

**Interviewees: Judge Marco Hernandez and Margaret Garza**

**Interviewer: Danielle Garza (5-17-2005)**

**Interviewer:** How long have lived in Hillsboro?

**Judge Hernandez:** I moved here in 1975

**Margaret Garza:** I moved to this area probably in the mid sixties

**Interviewer:** Are you in other current leadership roles here in Hillsboro?

**Judge H.:** Well I'm the presiding judge for Washington County, which means that I'm in charge of the court system as a whole. If you look at a flow chart my name is on the top. There are other judges underneath me but I am the Judge for all of Washington County not just Hillsboro

**M. Garza:** In terms of leadership, I guess the other things would be the boards that I sit in.

**Interviewer:** What were some of your occupations during the 80's?

**M. Garza:** I was business consultant in Portland

**Judge H.:** I was in college from 1981- 1983, and from 1983-1986 I was in law school, then after that I was a lawyer

**Interviewer:** What is your general opinion\ comment on crime rates and law enforcement form 1980- present?

**M. Garza:** I would say that through general morality, probably given that the population had grown so much, if you look at that, and I would say that

**Judge H.:** I don't know the [population] has grown proportionality, but it has grown, that's what I was looking at the through the files in 2000, there was less than 1,000 cases filed compared to 1981 in which there 398 cases filed.

**Interviewer:** What crime, do you think; does the Hillsboro law enforcement not concentrate enough on?

**Judge H.:** Well you're talking about the Hillsboro police department? You need to understand that the crimes that I see come not just from Hillsboro but also from Washington County, so I have Tigard, Beaverton, Gaston, North Plains, Forest Grove, so it is hard for me to say that well the Hillsboro police department is focusing on some crimes but not the others. I'm getting cases coming from everywhere.

**Interviewer:** What crimes seem to be more prominent?

**Judge H.:** On the traffic side, our most common crime is driving under the influence of intoxicants. There's a lot of hit and runs, which are real marginal cases that end up getting resolved without a trial. There's some, but not so many reckless driving. And then on the other side, we have a bunch of domestic violence cases. I can't tell you that there is more than one case then another.

**Interviewer:** Since Hillsboro has gotten more diverse over the years; do you believe that a certain race or nationality is more vulnerable to commit certain crimes?

**M. Garza:** No.

**Judge H.:** No, no. I don't think that one specific race or nationality is more venerable to commit certain crimes, a certain category perhaps

**Interviewer:** Do you think that law enforcement has changed for the better or for that worst since 1980?

**Judge H.:** In what way? I think that there is a lot more guns (on policemen) out on the street then there was in 1980. In the 80's I think that the police kind of knew who to look out for because the town was so small, a now the population is so big that they don't know.

**M. Garza:** I think that they are better trained now than they were in the 1980 because the population has grown

**Judge H.:** They have a higher degree of education than they did in the 80's

**Interviewer:** Are gangs a big problem for Hillsboro?

**Judge H.:** They are a problem. I don't know how big it is. When ballot measure 11 passed we sent a big bunch of people involved in gang activity to prison, and there was kind of a drop off of the violence of gangs, there's still violence, but there doesn't seem to be as much. I would say that there was more than there was in the 80's, but since the mid 90's, or so Washington County has been sending more to prison.

**M. Garza:** The only other thing that I was going to tell you are that there enforcement for juveniles has gotten stricter.

**Judge H.:** I don't know if you remember this gang called the cruisers? A big majority of them used to hang out over there on Oak st. They aren't around anymore. We sent a lot of them to prison

**Interviewer:** Does Hillsboro have a lack of funding?

**Judge H.:** You have to remember there's a whole bunch a lot of agencies involved. The Hillsboro city just has holding cells they don't have jails. People are not sentenced to the city jail. The county has a jail.

**Interviewer:** In your opinion has law enforcement done everything in their power to cut illegal drug use?

**Judge H.:** I think that they have. I don't blame them (law enforcement) for the drug problem. I think it's too big. It's huge especially meth. Meth is a huge, huge

**M. Garza:** Especially now, since it is so cheap to make and you can get the products from the stores. And there is a large community here in Hillsboro that is using Meth.

**Judge H.:** It's easy to make and it's cheap. I sent to people to prison this morning for four years, they were involved in a robbery. They were under the influence of meth.

**Interviewer:** Is there anything that you want to tell me that I haven't already asked you about?

**Judge H.:** What are you going to do with this project when you are done?