-or-flight processes under control. In the same way, we must understand the “feed-and-breed” response in order to bring this biological process under control.

Is it wrong to forewarn and forearm law enforcement officers, in a powerful and effective manner, in order to ensure that they do not engage in inappropriate and illegal behavior? Is it wrong to inform them, in an entertaining and memorable way, about what might happen to them so as to reduce the probability of PTSD? Is it wrong to give our law enforcement officers this information, so that they can reassure crime victims and other first responders?

What are the scientific and academic credentials of the Mayor and

City Council of Missoula, to condemn my work based on this one quote maliciously taken out of context?

The Mayor of Missoula, and City Council Members are politicians. Is there any 10-second clip from a speech you have made, which could be taken out of context and maliciously used to misrepresent you and your endeavors? Add to that, the complex nature of the physiology of a life-and-death event, and tell me there might not be some aspect that can be taken out of context?

What is really tragic about this twisted misrepresentation, is that people will have these biological responses and think there is something wrong with them. That, in turn, can establish the foundation for guilt, PTSD, and suicide. This obscene misrepresentation of what I teach, can actually be profoundly harmful to those who experience this response. Thus, you, the newspaper, and its reporters could literally "have blood on your hands" by contributing to this misrepresentation. Again, please tell me your academic and scholarly qualifications to engage in this public attack of my work?

The community of Missoula is ill served by elected officials who participate in such an obscene and malicious misrepresentation. Such a twisted character assassination of an established and nationally credentialed professional, is in keeping with the same "woke, social-justice-warrior" misrepresentation of law enforcement nationwide. When your citizens see an elected official publicly condemning law enforcement agencies, they should anticipate similar levels of misrepresentation of the judgment and actions of law enforcement.

Ask yourself, "How can a community possibly embrace 'defund the police'?" And the answer is, "This is how it happens." An elected official like Council Member Carlino misrepresents information about law enforcement to the public, and the media reports this without conducting professional due diligence. Now all of a sudden, these misrepresentations become the public's truth on the matter. The politicians, the mayor and the city council, immediately "cave" to this "woke" lie, fail to support their law enforcement community, and thereby set the stage for the next step down a slippery slope of false data to claim that "all cops are bad."

“Defund the police” is one of the most perverse, sick, dysfunctional, wide-spread, and destructive “conspiracy theories” in modern times. This weird conspiracy theory, believing that the police are the “bad guys” and that criminals are the “good guys” has done great harm to our nation, and has been completely rejected by the American people and by the politicians of both parties.

I can understand how you could have been deceived by Council Member Carlino and the subsequent *Missoulian* articles. You have every right to expect that Council Member Carlino would have performed his due diligence, checked the information, and consulted with law enforcement officials before presenting it publicly to city council. You have every right to expect that the newspaper would write a fair, balanced, and informed article about myself and my work.

Thus, I invite the Mayor and City Council to join me in a public condemnation of Council Member Carlino and the *Missoulian*, its editor and reporters, for misrepresenting this information. I await your response. The condemnation of my work was in public and was reported in the newspaper. I believe a public apology from the Mayor and City Council would be appropriate, and it is important that this be published in the local newspapers. Furthermore, I believe that a statement of support by the Mayor and the City Council of Missoula, in my lawsuit against Council Member Carlino and the *Missoulian* would be appropriate at this time.

Sincerely

Dave Grossman, Lt. Col. USA (ret.)

Author and Trainer