

“Flu Season” by [Justin A. Davis](#)

In the summer of 2014, hundred of Memphis police officers caught the “blue flu,” and took sick days to protest a reduction in benefits. Almost 40% of the City’s general fund is spent on policing.

It's flu season and I'm sick of bills. It's all
Destiny's Child: *bills, bills, bills*. We have
armored trucks and SkyCops and no food.
We have body cams and no food and the body
cams are never recording. Have you ever been
denied so much you came down with a blue flu?
Have you ever been as blue as a jar of Blue Magic,
set of blueprints, a river filling with femurs, dull,
red kidneys? I've heard the cops started as a better
way to catch []. Somehow a person with no
-thing is always the most dangerous. How many
times have my taxes paid for riot shields
cliquing together like birds? How much over-
time occupies my block and its quiet? Look:
I lock the door when I'm sure no one's coming.
I ask the ghetto bird, if only briefly, to wait. All my
life, I've been asking for a park. Fresh oranges
that don't take 3 hours to bring home.

