

Patrol Officer Beth Comery (Fmr.) Providence Police Department, Rhode Island Providence, RI

In 1976, Beth Comery and three other women became the first in their hometown of Providence, Rhode Island, to graduate from the police academy and join the local police force of 400 men. Comery was assigned to foot patrol, then to a steady car post. She enjoyed police work but was troubled by the harms she saw created by drug prohibition. She witnessed the special undercover narcotics unit focus their efforts on the lower income areas of town and ignore the young affluent professionals and college students on the other side of town.

Comery left law enforcement in 1982. She holds a B.S. in Plant Science from the University of Rhode Island and a J.D. from Roger Williams University. Since leaving the Rhode Island Police Force, she has worked as a vineyard manager, a science teacher, and attorney in private practice. She regularly contributes to the Providence Daily Dose where she writes about many subjects, including the detrimental effects of the drug war.

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