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From doorstep to dashboard: community-oriented policing, technology, and neighbourhood police officers

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Propositions

1. Digitalisation has not made community-oriented policing obsolete; instead, it has reshaped how proximity is practiced in everyday neighbourhood policing.
2. Technology can strengthen or undermine community-oriented policing depending on whether it is governed to support relational, locally grounded police work or to serve New Public Management logics of efficiency, control, and measurement.
3. The influence of technology on community-oriented policing depends less on technological design than on the discretionary decisions made by neighbourhood police officers.
4. Technology does not inherently depersonalise policing; depersonalisation results from organisational and operational choices.
5. Community-oriented policing has always attracted - and will continue to attract - criticism, because its implementation in many countries reflects a normative choice.
6. Citizens attach greater importance to how police officers respond to their concerns than to the final outcomes of police interventions.
7. Policing cannot be fully understood through quantitative methods alone; understanding police work requires officers' perspectives and therefore qualitative research.
8. Evidence-based policing, while presented as a neutral commitment to scientific rigor, risks becoming a threat to police research by privileging measurable outcomes over contextual understanding, narrowing what counts as valid knowledge, and marginalising qualitative, critical, and practice-based forms of inquiry essential to understanding policing in its full complexity.
9. The often unexplainable coherence between chaos, justice, and moral judgment in police work constitutes a rational argument for the existence of God.

10. Academia is losing its critical soul as reward structures increasingly favour those who secure funding over those who challenge assumptions, question power, and engage in independent critical thought.
11. The Benelux should become a single country, combining Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg to strengthen regional cooperation, boost economic power, and increase political influence on the global stage.