



Rethinking What Safety Means

August 18, 2025

Joe Scarborough threw kindling onto the fire.

In the context of President Trump calling up the National Guard to help police the streets of Washington, D.C.—“you’ll have more police and you’ll be so happy, ’cause you’d be safe” said Trump—Scarborough prompted Symone Sanders, a Democratic strategist, fellow MSNBC host, and wife of a former night mayor of the city, with cedar soaked in kerosene: “You don’t think more police makes streets safer?”

“No, Joe,” she said, helping *Morning Joe* viewers decipher her racial identity: “I’m a black woman in America.

“I do not always think that more police makes streets safer.”

Before you have time to wonder whether she’s advancing the

law of diminishing returns in criminology, she quickly goes on: “When you walk down the streets of Georgetown”—a predominantly wealthy and white D.C. neighborhood—“you don’t see a police officer on every corner but you don’t feel unsafe. So what is it about talking about places like South D.C., right, Ward Eight (if you will), that people say ‘we need more officers to make us safe?’

“I think we have to rethink what safety means in America.”

While adding more police officers to a peaceful society won’t likely decrease crime much, a violent community is another story. People in these communities need greater safety to live their lives. Without becoming a statistic. Law enforcement that is visible on the street can surely help.

But rethinking the meaning of “safety” won’t.

So what’s burning?

Democratic hopes, maybe. We’ll see how Trump’s move to clean up the capital goes.

Yet, if he tries to use the National Guard in other cities without constitutional warrant, that’d go beyond mere policing, into police-state territory.

Just don’t consult Democratic strategists for a “rethink” of such distinctions.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.