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**Interview with Detective Theodore Schrader
Conducted by Bruh Beyene and Clint Johnston on May 19, 2005.**

Clint Johnston: How long have you been working for the police department?

Theodore Schrader: Since 1997

Bruh Beyene: What are some trends you noticed in criminal activity in the span of your career?

TS: Specifically with Hillsboro ~~I think there is Hillsboro~~ ^{and} Washington County, ~~has an~~ ^{there is an} interest in dynamic are several smaller cities. Most of my law enforcement experience is from big city style. But when you come to a smaller market Washington County the big trend I've seen is a lot of cooperation between similar size agencies. We have a very good cooperative effort with Beaverton police department, Tigard, Tualatin, Washington county sheriff's office Washington county districts office, and that really drives a lot of the successful things that happen in law enforcement in Washington county and that is a cooperative effort between all the agencies including schools. We are really involved with Hillsboro school district through our school resource officer program with our dept. of human services and of child protection services doing a lot of interaction with that agency and the biggest trend I think will be a focus for years to come is cooperative effort between all the agencies both law enforcement and public sector service agencies within the general county area.

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BB: From 1997 to 2005, did you notice any changes?

>>The biggest thing was a lot of growth, I mean even before I got here in the early 90s this was still a town of 30 -35 thousand people now we're looking at a 75 thousand 80 thousand people and that's a huge expansion of growth, when you talk about how things were done in the early 90s here as opposed to how they're done now, I could speak about a lot of what's happened since 97 with changes and its just a lot of growing pains every part of Hillsboro to Washington county kind of experience growing pains whether it's the school district, police dept. court system and that's taken some getting used to I think what has helped a lot with that is the cooperative effort between all the agencies who are also going through the same kind of the growing problems like Beaverton and unincorporated areas of Washington county with the amount of growth that's happened we really need to cooperate and communicate with each other to accommodate that kind of growth and change since 97.

II

BB: What have you enjoyed most working with the Hillsboro police department?

>>I've been a detective since 1998, it's a challenging job and I get a lot of personal satisfaction, I enjoy the working relationships I have with these agencies the district attorney's office, with outside agencies, the Beaverton and Washington county sheriffs office, I love the ability in my particular job to see things through their completion, when I'm assigned a case, its my job to answer the questions, to figure it out. There's no loose

ends afterwards and when you have a lot of those that you complete, there's a lot of job satisfaction with being able to see very complicated matter all the way through to the end whereas if your working in different areas of law enforcement that may not necessarily be the case. If you're working patrol your primary focus is first response, answering calls for service, you don't necessarily see the end result of some of your initial work. For detectives that's definitely part of your job description.

CT: What kind of relationship do you have with the DA and some other agencies?

>> That's something that's unique at least from my perspective working in a smaller market, such as Washington County as opposed to Detroit or Los Angeles is that you really know people by their first name in the DA's office or some of your partner agencies. Here because of our size we are able to enjoy that. I have a great working relationship with a dozen or so DA's that work in our office and it makes for a much smoother job when you're able to call people that you know and get things accomplished through court or meeting witnesses or getting trial preparation done. Just the fact that we're small enough that we know each other, I think that makes our job a whole lot easier.

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BB: What ^{area} ~~part~~ of Hillsboro give you the most trouble?

>> Good question but I don't know if there is any area that gives us a lot of problems; it all depends on what problem you are. We have an area downtown around like 10th and Walnut and 10th and Maple that has a high call for service; where residents there call the police a lot, for a lot of different issues. Other areas of Hillsboro, we don't get a very high call for service and where quite little pockets of town here and there. But as far as a dangerous area of Hillsboro I don't know of specifically if we have one; there are just areas where they require more police presence than others.

Police presence as in drugs or burglary, would you associate any area with that?

>> Not really. Around the older established parts of Hillsboro. When you talk about Hillsboro, you can't escape the growth factor. When you talk about, what is Hillsboro, Where is Hillsboro? To someone who's been here in the 80s, Hillsboro only goes up to Brookwood; other people who've been here think Hillsboro goes all the way up to 185th where Tanasbourne is and that's where they think of Hillsboro. So, it's the older more established areas that have been here the longest that are in the city probably have the most need for calls and service. People that have been there the longest, it's the most established part of Hillsboro; some of the newer areas we don't get a lot of calls for service are not really established where people like to hang out or businesses aren't established as much. When you talk about drug activity you'll find it on 10th and Maple, 10th and Walnut. People selling dope around there, occasionally getting prostitution down there but, really it's where people have been there the longest. You won't get that so much out at Evergreen and 25th, because there's not a whole lot out there and so people are really comfortable where they're use to hanging around. And because of the way

Hillsboro has grown, you'll have certain areas that have been here the longest and those areas seem to attract the trouble.

Do you think it's the new population growth; did that have a big impact on the areas?

>> I don't think so, I think some problem areas like the apt. complex out on Quatama crossing, that came in a brand new apt. complex looking beautiful, but it was a nightmare. We had a lot of problems when it first opened, because the management company wasn't screening people right or whatever, but if felt to us that you absolutely had to have a criminal record in order to get an apt. there because every time you went there, there was always trouble. People getting their cars broken into, fights all the time, all that kind of stuff all the time, this is a brand new complex; so not necessarily, that's an example of an area that got off on the bad foot so to speak. But that certainly isn't necessarily indicative of all the new area growth. So all the new apt. complexes didn't experience those kinds of things like Quatama crossing. What we call the core area of Hillsboro, right around 10th, Walnut, Maple, Cedar, or Schute Park, where it's the long time are of downtown Hillsboro or what people think of downtown Hillsboro is probably where we have the most activities, troubles that kind of stuff, I wouldn't say it's the new people coming in because those are the ones that have been here the longest, the areas been established the longest, which is, that's where the people go.

II. C.

BB: Those areas you talked about like 10th and Maple, Walnut, and Schute Park, do you think they've gone bad to good or good to bad?

>> Not necessarily, it's pretty consistent. We have seen some improvement when certain citizens are involved with apt. complexes. One of them, I know they call it Sunset Gardens now but it used to be called.... But that was a terrible complex. It's been around for years and years, they went in the repainted, they restructured they way tenants come in. And it made a huge difference – terrible place; always fights always problems, just about any night of the week. Until the property owners around they took a proactive approach and said what are we doing wrong here and why do we have so many problems, and they did a lot to change that, they gave it a new name, a new paint job, the problems aren't the same as they used to be.

CJ: The issue with meth, in Hillsboro, it's been in the media a lot. Do you think that it's really that big of a deal the media is making it out to be or is it really just something new?

>> It's worst than the media says it is. It's terrible. For those of you not familiar with Methamphetamines and what it does to your body, you might as well be drinking drain cleaner it literally is poison that you put into your body it's the worst thing in law enforcement that I've ever seen. I would take heroin users of cocaine users any day over meth addicts. That stuff is truly evil. What the media has put out is pretty much just the tip of the iceberg. Just about all of the crimes into Washington County have something to do with meth. About 80-90% of the crimes we deal with have some meth component to them whether its forgery, thefts, bad checks, assaults, homicides or whatever, there's

III. C. 3.

some part of that that has meth involved. It's terrible and it's only going to get worse before it gets any better.

CJ: Do you think there's any thing like the DARE program that can educate the public on meth?

>> Yeah there is recognition now that meth needs to be addressed. I think that what you see in the media recently is some reflection of that, of trying to educate people of what meth is, what meth does, how bad it really is and I think that is a way to start educating people through DARE or other programs like that to get people aware of what meth really does to people

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BB: Are you O.K. with the media coverage? Is it a positive thing, has it reduced use?

>> Absolutely it hasn't reduced the activity but I think it opens people's eyes to understand what meth really is. A lot of people out there think drug use is a personal choice and they can choose what to put in their own bodies, and why should it be illegal and that kind of thing. I think once they see what the effects of those things are, what it does to a person, what it does to their family, what it does to their neighborhoods, I think they understand why certain things are made illegal. I don't think there's any clinical, medical, positive use that you could use meth for. The more people are aware of that; I think they'll understand why things are so bad with this stuff. Education is the key to understanding it but it's not going to make the problem go away.

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BB: Has the introduction of the max line to Hillsboro had any effect on crime?

>> I don't think so, initially there was concern that it was going to be a whole lot easier for people to come to and from Portland from Gresham into Hillsboro and we're going to have Portland criminals coming and going and that necessarily hasn't com to pass. Some people were concerned about that that the ease of use would bring criminal elements into Hillsboro. I don't think that's really happened.

CJ: Over the years, meth has been on the rise. What has been declining over the past couple of years?

>> I haven't seen a whole lot of heroin. Heroin has been on the downslide for a long time. You don't see a lot of cocaine anymore in Hillsboro. I see a lot of marijuana because that's everywhere. The reason meth is so prevalent is it's cheap and it's easy. You could make it in your garage. Not very safely because the people who cook that stuff end up dying from the poison that gets in your system, their hair and teeth will fall out, it's terrible stuff but it's cheap and easy to make, and it's everywhere. So I don't know if their has been a decline in anything else, I think meth is steadily increasing because it's everywhere. People can make it in a car pretty much and they can sell it pretty cheaply and it's real easy.

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BB: As a detective, have you ever gone undercover?

>> I have, not so much in Hillsboro. A few times in certain operations.

CJ: What non-drug based crimes have you noticed like DUI or domestic violence, what's the most prevalent other than drugs in Hillsboro?

>> Probably the biggest thing, and it does tie in with Methamphetamine, is forgery, mail theft. You show me a forgerer - and I'll show you a meth user. They're the same people. They're the ones stealing mail, stealing checks, washing checks, making stuff on computer just to try to make it look like a real check; and those are all meth users; without question, when you see forgery, you'll see meth users. And that's really the big scourge. We do have a domestic violence problem but we do have probably more resources for domestic violence than probably any other crime problem that we have in the city of Hillsboro. We have a good working relationship with domestic violence resource center. I think I saw one of the people on your list from the DVRC. We have a detective who does nothing but review domestic violence cases, as part of his job. They have a domestic violence team in the district attorney's office, that specializes in domestic violence. There's a lot of resources rightly for domestic issues. But other than that, we don't really have a huge crime problem, you have some limited gang activity. And I see it though a different kind of lens. When I think of gangs I think of the ones down in Los Angeles. And the ones I see here, I don't see them nearly as sophisticated or as an organized criminal enterprise like they were in Los Angeles. Here we have kids who want to where sports jerseys with numbers on it, get tattoos, and there is a few bad ones out there. But for the most part they're not involved in organized criminal activity to the extent that they were that I've been used to or I've noticed in my career. But we do have problems with graffiti in Hillsboro, people who want to be in gangs, that want to make a big deal of with their "think street", or "12th street", and they want to live that lifestyle as a gangster with..., not so much a big gang problem, we do have one, but it is getting a lot of attention in our department, but as far as our huge crime problems that are in Hillsboro is about it: meth use, forgery, theft, limited gang activity with graffiti, theft and that kind of stuff.

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BB: I noticed when you were talking about gangs comparing them from where you were in L.A. opposed to here in Hillsboro, you kind of thought it was a joke and you don't really take it seriously, and so I'm curious where did these gangs come from? Considering the population upsurge, and so what would you say, they came mostly from California?

>> I think the Idea came from southern California. I don't think a lot of the ones who have the tattoos have ever set foot outside the state of Oregon. But through mass media or they know a cousin or brother who has served time in this thing, it's something they gravitate to. There is a certain amount of people that want that, want to do that kind of stuff, want to be a gangster, want to be whatever and they think that's an alluring image. And they may have never left Forest Grove in their entire life. They've got 12th street tattoos, and they want to be a bad-ass but they've never been anywhere, that's just who they want to be. So I think a lot of it comes from that.

III.C-2

BB: What does our daily schedule consist of and what would you change?

>> Ooh, you know that's the fun about being a detective. I don't really have a daily schedual. Generally, I work from Monday through Friday 8am to 4pm. But basically just be available to a lot of the outside agencies. Either through court, child service protection; agencies that we deal with on a regular basis ... plus when people are home or work that we can go and talk to, to interview and those kind of things. I think detectives are there for a particular reason, that is what kind of work you do. I don't think I would change a lot. Sometimes I like to work longer cuz I have a ton of stuff to do on a particular day, this week is one of them. I really don't need to go home. I have 5 days of work and 3 days to do it. So I try and stretch them out as much as I can, but I don't think there is much I would change about my schedule.



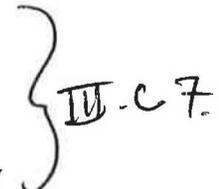
CJ: With the crime in Hillsboro, would you say there is any particular race involved; I know there is a large number of Hispanics and Asians in Hillsboro, with that, do you think, with the larger numbers comes criminal activity? Or is that pretty much spread out throughout?

>> I don't think so. For many years, there are child and adult sex crimes. My suspects were usually white males. I've handled 3 or 4 of the last 5 homicides in Hillsboro, on 2 cases, the suspects were one was a white guy and the second was a Hispanic guy, 3rd one was a white guy, 4th one we're still working on, 5th he was a male asian so, so there is no ethnic group that has a label: our child molesters are always so and so or our car thieves are always so and so, we don't really have that. Hillsboro is predominantly white so, most of our criminals are white. Most of the people involved with meth, we'll se male or female whites. We do have a Hispanic population that's involved in drug sales. A lot of our gang activity is popular in the Hispanic community, we don't really have a lot of white gangsters that get themselves all tattooed up, a lot of the Hillsboro ones associated themselves with historic Hispanic gangs from Los Angeles. They have the same names as those. There's not a lot of white gangs in Hillsboro. A lot of the juvenile gang activity will be male Hispanic generally speaking. Car thieves come in every shape, dope users come in every shape, DUIs come in every color, so not really.



CJ: You mentioned juveniles. Do you think there's been an increase in the past years of juvenile criminal activity?

>> Not so much. We've had a couple of ones. Even this year a couple high profile ones, students from Glencoe High School students shooting up a house, but that's not indicative of a trend of juvenile activity. You'll get a few cases like that that will make a big splash in the media. "Oh look at all these kids they're running around", no not really. Mostly it's still adults, a lot of the stuff like graffiti, there's not a whole lot of adults spray painting a bunch of numbers on the wall. So, no not really.



BB: We asked you about what kind of races commit what kind of crime. In law enforcement generally in Hillsboro, would you say they were diverse as well?

>> I would say so. Hillsboro police is very progressive department. Our chief is really big on having a very diverse workforce as far as the people he hires as far as I've been there. Most of the people we hire in Hillsboro Police department have been officers somewhere else. We very rarely get someone who's never been an officer before. We've had a few but those are the exceptions. Pretty much our whole detective unit have been a police officer somewhere else, that have come to work with Hillsboro, and that in itself brings up a lot of diverse views on police departments. As far as race goes, our biggest minority population within the police department is Hispanic officers - Spanish speaking officers; because the chief really wants to mirror the community in so much that we do have I wouldn't say a large Hispanic population, but one that's predominant. We have enough that if we need certain services through the police department, that we'll be able to serve the Hispanic community. The chief is aware of that, that's a big thing with him; that we have as many Spanish speaking people as we can get, Hispanic officers we can get. We don't have that many minorities in Hillsboro other than Hispanics.

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CJ: We've been talking a lot about crime. What are some changes in law enforcement and punishments for crime through the years?

>> The biggest one in the state of Oregon is Measure 11. I think before then it was up to the judge's mood on that particular day what he thought was a good idea at the time and that level of ambiguity really did discern us to the criminal justice system. Not that we can't trust our judges, but by the fact that we didn't have consistency. And I think when you deal wit criminal justice system and punishment in general, consistency is huge. People will want to know; if you robbed somebody on the street, that equals a certain amount of time in prison. And there needs to be a consistent was of handling punishment through court. And it's a fairness issue. Does this person get a year and a half and this person gets 11, well why? They have the same criminal history but, it depends on what judge saw them on what day. A lot of fairness wasn't applied, consistency wasn't applied. What Measure 11 did in the state of Oregon is apply a consistent schedule of what's gonna happen if you do x = y. This is what's gonna happen, and the judges weren't able to deviate what we call a downward departure, we here that from DA's or judges. They can request a downward departure outside of measure of 11, they can request an upward departure outside the timeframe of measure 11. But that's a foundation of fairness through the criminal justice system in the state of Oregon. It really makes a difference on what people view what's gonna happen if this person is arrested and convicted with rape, or robbery, or murder, or whatever the measure 11 offense is going to be. I think it's the best thing since sliced bread myself. I think there's no questions, there's no mystery, there's no ambiguity. This is what happens if you get convicted of this crime. There is no mystery and there's no secrets.

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BB: How much effect do you think Measure 11 has had on Hillsboro? Do you think it has reduced crime?

>> You hear that a lot from suspects. Is this gonna be a measure 11 thing? Everyone knows what it is. Is it a determinant - I don't know. I think they know that it's an issue

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when you're charged with a measure 11 crime. And they know it's the real deal. And I think a lot of people think about that...

"uh measure 11, I ain't gonna mess with that kind of thing..." and I think that does have a deterring factor because it's no mystery, it's no secret, there is a level of consistency that they know what's going to happen to them if they're convicted of these things. Does that have an affect on what they choose to do, I think it does.

IV. H

CJ: In law enforcement, what are some strategies/techniques that police officers are using that have changed from earlier techniques? Changes in tools, weapons that they use to take down criminals?

>> There has been a huge change. Our style of law enforcement in 1990, the most sophisticated piece of equipment I had my car was an old fashion what they call NDT, to run people for warrants, to run license plates, to receive your call for service – it shows up on a very small computer screen. But now a days what they have in their car, holy cow, its like a little laptop, they can do reports, do things much more efficiently, I think the use of high tech stuff has greatly increased the efficiently in how we do our job with tools. As far as weapons go there is a huge trend to explore what we call less than lethal force options. I started in 1990, I got a metal pipe know as a baton, I got a pistol, I got some tear gas, and that was it. They gave us old fashion tasers, big and bulky so no one really carried them. Usually just hit people with baton or you shot them. Now there are so many other use of force tools that are available that you don't have to just pull your gun and shoot somebody like in the old days. One of the biggest things I found was OC spray, pepper spray. When that stuff came around, amazing, the old mace that we were issued was extremely non-user friendly. That stuff will get everywhere. No one really used that stuff. Because it either didn't work or it fumigated the whole area and everyone got stuff in their eyes. With OC spray or Pepper spray, it was much more user friendly. The people didn't suffer effects as they did with tear gas. It wasn't nearly as destructive to a person's system as tear gas is. Pepper spray hurts like a mother; don't get sprayed with that stuff if you don't have to. I've been sprayed with it enough in training. It's bad news. If it works well it will make you stop whatever you are doing. It's great, you don't have to fight with nearly as many as people, they're not injured, suspects are not injured, it's temporary, but very incapacitating for a very short amount of time. That's exactly the tool police need. Something that doesn't cause people bodily harm; stops them from doing what they're doing – usually fighting us or somebody else, and they don't get hurt from it. I've seen it many times in the field. An OC spray is great. Nobody gets hurt really. It hurts and they're not happy for 20 minutes, because it really is bad news, but after it wears off – everyone's fine. They don't get cuts and bruises, officers don't get hurt, victims don't get hurt, and that something that's been around for about the last 15 years, that's been a dramatic use of force tool. Another thing is the development of new tasers that are much more user friendly that the old bulky ones were given to us long time ago. Don't ever get shot with a taser if you don't have to. And it wasn't nice, it really hurts and it... yea I didn't care for that at all. So if someone says ... taser... stop what you're doing. It really hurts, it incapacitates someone really quickly, and it puts them out. That's a great tool

IV. A.

that we use that's a little higher up on the use of force scale than spraying someone with pepper spray. Taser is something that's more available now. So we don't shoot as many people. I think when you look at the situation when people were getting tased now; 20 years ago they were getting shot. And now we don't do that anymore. We'd rather use these other tools that are available. And law enforcement is always looking for better ways to subdue and control combative people without having to kill them. The biggest things have been better tasers and better chemical sprays to avoid people getting hurt.

BB: Officer Hess, I don't know if you are familiar with him, he comes to our school a lot. He mentioned how technology slowed response time of police officers to a crime scene. Would you agree or disagree?

>> I would disagree with that because I remember in 1990, how basic our tech tools worked. As far as slowing things down, what helps in law enforcement is communication and knowledge. What those tools from technology is give us both things. The ability to communicate with other officers very quickly and the ability to get info about calls for service anything like with a quick manner. And those are our friends as far as police work. Thos two things are friends. They do it better now they they've ever done.

IV.A.