



Securing the City: Inside America's Best Counterterror Force--The NYPD

Christopher Dickey

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Christopher Dickey takes us inside the best and most ambitious anti-terror operation in the country, the seat-of-the-pants intelligence operation of the NYPDâ€”with undercover resources all over the world and two extraordinary men in charge..

Securing the City: Inside America's Best Counterterror Force--The NYPD Details

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From Reader Review Securing the City: Inside America's Best Counterterror Force--The NYPD for online ebook

Boston Book Bums says

Dickey adeptly profiles NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly, as well as his leadership staff, as he goes about assembling a counter terrorist intelligence apparatus that rivals most national agencies, including that of our own.

Brent says

There is a lot to think about in this reporting, from the era just before Wikileaks, before ISIS unveiled, and before Snowden revealed... and before the most recent local and national incidents of race and police violence. Previous incidents of police violence definitely appear as part of the complete picture of this large and complicated police force. I can still highly recommend Securing the City for emphasizing the multiculturalism of the human intelligence approach taken by the NYPD under Ray Kelly.

Looking yesterday, I learned that Commissioner Bratton is back at the helm of NYPD, appointed by Mayor DeBlasio. There is room for an updated edition from this author, one of our great journalists, and son of the poet James Dickey.

Recommended.

Peter says

Contains some interesting information, but is too informal and politicized.

Kelly says

I picked this up after I heard the author interviewed on NPR. The interview piqued my interest and I thought, wow a fast paced exciting non-fiction book, Awesome!

Then I see the back book jacket -- Kathy Reichs (whom I love!) had this to say, "A fascinating, and frightening, look into the world of antiterrorism. Securing the City kept me riveted."

I am here to tell you book jackets lie!

The book in the end was interesting enough - but I was not riveted by any means. The first half of the book took forever to get through.

If you have the stamina for it -- it is very interesting but riveting, NO way!

Allan says

A fascinating look at how the N.Y.P.D. transformed itself into one of the world's elite anti- terrorism forces post 9-11.

Donald says

This is a good book that is kept from being a very good book by the author's blatant and unnecessary political jabs. It's a very good look at the steps the NYPD has taken since September 11, 2001, to keep the city safe from terrorism, but the author just can't keep himself from interjecting snarky comments about the Bush administration whenever he feels like it. But, then, what do you expect from a writer from Newsweek?

Joe Mezzanini says

An amazing inside view of NYPD

I like the way Dickey writes .. great content- yet easy to read

Feels like a bunch of short stories - not one long story.. since I have trouble paying attention, that style made it enjoyable to read.

Bill Tress says

An amazing turnaround in crime fighting. New York seems to operate as a small country and has its own CIA and world wide crime stoppers. Very interesting read.

Jeff says

Wow, what an interesting read. I have been doing my best to add a number of books on topics that relate to my work to my bookshelf and this one didn't disappoint. I was able to add some generalized knowledge of counter-terrorism as well as came up with a couple of ideas on my own company's emergency exercise design strategies.

Counter-terrorism in the 21st century is a new frontier. The NYPD has taken its own path to forging said frontier, and "Securing the City" is a chronicle of this path. The NYPD shows the two sides of terrorism preparedness. There is the very public side, in which our populace must understand that our agencies are doing all they can. This side includes the training, drilling, public outreach, and constant press. And then there is the more covert side, where preparedness officials attempt to identify and expose plots, fully test partner agencies' preparedness, etc. This covert side is what intrigued me the most - the lengths that the NYPD goes to to uncover potential suppliers of bomb-making materials, the steps it has taken to forge a practical working relationship with federal agencies, its success at gathering intelligence from around the globe.

Is the NYPD's approach suitable for all local law enforcement? Absolutely not. But can we glean helpful strategies based on what the NYPD does on a regular basis? Absolutely. The NYPD doesn't mess around. They know that terrorism is one of the city's highest-priority and highest-risk hazards and it stops at nothing to ensure city-wide preparedness. All of our communities should take such a realistic look at their own hazard analyses and work as hard to strengthen resilience to high-priority and high-risk hazards. Preparedness is not a linear or divergent process. Preparing for our biggest vulnerability is bound to strengthen our preparedness for lesser vulnerabilities. After all, there really is only one process used to evacuate a population, whether from terrorism, flooding, etc.

On a more "review-like" note, there were a number of typos in the text that were quite distracting. Other than that, the book read easily, in a conversational tone. Sometimes the endless barrage of terrorist names, response measures, training jargon, etc. can be overwhelming, but Dickey presents this information in such a way that I believe someone from well outside the emergency management-homeland security realm would enjoy "Security the City".

Carl says

This is an excellent and very readable view of New York City's efforts towards counter-terrorism. Dickey gives a historic perspective of terrorism in NY, describes the tensions between Federal agencies and the NYPD, and touches on the sometimes thin constitutional line between preventing a calamity and overstepping the law.

An aside: why is it that everything I read paints the DHS, FBI and CIA as often bumbling, always in-fighting, bureaucracies that treasure individual political favor and control over what's best for the nation? I'm beginning to believe that it may be true.

Jeff says

It was an interesting read, but perhaps got a too much into the players in the history for my liking. But interesting read regardless if you like learning about cities.

Ann says

Very interesting. Another institutional view point to the fight against terrorism. The NYPDs approach of infiltration of potentially dangerous groups, even the nuts, seems good to me. The conflict between police methods of bringing in evidence for a court, versus intelligence collection and prevention of attacks is well laid out in this book.

Josie says

Super interesting and I learned a ton, both about anti-terrorism, and about the NYPD.

Elise says

This book would seem to be a dull nonfiction topic to get through. But actually it was really fascinating. I don't know too much about the topic, but the presentation seemed at least somewhat balanced.

MJ Samuel says

A fascinating look at the NYPD throughout the years and its relationship with the federal government.
