

Avery Wannamaker

214232227

Representing Crime CRIM 4654

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Newspaper Article on The Legacy of Peter John Sloly, Ottawa Chief of Police

Peter John Sloly (Sloly raised to fame primarily due to his football career. He represented Canada on several teams, such as Cana U20, Canada, Toronto Blizzard, New York Rockets, and McMaster Marauders, with his favourite position being a defender. He served with Toronto Police Service for 27 years, with him being deputy chief of police from 2009 to 2016 and chief of police of the Ottawa Police Service from 2019-to 2022 (Yogaretnam, 2019). His significant obligations as chief of police included fighting gun violence, reducing racial profiling, and controlling drug usage. This assignment describes how Sloly represented crime justice in his works and the theories that define his career. The analysis depends on a February 2022 article written by Wendy Gillis to compile his legacy. The postmodern theory fits the description of Peter Sloly's responsibilities and roles in crime mitigation.

Summary Of the Article

Sloly fame rose following his natural ability as a young leader with an uncanny chance to predict crimes within his jurisdiction. At 43, he was already a successful retired footballer and the youngest deputy chief of police working under Bill Blair (2009-2016). His roles as deputy chief of police were to help Bill Blair implement community-minded police activities, reduce racial profiling and carding, and ensure equal rights among women and visible minorities. His first legacy is serving as the first Black chief of police in Ottawa. The article describes how Sloly defied the use of police in ceasing demonstrations in Canada (the siege of Ottawa), with heightening critics and growth of firestorms against the police roles. Initially, he maintained his stand to lead the police through these responses but then resigned as chief of police in February 15, 2022 through a mutual separation agreement (Gillis, 2022). Sloly allowed demonstrators and protestors to occupy Canada's capital, an activity deemed as failing security and policing. Within 48 hours of exit from the office, all police units in

Canada deployed officers to help calm the situation in the capital through the Emergencies act.

Some people felt that the forced exit from the office of the chief of police was to scapegoat a reform-minded police officer who could have never been entirely accepted in the police force for being black. It was challenging to change the forces' culture due to the lack of acceptance. At the same time, others felt that he was too egocentric, with his overall control of police control being disastrous. The president of the Jamaican Canadian Association, Audrey Campbell, felt that the untenable protest resulted from inadequate resources at the disposal of the police (Gillis, 2022). The article reports that he had strained relations with his former boss, Sterling Bill Blair. He had publicly opposed Blair's beliefs, especially during their second tenure as chief and deputy chief of police. Their main disagreements rose from disputes concerning police enumerations and the G20 summit protests. Sloly felt that Blair was too selfish for refusing the cut in the police budget but, at the same time, tried to employ Blair's techniques for the peaceful resolution of disputes (Gillis, 2022). He remains remembered for his efforts to maintain Ottawa's safety from an unprecedented crisis.

The article further describes Sloly's achievements which included reducing the spiking gun violence, building a police service that allowed him to incorporate the diverse community members, reduced systematic racism within the penning an op-ed and policing. His association with fellow Ottawa Police Association members got strained after he condemned the police involved in the controversial harassment of a black man driving a rental car. He also suspended a police officer who posted an online meme with collage photos of black people and the caption "Ottawa Police Service-We're always hiring...anyone".

Despite his efforts to reduce racial profiling, Sloly failed to curb carding, a practice of stopping, questioning, and documenting citizens common among the Ottawa police during

his tenure as chief of police and among the Toronto police during his tenure as deputy of police. The carding process harassed and targeted young brown and black men, forcing the Toronto Police Services Board to draft recommendations for improving police-community relations. Failure to implement these changes led to criticisms against Blair. These implementations failed to work with the Ottawa police board, and when he could not put up with the immense pressure, he opted to give up. Several people had various opinions on Sloly's legacy (Gillis, 2022). While some felt that he impacted positive police performance, promoted justice, reduced racial profiling, and promoted community-police relations, others thought he was selfish, allowed power to control him, was narcissistic, and a master manipulator.

The Postmodernism Theory

The most effective theory describing the roles of Bill Blair in shaping the Canadian judicial system is the postmodernism theory. The theory of crime assumes that (1) all people choose their desired lifestyles, values, and identities, (2) individualism with a consumer culture has replaced social classes, (3) there is increased social diversity, and (4) modern society cause uncertainty and chaos (Revised Sociology, n.d.). According to postmodernism, all crimes are treated with relativism, subjectivism, suspicion of reason, and sensitivity to political and economic maintenance through the roles of ideology. Postmodern justice appreciates the communication between people inhabiting cultural institutions and the public they serve. It combines familiar knowledge about a crime with unique formations and innovations while employing symbolic language and modern technology (Revised Sociology, n.d.). The approach focuses on a trial's risks and costs, violates traditional justice conceptions, and results in customized sentencing.

Discussion of Peter Sloly's Roles from a Postmodernism Theory Perspective

The postmodernism theory notes that the individualistic nature of most people today causes crimes with undiscoverable and infinite causes of crime. For instance, gang crimes in Toronto and Ottawa could be associated with overexposure to recreational means and televisions, low values on peoples' well-being, poor community leadership, perceived services inaccessibility, lack of support from society and families, poor power-sharing, and inequality (Revised Sociology, n.d.). John Sloly was actively involved in reducing gang problems but could not, just like his predecessors, compile a comprehensive report on its causes (Gillis, 2022). Private crime prevention and informal localized crime control arrangements help mitigate crimes. As described in Sloly's work, these techniques were common in his line of operation. Peter Sloly would work as an undercover cop in the organized crime and drug enforcement gigs, change his natural appearance and interact with the communities while gathering information concerning the crimes of interest, with his various roles requiring him to be either in police uniform or plain clothes (Yogaretnam, 2019). At the same time, surveillance techniques have been promoting postmodernism theory through private investigation of consumer tracking (Revised Sociology, n.d.). The video of an Ottawa-based police officer harassing a black driver and the investigation of the source of a viral offensive meme were illustrations of the use of postmodernism in surveillance.

It is worth noting that postmodernism theory explains the increased localization of policing strategies and explains non-utilitarian crimes (Revised Sociology, n.d.). The article shows that non-utilitarian crimes were common in Canada, especially in Toronto and Ottawa. Racial profiling for minorities was regular, with the most affected people being the blacks and the LGBTs. The first tenure of Sterling Blair and Sloly successfully had these crimes under control, with the two implementing a progressive approach to handling the crimes

(Yogaretnam, 2019). However, these crimes were hardly controlled in Ottawa since the police had little respect and regard for Sloly. More often than not, he had to reprimand his colleagues for reduced ethics and involvement in crimes.

Other observations from the postmodernism theory include the ignorance of peoples' ideas on the ethical approaches toward the law (Revised Sociology, n.d.). Participating in encampment settlement of homeless people in the streets was received with increased resistance and critics. The crowds of activists and homeless protestors overwhelmed the security, city staff, and police officers (Gillis, 2022). Other significant characteristics of the postmodernism theory include the ignorance of justice for all people, failure to recognize the causes of resentment between participant and non-participant consumers, and the recognition of the structural and non-structural criminal dimensions (Revised Sociology, n.d.). As explained, the police used excessive power when preventing the February 2022 demonstrations that cost Sloly his job as chief of police. The theory does not appreciate the role of policing decentralization in suiting the people in the middle classes.

Conclusion

Crime representation has different facets that involve interactions between the police or law enforcers, the public, and offenders. Various media houses are on the lookout for such crimes and the roles of the police in criminal justice. As shown in the Toronto Star, Peter John Sloly's positions in the Toronto and Ottawa police units are a classical illustration of incorporating criminal justice theories and criminal justice activities. The article summarizes Peter Sloly's rise, fall, failures, and successes and profiles him as a passionate man about justice promotion. The postmodernism theory describes the criminal justice in this time by explaining the non-utilitarian crimes, the causes of resentment among Sloly's coworkers and

rival employees, the increased localisms in policing strategies, the dimensions of crime, and the development of private investigations and the use of surveillance technologies.

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