Lila Ashenbrenner – Deputy Police Chief

Interviewed by: Raschelle Barkume & Nina Kramer

Raschelle Barkume: To get started, our research project is to analyze the changes and trends in crime from 1980 to the present, so what is your relationship to that topic?

Lila Ashenbrenner: Well, I started in law enforcement here in Hillsboro in 1977. So, I started just a little before you're looking at your trends. At that time period I started as a patrol officer, worked as a dog master, worked in investigation, worked in property evidence, worked undercover, supervised a countywide narcotics team, worked in administration, so I've kinda had my foot in every aspect of law enforcement, so that's what it's been.

RB: So can you tell me a little bit in depth about women in law enforcement over the last twenty five years?

LA: well obviously when I got into law enforcement, there weren't very many women In law enforcement. That was still very very new, and I remember when i applied, there were a couple of positions available and all these guys had applied, naturally, and three women applied. And I remember thinking at the time "Theyre probably thinking, 'what are these women doing? They don't have any business being in law enforcement.' And I remember thinking that and thinking, "How far am I gonna get, based on that?" Now, I mean, it's commonplace for them to be in law enforcement. We look for how we get more women in law enforcement, because it's the person that can do the job, not the gender. So, there's been a big shift in who should be a patrol officer or an officer. Stature doesn't matter. It doesn't matter if you're a big person or a little person, you can be trained in defensive tactics if that's what you need. But one of the trends that I think that we've certainly seen over that 25 years is, initially, in the early years, probably more brute force was used than talking to people, where now we're much more concerned about talking to people, using mediation skills, solving the problem at the time verbally, versus with brute strength. So, that's one of the things that I think has certainly changed over the years – we are much more effective at what we do. We used to go to bar fights every single weekend – I mean, that was a common place thing. We'd work swing shift, we'd come in, we'd be in writing our reports and often on the radio "There's a bar fight," and we would all bail out – sometimes if it was close, we'd just run down the street to it. And now, it's a rare occasion that we go to a bar fight. So it's just kind of interesting some of the things that change. Child abuse, domestic violence – that occurred, but public awareness wasn't there so you didn't hear about it as much. I don't think that it occurs probably any more now than it used to, I think what we have, though, is that public awareness campaign. It's just like drunk driving – it used to be acceptable to do that, basically. I mean it wasn't that big of a deal, where now, it's a huge deal. So, some of those things have changed through public education and I think that's really where our trends come from.

RB: Do you think that that crime we see emerging in statistics now is because it's more looked for than it was in the past? Or do you think there's actually an increase?

LA: I think it goes back to the public education I think that the more that people become aware of it and educated and it becomes safe to report it and to find out something's going to be done and that they're not going to be chastised for it that, yes, and I use the Catholic Priests as an example, I mean I think that the sexual abuse, that's gone on for a long time, it just recently became safe to be able to break it out and to talk about it and to do something about it. So, I think that's truly where a lot of the 'increase', if you will, probably comes from. It's just increase of reporting, not of occurring.

RB: How do you think the nature of crime has changed?

LA: Well, there's a lot of things connected to a trend like crime. Drugs. Back in the early years, marijuana was what was commonplace. Now we see a lot more variety in the different drugs. The relationship to identity theft, counterfeiting – now, the equipment is more advanced, we have computers, I mean there are so many more things out there to make our lives easier on a positive part, as well as on the criminal part it makes things easier. Now you can go to a good printer and counterfeit money and the average person can't tell. So, it's interesting as we progress more as a society, I mean this country's only two hundred years old, we are so young when we look atr the relationship to other countries and whats happened. Here with the technology advances that we've seen, it's pretty

amazing to see how crime has kept up with that so to speak. When you look at counterfeiting , the identity theft, all of those types of things – the criminal things people have access to now where they didn't used to have that. I think as we progress with technology then we deal with the crime rate that keeps up in its own fashion.

RB: Going back to women in law enforcement, what kinds of challenges have women faced? Discrimination?

LA: I think, traditionally, whoever, male or female, you've always had to prove yourself. But I think with women in the early days, you had to do so a little more so because you were female. They expected the guys could walk in and do it, but still they wanted to see them in that first fight, see how you could handle yourself. Do I want you to back me up? Are you going to be able to handle this situation? So I think there's a certain amount of that and I think probably still to this day you want to know if that person next to you is going to be able to back you up and give you the assistance that you need. And I think that's just human nature. It been interesting because over the years, I can remember, there are times where being a female is an asset, and times when it's not. And a lot just depends on the situation and who you're dealing with because I think of situations where you go on a call and it's like, "Well, I'll talk to her but I don't want to talk to that guy. I only want to talk to you." Fine, no problem, and you can work that out. There have been other times when, "I'm not talking to a woman." Like I say, a lot depends on the situation, but that's where having both male and female is a benefit because if you both show up on a scene, instead of getting "I'm not talking to you guys, get out of here," male or female, they're willing to talk to the female, then you get the job accomplished. So like I say, human nature coming into it makes it kind of interesting. Sometimes it works to your advantage, and other times not, but the bottom line is we need to talk to people to get the job accomplished. So you get some forms of discrimination from outside the workplace, and inside? Early on, yes, human nature being what it was, some of the guys felt protective. They didn't want you to go to a fight because they felt like "Oh, I have to deal with fight as well asI've got to protect you because your a female." But a lot of those have changed over the years as we get more women in law enforcement, we show that we're capable of doing the job and it becomesa non-issue. It's just one of those things that it takes time to change it and takes integration to make it happen.

RB: I'm curious, we see on TV on shows like CSI a lot of the women are involved in everything. Is it the same for you? Or do they hand it to you based on how dangerous the call is?

LA: No, that's totally assigned by district. They don't know if it's a male or a female that's workng that district. I mean, they may know, but it doesn't make any difference. Calls are assigned by the area you're living, not by the people who are out there. So it really doesn't and the bottom line is: male or female, go, if you need cover, we're gonna send cover or if you request cover we're gonna send cover. So for that part it really doesnt matter. It's whoever gets the call, whoever is there, it's their job to handle it. And you do that however you can and sometimes you might need help, and sometimes you might not so it's just going to depend how it is.

RB: So do you think women have now reached full equality?

LA: Not yet, not yet. I think that when we're truly at a 50-50 ratio I think we will. There's still a lot of traditional values in law enforcement, there's still a lot of men that question a woman being in law enforcement. I think it's a transition. When I started I was one of two women on the force, now we're up to 20 percent. We've got a lot more females. So, that's just going to take some time. Probably a generation or two for us to get up there.

RB: Do you do anything special, like the colleges might do where they recruit women specifically to equal the balance? Or is it just purely credentials and well you can do the job?

LA: It's both. We go out and actively recruit and we recruit women as well as other minorities. And we've got a pretty broad spectrum here, which is great, because at defferent times, there are different needs for different people. So it works out really well. But we go out, adn if I know other women who are laterals in other agencies that I can recruit, I'm not past going after somebody in some other agency if theyre a good male or female. We definitely do give preference to minorities – not an unfair preference – but we see the value. SO if you had people who were equal, but one is of minority status, and there's a benefit to us, then we would take the minority.

RB: Do you think it's a lot more difficult for the white male population because they're not a minority or a woman?

LA: To a certain degree, yes. Traditionally it was all white males who were hired, and now we're saying 'No, we're not going to hire all the white males,' it's a little more difficult, yes it is. I think that's where it behooves them to try a little harder to do things that make them have an advantage to be better. I think that's a true statement. It has made it more difficult. Certainly not impossible, because we're still predominantly male, but like I said, then they can go after things that are a benefit that we look for to make themselves be advanced.

RB: It sounds like it would make a stronger force, because when they're trying to improve themselves, it means they're working harder.

LA: Right. In the early years it would be unusual for somebody to get a degree in criminal justice. A lot of people were hired right out of the military service, or didn't have a lot of education. Now we see a lot more people with military service, with an education, bachelor's degrees. So that trend has changed as well. People understand it's a more professional job than it used to be, you have to be educated to prepare for it.

RB: Are there any stories that you might have or any cases where you were struggling in the profession that stand out to you, or has it been uneventful, pretty normal?

LA: I want to say that I thik that it's been pretty normal, but I say that with some reservation. I think that probably has to do with 1: my personality, I'm so ingrained in working in a male-dominated work force that I've figured out how to do that. And when I go back and think of times where maybe some people took some things for granted, or percieved things one way, yes. Just after I graduated with the dog, we had an armed robbery call and there were two of us, there was my lieuteneant who had trained me sent his dog and I had Buck. The call was out in Scholls and there was a situation where these armed felons out of California had came up and they went to a car dealership and came at the driver. They took the car and they ended up dropping him off and they went down to King City and robbed a bank and they took off, so they dumped the car in the woods out in Scholls and took off on foot. So we had the FBI out there, because it was a bank robbery, we had the state police out there, we had Washington County sherriffs out there, and then they called Hillsboro. So both my lieutenant with his dog and me, we took off to go out and Look. Well, the lieutenant, naturally, necause he's the lieutenant, he starts his dog first – doesn't give me the opportunity. So that was kind of the first thing, 'Why you first?' But we all take off and we go about a half mile and lieutenant comes and says "why don't you go back and gstart Buck and see what happens?" Well you always have cover with you when your with a dog, so one of the OSP officers strted back with me. Well, we got about halfway back, and this is a hot day of like July 17th, it's pretty hot out, it's about four o' clock in the afternoon, and he gets about halfway back and says, "well I'll just wait here for ya." And I turned around and looked at him an said, "I don't know that I'm gonna be coming this direction." I mean theier going that way, I dont know that – "Well, I'll just wait here for you." Alright, fine. I mean, I'm going back, get my dog and sure enough, we get out, and we take off in the field right down in the ravine near the road. So were in two opposite directions, I have no cover, and get down there, and sure enough, 'good boy Buck, what do we got here? A bag of clothes! Well, this is pretty amazing, we must be right on track.' So we go a little bit farther and pretty soon we come around this big old dead tree and here's these two guys. We tracked right to them, just like that. Well, I'm probably shocked as anybody at that point, and Buck's sure looking at them. Thank God he's a long-haired shepard, got this big mane, so he looked really big, and pointed my gun at these two guys and it's like, 'Better do as I say.' My thought at the time was 'you know, they're probably looking back and saying 'my gosh, a woman with a gun – we better do as she says," and I coudln't get out on my radio. So I was down there alone with these two guys, couldn't get cover, thought about firing a warning shot, and thought 'you know, there's forty cops out there, I'll probably get shot in the invariable pursuit.' So I walked them up to the field and had them there and one of the county deputies looked over and could see that I had them so he shouts over his radio, "She's got em!" All these people cam zooming in, and we went back, and they had buried their guns because they were ex-felons and knew if they were caught with them that it was a stiffer sentence. And they had buried the money. We went back and did an article search on both guns, and it was really amazing. Just when people were I think kind of shocked that the sole female out there with her dog catches these guys all by myself. Just the way things happened; I think things would probably happen a little differently now. We are just now training our first female dog master, and she sent me an email last week and she got her first capture,

and I'm just so excited for her. I know what it's like – it's really neat. I think she'll probably be treated a little differently, I would hope that if she were to go with her sergeant, he would have her start first instead of taking that opportunity.

RB: So, can you tell us a little bit about the K-9 Unit?

LA: Hillsboro, we started our program back in 1978. I think we had probably about the second K-9 program in the state at that time. We have an extensive training program where we pair up the officer with the dog, and we try and get a good personality fit. Buy our dogs are all male German Shepards, very friendly, because we use them for searching for lost children as well as coming to schools to do demonstrations. So they're very friendly, happy dogs, not aggressive. We train them to watch, we train them to take somebody either on command or if there's a gunshot. That's the only two times a dog will do a take. Other than that, they're harass and delay, so they just bark when they find somebody. So you go through the program, and you start out in the woods, where there's lots of scent left. So you send a quarry out. They go out and you tell them about how far to go and how many turns to make and then you take your dog and as a dog master you're going to be watching your dog. Depending how your dog behaves, you know if theyre on the track, or not, if theyre getting close, if they start casting when they get to the end of a track. A lot of times with the scent, they stick their nose up and theyre smelling, well you know that youre very close because dogs just have such an incredible nose. And then you basically go to long grass, down to shorter and shorter grass, and then to hard surface. Dogs are a tool – theyre just like anything else that we carry on our belt. Be it a tazer or a weapon, or a nightstick. A dog is a toll just like any of those other things. Think of it as we have this toolchest to do our job and what are all the options that you have? A dog is certainly one of those. It's great fun, because you get all of the hot calls, you get to chase bad guys, you get to catch bad guys and it's pretty exciting. When I first started, there were only three of us in the state at that time. I traveled all over the state with my dog on dog calls. We caught a rapist down in Corvallis. We were down there and out in the woods and tracked that guy. He elected to kind of jump down a big ravine and broke both of his legs. I thought, 'that was kind of deserving." But there's a lot of opportunities. We've got the narcotics units that work undercover. We've got the gang units thatgo out and work specifically with the gangsters. We've got a fraud and identity theft unit. Investigations in a variety of crimes, as well as a sex abuse, the child crimes, those types of thimgs. People always ask me 'isn't it hard to work those cases?' and it is, but I always have the attitude that I'm doing something about the bad person and that's what I think made it so that I – I mean, you didn't just focus on what terrible things happened to the real victims, which are the little children, but the fact is you're doing something about the bad guy and that's what's most important.

RB: I know a lot of my dad's friends that are in law enforcement, and he says 'Oh, they look at the world differently," so it's good I think to be positive.

LA: Yeah, it has to be. I mean, cops are known for their sick humor sometimes.

Nina Kramer: Like surgeons?

LA: Exactly, it's the same type of thing. Sometimes you have to make jokes about what you are doing. It's not that you are insensitive to it, but you have to survive sometimes because some of the things you see are pretty horrendous.

RB: Have you noticed a change in women in gangs? I mean as far as increasing or decreasing, or…?

LA: I'm not in a position to deal directly with that, but through the officers that work that, certainly yes. I mean we now have gals that form their own gangs, which is something that we've never had before. So there is an increase and Victor Castro – you'll have to talk to him. Victor is an incredible officer and an incredible resource, certainly very, very knowledgable about the gangs and I know he's been personally responsible for getting one gal out of a gang, which is a tribute to him. But, certainly I've seen an increase.

RB: So I don't know if you be able to give na answer, but I'm curious, are they just as vicious as the other ones?

LA: I think women can be a little more vicious than the men. I think they want to have to prove themselves and so they'll go one-up to showe htat theyre badasses and that they can do it. SO I think in some ways that women tend to be a little bit worse than the guys at times.

RB: I don't think I really saw a 'gang' as being all women, I don't know if that's just my own personal prejudices, or what, but…

LA: Well I think some of it is because it's not what we've seen. Traditionally, we see the male gangs and that's all we hear about. Well now we're starting to see where some of the females are banding together and doing the same thing. But because we haven't heard about it, we don't give it much thought. Again, I think it's part of that education, even if it's negative education, so-to-speak. It's kind of sad, probably in a few years, guess what? You may say 'gangs' and your probably going to say, 'Well was it girls or guys?' That's probably what'll happen because that's probably one of those trends that you se that;s just starting to come be in forefront.

RB: Have there been any changes in training? I assume there have…

LA: Huge, huge.

RB: What are some of the biggest?

LA: Well, obviously, we've always done firearms training. That's just a given, I mean, if you have a gun, you have to train with it. And we've always done defensive tactics training because obviously you get into a situation where you have to defend yourself or somebody else, you have to make sure you can do that with the minimum amount of force that you can use. Other areas like mediation training. Who ever heard of teaching cops to talk, so-to-speak? Everbody knows we have smart mouths, we know what to say. But that's certainly one area just in the last fifteen year sthat the chief's been here, I mean, when he first started here, our training budget, Iand granted we were a lot smaller, was like 6500 dollars. Now, it's up over 80,000 dollars. So there's been a huge difference. We train virtually every Wednesdya of the month, all year long there's some type of training. Some of it's mandatory, some of it's voluntary. But, there is so much to learn as a police officer that you can't – you just have to keep repeating everything every year. Blood-borne pathogens, knowing and understanding about that, defensive tactics, we have firearms, now we've got tazers you have to be trained in a tazer and how to use it. We do scenario training as well, we have EVOC for driving. There's just a whole host of things that you need to continue to hone your skills on. So, training is certainly something that 25 years ago it was minimal, it was absolutely minimal. Now, it's - like I say, ther's so much that's mandatory that you have to do that you just have to do it on a regular basis. We do what we call a Wednesday training plan, where all of the officers are on a four/ten schedule.

Some of it's mandatory; some of it's voluntary. But, there is so much to learn as a police officer that you can't – you just have to keep repeating everything every year. Blood-borne pathogens, knowing and understanding about that, defensive tactics, we have firearms, now we've got tazers you have to be trained in a tazer and how to use it. We do scenario training as well, we have EVOC for driving. There's just a whole host of things that you need to continue to hone your skills on. So, training is certainly something that 25 years ago it was minimal, it was absolutely minimal. Now, it's - like I say, there's so much that's mandatory that you have to do that you just have to do it on a regular basis. We do what we call a Wednesday training plan, where all of the officers are on a four/ten schedule, so some work the first half of the week, some work the second half, but everybody works Wednesday. Then what we do is get half the department to go in and train one Wednesday while the other half works; the following week, they flip-flop. So you repeat the training. So, that's kind of how we do it throughout the year.

RB: Does that lead to any kind of specialization in the workforce? Or does everybody pretty much do the same thing?

LA: Typically, everybody gets the same training, unless, for instance, we've got what we call TSU, which is like TNT which is a tactical team, or SWAT, but a little bit scaled down – not quite to the same level. So if you are in the SWAT team, you get more specialized training than you will otherwise. So there is some leaning towards some areas of specialty, but in general, overall everybody gets trained the same. Everybody starts from the same basis and then if they have a specialty, they'll get a little more training here. Field training officers, who are the officers that are coaches for the new officers we bring in, once they're hired and go down to the academy and come back, then they've got seventeen additional weeks of being with two different coaches. So both people receive specialized training on how to be a good trainer. As cops, a lot of times we tend to be type A personalities – we want to reach out and do it ourselves. So as a trainer you have to learn how to show them, talk to them, explain it to them, but then allow somebody else to do it. It takes a special type of person to be able to do that, to be a good trainer. So depending what your area of specialty is, then you need additional training for that.

RB: How have relations with the community changed as a whole, specifically with minority groups in this area?

LA: Well I think the HPD has always had a good working relationship with our community, and certainly better now than I think it used to be. We reach out more in the community, we attend community meetings. I don't know if you've talked to Genet Saunders from crime prevention, or maybe if somebody else did, but we have crime prevention programs, we have Becca Martell who does our volunteers, citizens' academy, the graffiti remote removal [inaudible]. All these things where we reach out into the community. So instead of just going out and doing our jobs as cops, as law enforcement, we reach out and want to touch the community and have them know us in a lot of other ways. For me personally, I've been on the court for the Airshow, I'm on the chamber board right now, I participate with Jackson Bottom with dream to dreams, I participate with Tuality hospital in their annual dinner dance. So, when we reach out and get to know the people in the community, its nice to be able to have somebody call you who knows you to ask a question instead of asking a total stranger. If it's something their not sure about, or they just don't know, and they feel comfortable. So it's good for us and its good for our community to get to know us on a different level, other than just enforcing laws. And we do that with the Hispanic community as well as with the Anglo community.

RB: So, has that been a changing thing since the 1980's?

LA: I would say that it started changing in the early 90's where we started reaching out more. Before in the 80's we were still a small enough community that we didn't have to reach out as much as we do now. The community has grown so much now and the police department has grown. We have to reach our fingers out in the community into different areas. Just because of the growth, I think it's more important for us to reach out now because it not the little bedroom community that it used to be.

RB: So how do you feel about community policing, then? I mean, as the community gets bigger, you can't always be involved in everything, so how do you feel about community policing?

LA: Well, we still have to do community policing. I think that has to be the basis for what we do. It's – I mean there's nothing more important than that relationship with your community. They're not going to report the crimes if they don't have the confidence that you're going to be able to do something about the problem. So having continued to work on those relationships on a variety of fronts is what we need to do. One of the things we've done here in Hillsboro, is we've got a lot more civilian employees than we used to have. It used to be predominantly cops and you had a few secretaries in the office and that was all. We had a police officer doing our code enforcement – we don't do that anymore, we have civilians that do that. Like I said, Becca does our volunteer coordination. Our crime prevention – civilians, training – civilians, I mean we have civilianized a lot of positions. And it saves money, number one, but it allows us to reach out into the community in different ways. So we need to continue to do that. It's no more just law enforcement, it's about solving the problem and that doesn't

II B

mean the end result is taking somebody to jail. It's what we need to do – it's what's best for the community, it's what's best for us.

RB: How did the HPD change with the introduction of civilianizing positions? I assume it's been able to grow.

LA: M-hm.

RB: But has it changed in any other ways?

→ Civilianizing Positions

LA: Certainly growth just in sheer numbers of people, but in attitudes as well. Some attitudes are, I think, a little slower to change than others. Civilianizing some of these positions I think takes a while for people to understand the value of that. Kind of some of those old, traditional attitudes about 'it can only be a sworn cop that can do it,' but, that's not true at all. The public safety specialists that we have in the field that do code enforcement, that take the lesser calls, I mean you ask any patrol officer and they absolutely love having them out there to help them. Part of it comes with the experience, and learning the benefits, versus not knowing and people being apprehensive because they're unaware. The growth in the department alone, and the city, the way the city's grown – it used to be we had our little downtown core and that was considered Hillsboro. Now we have Tanasbourne, we have the whole east side of the city, which is totally different than what we used to experience.

III A

RB: I think it's interesting that a civilian can be a police officer. How odd, you know? But, do they still have all the same authority? Or is it...?

LA: They don't carry a badge. They're not a certified police officer; we would not expect them to make an arrest in the field. We don't want them put in harm's way. That's why, on a traffic accident, they may be there to direct traffic, but not investigate the crash. Crime scenes – doing security perimeter after the scene is secured, they could be there to assist, but again, not putting them in harm's way. There is a huge benefit and it's only been the last ten, fifteen years that we've really started to civilianize and see the benefits of that. But it's great – those people just do an incredible job for us, absolutely incredible.

RB: It's nice to see that the people that want to get involved can get involved. Do they ever get certified?

LA: M-hm. And a lot of – like the PSS is – most of them have worked for us in other positions in the department and then that opportunity becomes available and they go for it and they go, 'well that looks like fun, I'd like to try something different.' And that's one thing, for as large as we are, there are some opportunities to move around for different assignments. For me personally that's one of the things where I never got bored because I was always moving around. I did so many things – it seems like every year or two I was doing something different. It was a new assignment, or something changed. It made it exciting and there were a lot of opportunities.

RB: Has there ever been any incidents where a civilian isn't supposed to be in the action, but something happens? Or is that even a possibility?

LA: No, I think that's always a possibility, because they are – I can't think of a specific incident, but when you consider that they're in a uniform and driving a marked unit, people – it's not exactly like a police car, like they might drive a truck, but it says Hillsboro Police on it, it does have lights because they respond and they may have to block traffic. So there could be confusion, where somebody could confuse them for a sworn officer. I'm not aware that that's ever happened.

RB: We were reading the Hillsboro Police Report, and basically ~~tacking~~ tracking the changes, and we saw strategic planning and how you were reworking the infrastructure of the actual police department. So maybe you could tell us a little bit about how that has changed?

II F-relations with community, strategic planning

III A

LA: Well, we started strategic planning about 15 years ago, where we bring – we do it in a couple fashions. We do it both internally and externally. Where we meet together as a group and then we reach out into the community and bring different factions of the community. We'll bring citizens, we'll bring people from the schools, we bring somebody from business. So we reach out into all walks – the Hispanic community – and get together, and then we facilitate the process about 'What are your expectations? What do you thing the police dept should look like? What should we be doing in our community?' So it's not just our ideas, but it's hearing from the community. So we started that, and then every year we update that and see what changes we need to make, and are we doing things they way we want. Kind of like Hillsboro Vision 20/20 – the same type of a process that they've gone through with that – we started. So we just go back and every year update it and see are we on track? Are we looking at the trends? Are we where we should be? That's how we move the police dept forward; we do that on

an annual basis. It's very effective, it's very effective. And, like I say, getting the community to buy up – we passed our last levy by 70%. We were the only city in the state to pass it at that level. That says a lot for our relationship with the community, which is very, very important.

RB: So then, you feel it's beneficial to have the strategic planning?

LA: Absolutely. Absolutely. As much as we might think that we know what's best for the community, we don't know that until we confirm it. Plus, several brains are almost always better than one. There are certain times where you have to make a split-second decision and you can only depend on yourself. But when you've got what we call discretionary time – what's better than getting a bunch of brains - smart people - together to come up with ideas - brainstorm – and come up with the best solution instead of just one solution. Cause there's always – as they would say, there's more than one way to skin a cat. So let's figure out, what are our options, what's the best solution?

RB: Are there any specific changes that you have made to the infrastructure that have arisen from certain changes in crime?

LA: I think that we have. One of the things that we've done on a countywide basis is we now have interagency teams, which we didn't – we had a few of those early on, but certainly now we've got Westside Narcotics Team, we've got [inaudible], which is the Gang Team, we've got the identity and fraud – we never used to have that, but now we've got a task force that deals with those calls. So I think what we've seen is there are changes w have to make in order to adapt to what is going on. There's a law enforcement council that meets once a month. It's all the – the sheriff and all the chiefs in Washington County, and we meet once a month and talk about things. That's where some of these ideas about having a task force idea. We've got the MAT Detail, which is the traffic team. It's a multi agency traffic team where one day out of the month, all of the motor officers form all of the agencies, they get together and they'll concentrate in one area. And it's publicized that they're going to be in Hillsboro working on school bus violations, so look out – you tell people ahead of time, you don't try and surprise them – but then they'll all be here and that will be their focus and education. One of the others in wearing your seatbelts – now you're starting to hear "click it or ticket." Everywhere you go, doesn't matter what state you're in, that's the new buzzword, but wearing seatbelts, I mean, the trend till now, remember what that was? We didn't used to wear seatbelts, we didn't even have any in the car, and now, again, that's a trend – they save lives. When we do our pedestrian education campaigns, and that's what we do – we rarely cite people on those, we're there to educate. We pull them over, they get warnings, they get educated, those types of things. So those are the types of things that as the community becomes more aware, being able to reduce crashes, then you've got to start wearing your seatbelts, and you've got to start paying attention to red lights and speeding in different areas, these types of things. Certainly – I mean you look at a variety of things across the board to see what types of changes you can make. Be proactive.

RB: I've heard a lot form other people who have gone on interviews that meth keeps coming up. Do you think that's a problem in Hillsboro right now? Or is it more of an overall state problem?

LA: No, it's a problem in Hillsboro right now. It's a huge problem in the state as well. It's so easy, and the problem with meth is that the physical high from meth – its just so overwhelming, its... Having never been on it I can't tell you, but what I can tell you is the high a person gets off of it is enough to turn a mother away from her child. To disregard caring for her child. And that bond between a mother and a child can be set aside by the use of methamphetamine because of the physical reaction. So it's very serious and I think the sad part is, somebody thinks, 'oh, I can try it once' and then they're hooked, and they can't stop – they can't stop without that high. And it's very difficult; I think it's a very serious problem. It's something that we need – the whole community has to come together to solve this problem. Again, this isn't something law enforcement can do on our own because we're after the fact with methamphetamine. We're arresting people after their high on meth, when they've manufactured meth, when they've sold it. We're after, and we've got to get in front of it and that's where the education comes in where we need to be able to tell people this in going to ruin your life. It's going to ruin it, maybe not for the rest of it, but for a long time. But it is a serious problem.

RB: How has the Hillsboro Police Department dealt with the crimes like identity theft in the community?

LA: Well, I think one thing is we're certainly not doing enough public education. I've been to two presentations here in the last six weeks out in different business groups where we're educating them about it. And in relationship to the identity theft, people may not see the meth, but they're getting hit by identity theft – they go hand in hand. Basically you don't have one without the other. So educating them and then, I mean for us, we participate on the Westside Interagency Narcotics Team. We have a sergeant and an officer assigned there, that's all they do is just work with those cases. We also have a street crimes unit here, which is a group that will work – they'll work the neighborhood livability issues for us, I mean, right now we're having a graffiti problem. [Tape Stop, Switch Sides] So with the graffiti problem, like I said, we've done something about that. But

there's groups as well, if a neighbor calls us and says 'they're dealing drugs, they've got people there all day,' all day, all night, that type of thing, then this group will go over and work that. We're certainly very proactive towards working with issues when we know about them, when they come to our attention.

RB: What kinds of crimes are related to methamphetamines, besides identity theft?

LA: Well, identity theft is the largest. I think you have prostitution – females who can't afford to pay for it will sell their bodies for it. Robberies, thefts, fencing material, you name it – a lot of it just comes back to meth. People will do it, either trade things for the drugs to sell them to a fence to get money to buy the drug. Meth is pretty crippling when you look across the board at all the other crimes that people will commit, just to get their money or the money for the drugs or to get the drugs.

RB: What measures have you taken in the area of homeland security?

LA: Oh, goodness. That's kind of a big one. Certainly with homeland security, we participate with the FBI, we've had somebody flown to the critical position institute, which deals with homeland security, how to manage an incident if we were to have one, how to coordinate and work with our fellow agencies on exercises. We've participated in numerous grants to homeland security for equipment, those types of things. It's something that you virtually do on a daily basis.

RB: So are you a part of the task force, the national task force? I know that the mayor of Portland pulled out...

LA: Right, he did, but no. Certainly we still support that.

RB: I think that pretty much wraps it up. Did you have anything else you'd like to add?

LA: I would just have to say that I think that this has been an incredible career. I don't look at being in law enforcement as a job, but something lifelong, lifelong learning. It's been very good to me - I can truly say after 28 years I still enjoy coming to work. The only other thing I'd add is I think it's very important to have a sense of humor, no matter what you do, a good sense of humor.