

**Police Mediation**

*To Protect and Serve*

when couples squabble  
is your gun really needed?  
or a talking tool?

protesters protest  
as Constitution allows  
tear gas? pepper spray?

routine traffic stop  
car-sleeper, bad check, schoolgirl  
or Black man jogging

threat sparks counter-threat  
kindness invites more kindness  
force spurs counter-force

mediation works  
in its several skillsets  
use a softer touch



Image source: UK Mediation

Reference: [mediationworks.com](http://mediationworks.com)

This haiku was written as the lead poem for my e-book *Common Ground: Haiku, Mediation, and Police Reform*. See [dandana.us/fivepalms](http://dandana.us/fivepalms)