

Megan Wilson  
Per. 5ab

## Detective Jason Lacorre Interview

1.) *How long have you lived in Hillsboro?* : "I've live in Hillsboro since 95 I guess, so about a decade.

2.) *What do you see as the biggest problem in Hillsboro today?* : "A lot of things. Really stemming just from drug use and or over use of alcohol. And so it seems to be that, I wouldn't say that drug sales necessarily but drug use is the biggest problem not just in respect to drug use itself but it filters into a bunch of other things. Domestic violence stats rise when you use alcohol or, you know, controlled substances. Drunk driving is a problem specifically because of alcohol use or drugs. Fights increase, traffic crashes increase. So it seems like, its not that as a specific point that drug use is necessarily, its kind of like a causing factor that creates all these other, bigger problems for us. So drugs. They are the big one."

3.) *How often do you personally deal with criminals?* : "Daily. In my job, I'm a detective, pretty much, we don't have a regimented split in detectives but basically 3/4ths of us deal with person crimes and the other 1/4<sup>th</sup> of us deal with property crimes. And I deal with person crimes. And so on a daily basis were talking to criminals or arresting criminals and doing interviews. Its just part of the job. We don't, proly, deal with as many cases as patrol does. Patrol officers go from call to call to call. We as detectives maintain a load of about 15-20 cases a week. Of those 15-20 cases sometimes you'll deal with one to two cases a day, ballpark. So, yeah pretty much a daily basis. There's lots of criminals out there. Business is good. (laughs)"

4.) *How often do you see crimes occurring around you?* : "In my personal life? Um about a year ago, and this kinda touches on your first question, I moved out of Hillsboro. So I lived in Hillsboro for about 9 years I guess you could say. In my neighborhood, thankfully, there wasn't that much crime. And when you're on patrol in a black and white drivin around you see a lot more crimes then we do in detectives. In detectives we tend to, we do follow up on cases that patrol has already done the initial report on. So we don't see a lot of active crimes or crimes in progress. We typically show up after everything, once the dust starts to settle. And then we have to make sense of it. That's kind of what my job is. So we don't see a lot of in progress things in detectives."

5.) *What was the reason for your move?* : "I wanted to do something different. Patrol is fun, it's a really god time. And that's where everybody starts in police work; you have to start on the road. Detectives gave me the opportunity to get more into crimes. Instead of just coming and trying to, you know, get the dust to settle down and trying to figure out who's where and what. In detectives you can actually dig more. They give you more time and more ability to get into

the history of things and how things came to be at this point. And were not required to go from call to call to call like patrol does. There are no emergencies in detectives. So if you call 911 you'll see somebody in a uniform. Detectives, it was just, I had a really good time basing in patrol but there's a lot of different things to do in police work as a career, and it was just one that I had interest in. In taking a stronger look more in depth of the crimes. And you tend to deal with bigger crimes too, in detectives. So there aren't any traffic crashes or alarm calls. Typically to get it to one of the detectives desk it has to be approved.

**6.) *How do you feel about the law enforcement in Hillsboro?*** : "It's good. We've been really blessed with a supportive community. I came from; my first police job was at Cornelius police department. And Cornelius is a great department, a good city to work in but there isn't a lot of public support for the police department as far as tax base; they're not willing to pass levies there. And it was a difficult place to work in because you never knew if you were gonna have a job six months down the road. If taxpayers won't pay for the city to operate, for specifically the police department it's a possibility you could be looking for work elsewhere. So when I came to Hillsboro, and that's one of the reasons I left Cornelius, Hillsboro police department has, to my knowledge, never laid anybody off. We've always been conservative in hiring people, but there's a lot of public support and they pay for the levies. So every three to five years when a levy comes up citizens have supported it, which has allowed us to grow as the city has grown. And we haven't been growing as fast, were allays in a kind of catch up mode because the city will annex a piece and then we'll have to hire the officers to get them. So we actually have the ratios correct but, the police departments been, at least in Hillsboro, a really great place to work, a good atmosphere. I'm really happy I moved here, I couldn't see working anywhere else.

**7.) *What's the biggest difference you see when you look at comparing crime in Hillsboro 25 years ago to crime in Hillsboro today?*** : "I think the trends in Hillsboro seem to be the trends just the nation has seen. A big push for community basing, well community oriented policing, which really speaks more towards building partnerships and relationships. Instead of the police department being out there on their own fighting crime we've enlisted different either businesses where there are commercial enterprises or other governmental agencies like DHS. Different groups that have, not necessarily, they're kind of attached to the criminal justice system but they don't deal with crime directly. But the increasing partnership with different governmental agencies as well as businesses outside. I think the push in the last 25 years has just been to recognize that the police department doesn't have all the answers. And that instead of shutting people out if they can actually include people that they may have, you know. I think it just tends to open the eyes of the police department. That there is crime that occurs in the work place, but instead of the work place having necessarily to call the police to say hey a crime was committed. If there's already

an open dialogue between those two entities they can actually just say hey you know were going to have some problems, were going to lay this guy off he's going to create problems for us. So we can act more proactively rather than reactively to crime. Other trends, drug use has been on the rise. And I don't think that domestic violence has been on the rise but we recognize it better than we used to. It used to be I think even just ten to fifteen years ago there was this kind of a feeling in law enforcement that what happens behind closed doors can stay behind closed doors. If it's a really big deal then maybe we'll get involved. And the legislature about a decade ago or so, even longer than that, basically forced the hand of law enforcement and said if you have reason to believe a crime's been committed in one of those domestic disturbances we won't allow you to use discretion as to whether or not to make an arrest, you shall make an arrest. They kind of just took power away from us to make the decision but at the same time I think that things have worked out better for the victims of the crimes in that they don't have to actually report anything. If it's just obvious on the face of an incident we shall take action. That's another thing that's really helped out. I think just opening our eyes that, you know. Cuz that's another one of those things kind of like the drug question earlier. Domestic violence doesn't necessarily affect people in the home. It's their family, their friends their employer, and the police department. So domestic violence is one of those, kind of octopus looking things where it's got its hands in everything.

**8.) *What ethnic group do you believe makes up the majority of involvement in crime today?*** : "Well, whites. I don't believe personally, and I don't have stats with me but crime happens throughout the world. There are all sorts of different ethnic groups throughout the world. The three ethnic groups in Hillsboro, the largest percentage is white, then we have a large Hispanic population here and we're getting an increasing African American population. But if you look at the numbers with respect to how much of the population those groups make up and how much of the crime they create it's pretty much the same. Whites create most of the crime; Hispanics are second, and African Americans third. The percentages tend to kind of relate just to the percentage of those populations. I don't think there's one group that's necessarily more responsible or over represented by number of their members. It just I think tends to follow along with who the groups are and whom they're comprised of.

**9.) *Has that changed over the past couple of decades?*** : "I truly don't know. I know the Hispanic population has grown they're a higher percentage now than they were ten to fifteen years ago. But I don't know that necessarily the levels of crime have increased or decreased I think they've just tended to stay along with the populations. And like I said African Americans within the last five to six years, those numbers have started to increase as well with respect to our population. And I don't know what those figures are. Roughly I'd guess we're probably at somewhere like about a sixth of our population is probably Hispanic and maybe a fifteenth or so is African American. And it's not just crime with

respect to traffic citations or stops or just anything the groups as they are represented in the population tend to represent the amount of crime traffic violations, things of that nature.

**10.) *Have you ever been involved in a crime? (Well basically you are a detective so that's what you do):*** "I've been the victim of crimes though too. Before I became a police officer I had a vehicle stolen. I had a vehicle broken into, in Portland but they just kind of rummaged through it and stole some tapes; so it was no big deal. And I was actually not a victim of but witness to a crime that's actually kind of a weird one. When I first, I had probably been a police officer for about three years, had arrested a guy on the fourth of July for drunk driving and took him to the jail which back then was new. And one of the deputies who worked in the jail; well when you arrest somebody you have to do an inventory of their persons, you have to go through their property and stuff. So I did an inventory on the guy I arrested and he had, I don't remember exactly, I think it was 585 dollars he had. So we take him to the jail, and they take the property from him and stuff like that. And the deputy that had booked him in wrote down 585 dollars in cash. Well when the guy got out he only had 385 dollars. And so then they start looking at me like where's his 200 dollars. I'm like I don't know he got to jail with \$585 so I don't know what the jail did with it. They figured it all out and it wasn't the guy that had booked the criminal in it was actually his supervisor who had taken \$200 out of the man's property. So there was this big long trial of that nature where I spent like a day and a half on the stand testifying about this whole thing, which was kind of interesting as well.

**11.) *Do you feel safer now than you did say 10 years ago?*** : "As a citizen? Um, that's a tough question. I never felt unsafe. You know crime happens, I think its important that you try to protect yourself as much as you can and there are a lot of steps that people could take to protect themselves whether its property crimes or person crimes. If you look at the stats, like most assaults against women just to take like one little segment, occur from somebody they've known. And actually a lot of them are intimate partners like spouses, boyfriends or things of that nature. So with respect to the guy hiding in the bushes, you know that statistics have never really shown that that's where the danger lies. Dangers tend to lie closer to you. If you leave your cell phone sitting on dash or on the console of your car, and leave your car unlocked while you're not responsible for the crime being committed where that phone gets stolen, but there are things you can do to kind of prevent some of that. I think people are getting wiser, I don't think it will necessarily drop the numbers of crimes of incidences that get reported to us. With respect to safety, homicide hasn't been a real problem for us out this way, and it continues not to be a problem. So I never felt unsafe to begin with.

**12.) *How about as a detective do you feel unsafe?*** : "When you first become a detective, well first in respect to police work, just patrol you know they give you the vest and your gun and all of that and you run around. And initially

when you start, you know it's difficult when you start like anything cuz you don't necessarily know exactly what you're doing. And there's a learning process, a curve that you have to go up to figure out what you're supposed to be doing at any one time, how to deal with it. I mean your dealing with criminals, and these are not necessarily the best of people. So it takes a while for you to get comfortable with that. And then as soon as you become a detective the uniform is gone, the vest is gone, all of this stuff is gone because now you're in a suit and tie. You keep the gun and some of the other stuff. So it takes a little bit, with respect to your own personal safety to kind of learn again how to deal with people. You don't get, thankfully, in as many physical fights, there aren't as many gunfights, there aren't as many of those types of occurrences or those type of activities as a detective. So, but people are people. People have been in law enforcement for hundreds of years without vests. So it's just kind of one of those things where you have to get used to it. Once you do its not so bad.

13.) *Could you describe Hillsboro in the 1980's and how does it compare to now?* : "Yeah I didn't live here I actually had a, my mothers cousin has lived out here for forever, and so we'd visit her on the holidays or things if that nature. So I can't really speak to the city or the socio-economic dynamics or things of that nature. But I remember like when we would come out here and I was younger there was basically like a few houses and an airport and just fields. And so one thing I've just noticed personally, not just in the last ten years but in the last 20 some years all of that's gone now. Not all of it but most of it you now there's Intel and all these high-tech places; a lot of commercial development and all the houses that support that. There are neighborhoods, and they keep building them. But when I was in patrol, in patrol they give you an area; a district and you drive around that district all night long. And it was like that week after week year after year. And you get to know all the street names, you know who's building where, what developments supposed to be coming in, when it's going to be finished. You're really kind of in touch with the community. When they pull you out of that into detectives instead of having a district to focus on, you focus on the entire city. And there are times when you won't be in a section of the city for a year or two. And so it's interesting how much they continue to build and that's, with respect to the changes in the last couple of decades, just a lot of growth. I mean, when I moved here in 95 the little street sign saying the population, you know it says welcome to Hillsboro and it said the population was like 42 thousand to 43 thousand. So just since I have been here the population has almost doubled. In the years prior to that, at one point, I mean the city boundaries keep changing, but it used to be that the eastern most boundary was Brookwood. So know you can think of corporate all the way east of 185<sup>th</sup> how much change there's been to that. And the fields are going away, and they keep building businesses and eventually we'll be out of land. But um, so just a lot of growth, and with that growth a lot of people, and with those people, more crime.

**14.) What do you believe is the biggest cause of crime?** : "I still think the biggest factor relating to crime is drugs. It's one of those things that if there were no drugs there would still be crime, and I recognize that. But I think your statistics with respect to crime kind of get out of whack when you start adding drugs too. And drugs don't necessarily mean people create crime, they cause crime. Some of it removes their inhibitions to not committing the crimes to begin with. They will commit crimes to help support drug habits. Its one of those things that you can, without drugs you still have crime. But I think it's one of those factors that not only induces crime but allows some crimes to be committed to begin with. And uh, that's one of those really tough issues because how do you get rid of drugs. I mean they've tried so many different things. They've tried drug education they've tried you know just saying no to drugs. The federal government has tried to wage a war on drugs. Or they've tried to just buy drugs from industries. They do so many different things, and I'm sure they stem the tide to some degree but it's really difficult. Especially on a city police department level, because we don't with a lot of big time suppliers I mean we with end users or some of those that are kind of intermediate deals. And so to make a real stop, a real consertive effort to end it, I mean that's why we end up putting US forces in Columbia or places in South America trying to stop the growth; and that doesn't necessarily work cuz there's a lot of money in drugs and people do things even if they're not drug users. So that trade in and of itself, that plus alcohol abuse are big problems.

**15.) What is your opinion on the D.A.R.E programs?** : "I think it's good, a lot of research shows that it doesn't necessarily accomplish all of its goals with respect to reduction of drug abuse and the students that go through it. But I think some of the benefits of having a program like are when you just get police introduced to children and it's not necessarily in an enforcement role. They aren't there to talk to their parents or to arrest their parents they can actually see a police officers in a good light And so I like that fact that children can see police officers other than just enforcing the law. Also it kind of fits in with the community policing concept of making partnerships in the community, you know making partnerships with schools. So the schools at least know of an officer or somebody they can contact in the police department for issues that they may have. I think trying to educate kids of the dangers of drugs is noble. Maybe it doesn't work but it might. Even if it doesn't work as much as they'd like the program to work it at least helps a little bit. Every little bit helps. I think it's a good thing over all. Without it, it almost seems to some degree that were encouraging drug use. So I like D.A.R.E.

**16.) Is there anything that you would change about it, maybe have it a yearly thing or something?** : "I don't honestly, I've never taught D.A.R.E I've never been in the youth services or the school resource officer program, so I cant really speak too intelligently about what I would change, if anything. I know one

thing that has hurt D.A.R.E is the curriculum used to be a lot longer than it is now, but when you look at decreasing budgets and deficit on money; and ultimately police are charged with trying to really solve crimes that have already been committed, if not prevent crimes from occurring. And so when you look in that oh now we're talking to kids about the dangers of drugs, which really is kind of their parent's responsibility anyways, D.A.R.E starts to lose money. And so the curriculum has been decreased to the point where it gets watered down and some of the message is lost. So if there was something I would do to try to increase its effectiveness I would pour more money into it, more time, and hopefully get more results that way.

**17.) And as I understand it you are a domestic violence detective?** : "I am, yes that is one of my duties I deal pretty much with person crimes. A lot of it is sex crimes, crimes against children, just general crimes against people. But yeah I'm the only detective doing anything with domestic violence right now.

**18.) How much control do police actually have in these kinds of cases?** : "It's not the police really that have the control. And like I said earlier about the legislature, and it would have been about 89 I want to say; they enacted the domestic violence reduction act which basically took discretion away from the police in making arrests in domestic violence situations. In law enforcement you have to have a victim to have a crime. Basically if you don't have a victim there is no crime. So if I new your car had been broken into, and you had a broken window and there's glass everywhere. I didn't know what was taken, so I called you up and said hey Megan are you missing anything? Even if you aren't missing anything they can't break your window, you know should we take a report? If you said no don't worry about it's no big deal I'll just fix it; then there's no crime that has been committed. You actually need somebody to say I'm the victim of a crime, I've had my vehicle window broken, and my purse is stolen and they took my CDs, so I want to make a report. Domestic violence, the problem was that historically the victims of the crimes are in love with their abuser, so they don't want to see the abuser go away. There are a lot of problems with respect to financial support, or kids support, additional abuse that may occur. A lot of times, police will show up to a family beef, as they are affectionately known. If she had been slapped around-we say she typically in domestic violence cuz about 95% of our victims are female-and they'd say no I don't want to press any charges, and if you don't have a victim you don't have a crime. So the police's hands were kind of tied by the victim, and so there was always this big threat that if we come back somebody' going to jail for either disorderly disturbance or something like that. The police would leave and then the next call back to the police would either be a major assault, a homicide, something of that nature. And the legislature, at least in the early 90's said, you know we've got to stop this from happening. We want officers to take action the

first time they show up not later, trying to prevent future abuse at least on that evening. So that's why we said, you shall take into custody whoever it is, your alleged aggressor. So that's been the biggest change At least with respect to law enforcement. That In Oregon we have to take these folks into custody. We don't have the ability to make a decision. At least, well lets take your car left example where you had a broken window, so you said, yes I want to be a victim. And then I find the guy who did it. Well I have a bunch of options, I can warn him and say don't do this, that's bad and have him give you your stuff back; I could give him a citation where I have a ticket basically telling him, hey show up to court later she says you did it I'm not sure, I think you probably did it but you don't seem like that kind of a guy; Or you could arrest him. And there are options you can have where as this one removes all options, you have to take one of those two people, if evidence of a crime exists, and put them into jail, that's your only option. And it does reduce crime; well at least it reduces crime that evening. And a lot of domestic violence the focus is kind of, as apposed to domestic violence prevention we tend to think more of like homicide prevention in a way, because theses things have a way of kind of spiraling and escalating out of control.

19.) *When you say domestic violence, does it just cover spousal abuse or does that cover child abuse as well?* : "Domestic violence in the broader scheme of things can include all of that type of thing. It's pretty much just any violence that occurs in the home, in a domestic situation. With respect to just domestic law in Oregon they're talking about two people who are spouses or co-habituating. So anybody who's kind of in an intimate relationship, that lives together, if there's violence-and that's physical violence, it's not verbal abuse, it's not emotional it's not financial abuse, its actual physical abuse that occurs in that type of setting-that's considered domestic violence. So if dad smacks his son, while it could be criminal it's outside of the domestic violence zone as far as the law is concerned. That would just fall under general assault. Like, assaults to kids have their own different classification. Big laws that were part of the domestic violence act are: Harassment, which is the kind of the offensive physical contact like of you slap somebody it doesn't really hurt it doesn't leave a mark but it's offensive; Menacing, where if you make somebody believe that you are going to cause them serious physical injury even if you don't, so if I hold a fireplace poker over your head and I say I'm gunna whack you or something and you actually feel in fear that you could be injured even though I don't injure you, that's a crime. And assaults are kind of the bread and butter thing; assaults in front of children are nice. I should qualify some of my statements. When police officers say nice, of good, or things of that nature it typically means the opposite. So we'll go to a sexual assault like a rape or something, and one of the questions officers will ask is this a good one. Which doesn't mean, it's not a good for the victim. Meaning is this something legitimate where we can actually do



something and actually enforce things. So if I say this is a good domestic violence case it just means that there is a lot of evidence and we can get a prosecution. So assaults where there is physical injury present, that's our number one thing. And what is good about some of those assaults is that assault for is a misdemeanor and that's what we typically see. But there is a qualification in that law that if it's witnessed by a minor child, then it becomes a felony. And it's a good thing because domestic violence is really one of those learned behaviors it's kind of like how you respond to a bitchy wife. Well dad always slapped her, so now that I'm an adult and married and I have a bitchy wife I guess that must be the way to handle it. And the only way to really break that learning cycle is to make penalties for doing that type of activities, especially in the presence of children, so severe that the children can't learn that type of coping mechanism I guess you could say.

20.) *What is the process of an investigation for domestic violence? What exactly do you need for a conviction and things like that?* : "Most of the investigation, and again we don't go out to calls typically. So someone calls 911, whether it's the person who the crime is happening to or the neighbors, patrol shows up, separates the parties, interviews the parties to determine if a crime has been committed. Once they figure out whether or not it has they will arrest the party that they feel is the aggressor. And the thing is, two parties can fight about things. But in a domestic since, you know if like you and I are at a bar and I just take exception to the look on your face or something you say well lets just go outside and duke it out. When the police show up if the police ask me if I want to press any charges I can as no its up to her, and she says no I don't want to press any charges we just wanted to fight, that's known as mutual combat. So if we don't have a relationship that's ok, we can fight each other and neither of us be victims, and then there's no rime and we just go on our marry way. But with a relationship there is no mutual combat. Even though two people can fight, one of them is the primary aggressor, and that's what we try to identify, the patrol officers try to identify the primary aggressors. Then they take the primary aggressor into custody and they go to jail, and at the jail essentially they'll decipher an appropriate punishment. Depending on their criminal history they'll decide whether or not they are going to hold onto them for a period of time to show up to go to court or if they'll just release him on their own providence which is basically a release they'll sign saying I wont commit any more crimes, I'll leave my victim alone, I'll show up to court and I'll do what the court says I'm supposed to do. So where I actually come in is; patrol is under a lot of pressure to go from call to call to call they need to dispatch as quickly as they can because we don't have in related to staffing were doing alright but were always starting to catch up. There is a ratio of officers per a thousand people but we try to stay at like 1.5 officers per thousand people in population. Then as the population jumps we have to kind of react to that, hire more people, so were

always a bit behind where we mean to be. And as a result patrol is very busy. They don't always manage to get everything done that they need to. And there are times that if you hit someone they may not bruise at that instant or 15 minutes later when patrol show up, but they may have bruises the next day or three days from now, and that's where I come in. I have the ability, cuz those officers that took the call three days are o to new calls and doing other things and it's really difficult to go back and do any interviews, or a lot of times people have been drinking and/or using drugs and so things might be a little less clear then they should that evening. A lot of emotions attached to these events, people don't have, at least when they do these things they don't have any to kind of look back at stuff and reflect in things, and sometimes they may not even understand what it was that triggered this event to occur. But with a little and a little reflection and the ability to kind of sober up, and think about things. That's kind of what I do and I go back. So if you were the guy who went to jail, or the gal cuz that happens too, and you say I promise I'll leave her alone, and I'll go to court and I'll be good. Well in signing that, that release agreement you can't have contact with your victim, typically for a period of about three days or so. So that's what I kind of do, I go back to see do you still have bruises, how are your injuries looking, have you seen him, have you have any contact, is he here, he's not supposed to be. That can turn into another arrest because that's a violation of your release agreement. So we try to keep the parties separated at least until the court process has a chance to get done. Sometimes just because of emotional states the victims don't have the ability, it's not that they don't want to listen to the patrol officers, but they get a lot of information thrown at them at a really turbulent time. So I can go back and try to explain some of the resources available to them; either the domestic violence resource center or how to get a restraining order, where are shelters located, how can they get assistance cuz now their bread getter is out of the picture. And I can just try to explain things to them so they have a clear understanding of where we go next in the court process. Can I drop charges; did I even charge him to begin with? Because a lot of victims, you know we'll sweep in, get the stories, take somebody and the victims are also someone still under the impression that they have to be a victim. Where as the state of Oregon, by creating the domestic violence reduction act, essentially becomes the victim. So part of the reason why it's important patrol officers do a god job and then I do my job is if you go to court like three months down the road; and at that point a lot of people have made up, because they still love each other, there were two people that love each other and there was a disagreement so they get kind of past that, and she doesn't want to see him do jail time. This costs the restitution, or the legal fees that he may have to pay, actually affects her as well cuz it's their family. So a lot of times the victims will try to recant things and try to change their story, minimize things, or I fell down the stairs, or I'm so clumsy and I bumped my head. If we have had a good investigation at he beginning, statements from trials, things of that nature.

Regardless of whether or not she wants to tell the truth, even if she wants to get up and lie, it's fine if she does because we can actually kind of show through evidence we've collected, and just through statements studies and other research that have been done to make a connection, and actually demonstrate to juries why it is she should lie, why it makes sense that she is lying. And why we shouldn't go after her for lying, but just recognize the fact that she is doing this for a reason, and it's a reason to protect herself. So it's not that she's committing a crime by telling you something differently than she told this officer, it's a kind of survival mechanism. Without a good initial investigation, and my part's kind of secondary to all that, just in trying to take out that evidence and trying to keep things going while the iron is still hot. And you know of things change in three to six months that's fine because we're tight with our investigation and we don't necessarily