HPD

OFFICER HESS- Phuoc and Kristy May 30, 2005

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What training do you get about racial profiling?

Besides life experience- learning how to deal with different cultures- The HPD has provided a lot of cultural training where we're learning more about different cultures. Besides just our Caucasian- European- American culture. So we're a little able to understand what's happening and be a little more empathetic to what's going on in your life.

TOF

What types of things do you do in that training?

We learn it's less about treating people differently because of their race and it's more about treating people the same. I think that's a very important piece. And that is a lot of it- what has helped is we've learned a lot about cultures and how cultures have matured or the family structure from different types of cultures that may be different from ours.

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As far as the happenings of 911 have you had to learn about demographics of criminals?

Well we don't do it by race- we do it be behavior. Racial profiling or profiling someone strictly because of their race or sexual profiling is absolutely wrong but profiling people by their behavior I think is a different story. If we know that we got a drug house on the corner and we know that john doe lives there and john doe drives this car and that john doe makes a dope run ever Friday afternoon. We may be profiling john doe based on those activities- not anything because of his race or anything. We haven't profiled any of the Middle Eastern cultures because of 911. Again it's all based on behavior and what we see. Actions that we can document as opposed to "oh they're Iraqi, they must be a bad guy".

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Do you have any training to profile and avoid any discrimination?

Sure it's easy- it's just based on behavior. If you can document the behavior then there shouldn't be any question of weather or not we did it for any other reason.

TOF

This is a traffic subject stop graph. Do you know how this graph is to be interpreted?

I have no idea. This is the first time... I've seen similar data before- but not this.

Is percentage taken into thought when interpreting the data other than just oh well less of this race is pulled over they must be better than this other race...

Well if you read the graph as it should be represented than percentage should be represented. You have to look at percentage of population- Not only in the community but in the surrounding area as well. If you do take that into consideration- not looking at the percentages or not knowing the percentages then that's something you've got to investigate. I would also then compare the percentages.

The HPD has gone through several Strategic Planning Processes- what has been your experience with those?

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Strategic planning is a tool that I believe sets direction. And I think we've been pretty successful in doing that. One thing I think it has a tendency to do is to set us up for "we said this was going to happen five years ago and now its going to happen" its sets us up for an expected outcome. As opposed to were we sound be.

Could you explain what is the strategic planning process.

its basically a plan to get from point a to point b. what do we want to look like 5 years along the rode and how we want to get there.

How has school discipline changed to criminal discipline? Are kids getting more violent or are we just getting more aware?

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I don't think we're arresting more people then we were three years ago. I think it's just because having an officer on campus all the time. When anything does happen, words get around, and numbers get inflated just through gossip. I certainly in major assault cases I have to get involved. For the small fights in schools, police rarely get involved. Except in maybe matters of counseling. Or just kind of an assistance to parents to help them out.

Do you think the numbers have changed over the past 25 years?

I think they have, because our culture has become more violent. An arrest is just one more tool that shows this is not the right thing to be doing.

What do you think is causing society to become more violent?

There are number of factors. T.V. and media are huge. It's become so accepted in T.V. and games that we've become desensitized to it. When 4 5 year old kids get exposed to this, kids start to mimic what they to in the video games and violent movies thinking that its ok. I don't think this is the only cause. I think as a society, we've become more accepted to it.

Does state law require documenting of hate crimes that happen in Hillsboro?

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They do. Any hate crime is reported separately Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics.

What is considered a hate crime? Cause I know from a while back, someone spread a whole bunch of Neo Nazi pamphlets all over someone's lawn. Is that considered a crime?

The pamphlets were distributed evenly to everybody, so it wasn't really a crime because it didn't target anybody specifically. It was really an exercise of their first amendment rights. In order for it to be a hate crime, the crime had to be because of someone was a different race or sex. Like if I found out that you were Hispanic, and I punched you. One can draw that I punched you because you were Hispanic, and that would be considered a hate crime.

Are there a lot of those in Hillsboro?

No. I can only remember one or two in the past 5 years, Most crimes now days are interracial. It's not like the Caucasian fighting the Hispanic.

Do you believe community policing and special mediation is effective?

I think community policing is absolutely effective. This is an example, you can leave a note on my door, and send me an interview, and all the sudden you got yourself an interview. Just being able to have access to a cop, I think, is really good. And the idea of a neighborhood is to have neighborhood cops, but some people don't take that far enough. Community policing in its purist form helps common people feel safer. If you go to a community and you feel safer, that's where you're going to want to live. And if you look at community policing, it keeps bad guys out. Mediation is a tool, I think it work really really good for some stuff. Again it just depends on the circumstances.

Is there any specific circumstances where mediation is not effective?

If you got a group of people who just doesn't agree on anything. Bringing them into a room and just letting them air it out a little and let them come up with there own solution is a good thing. We've been doing this for years. It just now has a fancy name.

What changes have Ron Luey enacted ever since he's become the chief police.?

Community policing is one of them. He came here in about 1992. I was big on community policing. Well first of all, that was were I learned to be a cop. As a police officer I the city I grew up in, everybody know me. In the day sift, I would go to the coffee shop and have coffee with the boys and walking down the street and saying hi to everybody. And that's just what you did. He kind of brought the idea back to Hillsboro, not that it started here.

Specifically he's really against force and the whole chasing after somebody who doesn't pull over that has a broken tail light. That could be dangerous could you explain any of his theories for training with that?

Not necessarily. I think law enforcement, especially western law enforcement is moving towards that. We're now realizing that we shouldn't be chasing people with a broken

taillight. I figured that out fifteen years ago. I mean it's a no brainer. So for street officers, its okay to pick you battles. Is the end result worth what it take to get you there.

So do you guys just let them go, or like record their license plate or something?

Sure, we usually already have their license plate already, so we just go after them there. It's just not that big of a deal. Obviously if it was a bank robber or something, we're going to take them apart. If you talk to older maturer police cops, they would say the same thing.

Do you think any of the police officers strongly oppose it?

Well absolutely yeah.

Could you think of a reason?

Because they have to get the bad guy. It's a power thing. Its "you can't do that, I'm going to get you for that." It's nothing personal. It just that you broke the law you get a ticket, you broke the law you go to jail. You broke the law I'm going to catch you. It's funny, I heard this interview with this guy that's in southern United States and he was talking about the new police car they had got. How it was all fast and you could go like 900 miles an hour. And basically, he just put the challenge out, he's like "okay people, try to run from us now, we'll catch you."

In Italy, I heard lambergini donated some of their cars to the police force I can drive a Lambergini

(laughs)

I've also read an article about police having to record everything, I mean like if you pull out your tazer or something, you'll have to report that. Has that changed the way you had to do anything?

No not really. What it has done is if there is a question about what we do, we can definitely have numbers, this is haw many time we've pointed a gun at somebody, this is how many times we've hit somebody with a baton, this is how many times we've taken out our baton and not hit somebody. So it's a matter of every time I pull out my gun, am I going to shoot somebody. So I could say that in my career, I've pulled my gun out 150 times and I haven't shot anybody. I might have displayed my baton 150 times, but I've only hit 2 people. So it's a case of somebody accuses me of excessive force. I can go back and say no. Because here are the times that I could have done it but I didn't, and here are the times that I did, and these are the reasons. It's a pain in the butt, but it's worth it just for that fact.

With the whole form process thing, what do you have to do when all the excitement is over?

Oh yeah, the stuff that you don't see on cops. (laughs) You got to write it all down, everything from start to finish

Is that ever hard? Like humm who did that first or...

Yeah, especially in cases where you just doing one thing after another, and you have no time to jot down notes of what you're doing. Everything is like going boom, boom, boom and in the end you have to sit down and try to remember what happened.

Have they ever trained you on how to remember what your doing in the academy?

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I'm fortunate that I can process that. It took a lot of math. Dad was really right, math wasn't really just about math, it was also about learning how to think. Yeah, but no we don't, it's just a self learning process thing...

Do you think it's easier if you have a partner or something?

No, actually it's harder with a partner. If you look at something and I look at something. It's going to be interpreted two different ways

Do you think its harder to do you job with a partner or...

Well it depends on the situation. With a partner it's nice because you can say, "you do this this and this, and I'll do this this and this, and we just go our separate ways then come back together."

How do you think Hillsboro thinks of its police officers?

I think we have a very good reputation with the community. In the last 10 years. When we ask for money, it just never fails. And I think that's an indication that the community I our all is saying that "yeah your doing okay, your spending our money wisely, we're getting our money worth.

I was looking at crime statistics, and I saw that Hillsboro has an overwhelmingly high percentage of rapes compared to the national average. Do you know why any of that would be?

Im not familiar with that statistic.

I got it off on some Bureau of Crimes statistics. It was just like huge, like 187 for every 500 people and the national average is only 40.

That sounds skewed. And stranger to stranger rapes are rare.

Do you believe that statutory rapes are included in that statistic?

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Oh rape is rape. Even if its statutory rape, if it's rape 1, it' rape one. Is there anything else you think we've missed?

Well you covered a lot of big topics.

Well alright thanks.