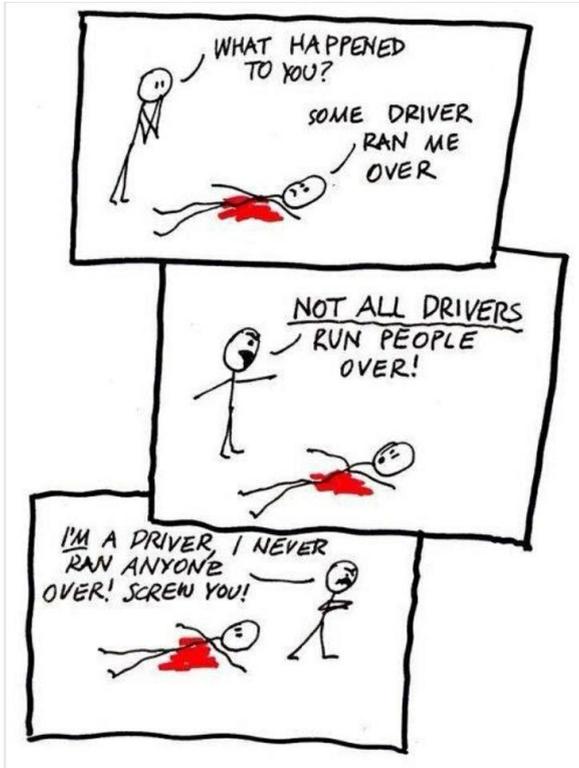


## Why People Hate the Translink Police

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Monday, June 01, 2015

<https://politicsrespun.org/2015/06/why-people-hate-the-translink-police/>



Replace "driver" with Translink cop.

I had a hard time reading all the way through this article, [the one about Translink cops terrorizing bus passengers](#) on Friday night.

I also had a hard time reading about the [two Translink cops found guilty of assault](#) on Friday.

I'm sure it was just a coincidence that they both happened on Friday.

And I find it astonishing that [Neil Dubord](#), the head of the Translink police [or his social media lackeys] would choose to follow my largely apolitical [personal Twitter account](#) [unless he also likes Pink Floyd and the Baltimore Orioles].

Also on Friday. More coincidence. Maybe he expected me to weigh in on why people hate his Translink cops. So here goes. Spoiler: it's because some of them like to assault, bully and terrorize people, over \$2.75.

So more broadly, why do people hate the Translink police?

When they cease to be public servants and peace keepers and begin to be terrorists.

In the post-9/11 world when a "democratic" [sic] government in Canada can pass, let alone introduce the fascist Bill C-51, which erodes our constitution, we are all, clearly, far more tolerant of totalitarianism among our authorities.

And let's not pretend that this is just a problem with America, highlighted with the [#BlackLivesMatter](#) instances.

Why do cops assault and beat people?

1. Those that do may get off on it, the power trip.
2. They are racists, bigots or violently unhappy people with a desire to destroy others lives.
3. They are bullies and seek a job that lets them be bullies.
4. They have a sense of entitlement.
5. They feel they are immune from the laws that apply to the rest of us in a civilization.
6. They are rageful, violent people needing to beat up the weak and vulnerable.
7. They are sociopaths or psychopaths.
8. They are addicts and not in control of their faculties.
9. Body armour and guns [and maybe some day dogs too!] make them feel special/powerful.
10. More ideas?

Do you remember several years ago when someone thought it was a good idea to give guns to Skytrain cops? Largely to enforce \$2.75 fares and \$173 fare evasion tickets? But really, it's to shoot the bad guys.

Do you remember someone decided that Translink cops in their cars could enforce a variety of laws far away from transit services? The police and RCMP are contracted to municipalities where there is civilian oversight. The Translink cops are accountable to Translink, which is a puppet of the BC government, which has been staunchly anti-accountable for virtually all of this century.

And remember when someone thought it was a good idea as well to [give Skytrain cops attack dogs to hunt down the fare evaders](#), or sorry, bad guys? Thank all the people who lit their hair on fire about this egregious piece of lunacy; it never happened. But maybe now it will because now, if you are poor and you ask a bus driver for a free ride, and the Translink cops with their guns get on your bus for a fare check, [they may beat you up](#), because of the \$2.75 you didn't have to pay, and because of the \$173 fine they believe they are entitled to charge you, and because of the 9+ reasons above.

Then you might see Translink trotting out [this terrorism justification bullshit](#) again [emphasis is mine]:

You just have look around the world to see what is taking place and what has been targeted to see what could happen. We already see the dogs in use right here at the airport. **I have not heard any protest to that.** We move close to 72 million people a year, we owe it to them to do the utmost to protect them.

But when people don't trust the violent, rageful Translink cops, why would we want them unleashing dogs on us, or the poor, or dude who literally lost his faresaver? What kind of society do we want to live in, anyway?

So, read this careful:

**When the driver allows someone to have a free ride, they are not a fare evader. They do not deserve to be taken down on the concrete.**

Honk if you agree.

People ask for free rides because they are poor. Many who are poor don't ask; many who aren't poor, do. Drivers, I expect, have been given permission to allow free rides to avoid confrontations and escalations, particularly with people who may be dangerous, which is not synonymous with the poor. Seriously, which bus driver wants to escalate and possibly get attacked over \$2.75?

So if a transit employee allows someone to get a free ride, why should another transit employee get to beat them up for that.

That's called a mindfuck. It's not OK. But why does it happen? See the 9+ reasons above.

And if you're wondering about one particular reason why a lot of people didn't vote or voted no in the Translink funding blackmail referendum, it's because a lot of people think the Translink cops are violent thugs, looking for excuses to bully and attack people.

It's just that lots of people don't feel comfortable coming right out and saying that's why they don't want to give Translink more money. Even if it's supposed to go to "good" things, people fear the back door police state will expand with more money. After all, how much do Translink cops make, anyway...all to enforce \$2.75 fares? Dozens of them make over \$100,000/year.

And before you go all "not all Translink cops are fascist bullies" on me, read about [#NotAllMen](#) and save your stupid comments to yourself. I won't post them here. Life is too short for that; [get a grip](#).

Where is the sense of compassion, dignity and public service these days?

Where are all the Translink cops who believe in protecting, not demeaning the public? And why do they tolerate their peers ruining their reputation?

Who told the Translink cops that a \$2.75 fare and a \$173 ticket were entitlements to treat other human beings like less than people?

Transit should be free, [for these reasons](#). But it's not. Yet. And it's the lifeline for lots of economically struggling and marginalized people. Must it also be a place of dehumanization by our civil authorities themselves?

If the Translink organization is wondering why people hate them, it isn't just because of Skytrain or escalator breakdowns, or buses that pass us by because they're full. In the rain. In winter.

In part, it's because Translink employs cops who like to beat people up. And sensible people think that's bad, a crime and corrupt.

No one wants to be terrorized on transit. Especially by the police themselves.

Translink is [known for crappy note taking and accusations of falsifying evidence](#), and sometimes has [less than reliable recording cameras on vehicles](#), which makes them all look like a corrupt, dodgy, amateur police force.

So we should take a page out of the #BlackLivesMatter handbook: video record every time you see a Translink cop encounter a person. Every time! Even if nothing illegal or disrespectful happens, make them know that we are all recording them.

All. The. Time. I'm not kidding.

Since they don't all believe they are servants of the public and keepers of the peace, let's record them all with our smart phones because apparently, they need to learn that they are not above the law.