

Archive: Traffic Officer Interviews

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Primary Document (PD): 1

Case ID #: 1
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 11/15/05; 6:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Wednesday 12/28/05
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: Wht
Gender: male
Age: 26
Years as a Police Officer: 3

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Great. I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made, first in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: ummmm, I am going to have to think of a traffic stop I made.

SP: Okay.

Officer: Let's see here, you are going to have to give me a second, I didn't work today and the last time I worked was on Friday. So, and I make um a lot of traffic stops. I can't remember what my last one was, but just a second.

SP: Just a recent one that you can remember.

Officer: Okay, umm. Well the last on that I made um. I saw, I was using the laser, and it was in a construction zone umm, it looked like they were speeding. I used the laser to determine the speed, um, I followed them just a short distance until there was a place to pull over, um and she was actually going into that specific parking lot. Um, she knew that she was speeding, um, she apologized and um, I got my, err her, I asked for her driver's license and insurance. She gave it to me. I wrote the ticket, explained the ticket to her, and ah then she left.

SP: Did the driver complain about being stopped at all?

Officer: No

SP: Do you remember anything particular about her?

Officer: ummm I remember she was a female and she had mentioned that she was taking her grandkids to preschool. Which was the parking lot where she had stopped.

SP: And did you tell any others about this particular stop?

Officer: Nope.

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment, rather than think about the last traffic stop you made, I would like you to think about a stop you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience? Please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: I am sorry you wanted me to think of the one that most stuck out in my mind?

SP: Yes

Officer: hummmmmmm, this last year [mostly to himself, with some tapping in the background]? Okay, it was probably right up to about a year ago. Again, I was actually on a highway, and I had clocked a car going extremely fast on a highway, and um I had stopped it. And, um, she was really young, she didn't even have a driver's license. Um, and uh alcohol was involved, there was actually some drug paraphernalia in the car. Um, and that contacted actually ended up with um an arrest. And so she didn't actually get to drive away, but her parents came and picked her up at the police station.

SP: And, what did you say when you pulled over this driver?

Officer: My first contact, when I make contact with the driver, is pretty much the same. I will tell them my name, I will say I am Officer _____, with the Overland Park Police Department. The reason why I stopped you is, then I will give the reason. Then I will ask them if they have their driver's license and proof of insurance with them.

SP: And, do you remember anything else particular about this driver, other than she didn't have her driver's license, or wasn't old enough to have a driver's license?

Officer: No, she wasn't old enough, and she lied. Um, she told me that she did have one, but she didn't have it with her, um, but then she said that it was, well she actually just gotten it in Missouri, and um, she didn't have it with her, because they hadn't sent it to her yet. Which she lived in Kansas and um, and I obviously caught her in a lie because Missouri issue temporary driver's licenses, that's only a Kansas thing. And, if she lived in Kansas, she wouldn't be going to Missouri to pick up her license. So, I just kind of picked up on a few things like that, so I knew that she didn't have a license.

SP: And, did she complain about being stopped?

Officer: Oh, no, no.

SP: Did you tell others about this particular stop?

Officer: Um, well, I had to tell the backing officer. The person who came to assist me with it, I told him about it.

SP: But that was it?

Officer: Uhuh

SP: OK, oh and you said this was on a highway, what highway were you on?

Officer: Um, 69 highway.

SP: 69, highway, okay. And do you remember anything particular about the vehicle you stopped her in?

Officer: It was a two door, green Ford Probe.

SP: Just a few general questions, just to wrap up. Do drivers often complain, to you, about being stopped?

Officer: no

SP: Do drivers often indicate that a traffic stop was unfair?

Officer: No

SP: It doesn't sound like receive many of these complaints, but how do you feel about these types of complaints?

Officer: About drivers, I mean you are saying often, I mean in my, I mean the number of drivers who would say I stopped them for something that um, they weren't speeding, or whatever the case may be, they are very very rare. Um, after maybe a hundred cars that I stop there maybe one or two people that I will come into contact with and they will say that um, they will be upset, or they will say that they weren't speeding or that they didn't run the red light, or whatever the case may be. And so, um, as far as complaints from traffic stops, um, I really don't receive a whole lot of citizen complaints on traffic stops. The last one that I had was in November of 2003.

SP: Okay, how do you feel about these types of complaints?

Officer: Well, um, I think that they're bogus and lack merit because I take my job very seriously, and um, the issues that the citizens have made part of the complaint, in the complaints that I have received, there wasn't any basis for those at all. Not even a subjective thing. Um, they will, they had said that I had said things, that I had never said, or said that I did something that I never did. Or say something that I have no control over whatsoever. I mean, it simply, they were lies, and so, you know, I guess I don't take them personally, but yet, I take my job seriously and when somebody wants to make lies like that, you know that just, so.

SP: And, how do you respond to these types of complaints?

Officer: Well, at our department when a citizen makes a complaint um, it is assigned to a detective, who in charge or, or part of our professional standards unit. And they will, if there is a video tape available, they will watch the video tape, they'll speak to the officer that was involved, and if there was any witnesses or anything like that they can talk to, and then um, go from there. Wait, what was your question?

SP: How do you respond to these types of complaints?

Officer: Yeah, that's how I respond then. You'll get a piece of paper from the detectives and they will say that this motorist said this, this, this and that, and there may be a couple things, there may be several things they had a complaint about and then you just, you know. For example, I had a citizen complaint that the spot light was too blinding, that they didn't like.

SP: uhuh

Officer: So, my response then would be, that is our procedure, and that is how I was trained as far as putting a spot light on someone, and that at night that is just something that we do. And then the professional standards investigator usually would explain police procedure to that citizen or whatever the case may be.

SP: And how often do drivers complain about being treated differently because of their race?

Officer: I've never have had a complaint from someone that said that I stopped them because they were a certain race.

SP: Okay, and just a few demographic questions to wrap up. What year were you born?

Officer: I was born in 1979.

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 2002, is when I became a police officer here, I was a reserve officer though, um in 2000.

SP: And what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Uh, white.

SP: Thank you very much for your time, Eric, and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to contact me at the university. My number is 785.864.3515.

Officer: Okay.

SP: Thank you.

Officer: Uhuh, bye.

PD: 2

Case ID #: 2
Date/Time of Interview: Friday 11/18/05; 10:30 a.m.
Date of Transcription: Wednesday 12/28/05
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: Wht
Gender: male
Age: 48
Years as a Police Officer: 26

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Okay, I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made, first in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Are you talking just a regular traffic stop, or are you talking one at an accident scene, or how do you want it?

SP: The most recent traffic stop, that you made. Not necessarily an accident, but a traffic stop.

Officer: Okay, it was a ah, if I am not mistaken, I was on evenings. Let's see I am trying to think where the final stop actually occurred. It was, I know what it was, it was 6:30 at night off of 119th and Three Lakes, at the apartment complex there. Gentleman was using [can hear car radio in the background, then the volume lowered], he ah come out of the apartment complex without headlights it was daylight savings time, it was dark. And uh, I stopped the gentleman at 119th and Grant. I explained to him why I stopped him, and uh he advised that he uh was just in a hurry to run an errand, and wasn't paying attention. That's why he left his lights off.

SP: And do you remember anything particular about the vehicle?

Officer: Yeah, as far as anything standing out, no.

SP: And, do you remember anything particular about the gentleman that you pulled over, other than he was in a hurry?

Officer: Nah, he was corporative, it wasn't anything that was verbal confrontation or anything.

SP: Okay, and now I would like you to switch gears for a moment, rather than thing about the last traffic stop you made, I would like you think about a stop you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience, please describe from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: That would have been a stop that I made um, working evenings where um, it occurred in front of a business that was closed um, I was holding over, and it was early morning hours, and I made the stop with the spotlight through the back window and I could see over the actions as if they were stuffing something beneath the driver's side seat of the car. I radioed for backup, I contacted both the driver and the passenger in the car. I explained to the driver why I stopped him, reason being the business was closed, the wee hours of the morning, it, the business closed several hours earlier, and uh uh because of his overt actions in the car, I searched the car and found a hand gun, a little dope in the tray and subsequently arrested the driver.

SP: Wow, and do you remember anything specific about the driver, that stood out in your mind?

Officer: There wasn't anything real specific, I know he was a white male. I can't tell you his exact name to be truthful with you.

SP: And do you remember anything specific about the car?

Officer: As a matter of fact the car was a 1985 Camero.

SP: And you said this happened in the wee hours of the morning, so, are you talking close to after midnight?

Officer: It was around two o'clock

SP: Okay, and do you remember about where this happened?

Officer: it happened at 103rd and Grandview

SP: And, when you pulled the driver over, you said there was overt action, so was that, did you inform the driver as to why you were pulling them over?

Officer: Oh yes, I always tell everybody why I am pulling them over.

SP: Okay, and finally just a few general questions for you. In general, if a driver says that a stop was unfair, how do you respond?

Officer: I don't, because I know it will just lead to an argument, so there is no sense in even responding to that.

SP: Okay

Officer: I know why I stopped them, I know I have a legal right to stop them, and I am not going to stop anybody unless I have a legit reason.

SP: Okay, so then if they do begin to complain, you just kind of cut off that conversation.

Officer: No, I let them rant and rave, I just don't get into a rant war with them.

SP: Okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 57

SP: And, what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 79

SP: And what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: I am a white male

SP: Well, thank you very much for your time and if you have any questions about this research feel free to contact me at the university my number, again is 785.864.3515

Officer: Okay, is this for a paper, or something?

SP: This is actually for a project, that I am just the research assistant on, some professors are conducting it to learn about law enforcement and traffic stops.

Officer: So will this be published anywhere that I can see the results?

SP: Yes, I believe that they are going to try and use the um, results from this in a book publication.

Officer: Was there more than one department used?

SP: We are looking at using three jurisdictions, all in the Kansas City area.

Officer: Oh really, all on the Kansas side?

SP: No, all in the Kansas City area though.

Officer: Really, I would be interested, to see how the others react, I would like to see that. What would it be published in that I could read it?

SP: Um, well, I believe they are going to try and make it into a book, I am not sure when it will come out, or what the name will be, but I can be sure to let you know when everything is done.

Officer: Yeah, I would like that, it would be great.

SP: Okay, well I will be sure to let you know then.

Officer: Thank you

SP: Thanks

PD: 3

Case ID #: 3
Date/Time of Interview: Wednesday 12/14/05 1:30 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Thursday 12/29/05
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: Wht
Gender: male
Age: 55
Years as a Police Officer: 29

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: First, I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Well, let's see [long pause]. First thing I did was notice the violation, I looked down and glanced at the license plate, after I make sure that I'm behind the vehicle, and once I make note of the license plate I wait for a spot that I choose to make the traffic stop, and once I reach that spot I activated the lights, uh wait for the driver to get out there, well wait for the driver to pull over. Once I stop I am kind of looking at him while we are making the pull over I radio in that I have made the traffic stop and give my location and the tag number. I get out and contact the driver. I approach, the first thing I look for is his hands, to see where they are, while I am doing that I recite kind of a standard spiel that I have, just saying, "How to you do, I am Officer ____ just need to see your drivers license." Once I get the driver's license in my hands, I tell them why I stopped them.

SP: And are you thinking over a specific last stop that you made?

Officer: Well, I am trying to think of the last traffic stop that I made. They all...I work traffic they all run together, um. Most of what I do are accidents, let's see here. I guess the last one that I remember real well was at night.

SP: uhuh

Officer: I saw the vehicle make a right turn on red. I had to pull out of a side street, by the time I got to him he had made another right turn and had accelerated away. He was running through a half business- half residential area, so I waited to make a stop on him until he came out on a main drag, that was better lit. We come out on Antioch Blvd, he made a right turn without stopping at the stop sign, and once we got out there I had the reds on him. He pulled over. I went up to him, again like I said, I lit him up with all the lights on the police car, and I took my flash light and I tuck it under my arm, walk up to the car, I am looking for his hands, once I say those I asked him for his driver's license, once I got that I told him I stopped him for making a right turn on red at the intersection where he did it and that he also failed to stop for a stop sign when he made a right turn on Antioch. And there was another charge in there that I don't

remember, it might have been that the license plate was expired. And once I got up to it...oh I before I hit the reds on him, I had already called the traffic stop out to dispatch, I do that every time the same way, I never hit the red lights until the traffic stop has been called up.

SP: Okay

Officer: Uh, I got his license, told him why I stopped him. Went back to the car, wrote the ticket out and ran him on my computer, nothing unusual came up. I walked back up to him, read him the ticket, then he starts to argue with me about he didn't run the stop sign, he didn't run the red light, he didn't do this he didn't do that. He was getting kind of nasty. I explained to him to sign it, he said he didn't want to sign it, I said that's fine I don't care. He finally did sign it.

SP: uhhuh

Officer: I gave him his copy, and I am walking back to the car, about every other step I try and glance out the corner of my eye at this guy cause he is a threat to me at that point because he is upset, and he is still trying to argue to me. He is yelling the usual, "Why don't you find a real crook" "Why don't you go out and look for real crooks." And, calls me names and things like that, trying to get a rise. I get back in the car and wait for him to drive off, once he drives off I kill the over heads, turn off the microphone and drive down a road make the first turn I can so that I can get away from him.

SP: umuh

Officer: And that was it.

SP: Okay, and you said this was a male, do you remember anything else particular about the driver?

Officer: He was a white male, tending to go bald, had a mustache. He was not European White, but more of a Middle Eastern. We are not allowed to, we don't classify anymore by a lot of race characters, but was Middle Eastern.

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything in particular about the vehicle?

Officer: ahh, Let's see, I believe it was an Isuzu Trooper SUV, it was a four door hatchback, dark in color, either dark blue or black. Outside of that nothing, nothing that unusual about it.

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment, rather than think about the last traffic stop you made, I would like you to think about a stop you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. First, in your own words, again please describe the experience from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Well, let's see, the last twelve months....The only thing that sticks out in my mind was a hit and run accident that driver fled the scene. I found the car, and the driver came back to the car, and I issued a summons, and the driver left the area.

SP: Okay

Officer: I am trying to think of just a traffic stop.

SP: It could be something that started as a traffic stop and escalated into something more, or something that just involved a traffic stop.

Officer: I am trying to think of anything in the past year that just stands out, I make so many stops that [long pause]. The last stop I made, I guess was on a, that fit that criteria, I guess was on a domestic abuse suspect. I was a block away when the call came up. I went to the area and saw him and contacted him. We sat there and talked to him, there was a back up unit that was there almost immediately. We talked to him for about 30 minutes and the other officer charged him with domestic abuse policy, but that was dismissed, and he actually was fairly easy to deal with. I take that back, we didn't charge him, we charged the gal who called in the complaint. She initiated the violence.

SP: Okay, and how did this stop initiate? How was the stop initiated, you said you received a call and you were close to the area, or...[interrupted]

Officer: Yeah, I was only about a block away when the call came out, and I went into the area since it was right there. Just made a right turn and I am sitting right there. I see the car that the suspect is supposed to in. It is trying to exit the little parking area, so I pull in front of it and in effect forcing him to stop for me, and I get out and I can see his hands when I get out the car the whole time up because they are both on the steering wheel. Got up to the car, told him to turn it off, and have him step outside the car. I think by that time my back up was there. We told him why we were stopping him, and we patted him down real fast, just for our safety. While he talked to, while my one partner talked to this guy, once we felt he was secure enough, I walked over to talk to the wife who had called. And come to find out, he had gone over to see his out of wedlock son, he wanted a picture, she didn't want to give him a picture. He took a picture, so she hit him. That was the abuse part of it. She got arrested for that. Once we took her into custody, we told him what was going to happen and he left the scene, fairly calm. I mean he was calm, actually pretty nice about the whole thing. He was more glad to get away without getting arrested than anything else.

SP: And you said you stopped him coming out of a parking lot, was he [interrupted again]

Officer: Yeah, a little parking area, off of the roadway there, by some apartments is where she was, two or three doors down in an apartment.

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything specific about him?

Officer: Let's see, he was a Black male about 6'2" hundred and 45 hundred and 50 something like that. He worked for GM on the assembly line, makes good money, he was on, he had some trouble with the police before, nothing major, minor stuff. He was driving a white Chevy car, two door, I am trying think, I don't remember the model. It was fairly new, a nice car. He was dressed average for the neighborhood. Nothing really stood out, he didn't have any, no gang tats or anything like that on him. Just run of the mill average.

SP: And, this was an apartment complex area, do you remember about where this occurred?

Officer: I believe it was on Nieman.

SP: Okay. So, he, you stopped him, when he was in his vehicle, and he ended up getting out and speaking with you, but at the end you ended up arresting the woman involved in the dispute [interrupted]

Officer: Yeah, the person who called us.

SP: Okay, so he was free to go and no citation was given to him.

Officer: No

SP: Okay. Just a few general questions to wrap up. In general, if a driver says a stop was unfair, how do you respond?

Officer: Well, a lot of it depends on the driver. Sometimes if they think it is unfair, they will say, you know, why did you stop me, what was wrong with that, what did I do wrong. I tell them, I explain the law to them, and they say okay, and that is pretty much it. Some of them get nasty, they want to, some of them want to argue with you because they know that if you argue with them they can file a complaint against you and they think that gives them a better chance of getting off on the charge. It doesn't, it just makes it stand out more in my mind. But they try. And you can always tell, because they get nasty early, you tell them, you now I'll tell them why I stopped them and they start with the denials right off the bat, I did not I didn't do that, you are wrong, that was somebody else, you know that was that guy next to me, I only did that because of this other car. And their tone of voice goes right to the argumentative area, they get kind of an agitated look on their face, and some of them their hands will clench the steering wheel. Some of them will stand there and just beat the dash and the steering wheel, and they are just admit, "I did not, I didn't do that" you know "you are wrong." Some of them will start with the four letter words and cussing at you and telling you what a miserable piece of work you are and that they are not real criminals and you ought to be catching real criminals instead of bothering innocent people trying to drive down the road. And for the most part you just sit there let them vent for a minute and as soon as they take a deep breath I tell them good day. You know, if they haven't signed the ticket I write refused on it and hand it to them. If they don't take it I drop it in their lap and walk off. I always, when I do that, when I write refused on it, I always tell them, it makes no difference if they sign the ticket or not, if they fail to show up there will be a warrant for their arrest issued, their driver's license will be suspended. I walk back to my car. Of course I will keep a closer watch on them, than just, I try to keep a close watch on everybody just normally, I take extra care. A lot of times will just walk backwards to my car, because you never know what somebody like that is going to do.

SP: okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 1950

SP: and in what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 1976

SP: Okay, and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: I am European, Caucasian, white male

SP: Okay, well thank you very much for you time, and if you have any questions about this research, please feel free to contact me at the university, again, my number is 785.864.3515.

Officer: Okay

SP: well thank you very much

[Officer seemed slightly annoyed about having to schedule and actually participate in the interview. During the interview he demonstrated this through a detached tone and a few interruptions.]

PD: 4

Case ID #: 4
Date/Time of Interview: Wednesday 12/14/05; 2:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Sunday 1/1/05
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: Wht
Gender: Female
Age: 42
Years as a Police Officer: 19

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Okay, I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, um, I am trying to think of the last traffic stop that I made. It was someone who I arrested for a DUI. So, that would have been, um, [coughing] excuse me, I was, I noticed the car because I was sitting on the side of the road and had just written another vehicle driver a ticket. I had released that driver, and as I was heading back to my vehicle I observed a car coming towards me, and in Kansas you are supposed to move over a lane whenever you are on the highway and you are coming up upon an emergency vehicle parked on the side of the roadway. And the vehicle didn't yield, it stayed in the inside lane, right next to my car. I was quite concerned and thought I would go ahead and make contact with that driver, which I did. Do you need any locations or anything like that?

SP: A general location would be wonderful.

Officer: Um, it was about I-35 and 75th street, is where I ended up stopping her. Made contact with her and I smelled the odor of alcohol, which caused me to go ahead and do some field sobriety tests. And, made the determination that I needed to go ahead and take her in to have some other tests done. That was basically it. She was quite cooperative. Didn't have any problems with her, you know, considering she was arrested for DUI and so on and so forth. So, that was basically the end of the stop.

SP: Okay, and you mentioned that this was a female, do you remember anything else specific about her?

Officer: Um, other than her being intoxicated [laughter from her]. No, just you typical Johnson County female, it was a white female.

SP: Okay

Officer: You know that is about it

SP: Okay and do you remember anything specific about the vehicle

Officer: Yes, it was a, I want to say a Chevy Tahoe, or Chevy Suburban. It was a pretty big SUV, and I remember thinking whenever I got up to the car to talk to her that she was a pretty tiny person, and the vehicle just sort of swallowed her up.

SP: Interesting

Officer: Yeah, she was pretty small, and the vehicle was just a great big huge SUV. I don't know if you know what they look like.

SP: Yeah, those are pretty large

Officer: Yeah

SP: And you said that she, kind of was in a close lane, which caused some concern for you. So, the stop was initiated because of this concern, or were there also other traffic infractions?

Officer: Oh, in addition to my being concerned about her driving in the same lane, that she was supposed to move over from, and yield to the emergency vehicle, I was concerned with the fact, as I got behind her, I watched her vehicle tires cross over the lane dividers. Which meant that she had failed to maintain a single lane of travel. I was concerned about that, and that was another reason I decided to go ahead and pull her over.

SP: Okay, and then when you did pull her over, did you tell her this was why you had stopped her?

Officer: I did, yes

SP: Okay, and you said this was a pretty non-confrontational stop, did she try to offer any excuses, or did she just kind of understand why the stop was going on?

Officer: Um, well she said that she saw me, and she said she just didn't really know what to do. And she realized that she had done something wrong as I was walking back towards her and I had my flashlight. And I shined my flashlight into the windshield of her, so I could let her know, hey, move over, and she said that she realized whenever I flashed the flashlight at her that she had, whoops, she should have probably moved over. Kind of poor planning I guess.

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment. Instead of thinking of the last traffic stop that you made, I would like you to think back over a traffic stop you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. First in your own words would you please describe the experience, again, from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped till when you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Hummm, I can't think to far back. I can't remember what, my job is basically to arrest DUI drivers. So, basically what you are going to get, I guess, from the whole thing. There was another one that I, that sticks out in my mind, just because of the fact that it was probably two impaired drivers following one another, but I was only one officer, and was only able to stop one

vehicle. I was southbound on Metcalf. About 115th street and college, up in that area, and there were two vehicles following each other very very closely. The front vehicle continually crossed over the lane dividers, which is the dotted line.

SP: umhuh

Officer: With their tires, and was just weaving back and forth. The vehicle that was following was following so close, I was concerned about that. I continued to follow and I called another patrol officer to come over and help me make a traffic stop on the second vehicle. I continued to follow them, we ended up going east on 143rd street and south on Metcalf, and at that point I just made a command decision that I was going to go ahead and stop the front car, just because of the fact that vehicle seemed to be driving much more poorly than the one behind it. And, um, my other unit hadn't arrived yet. So, I just went ahead and stopped them, and she ended up being intoxicated, and was arrested for DUI. But, the thing that sticks out in my mind is that I turn on my lights when we turn left from 12..from, I am sorry, from Metcalf and 127th street. She was going east and we made that left hand turn and I turned on my lights at that point that she continued to drive down the road, which is a two lane road which is really underdeveloped, and hasn't been expanded like the other roads here in Overland Park. Dirt shoulder, ditches, things like that. Well, there was a huge parking lot, there on the left hand side, and well before that parking lot I had my lights on. And, I guess I just thought that she was going to go ahead and pull into that parking lot, but instead she chose to pull off the road down into the ditch and was like sitting angled with her right two tires in the ditch, and the left two ties up in the roadway. It was kind of an indicator that there might be something going on, you know, as far as impairment So, but any how, that just kind of sticks out in my mind.

SP: Okay, and you said that the second car was following the first car really closely, you ended up pulling over the first car?

Officer: I did yes, the second car just went on around us and continued, because I didn't have another vehicle to deal with them, so...

SP: Okay, do you remember specific, this was also a female DUI driver, do you remember anything else specific about her?

Officer: White, female, your typical Johnson County mother.

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything specific about this car?

Officer: It was an SUV. One of the smaller types, the uh, it was a Honda. I want to say it was a CRV, but I am not sure, it was a small blue SUV.

SP: Okay, and when you initiated the stop with her, how did that interaction go?

Officer: Um, she was really confused. She didn't understand why I was pulling her over and I explained to her, you know, her weaving and so on and so forth. And she said, well she was coming from a concert with her friend, and that was her friend, actually the person drove right by when she said that. She said that was her friend right there, they were in a blue pick up truck. Um, I asked if she had anything to drink, and she said she had one drink while she was at the

concert, but hadn't had anything else to drink. And I was pretty concerned about that because I had a pretty strong odor of alcohol, and she appeared to be impaired by talking to her. Her speech was slurred, she couldn't find the driver's license, she was fumbling through her paper work trying to find her insurance card, which, kind of small indicator stuff that there might be some impairment there.

SP: And then, so she was still pretty cooperative?

Officer: Oh yeah, she was cooperative. Um, quite upset, because she is, well I guess you would say the typical Johnson County soccer mom, and the way she was being arrested and going to jail. So, she was pretty upset at that point, but she was, she did everything I asked her to do. She cried for most of the entire time we were at booking.

SP: So, when you stop DUI drivers do you then take them back to the police station and go with them through that process?

Officer: Yeah, once we determined that they need to have further testing, we go ahead and place them under arrest and put them in our vehicle and we take them to our station, there is a booking room downstairs. We take them to the booking room and we do the booking process down there, which is finger prints, photographs, we ask them to read the implied consent, and if they take the test or not they will take it down there. Um, then we serve them all of their paper work and everything so they know their court date, and things like that, and normally we are able, or they are able to find somebody to come and pick them up. We have to release them to a sober driver over the age of 18.

SP: Okay, and I guess back to this last specific stop, the one that stuck out in your mind, did she have anyone with her in the vehicle?

Officer: No, she was all by herself. Which seems to be the typical, I don't know I tend to find that quite often, that it is usually one person in the car. Very seldom are there other people in the car, it happened occasionally, but usually it is just one person.

SP: Okay, and finally just a few questions to wrap up. In general if a driver says a stop was unfair, how do you respond to that?

Officer: Well, I try to explain to them, so they understand what the law is. If there has been some ordinance, or whatever, that they have infringed upon. Say that they felt that they stopped at that read light, and I felt that they didn't, I try to explain to them how I judge if it was a stop, or if they stopped at the light at all. You know by going into more detail, I tell them where the stop line is at that they stop behind the stop line, were they behind it when the light changed red, or were they in front of it. Things like that, and that is just a stop light violation. I try to explain it to them, and then if they are still resistant, I tell them you know you have a court date, that is was the court date is for. If you have a problem with it then go ahead and go to court and we will let the judge make the determination whether or not it was actually a ordinance violation. And you know, sometimes that satisfies them, they are usually still pretty angry if they are going to be angry about it in the first place, though.

SP: okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 63

SP: and what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 85, 86 something like that

SP: So the mid 80s

Officer: Yeah, I would say probably 86 because I was in the military, I was a military police officer, then I got out of the military and came to work for Overland Park, and I have been here ever since

SP: Okay, and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: White, Caucasian

SP: Well, thank you very much for your time and [interrupted]

Officer: No problem, and I have Officer _____ here, he was one of the people that you are wanting to speak to, so do you want to go ahead and talk to him now, do you have time?

SP: That would be wonderful.

Officer: Okay hold on

SP: [I kind of interrupt here] And if you have any further questions about this research please feel free to call me.

Officer: Oh Okay that's no problem, hold on here is Officer Stokes

PD: 5

Case ID #: 5
Date/Time of Interview: Monday 11/21/05; 1:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Monday 1/2/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: Wht
Gender: Male
Age: 28
Years as a Police Officer: 7

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Okay, I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Um, you mean like as far as the violation, that I witnessed on it er?

SP: Well, just describe the last traffic stop you made from the start completely through to the end.

Officer: Okay, um I stopped a vehicle that was, let's see, about 119th street, that had a license plate on it that belonged on a Honda, and they were driving a Pontiac. I stopped them for improper tag. Made contact with the driver, the driver had purchased a new vehicle and had never changed the registration on the vehicle, over a month ago. She didn't have the current insurance for the new vehicle. I issued a citation for the improper tag and for not having her current insurance card for that vehicle. Um, and that was pretty much your basic traffic stop, no problems or anything like that on it.

SP: And do remember in particular about this driver?

Officer: I don't know, as far as what?

SP: Did anything stand out in your mind about her, or was this just a pretty typical stop of pretty typical driver?

Officer: Yeah, it was a typical stop, because there was nothing out of the ordinary about it.

SP: And you said for, it was Honda license plate on a Pontiac vehicle?

Officer: Correct, the license plate that was on it belonged on a Honda. It was displayed on a Pontiac.

SP: Okay, did the driver say anything in particular, that sticks out in your mind?

Officer: Not that I remember, I mean she, you know, she had purchased the vehicle and it had been over a month ago, and she had never had registered the vehicle.

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment, rather than think of the last traffic stop that you made, I would like you to think about a stop you made in the last 12 months that really sticks out in your mind. First, in your own words, would you please describe the experience, please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Um, probably would be a traffic stop on a vehicle, um, I actually stopped the vehicle twice. The first time I attempted a stop for obstructing traffic, and it also had excessive exhaust coming from the vehicle. The driver failed to yield, would not stop, basically kept going after I attempted to stop it. I discontinued at that time, located the vehicle later on in the day, and again attempted to make a traffic stop on the vehicle. While making contact with the vehicle the driver put the vehicle in gear and started to drive away while I was at the car door, and actually hit me with the vehicle.

SP: Oh wow.

Officer: Um, and I attempted to, you know, make contact with her again as she basically fled from me again. Um, we later arrested the driver, ah later on that evening we made contact and arrested the driver for basically assaulting an officer with a vehicle.

SP: And you said that you had followed this vehicle once [interrupted]

Officer: I had attempted to stop it in the morning and at that point, she did not stop, she continued going. So, I took the information and was following up on it later in the day, and located the vehicle a second time.

SP: And you said that there was excessive exhaust out of this vehicle, can you describe the vehicle?

Officer: The vehicle, was, is an older vehicle, and the exhaust, the smoke coming out the back, was real extensive, it was basically causing cars to stop, get over to another lane, to try and avoid it, because they couldn't see. The vision of the other drivers was obstructed from the exhaust, and the vehicle was driving really slow, going on one of our major highways, which was causing traffic problems for all the other driver's that it was holding up.

SP: So, was that the initial cause of why you were pulling it over?

Officer: Yes, that was the violations on it.

SP: And, was anything said when you eventually did pull the woman over later in the evening, how did that encounter go?

Officer: Um, whenever we arrested her, or whenever she hit me with the vehicle?

SP: Um, the first part, I am assuming to drove up behind her and your lights were on and she stopped this time, how did that interaction then go to the point when she drove off?

Officer: Basically, I was, at that point, because she ran from me before, I was giving her orders to turn the vehicle off, and she wouldn't turn the vehicle off, and she wouldn't follow the commands I was giving her, as far as, you know, trying to get the vehicle stopped. Um, she was just trying to get away any way she could. When I contacted her, she was in traffic, and she couldn't actually move at all, but the traffic in front of her eventually moved and that is when she moved.

SP: Okay, so she had never actually turned off the vehicle?

Officer: No, she had never actually, she was stopped, she hadn't actually pulled over for me the second time.

SP: oh

Officer: I had pulled up behind her, and lit up the lights and everything and made contact with her and um, while I was making contact, trying to get her to shut off the vehicle, well she can't move anywhere, because there's traffic in front of her, but when the traffic light turned green and traffic started going she took off.

SP: So this was at a traffic light that she had just stopped at.

Officer: Yeah, she was stopped, and I made a traffic stop while she was stopped at the light.

SP: Okay, and did you tell her why you were pulling her over, at that, or attempting to pull her over at that point?

Officer: At that point what I did, as I was, my main concern was getting the vehicle turned off. So, I was just, "turn the car off, turn the car off," giving commands like that for safety reasons, I wanted the car ignition to go off. Which it ended up not happening.

SP: And, when she drove off, did she actually say anything in the encounter?

Officer: No, she didn't.

SP: Okay, she was just trying to get away the whole time?

Officer: Yeah

SP: And, when she hit you with the vehicle was it, in your mind did you perceive it as, a purposeful kind of attack against you, or was she trying to get away and [interrupted]

Officer: It was purposeful, um attempt to get away, I don't know that he intentions were try to hurt me with the vehicle, she was just going to do whatever necessary to try and get away and not get stopped, you know, I don't think, it wasn't like she swerved towards me to try and get

me, it was just she was trying to get away and she is going to whatever means necessary to try get away.

SP: And when she was eventually arrested, how did that happen?

Officer: Uh, she contacted by another agency and we uh, went to that agency because we had put out a locate on the vehicle and they identified us and made contact with her, um we responded to that location and identified her as the driver and she was placed under arrest, which she was resistant to even then, resisting arrest. Um, basically was fighting us when we put handcuffs on her. At that point other officers were, took over the investigation because I was involved.

SP: And by another agency do you mean a different city [interrupted again]

Officer: A different city yes

SP: Okay, and this was a woman driving an older vehicle, do you remember anything else about her, that stands out in your mind?

Officer: Nah, just the fact that she was, she had felony warrants from out of state, and a history of obstruction, obstruction to a police officer.

SP: And, do you remember if she was an older woman, or a younger woman?

Officer: Middle aged

SP: Okay, that definitely sounds like a very interesting day of experiences.

Officer: That is the one that stands out in my mind the most.

SP: that is understandable, anything else you would like to tell me about that stop, or is that pretty much cover the story?

Officer: I think that pretty much covers it on that one

SP: Okay, and finally just a few general questions for you. In general, if a driver says a stop was unfair, how do you respond to that?

Officer: Usually I just explain the violation that I witnessed. Um, you know, I always get people that aren't satisfied, people don't like to get tickets, but you know, I do my best to try and explain the reason that I stopped them and the reason that I am writing them a ticket. Um, you know, at that point I just let them know that there is a court date on the ticket and they have every right to contest the ticket if they don't agree with it.

SP: Okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 1977

SP: Okay, and what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 1998

SP: Okay and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Um, that would be Caucasian

SP: Okay, well that you very much for your time, if you have any questions about this research please feel free to contact me at the university, my number is 785.864.3515

Officer: Is that it.

SP: That's it, thank you very much

Officer: Okay thanks

SP: Thank you very much

Officer: Bye

SP: Goodbye

PD: 6

Case ID #: 6
Date/Time of Interview: Wednesday 12/14/05; 2:15 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Monday 1/2/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Age: 35
Years as a Police Officer: 9

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: I would like you start by thinking back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in you own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Ok, um, I just stopped a vehicle. Do you just want me to explain it to you, the whole stop?

SP: Yes, from when you saw the vehicle to the eventual end.

Officer: Okay, I was out on the highway, out on 435 highway, traveling westbound. I observed a vehicle on the inside lane, there are three through lanes on 435 westbound. I observed a vehicle westbound on the inside lane, the farthest inside land, a blue pick up truck. I noticed this truck had expired Kansas tags, expired September '05. Um, at the time I got on the radio with dispatch, I checked the tags to make sure, to see if they were expired or current, because sometimes people don't put their stickers on their on the tags. I got information back on the, um validation back from dispatch, who advised that the tags were expired for September '05. At that time I activated my emergency equipment, initiated a traffic stop. The vehicle slowly pulled over, across three lanes of traffic, onto the right shoulder. I pulled in behind the vehicle. I basically pulled in behind the vehicle and put my car in a traffic stop position, which basically is called a modified felony out position, which has your vehicle front driver's side corner basically, partially on the fog line, pointing in about a er 45 degree angle from the back of the pickup truck. Um, I um, approached the driver. I got out of my patrol car, approached the violator, made contact with the violator, explained that this is Overland Park and I was Officer _____, the reason for the stop was for the expired tags. And, uh, from there the driver advised that he had no idea that the tags were expired, I checked his registration again for validity, and made sure it expired. I received his insurance registration and driver's license. Returned to my patrol car and issued a citation. Returned to the violator and issued him the citation. He signed the citation, and I returned after that to my patrol car. The violator was still there, he later pulled out, back out to the lane of traffic, and I deactivated my emergency equipment, pulled over to the right shoulder, stayed on the right shoulder to write some notes and that was it.

SP: Okay, and you mentioned that this driver was male, do you remember anything else in particular about him?

Officer: No, just, I stop a lot of people everyday. There was nothing about him. One of the things he did as I approached the vehicle though, he had both hands on the steering wheel as I approached. That was the only thing that really stood out, he didn't contest it, er he didn't argue about it or anything. He did advise me that he would take care of it.

SP: And was he an older gentleman, or younger?

Officer: He was probably about 45-46 years of age.

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment, rather than think about the last traffic stop that you made, I would like you to think about a stop that you made in the last 12 months that really sticks out in your mind. Again, in your own words, please describe the experience from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: I stop a lot of cars, I can't remember. 12, how long ago, a year ago?

SP: Within this past year, yeah.

Officer: Okay, um, ah shh, I stop a lot of cars. Something that really stuck out....The think about all of them, the traffic stops that I make, nothing is ever routine, all of them are really different. Other than some of things that we do, one that has stuck out more...Stopped a vehicle for speeding and pulled in behind the vehicle and the driver basically ducked towards the dashboard area where I couldn't actually see his head. Which made it a little more riskier, but every stop that you make is a high risk, or sometimes high risky stop. Like I say, nothing is every routine. Um, and you are always looking for things that are just basically predict to yourself that this is going to be the worst traffic stop I've ever made, every stop you make you have that type of attitude. But, uh, he had his head stuck, you know, under to were I actually couldn't see his head, so that brought concern. So, as I approached I just approached towards the passenger's side. I basically, what I did, I got out of my car, walked around the back of my car, up around his passenger's side. And from there I was able to conduct a car stop from that position.

SP: You said you pulled him over for speeding. So, you pulled him over for speeding and then he put his head underneath the dash?

Officer: Yes, after he stopped and pulled over onto the shoulder, he ducked basically, as if he was reaching towards the floorboard of the passenger side. Which is sometimes really really risky. It was a nighttime stop, so when you see different things like that it just draws different things to attention, to your attention. And the reason for walking around on the backside of my car, coming up on the passenger side, instead of crossing across between the front of my car and the back of his car, that particular area is what we refer to as no man's land. And if I walk across that area, basically my spot light, or my lights, can basically silhouette me or show up as a shadow and he can actually see where I am as I cross that particular area. So, as a different technique I would actually walk out of my car, open my door, walk around the back of my car up on to the passenger's side of his car.

SP: And then when you approached him, did he come up from the dashboard?

Officer: Yes, he did, well the thing about is he was expecting that I would probably approach him on the driver's side; however I approached on the passenger's side. So, from that position I can actually see inside his car, I can actually see his hands, and I can see the seat, I can see the floorboard area of his car, before he actually knew I was standing there on the passenger's side.

SP: Okay, so that is used as a precaution to make sure you can see what he is doing.

Officer: Exactly, it's just a traffic stop technique.

SP: And do you remember anything in particular about him?

Officer: No, I mean, he just, he dropped, he was bending over towards picking up his registration off of the floorboard.

SP: Okay, and you don't, do you remember if he was older or younger?

Officer: He was a younger male like 19 or 20

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything in particular about the vehicle

Officer: nope, actually I don't remember, just a dark colored vehicle, I can't probably remember what make or model it was

SP: And do you remember approximately where this happened?

Officer: Yes, this where 95th and 69 highway

SP: Okay, just a few general questions to wrap up. In general if a driver says a stop was unfair, how do you respond?

Officer: If the stop was unfair?

SP: If the driver says the stop was unfair.

Officer: One of the things that I do is I explain to them, on my first approach what the violation was and then I explain from there if I am going to issue a citation. If it is something that they don't want to sign or say that the stop was unfair I explain to them they have an option to go to court. They have an option to go speak with a prosecutor you can speak with a judge about it. If they want to contest it, they can go plead not guilty to the citation, they will set up trial for them and they can actually, by law, defend themselves, or hire an attorney to contest the citation.

SP: Okay and in what year were you born?

Officer: 70

SP: and was year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 96

SP: And what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: what's that?

SP: What race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Brown, no I am Black [he giggled]

SP: Okay, well thank you very much for your time, and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to call my at 785.864.3515

Officer: Okay, thank you

SP: thank you very much good bye

Officer: bye bye

PD: 7

Case ID #: 7
Date/Time of Interview: Friday 1/6/06 2:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Saturday 1/7/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: Other
Gender: Male
Age: 37
Years as a Police Officer: 13

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Okay, I would like you start by thinking back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay as I was traveling northbound on Antioch, I was approaching an intersection that is a pretty busy intersection. I had a solid green light, and I was just driving a long not really paying that much attention to what I was doing, but rather the investigation that I was getting ready to go investigate. And I had a black car pull right out in front of me, at which time I had to, I had to get on the breaks to keep myself from running into the side of this car. Then I reached over, do the appropriate stuff to turn on emergency equipment and affect the stop. Once I got the car stopped, about a block east of the intersection, my heart was still pounding just from the, the oh my gosh I was almost in a wreck type deal, and then I had to kind of get myself back in the right mindset to handle the traffic stop accordingly, without getting, you know, in the driver's face and kind of uh, oh, you know just getting after him and degrading him, that sort of thing, so it can continue on a professional level. Um, while I was still working the traffic stop, I went up there; I talked with him. I asked him for his reason for running the red light, he said, "Well I was just going to the bank." And he seemed very nonchalant about it, which kind of set me off, thinking you know hey, you almost caused an accident and you think it is no big deal. I went back to my cruiser, prepared my citation, took a couple more minutes to get myself a little bit more calm, so that I could concentrate on other things that may be happening in the car. Things like, well maybe this guy was intoxicated or whatever the case may be. Um, re-contacted him, made the presentation of the citation. Again, there was no remorse in this guy's voice or actions, so that kind of keyed me back up again. I gave him his ticket and sent him on his way. Um, got back to my car did my notes and it probably took me about five minutes just to come down after the way the guy handled the whole thing, like it was no big deal.

SP: And you said this happened off a busy intersection off of Antioch, do you remember the cross street at all?

Officer: 95th and Antioch

SP: That is a pretty busy intersection.

Officer: Yes, it is.

SP: And he, you were driving to scene of a different investigation, and he just kind of ran the red light and just cut you off, is that correct?

Officer: That's right

SP: So when you initiated contact with him, when you first approached him, how did that start, how did you start the conversation?

Officer: Um, as I approached the car I noticed that he had his window rolled down, so I wanted to let him go ahead and know that I was approaching. And, so, I did my standard greeting, good evening sir, may I see your driver's license and proof of insurance. And that is about how I would normally start any traffic stop.

SP: And do you remember anything else in particular about him, other than his nonchalant attitude?

Officer: Um, he wouldn't look at me, his answers were very short, like I said, there wasn't any remorse, hey I am really sorry I did that, I don't know what I was thinking. You know, it just, he just, you could tell that it didn't really matter to this driver what he did.

SP: Hum, and do you remember anything demographically about him, was he an older driver, a younger driver, that kind of thing?

Officer: Um, I would probably place him to be a middle to late 40s white male driver.

SP: And do you remember anything about his vehicle?

Officer: Um, it was a black four door sedan.

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment. Rather than think about the most recent stop that you made, I would like you to think about a stop that you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. Again, in your own words would you please describe the experience from the moment you noticed the vehicle you actually stopped to the moment the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Hum, past twelve months, there have been so many of them, and you had to ask a traffic guy didn't you (jokingly)

SP: of course

Officer: Ummm, I was out on 435, which we jokingly call the international raceway, and I was out there running a laser light. So basically I was taking measurements of speeds of cars as they were traveling westbound on 435. Um, in the general area of 435 and Nall, I was parked on the outside shoulder, and coming westbound I saw a dark colored SUV, and it was clearly going fast. I did my visual track on it, to kind of estimate how fast the vehicle was going, it was clear the

vehicle was above the posted speed limit, so I guesstimated that the speed was about 80. And when I lit it up with the laser I measured its speed at 83.

SP: Oh wow

Officer: Um, so at that speed, with that vehicle's speed I knew I had to get in my car and get and go before I lost him in the traffic. So, once I got that visual detection, locked in the speed, jumped in the car, put it into drive, and I was just, for a lack of better term, I was a bat out of hell trying to catch this guy. When I finally caught up to him, I got him pulled over at around Metcalf, so we probably went about a mile. When I went up there to contact him, traffic was just flying by, so I had to make an approach on the passenger's side of the car. As soon as he rolled down his window the guy was just yelling at me, "I don't know why you stopped me, I don't why you stopped me." I said, "Look sir, I stopped you because I measured your speed at 83, and the speed limit there is only 65, is there an emergency that I can help you with?" The guy is like, "I don't know who you got, but I wasn't doing no 83." And the guy was just yelling at me. Um, like you know how dare you stop me and I wasn't the one who was doing it. And so, automatically I knew that this transaction isn't going to go very smoothly, I just need to go ahead and do the stop as quickly as I can. So, I went back to my car, prepared the citation, went back up there the guy, again, he just started up barking barking barking, about how it wasn't him and he is going to see me in court and how dare you do this to me. So, I made my presentation, showed him the ticket, showed him the court date, and got him on his way. And that was probably one of the fastest traffic stops I have ever had to do, mostly because the guy was barking in my ear like a red [stopped himself], you know, just a mean junk yard dog.

SP: And, you said this was a male, and he was obviously very angry, do you remember anything else about him?

Officer: Ummm, I would say he was probably about mid 30s and I want to say he was like Italian, if I was going to put an origin or nationality to it.

SP: Okay, and he was driving a large dark SUV, was it older, newer?

Officer: It was a newer one, big fancy wheels and everything, now that I remember it.

SP: And, when you went up to the car, he initiated the conversation rather than you?

Officer: Right, there wasn't the, I wasn't able to get out there, good afternoon sir, and it was like you know, automatic, just barking out the window before I could make it a professional contact.

SP: And, you said you had to get into your vehicle, so you were standing by the side of the road doing laser checks?

Officer: Right

SP: Was this kind of earlier in the day, was this evening time?

Officer: This would be between the lunch afternoon rush

SP: Okay, alright, and finally just a few questions to wrap it up here. In general, if a driver says that the stop was unfair, how do you typically respond to that?

Officer: Usually I take into consideration where we are at. For example, if we are say at a school zone, there's there's less latitude, or officer's discretion if you will, because we are there for the safety of the kids. Typically I will start writing tickets, if it is moving, or a speeding violation, I will typically write tickets at about, about 12 over. In the schools zones I tend to drop my level of threshold if you will, to quite a bit lower. And when they say, that is not fair, why did you not get everyone else, we just try to explain to them, you know, I can only handle one car at a time and it just kind of make it a little more diplomatic and make them understand that just because everyone else is doing it it doesn't mean that it is fair for you to do it as well. And that I will handle you as professionally as I can, we will do it on a one to one basis, and if you treat me politely then I will do the same for you as well.

SP: Okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 68

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 92

SP: And what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Pacific Islander

SP: Well, thank you very much for your time and if you have any further questions about this research please feel free to contact me at KU, my number is 785.864.3515

Officer: Okay, thank you

SP: Thank you, bye

Officer: bye bye

PD: 8

Case ID #: 8
Date/Time of Interview: Wednesday 12/7/05; 2:30 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Wednesday 1/4/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Female
Age: 40
Years as a Police Officer: 11

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Thank you, okay I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Oh, okay, um, I was doing traffic enforcement last night in a car instead of a motorcycle, that I usually work off of. Um, I observed traffic, you know a vehicle moving a little bit faster than another car. I checked his speed with laser, followed the vehicle all the way up to where I was at. It passed me, we, myself and my partner, stopped the vehicle, got out, made contact with the driver, went back to the police car, wrote one or two citations depending on which vehicle it was I stopped. I went back up, explained the citations to the driver and released the driver and the driver drove off. We got back in the police, we went and made a circle and did it all over again.

SP: Okay, so as far, are you describing then a particular stop, or is this in general how you spent your night?

Officer: In general, that's how I spent my night. I mean for the traffic enforcement part of it, yeah.

SP: Okay, as far as the last stop you made, do you remember anything in particular about that vehicle?

Officer: It was, not, no, nothing about the stops in specifics. Well, I guess I do, it was a dealer plate, he had no proof of valid insurance. His insurance on a dealer plate was expired November '04. From a dealership and that is a thirty day suspension of his driving privileges and a 500 dollar fine to him.

SP: oh wow

Officer: There has been a problem, there is a problem with these dealer tags, and everybody that has a dealer tag on their vehicle, and nobody has proper insurance. There are supposed to

have valid fleet insurance, which means that the dealers are abusing the dealer tag rules from the state and things like that, but [trailed off]

SP: And I noticed that you said, he, do you remember anything in particular about the man that you pulled over?

Officer: Oh he was probably mid-40s, small frame, glasses, lived in Overland Park, KS, works out of Gladstone at a car dealer in Gladstone, MO.

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment, rather than think about the last traffic stop that you made, I would like you to think about a stop that really stands out in your mind from the last twelve months. First in your own words would you please describe the experience, please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: One that just, was a traffic stop that didn't result in anything else?

SP: Um, as long as it began as a traffic stop, then any stop that stands out in your mind.

Officer: Well, the problem is I could give you one that was a pretty good one pretty recently, the problem is that I have been doing this, I have been in the traffic unit for four years and I stop 15, 20 cars a night and usually there pretty something remarkable about every stop every night. But the most recent one that I could give you that was a pretty good traffic stop was, again we are in a car right now, usually I ride a motorcycle. So, it is me and my partner together in a car. A vehicle passed us, it was a Honda, like a CRV, it had fake 06 renewal tags on it, which are pretty obvious when someone is trying to remanufacture those. And, uh, my partner and I have become pretty efficient with determining if one is fake or not as a vehicle is going past us. But anyway, the vehicle passed us, we pulled in behind the vehicle, turned all our emergency equipment on, um, put our spot lights on the back of the car. The car continues down the road for a bit, it turns real quick down one street, um, all the sudden hands and feet, there are four occupants in the vehicle, and hands and bodies are moving all over the car. It goes down one more block and the vehicle turns again really quick. Now the vehicle is traveling in on coming lanes of traffic, and the driver and the front seat passenger are actually switching positions in the vehicle as it is still rolling down the road in on coming traffic. They almost hit a mailbox. Finally, get the vehicle stopped, we get all the occupants out the vehicle. Everybody is in handcuffs at this time because right now we didn't know what they were doing, we didn't know if they were robbery suspects or anything like that. And, uh, determined that after we got everybody out of the vehicle and in custody they were between the ages of, we had one 16-year-old, two 17-year-olds, and an 18-year-old. This was north of the river, and they had in their possession four pounds, or I am sorry, two pounds of dealer weight marihuana, that they were transporting, they just bought it from somewhere and they were taking it somewhere else. The three adults were transported to police headquarters where they were booked on possession of controlled substance and were held on twenty hours investigation. The juvenile was released to his parent at the scene with a written promise, which is a form we fill out for juveniles when we release them to their parents, their parents are responsible ultimately for any court actions, things like that, when they have to bring their child into court. The vehicle was towed with a hold on it. Drug enforcement guys came out too over see the stop and what we were doing out there. Along with the K9 officers came out and found more, some smaller amounts of

marihuana in the vehicle and things like that. And then we spent the next, that stop happened at 6:30, essentially, and we finished up with all of our paper work, all of reports and everything else at about midnight.

SP: Oh wow, that is a long stop.

Officer: Yeah, it is.

SP: And when you then approached this vehicle did you tell them why they were being stopped.

Officer: No, not at, I mean not at the specific time because we approached the vehicle with guns out. Um, you know, to explain to them at that time why we are stopping them, we have to deal with safety issues first. So, once we got them in custody, once we got them all sitting down on the curb, we explained, "This is why we stopped you, you should have just pulled over, you know, you should have just done this, you know, and there wouldn't have been this big problem here."

SP: Well and it sounded like there was definitely a lag between when you tried to pull them over at first and when they finally stopped, was it after the driver and the passenger switched that the driver [interrupted]

Officer: That they finally swapped, that they finally stopped, yeah.

SP: okay and did you ever get to the bottom of why they did that in order to stop?

Officer: Well, the explanation from the original driver was, he was just scared because he didn't have a driver's license.

SP: hummm, and you said this was a Honda CRV, and do you remember anything else about the drivers, other than their obvious youth?

Officer: Young kids, are you talking about, I mean they are young, it was 16, no it was a 17 and 18 year old, just young kids. I mean I can't get into specifics cause this just happened and you know, charges are pending and things like that.

SP: That makes sense, so do you remember anything else memorable about this stop

Officer: No, that's pretty much it.

SP: Okay, and I just have a question, this isn't really scripted in the interview, but you said both of these happened when you were in a car, the stop you referred to about last night and the stop you just described [interrupted]

Officer: Those are the most recent yeah

SP: So, but you are mostly on motorcycle, what determines if you are on motorcycle or in a car?

Officer: Well, basically the weather

SP: That makes sense I wouldn't want to be on a motorcycle last night either

Officer: Myself and my partner, we kind of set a 32 degree limit. If it is going to get above freezing at any point during our shift we will tend to ride our motorcycles, as long as its not snow forecasted or freezing ice or things like that. But with the temperatures being as cold as they have been, with the snow tonight, I mean those things, you basically sit in front of the weather channel and look to see if you are going to ride your motorcycle. We knew last week that we wouldn't ride the first part of this week because of the temperatures that they were, you now, calling for and things like that, but we have to work this weekend, and it is supposed to get into the forties, so as long as this snow melts by Friday we are going to probably end up riding our motorcycles on Saturday and Sunday.

SP: And do you notice any difference, I mean other than the vehicle you are in, in kind of how people who are stopped perceive the motorcycle?

Officer: There is a big difference. Depends on where you are working, anywhere throughout the city, it depends on where you are working. Because if you are working within the city and you are dealing with individuals who have a lot of contact with the police there is a big difference between the way they respond to an officer in a police car and an officer on a motorcycle. And the big difference there is because all they ever see and deal with pretty much, most their contact is with officers in a car, who tend to be sometimes younger officers, new officers, people that they consider harass them and things like that. When they see those of us on motorcycles they know we are a little bit different breed, we are not there to harass them. They know we are there, just doing traffic enforcement, that is what our assignments are, that is what our goals are, and um, so they know that if they just behave themselves they are going to get the tickets, they are going to get sent on their way.

SP: Interesting, um, okay just a few general questions to wrap up. In general, if a driver says that a stop was unfair, how do you respond?

Officer: I basically tell them that it, I am not the final say on this matter, which I am not. I am just a tool for the city and I tell them, if you think this was an unjust stop that they need to go ahead and arrange for the court date, like I explain to them on the citation. Arrange for the court date and discuss your issues with my judge and at that time he will determine. I am not the final say on this matter, he is.

SP: Okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 1965

SP: And in what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: I became a sworn officer in 1994.

SP: Okay, and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: White

SP: Okay, thank you very much for your time

Officer: certainly

SP: if you have any questions about this research feel free to contact me at the university

Officer: What is this whole research thing about, and what is for, what are you looking for with all of this information?

SP: Well, I am actually just helping two professors to do this, I am a graduate student. And they are looking at traffic stops in general, so we are talking with officer and drivers from a few different places.

Officer: Helping them with what, I mean?

SP: Oh, I am doing the interview portion of it.

Officer: Right, but what is the whole concept for this, this interview, this research, what are these professors, what are they trying to accomplish by the interviews and I mean they talk about it even says in hear varying experience to study varying perceptions between police in traffic stops, um there is going to be varying perceptions, we all know that, granted you are obtaining information based on live accounts, at least with the police, but what is the long term process, what are we looking at for the long term result form all of this, what are they shooting for?

SP: Well they are shooting to write a book, as professors do a lot, I am not sure about the specific questions that they are going to be trying to answer with that, generally. We are just in the data gathering stage right now.

Officer: Okay

SP: Yeah, just a lot of interviews with a lot of different people right now

Officer: Oh, I can understand that. Okay, well thank you very much.

SP: Okay, and if you have any other questions, my number is 785.864.3515.

Officer: got it

SP: okay thank you

Officer: bye bye

PD: 9

Case ID #: 9
Date/Time of Interview: Wednesday 12/7/05; 3:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Wednesday 1/4/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Age: 38
Years as a Police Officer: 16

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Thank you, okay, first, I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, most recent traffic stop would have been yesterday. Let's see where did we work at, okay, let's see. Oh, I know what it was. Alright, I was riding as a two person crew with my partner, we are both motorcycle officers; however, due to the weather we were riding in a car. We were in the area of 5200 Gregory, and this just happened to be an area my partner had suggested because of numerous violations that he had observed there in the past. So, we were monitoring the traffic as it was going west on Gregory. And I observed a vehicle traveling west, and it looked like it was speeding, and I trained my laser gun on the vehicle, and it showed that the vehicle was speeding. So, I stopped the vehicle, probably 200 yards to the west of where we were sitting at, that is where the vehicle stopped for us. And, when I encountered the lady at that location she was pleasant; however, she didn't believe that she was speeding at the time and of course at that point I explained to her that we are using a laser gun and that there was no mistake on which vehicle was checked and which one was traveling above the posted speed limit. Her vehicle had been checked and showed that she was speeding. From there she didn't have any other conversation. I asked her if her address was correct and she stated yes. And went back, issued a citation, explained all of the details to her with regards to the citation and from there she was on her way.

SP: And you said this was a woman, do you remember anything else in particular about her?

Officer: Ummm, she was a white female, she was I believe in her mid-twenties

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything in particular about her vehicle?

Officer: Um, I believe it was a four door white vehicle, let's see what kind of vehicle was it, I can't remember what make it was at this point, I had too many other things to do

SP: Understandable. Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment, rather than think about the last traffic stop you made, I would like you to think about a stop you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. First, in your own words would you please

describe the experience, please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, um, let's see, I was working in the area of Eastwood and 435. Um, I was checking vehicles there in the construction zone. 435, oh for at least 3 years, had just a massive amount of construction in that area, and we were getting continuous speeders in there. I was checking the speeders that were going northbound on 435. And, at that time I could hear a motorcycle, the motorcycle engine, and it sounded as though the motorcycle was traveling very quickly, because of rapid changes in the gears and things like that. So, approximately 10 seconds, 15 seconds later the motorcycle came into view. I checked the speed with my laser gun and it showed that the motorcycle was traveling 114 miles an hour.

SP: Oh wow

Officer: So, from there I quickly got on my motorcycle and activated all the emergency equipment before he got to my location and when he noticed that I was going to pursue he moved to the left lane, which is the passing lane, and um, continued accelerating. Approximately a half mile later he ran into some heavy traffic, and from there I managed to catch up to his motorcycle, and that that time he realized there was no place for him to really run, so he decided to pull over. So from there he was actually arrested and his motorcycle was towed away.

SP: And, was there a purpose for his motorcycle being towed, rather than him getting a citation?

Officer: Yes, he was, anytime you are traveling 114 miles an hour in a 45 mile per an hour zone um that is considered reckless and careless operation of your vehicle um, and from there he was also weaving in and out of traffic. Once he noticed that I had begun my pursuit, and uh, so he was endangering the lives of other motorists as well as his own life, and so from there an arrest needed to be made.

SP: And, you said he was trying to avoid the stop at the beginning, what do you think eventually stop?

Officer: Oh, he ran into traffic, the traffic congestion, and from there it didn't give him very much opportunity to continue traveling at the high rates of speed. So, he was basically forced to pull over at that time.

SP: And, do you remember anything in particular about him?

Officer: Ummmmm, yeah, that he was a young white male, approximately, oh 20 to 25 years of age. I remember he was riding a yellow Suzuki motorcycle. And, let's see, ummm, I remember he said he was a college student and he said he was going to meet some of his friends at a pizza parlor. And I think that is about it.

SP: So, would you say the interaction was civil, I mean when he did stop because of the traffic, and you approached him did you tell him why you stopped him? How did that interaction proceed?

Officer: I advised him of why he was being stopped and why he was being arrested, and he was very argumentative about the situation, stating that I had the wrong vehicle, that it wasn't his motorcycle that was traveling at those speeds. Oh, and then at that point he began to ask me if I could just give him a break and just let him go without issuing him a citation or making an arrest. And so, and ah, and he said something to the nature of he had been in trouble before on his motorcycle for speeding or some type of traffic violation.

SP: And he said that in an attempt to get you to not get him in trouble?

Officer: Right, he was ah, he was ah, advising me about his bad luck, I guess, on his motorcycle. I guess since he had gotten a citation, it was within that year, I guess, hearing that I would some how think that he deserved a break this time, and would just simply let him go. And I advised him that there was no way I was going to let anyone travel through a construction zone at 114 miles an hour, I said because you are endangering everyone's lives, including yourself, because there are people that will become startled at you passing them at such a rapid speed, and may slam on the breaks or jerk the steering wheel, and may run into on of the concrete barricades. So, from there he said well but I didn't hurt anyone. I said well still you were even driving in-between lanes of traffic, so I just can't do it. So, from there he got very quiet and didn't say anything else.

SP: Finally, just, well actually just one more question about that. You were actually on your motorcycle, and his motorcycle was then towed and he was arrested, so how does that process work, did you call for back up or how was he then taken?

Officer: Yeah, I called for a patty wagon, and um, he is placed in the back of a patty wagon, which is a transport van, and taken down to police headquarters, and booked in. And from there I also called for a police tow truck and advised them that it is a motorcycle instead of a car and they bring the proper attachments and they tow the vehicle away.

SP: Okay, then just a few general questions to wrap up. In general, if a driver says a stop was unfair, how do you respond?

Officer: Um, anytime that they advise me that some kind of error has been made, I listen to what their explaining to me. Then I try to clarify that information, such as, one of the biggest problems that I experience is with the laser gun. Because the laser gun is, has the ability to check speeds in a pack of vehicles verses one vehicle being by itself often times a motorist will think that there was no way that I could check their speed instead of the vehicle next to them. And then I have to explain the principles of how the laser guns work and that usually clarifies a lot of information. And every once in a while I will even show them the laser unit and that kind of thing. So in case they have any myths about how the equipment works, or what we do, or how we use our equipment a lot of times we can cut down on the arguments and those kinds of things.

SP: And in what year were you born?

Officer: in 67

SP: Okay, and in what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 89

SP: Okay, and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Black

SP: Okay, well thank you much for your time, and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to call me at the university my number is 785.864.3515.

Officer: Okay

SP: well thank you very much, bye

Officer: bye bye

PD: 10

Case ID #: 10
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 12/13/05; 1:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Thursday 1/5/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Male
Age: 33
Years as a Police Officer: 7

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Great, I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, um, do you need times and dates or not?

SP: Um, dates aren't completely necessary, if remember general time of day that would be helpful.

Officer: Okay, I would say probably thirty minutes ago.

SP: Well, that's very recent.

Officer: Yeah, that is the most recent one. Um, I was conducting, I guess surveillance of an intersection where it is no left turn from 7 a.m. to six p.m. It is violated numerous times everyday, it is a high traffic area, it is a through street, so a lot of people try to turn left there and get down to where they need to go. I was monitoring the flow of traffic there and, um about a block away, but I could see the intersection. I observed a car turn left there, came down to where I was at. I motioned to them to pull over to the side of the street. They did so. Contacted them, got their driver's license, made sure the address was correct on the license, um, informed them of why I was stopping them. Then once I confirmed that they had their insurance and the address was correct on the license, I issued the ticket, um, and had them sign that, made sure that they understood how to take care of the ticket through the mail or through the courts. Informed them that the city would mail the fine to them in about three weeks. Their response was, probably not a desired one, but they weren't mean or anything, they just, they knew they committed a traffic violation, so they signed the ticket and they were on their way. Is an answer, ask me some more questions and I will be more specific.

SP: Alright, well, you mentioned that you motioned to them to pull over, so did you not use your lights and emergency equipment?

Officer: Correct, I was actually, the vehicle, my vehicle was parked about 10 feet from where I was standing and I just stepped out into the street motioned to them to pull over, to pull on to a

side street actually, to get them off of the main street there. And, then I just did everything from standing next to the car, I was never in the police car.

SP: Okay, and what intersection was this at?

Officer: It was at 43rd and Main Street.

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything specific about the car?

Officer: Um, what do you mean by specific, I mean I can't give you license plate numbers or anything like that.

SP: Oh, no nothing like that, just general make and year, was it a car that stood out or a rather generic sedan, that kind of thing.

Officer: The last one was actually a, let's see, a three quarter ton Ford pick up truck, two door, fairly large truck. I guess you can say it stood out because it was red, but that is really all I remember about that vehicle.

SP: And do you remember anything specific about the driver?

Officer: Um, well I guess he was a white male probably in his mid thirties, dark hair, do you need anything more specific than that?

SP: No, that is plenty, and you said you motioned for the vehicle to pull on the side street and it did, when you made contact with the driver did you tell them why you were pulling them over, I guess how did you initiate that contact?

Officer: Basically, I said, "The reason I pulled you over is that you made a left turn at 43rd and Main, there is a no left turn there from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and I need to see your driver's license and proof of insurance"

SP: Okay, and I guess, do you often pull people over from outside of your vehicle, or is this because it is a very busy intersection?

Officer: Um, yeah, I wouldn't say that is something we do all the time, it just depends on day of and what intersections we are working, or what type of enforcement we are doing that day. The reason I did today is, uh, this is a pretty heavily traveled street, and so there could be uh two, three or four cars that all turn left there at the same time. So, when there is that many you can't obviously chase down four different vehicles, so it's sometimes easier just to stand there and just to motion for those vehicles to turn off to the side street there. We just call it flag it in, we flag them in there, to a side street, then you know you can continue your job there.

SP: Okay, now to changes gears, for a moment, rather than think about the last traffic stop that you made I would like you think about a traffic stop you made in the last 12 months that really stands out in your mind. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience, please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Let's see a traffic stop that sticks out huh.

SP: Umuh, something memorable.

Officer: Any type, of anything that you are looking for specific?

SP: Anything that you would say was particularly memorable for you, that began as a traffic stop, didn't necessarily have to focus on that in the end.

Officer: Okay, give me a second here.

SP: Okay

Officer: Um, okay here is one that is fairly memorable. Again, do you need location again.

SP: Yeah, a general location would be great.

Officer: Okay, um, I was working up north, the northern part of our city, highway 152, which runs east and west. And I was probably a couple of miles west of highway 435, and I was conducting, again enforcement on that highway. And, um, I was monitoring the flow of traffic with a laser unit, which is normally what we use on the interstates. And, I had clocked a vehicle traveling around 95 miles an hour.

SP: Oh wow

Officer: Yeah, I guess those are probably a little more memorable because most people aren't going that fast. And, so, this stop, once I got the speed locked in the gun, I proceeded to pursue the vehicle about a half mile or so, using lights and sirens, make sure they get over to the side of the highway safely. Once they did that then I approached the vehicle. We try to approach on the passenger's side to give us a little more safety. Um, again, I informed them why I was stopping them and that I needed to see their driver's license and proof of insurance, I informed them of the speed that I had clocked them at. Went, back to the car, the rest is kind of the same, checked to make sure that they didn't have any warrants, um, and then went back and had them sign the ticket, explained that the city would mail them the fine, that they could either take care of it through the mail, or if they wanted to call a number and set a court date and contest it in court they're free to do that. And as far as I guess, personal contact with that person, they knew that they were wrong, you know, they didn't give me any problems or any um, I guess, they weren't really upset at me or anything, they knew they had committed a fault there. And signed the ticket willingly and they were on their way. I guess the memorable part of that would just be the speed, I mean it wasn't really their response to anything, they didn't get out of control or want to argue or fight or anything like that.

SP: Okay, and again, do remember anything specific about that vehicle or that driver?

Officer: Well, I do remember that he was a white male, but I do not remember the vehicle. We do stop quite a few vehicles in the traffic unit every month and every year, so something that

happens four or five months back, it is tough to remember all of those details as far as vehicles go.

SP: Um, and you said that the city then mails them the fine, so does the ticket that you issue not have the amount on it?

Officer: Correct, the only tickets that we normally put a fine on, at least myself, are seatbelt tickets, or sometimes like a um, expired tag ticket that I know the fines to those, and they are on our books so I can put one of those on. But, like speeds the city actually looks at person driving record before they set, so if someone's record is fairly clean then their fine will probably be less than somebody who has you know, three or four speeding tickets already, and so we don't mark the fine on those, the same with insurance. Most tickets the city will actually have a set fine for each ticket so once they receive the ticket from us, they set the fine and mail that out to the individual.

SP: Okay, just a few general questions to wrap up.

Officer: Sure

SP: In general, if a driver asks the stop, or says that the stop was unfair, how do you respond?

Officer: Um, well, I try not to get into a big debate or argument there on the side of the road, especially if it is on the interstate, where it is not a very safe place to be standing for a very long period of time. So, what I usually inform them is it fine if they want to disagree, there is a number on the back that they can call, they can set a court date, then we can discuss it in front of the judge, who ultimately is going to make the determination of whether than ticket stays or um whether they are found guilty or not guilty. So, I mean, I write, if they want to disagree that's fine, it really doesn't matter to me, it's uh, um, not a big deal, I don't. I mean I issue the ticket when I observe someone breaking the law, but ultimately it is the judge who is going to find them guilty or not guilty, so I don't take it personal. That's fine, if you want to disagree, that's no problem, we will discuss it in court and let the judge make the determination on that.

SP: Okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 72

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 98

SP: And what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: I sorry, I didn't hear all of that last question.

SP: What race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: white male

SP: Okay, well, thank you very much for your time, and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to contact me at the university my phone number is 785.864.3515.

Officer: Hopefully, it wasn't too boring for you.

SP: It wasn't at all, thank you very much for your help.

Officer: You bet, have a good day

SP: You too, thank you, good bye.

Officer: bye bye

PD: 11

Case ID #: 11
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 12/13/05; 1:30 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Thursday 1/5/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Age: 36
Years as a Police Officer: 12

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Thanks I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: The most recent traffic violation today?

SP: The most recent one, I mean if it was today then yeah, today.

Officer: Well, it would probably have to be almost an hour ago.

SP: Okay, that it very recent.

Officer: I was riding as a two person officer, which meant I there was two officers in the car. I was passenger inside the vehicle. We were conducting traffic enforcement on I-29 and Wacommas, on the northbound lanes of traffic. Um, I am sorry someone was talking to me. Um, the posted speed limit at that location is 55 miles per an hour. I pointed my laser at the vehicle which I knew to be a burgundy colored PT cruiser, which was in the number one lane, number one lane is the lane closest to the center wall median, and there are four lanes of traffic on that highway there.

SP: Four lanes going the same direction?

Officer: Correct, the same direction. Um, observed the vehicle was going 72 miles per an hour in the 55 mile per an hour zone. I was using the laser unit, like I just stated before. And the distance that speed was recorded was 599.1 feet away from my location. We conducted a traffic violation on that vehicle, pretty close to that location, where we observed them speeding. Contacted the person, let them know why I had stopped him. I asked him for his driver's license. He produced his driver's license and stated something to the effect that he was making a lane change. At that time I told him, his speed was recorded prior to him making the lane change, because I actually observed him making the lane changes after his speed was obtained. Went back to my vehicle, completed a traffic ticket, went back up to his vehicle, explained the ticket to him and showed him a copy of the ticket where his signature was gonna end up going on the ticket form. After signing the ticket I explained to him, actually when I gave him the

ticket, I explained to him that he can set a court date if he wanted to plead not guilty, otherwise he is going to receive a fine about, well approximately two weeks. Um, person signed the ticket and he was given his license and his copy and he kind of went from there.

SP: Okay, and you mentioned that this was a male, do you remember anything else in particular about the driver?

Officer: Ahhh, he was an older male, I believe he was born in 1941, there were two passengers, I am sorry there was another passenger inside the vehicle with him at the time, um and that's about the main thing.

SP: Okay, and you said that when you told him about, when you approached the vehicle, he said he was making a lane change, after you told him of his speed did he try to make any other kinds of excuses of engage in any other dialogue?

Officer: He, uh, said something about what about that truck that was there, and I told him that I checked everybody's speed coming down that area where he was at and there was no truck speeding at the time when I was conducting enforcement over there. I also told him that if there was a truck that was in front of him that truck was within the speed limit.

SP: And then was that the extent of the dialogue?

Officer: Yes

SP: Okay, um, so he talked about other cars being around, was this a heavy traffic area or were there just a few?

Officer: Um, at the time we go the vehicle, at 12:40 it was not heavily traveled, I would consider it being more like light traffic for that type of highway. That is one of the main highways that um, people travel to go the airport, the Kansas City International Airport.

SP: Okay, do you remember anything else, did anything else about this stop stick out in your mind, or was that mostly just it?

Officer: Naw I consider that more of a typical traffic stop.

SP: Okay, now I would like you to change gears for a moment, rather than think about the last traffic stop you made, I would like you to think about a stop you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. Again, in your own words please describe the experience from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Give me just a second.

SP: Okay

Officer: Okay, um, I believe this traffic stop may have occurred about 8 months about, I was conducting traffic enforcement at the 5300 block of Pesaeo, which is kind of a boulevard road,

which has a lot of nice houses along this stretch. In this area the streets go north and south, it is divided by a large grassy median, so basically there's two lanes of traffic going northbound and two lanes of traffic going southbound. At this time I was actually conducting traffic enforcement on the, um, northbound side of the road, where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per an hour. Um, at this location I was using the laser unit again, and I observed a hummer, the H2 style, which is not the biggest Hummer, but one of the larger Hummer vehicles, going, I could tell you it was at least 50 something miles per an hour and it was pretty apparent that that vehicle was traveling at that speed. Um, I conducted a traffic stop on that vehicle, um, when I first pulled up behind that vehicle I first thing I noticed was the personalized tag on it that says x-wrestler. Um, walked up to the vehicle, contacted the driver, who also had passenger inside of the vehicle with him. Told the driver why he had been stopped, at that time he became very argumentative with me and said that he was not going that fast. I told him, "well you were going that fast and that's what your speed was." Um, I finished talking to him and getting his driver's license and went back to my police vehicle and completed the traffic ticket. After completing the traffic ticket I went back to the vehicle to explain the ticket to him, at that time he became argumentative with me. I don't remember exactly what details or words or anything like that just saying that he became argumentative with me and said something about you're going to work for me by the time I finish you in court, and he also told me that he used to be a wrestler, and did you see that tag on the back of his car, pointing towards the back of his car. He said I am going to break you, and I am assuming what he said, when he said I am going to break you, I am assuming is was talking about a wrestler move that he was going to try and break me, that's the way I interpreted it. Um, eventually he signed the ticket, um, let's see he was still pretty argumentative with me about the ticket, after signing the ticket he ended up leaving the area. And, what really sticks out about this vehicle, like I said, I talked to a couple of other people who had seen this vehicle in the past, they knew exactly what vehicle I was talking to when I mentioned a hummer, that I had stopped speeding one day, and they said was it a brownish colored hummer with personalized plates. And they said yeah it is the same one, and they said yeah that guy likes speeding here all of the time. And I was talking to a guy who owns a liquor store in the Kansas City area, um, here at Truman and Benton, and they knew exactly which vehicle I was talking about.

SP: And do you remember, well, do you remember anything else about this guy, other than the argumentative, do you remember anything else about his demeanor or about him personally?

Officer: I did think he was huge when, I say huge I mean he must have, I am willing to bet, was at least 6'5" or 6'6" and probably 300 something pounds, I mean it was pretty much all muscle. That is about the main thing I remember about him. I remember he was a really, oh, argumentative person. I mean you typically deal with argumentative people, but I remember he was probably one of the top.

SP: And you said that he had mentioned, or he had kind of threatened you with I am going to break you [interrupted]

Officer: He said something to the effect of I am going break you

SP: And that is a physical threat, does that happen often, and how do you respond to a physical threat like that?

Officer: Well, I pretty much said well I know, I don't remember exactly what I told him. Basically, after he shot at the mouth for a while he eventually signed the ticket, um you know, typically people chew the stuff, I didn't feel any fear or anything like that when he was telling me that.

SP: Okay, and you said he had a passenger with him, did the passenger react in any way?

Officer: I got the impression that the passenger was, the look on her face, was god I can't believe he is going this, her, who ever the person was, I think it may have been her boyfriend, I don't know. I got the impression she was more embarrassed by his actions.

SP: Okay, and just few follow up questions to wrap it up. In general, if a driver says a stop was unfair, how do you respond to that?

Officer: What do you mean unfair?

SP: Um, if a driver says was unfair, unwarranted, how do you respond to them.

Officer: Well, a lot of people, I mean, they are just going to deny that they were speeding. Like for me, an example, if I stop someone and I know for a fact they were speeding they're going to get a ticket and at that point they can sit there and say whatever they are going to say. I always explain to people, you know, by signing the ticket it doesn't say you are guilty of anything it just states that you are going to either pay a fine or set a court appearance, if they want to dispute it they, they're going to have to set a court date.

SP: And in what year were you born?

Officer: 1969

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: oh gosh, 1993

SP: Okay and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: I couldn't hear you I am sorry

SP: I am sorry, what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Black Male

SP: Okay, well thank you very much for your time, and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to contact me at the university my number is 785.864.3515

Officer: Thank you

SP: Okay, thank you very much, bye

Officer: bye

PD: 12

Case ID #: 12
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 12/13/05; 2:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Thursday 1/5/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Male
Department: KCMO
Age: 35
Years as a Police Officer: 7

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Great, thanks, Okay, I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, um, it was only about five minutes ago.

SP: Well, that is really recent

Officer: Yeah, I am traffic officer that is all we do all day. It was about five minutes ago, working 71 highway and 20th street, I noticed the vehicle appeared to be moving, you know, faster than the rest of the traffic. So, I used the laser and obtained the speed on it, and the speed that I got on it was a 71 in a 55. Pulled the lady over, and after I pulled her over and told her she was doing 71 in a 55. She didn't have her license, but her cousin pulled over in front of her, who was following her, who happened to have her license. And, then what happened was got her driver's license, I wrote her a ticket, and she signed the ticket. She was real happy, well not happy, she was not made or anything like that, and that was basically it, pulled off.

SP: Okay, and you said that she was female, did you notice anything else specific about her?

Officer: Pardon?

SP: You said that she was female, did you notice anything else specific about her, age, that kind of thing?

Officer: Um, no, she was in her 20s, African-American female, heavy set, white tee shirt, blue pants

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything in particular about her vehicle, did it stand out in any way?

Officer: It was a four door, it had an expired Missouri temporary tag on it, and she wasn't wearing her seat belt. And it was blue in color.

SP: Okay, so she wasn't wearing her seat belt, and you gave her a ticket for speeding, did you include a citation for the seat belt?

Officer: Naw, I gave her a verbal warning on the seat belt. I also gave her a verbal warning on the temp tag. It's Christmas season, I am trying to be nice.

SP: Okay, interesting, and you said her cousin pulled over [interrupted]

Officer: Yeah, her cousin was following her cause she was taking the car to the shop cause the engine was acting funny. So, that was her reason for being out and about, that wasn't her reason for speeding. She didn't have a reason for speeding.

SP: Okay, so then the only citation you gave her was the speeding ticket?

Officer: Yeah

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment. Rather than think about the last traffic stop that you made, I would like you to think about a stop that you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. Again, in your own words please describe the experience from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, I observed a silver Volvo with one head light not working properly. That's actually a citation here for not, you know, having both headlights working properly, it's an equipment violation. But I was working speed so I hit it with the laser, honestly it was a while ago, so I don't know exactly how fast she was going. It was on interstate 435. I pulled her over and walked up to the vehicle, and it happened to be an African-American female. And, uh, when I told her I stopped her for going this, you know, what speeding, what she was doing. She assumed that I stopped her because of her race. And, uh, she goes why didn't you get the vehicle next to me, and I said well you drew attention to yourself because you only have one working headlight. She didn't believe me. I said, well if you don't believe me turn on your headlights and I walked to the car and I pointed to it and said that one right there is not working, if you don't believe me you can get out and look at it. And, so I went back and she saw it and was like whoops, you know. And I walked back to my car, wrote her a ticket for the speeding, and said here sign by the x, the city will send you fine blah blah blah, and that was it she pulled off.

SP: Okay, um, so what initially attracted you to the car then was that it only had [interrupted]

Officer: It only had one operational headlight, instead of two.

SP: And, then when you walked up to her and told her why you were pulling her over, how did you initiate that conversation.

Officer: I do it just like it just like I do and I will give you an example, let's say it is a 55 mile per an hour zone and you are doing 70. I will say, "Yes, ma'am reason I stopped you today is you're doing 70 miles an hour in a 55 mile an hour zone. I need to see your driver's license please"

SP: Okay, so then still initiated the stop as a speeding stop

Officer: Right, but you can't just go out and indiscriminately hit cars. You have to like a reasonable suspicion that they are speeding. Like you see a group of cars driving along the highway you have to notice one that is driving either more radically or faster than the other ones and those are the ones you have to target. You can't just sit there and blindly hit cars with the laser or radar until you get one speeding, you kind of have to have a reasonable suspicion as to why you actually hit em with the laser in the first place.

SP: Okay

Officer: And what drew me, drew my attention to her was, was that there were other cars around her, but yeah, I don't know if they were day running headlights or what, but only one headlight out of the two were working, so that is what drew my attention to that car.

SP: You said you don't know if they were day running headlights or not, so was this during the day or was this in the evening?

Officer: Yeah, it was during the day.

SP: Oh, okay. Um, okay, and just a few general questions to finish up here. In general, if a driver says a stop was unfair, how do you respond to that?

Officer: Um, if the driver says a stop was unfair, I tell them that they need to call the number on the backside of the copy of their ticket and asked for a court date and they will get provided a court date and they can go to the court and argue their case and I will be there, and that is basically it.

SP: Okay, and in what year were born?

Officer: 1970

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 1998

SP: Okay, and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Ah, Caucasian, white, which every you've got on your form.

SP: Okay, and thank you very much for your time, if you have any questions about this research please feel free to contact me at the university, my number again is 785.864.3515

Officer: Okay

SP: Okay thank you very much good bye

Officer: uhuh bye

PD: 13

Case ID #: 13
Date/Time of Interview: Wednesday 12/28/05 1:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Thursday 1/5/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Male
Age: 54
Years as a Police Officer: 32

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Great, okay, I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Well, let's see, I have been on vacation here for a little while, so let me think about what the last one would have been.

SP: Okay

Officer: Okay, pretty insignificant. I was down on 71 highway at Paseo, doing speed checks on cars. The posted speed limit there is 55 miles per an hour, car went through there around 72 or 73, it was a pick up truck. Went and motioned for him to pull over, he pulled over. Went up to him and informed him what the violation was and got a driver's license, run a traffic ticket. Explained the traffic ticket to the driver, and he went ahead and left and that was it.

SP: And you said this was a pick up truck, did you notice if it was an older vehicle or a newer vehicle, or anything in particular about the vehicle?

Officer: Oh, nothing in particular, it was probably about a four or five year old pick up truck.

SP: And this was a male that you pulled over, do you remember anything else about him?

Officer: Oh, not really, he was probably around 30 years old. Now all of this stuff I wrote down at the time, but I am just going off memory now.

SP: So, there was nothing particular about his demeanor when you told him about the ticket and about the violation?

Officer: Well he was well aware that he was going over the speed limit, he stated that he knew he was. A very, very short conversation at all.

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment. Rather than think about the last stop that you made I would like you to think about a stop you made in the last twelve months that

really sticks in your mind. First in your own words would you please describe the experience, again, please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, got a question here, what do you mean by being significant or memorable?

SP: Just one that really sticks out in your mind [interrupted]

Officer: For what reason? Sticks out for what reason?

SP: Really that's up to you, something that you just remember particularly well, I mean if something happened during the stop that made in unusual, which made you remember it or [interrupted]

Officer: Oh unusual then, oh I got you there. Let's see this would probably have been two months ago or so, another speeding ticket deal, down on Southwest traffic way. About, must have been around 36th street. I was watching speeders there. A car came through, it was one of those limousines, it was one were you had the four door Lincoln type deal, it had the special license plates on it. And, he was going 52, 53 somewhere around there in a 35 mile per an hour zone. And, so when I went and pulled the fellow over and write him a traffic ticket there, he was, the driver and he had a passenger in the back, he was apparently transporting a fair. And he seemed pretty indignant about being stopped. Now he knew he was going over the speed limit, he said he knew that. But before I ever had a chance to say any first words to him, he started doing quite a few name droppings. He said his wife was a police officer, and mentioned quite a few different names of people he knew. So I went up to, asked for a driver's license, he hesitated for a minute, but I finally got his driver's license from him. I am a motorcycle policeman, and I walked back to the motorcycle and started to write the ticket and he got kind of irritated about it, about getting a traffic ticket. So, as I was back there writing the traffic ticket he was calling to me out of the window and so I walked back up there. Okay now I was explaining to him why I was writing the ticket and he thought that was improper because of his connections. I explained to him that it is hard for me to remember everybody that is important and special, so I just try to treat everybody fair and equal. That didn't satisfy him, he went and named several other more influential people that he knew. And, uh, he told me that he was going to get the traffic ticket taken care of by somebody. And so I went and told him, I said, "well I wouldn't suggest that for anybody, I think that would be a bad idea because it would cause all of us quite a bit of trouble over the deal, internal affairs doesn't really that." Anyway, he never had anybody take care of it, the traffic ticket went through as normal. He was trying to talk big for the passenger I think. And that was kind of unusual, well a matter of fact that is very unusual that that happens, very, very seldom. But that was one that stuck out in my mind.

SP: Interesting, and you when you walked up you didn't have a chance to even start talking, he started talking, so he initiated the conversation then?

Officer: Correct, yes.

SP: And he was a limousine driver?

Officer: Yes

SP: And do you remember anything else in particular about him?

Officer: Oh, nothing in particular, no. Just that he had a very arrogant attitude.

SP: Okay, finally just a few general questions to wrap up here. In general, if a driver says that a stop was unfair, how do you respond to that?

Officer: Well, normally I just go ahead and explain to them the method that I use to go ahead and cause them to be stopped for the traffic violation. And, almost always, that satisfies the driver, it is very very very seldom that you will have anybody say well this just isn't fair and let it go at that.

SP: So when you say you try to explain to them the method, what do you mean by that?

Officer: Oh, well, for example, if it is one of those simple kind of traffic violations, like there was a no left turn sign, I will explain where the signs are posted at and what signs mean and what they did. And normally that will satisfy a person. Now, they might say to themselves, "well gee I don't think this is a very important traffic ticket, or very important violation." And I will say, "well this is not a very serious traffic ticket either." And normally on things like that, it is not a good idea to talk to a person too long on a traffic stop, often if you talk to them too long you will say something improper and it is not hard to go ahead and say something improper to a person. So, normally you try to keep it very very brief, friendly, you don't want to raise your voice or sound loud or anything like that, and do not take it personal. And as long as I don't take it personal, I can't think of anybody in recent memory that took a traffic ticket personal. Oh, except for the fellow there that I just described to you there, the one where he thought he deserved special favors because of who he knew. Now, maybe he took it a little bit personal, but he shouldn't have because I sure didn't take it personal, other than the fact that it was a little unusual on his part.

SP: Okay, and in year were you born?

Officer: 1951

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: Um, 1973, but that was in St. Joe Missouri, I was up in St. Joe Missouri for 7 years and I have been in Kansas City since 1980.

SP: Okay, and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: what was the question again?

SP: What race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: white male

SP: Okay, well thank you very much for your time, and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to call me, my number at the university is 785.864.3515

Officer: Okay

SP: Good bye

Officer: bye

PD: 14

Case ID #: 14
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 12/13/05; 3:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Friday 1/6/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Male
Age:
Years as a Police Officer:

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Thanks, okay, I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: I was working last night, in a hazardous location, we get hazardous locations from a computer generated list of high accident areas, indicating where enforcement needs to be done because of injury/noninjury vehiculars. And, it was about 23 minutes after 8:00 in the evening last night, it was cold outside, which is to say, I think it had gotten to about 35 degrees out. Although, the streets are dry at this point, they are just a little bit slippery because of the moisture on them, and I was riding my motorcycle. I am a motorcycle officer. And, I was using a laser unit and I observed a black, about 2004 Ford pickup truck traveling, let's see that vehicle was traveling eastbound on Vivian Road in Kansas City Missouri, there north of Troust. I watched them for some time and they appeared to be going faster than the speed limit, because most of the traffic certainly was going the speed limit last night, there wasn't much at all in the way of speeders up and down there. But this individual I concluded that they were going 52 miles per an hour in a posted 40, when I used a laser unit, which is target specific. And, so after he passed by I turned on my emergency equipment on my motorcycle and pulled in behind the vehicle and they pulled into an apartment building parking lot, apartment complex parking lot. And, it was a gal in her late thirties, a white gal in her late thirties, who was just, said she wasn't paying any attention, and she apologized and gave me her information. I of course explained to her why I was stopping her first off. She gave me her information, I wrote her a ticket for that and she didn't have proof of insurance for the vehicle, to show that the vehicle was currently insured as per state law, and she didn't know where that was. So, she was also issued a citation for failing to provide proof of insurance for her vehicle. And she said she appreciated me doing my job and she went on her way. It was fairly boring.

SP: That sounds fairly positive for everyone involved.

Officer: You it is, well as positive for anyone who it getting a ticket.

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment, rather than think about the last traffic stop that you made, I would like you to think about a stop that you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. Again, first in your own words would you

please describe the experience from the moment you first saw the vehicle you eventually pulled over to when you considered the stop to be over.

Officer: Oh, that, I am trying to of, I am trying to think of something that would be really meaty, usually the ones that stick out in your mind are the ones where people are tremendously upset with you, and the one that stands out in my mind most, I guess is one that didn't happen to awful long ago, well probably within this last month. Once again I was working a hazardous location, about 68th street, in the northern part of Kansas City, Missouri. And, uh, saw, it was a pick up truck as a matter of fact, again. A pick up truck that was traveling westbound on 68th street. It was clearly going faster than the posted speed limit of 45 miles an hour and checked him with my laser unit. I was on my motorcycle and the temperature outside at the time was about 25 degrees, although the sun was still out. It was dry, no precipitation at all, it was a pretty cool day to be on a motorbike. In any event, um, I locked in the laser unit on it, and checked his speed. He was going well 60 something, 61 or 62, so he was going over 15 miles over the speed limit. And, I pulled him over, and he was, oh, early 50s white male um, nothing better, particularly interesting about him. I told him the same thing I tell everybody I said, "Hello, how are you doing today? The reason I had you pull over is I had you speed checked at 61 miles an hour," 62 or whatever it was, "in a posted 45 mile per an hour zone. I need to see your driver's license and your proof of insurance. Additionally you need to be wearing you safety belt." He was not. "I know that hard to have to get into, but they are required and they are a lot safer." And he said something to the effect of god dammit right on, leading me to believe that he was less than happy. And then he produced his insurance and driver's license. I gave him back his insurance card and I said if you wait just a moment, I will be with you in just a moment. It takes me about 2 minutes to write a traffic ticket. And so I went back and he received a citation for a speeding and a 10 dollar nonmoving citation for a seatbelt, that is basically just reminders for people that they are a lot safer to wear. And, so when I came back up he just began screaming. He told me that I was a completely worthless, the entire police department was completely worthless. He was shaking and screaming, um, and he asked any number of, you know, rhetorical questions, which is to say, you know, god dammit, why aren't you out catching real criminals. You know, just about every cliché there was with regards to somebody who had been upset with a traffic ticket, but the most interesting thing about him was the level of his angst. He was literally screaming and shaking and I responded to him not at all. I mean, I just absolutely, there is no point in making responses to that. He signed the ticket, and he looked at me as he was screaming and said, "You are laughing at me, you are laughing at me aren't you?" And I said no not at all. He was clearly mentally unstable, I mean it was probably just that traffic ticket was enough to drive him a little over the edge. So, I mean yeah, he got done with his screaming tirade and handed him the ticket and I explained to him that he was free to go. And, he sped off. That was probably the most memorable.

SP: Okay, and just a few general questions for you, to wrap up. In general, if a drivers says that a stop was unfair, how do you respond to that?

Officer: I explain to them why I stop them.

SP: Okay, and that is it, you just explain why the stop occurred?

Officer: Sure, explain it to them, whatever. You have to consider who you are talking to and how they, you know, there is a certain amount of this when you are trying to develop a rapport with

anyone that you are talking to you have to consider their level of education, their ability to understand. Um, you know, how philosophical this discussion is going to be. Some people will argue about it they were going down hill. Other people will argue about the need for traffic enforcement in modern society.

SP: That is a wide range

Officer: Yeah, it really is, so when you stop any number of people. You know you stop people of all races, religions, socio-economic backgrounds, uh educational levels, and they are all going to have a different view of that. I think the thing that is almost universal is that no one likes getting a traffic ticket. Um, I know I don't, and that is understandable, and that people often feel very nervous when they are dealing with a policeman. Um, whether they have, it simply being told that they have done something wrong, they simply don't want to admit that, it wouldn't really make any difference what it was. They simply don't like being told that they have done something wrong. So based on their um, you know, based on what they want to understand and based on the questions that they ask, that is based on the level of information that they get from me. Otherwise, I mean, if there's no other questions, the questions drive the conversation, if there's no other inquiry other than I don't think it was fair that I was stopped, is that what you are indicating. And I mean, the fairness of something I guess would be sometimes that has to do with people believing that there were other vehicles speeding as well, um, that's, you know sometimes people believe that once you stop them then there are other people committing a violation and that in fact is not fair. Um, sometimes I've offered, if someone says, they are admit about that, I say, as much as this time that I have stopped you, that is your time out of your life and its, and I am giving you my full attention right now, it is impossible for me to go ahead continue enforcement, with regard to watching for that red light violation or other people that are violating the speed limit or a left turn sign or whatever, if I am going to give my attention to that then I won't be giving my attention to you and the length of the stop here. And the amount of time that you give up is going to be a great deal more. And if somebody is really admit about the fact that they just don't think that it is fair, I will say "Well, how would you like me to make this fair, in what way can I do that? Would you like to have me direct my attention to these other violations that you believe are occurring right now, and then when I have, is there a certain number of them that you would like to see me do enforcement with regard to before you and me," Sometimes what that does is sort of at least drives home the concept that that isn't your feeling of lack of fairness. The feeling of lack of fairness involves the belief somehow that if one person is cited for a particular violation that all individuals who ever make that violation should be cited for it and that is clearly, obviously in a perfect world I guess that would be the case, but that's not going to happen with anything else either.

SP: Okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 1962

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 1985

SP: Okay, and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Oh, uh, white male

SP: Okay, well thank you very much for you time, and if you have any further questions about this research, please feel free to call me at the university my number again is 785.864.3515

Officer: Certainly Shannon

SP: Okay, very much good bye

Officer: bye bye

PD: 15

Case ID #: 15
Date/Time of Interview: Friday 2/10/06 1:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Friday 2/10/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Male
Age: 46
Years as a Police Officer: 25

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Thanks, okay, I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, um, I was south bound on south 55th street, right in front of the middle school when I saw a GMC pick up truck pull out of the middle school parking lot and immediately drive right through the cross walk where the kids were in it across the red light. So, I pulled him over, um, approached his car, approached him and got his driver's license. He didn't have insurance. This is a grown man with his wife and a kid in the back seat, the kid was a male. Just picked him up at the very middle school that he had run the red light in front of. Of course they had no insurance on the truck and the whole family was acting jittery and no seat belts on any of them. Well, I went back to my car, ran his driver's license. He had a second driver's license from Missouri that had been suspended. Uh, started to write him a citation for running the red light, no insurance, no seat belts, then the dispatcher came back and he also had warrants out of Missouri and Kansas. So I called for another unit, a case unit to come take him to jail, finished the citation, advised him that he had the warrants. He already knew it, he was just hoping that I didn't know it. So, I put him in hand cuffs and sent him to the other car. Of course his wife then decided she did like me and she didn't want to be cooperative. I am made her show me her driver's license before I let her drive the truck away. And when the other unit showed up I packed him into the back seat of that police car, let the wife drive the truck off and that was the end of it.

SP: Okay, and you said this was a GMC pick up truck, do you remember if an older truck or a newer truck?

Officer: It was a 2000

SP: Okay, and when you initially approached him, how did you start that interaction?

Officer: You mean what did I say when I got up there?

SP: Yea

Officer: "Hello sir, do you know why I stopped you?" He looked right at me and he said, "I didn't even know there was a light there"

SP: Interesting [and laughter]

Officer: [when repeating this dialogue Officer changed his voice for the driver, to distinguish who was speaking] Well, yea, but if he didn't know the light was there somebody must of told him [yea]. But after his surprise it was "do you have a driver's license?" "yea" "may I see it?" "sure" and he dig it out, and I said, "Do you have insurance on this truck?" "Well yea, but we don't have the card with us." "Alright" I got the stuff and walked back to my car

SP: And you said his wife became uncooperative when you were....

Officer: Agitated and irritated, she was fidgeting around in her seat and glaring at me. When I asked her if I could see her driver's license she just gave me this haruff [sigh like sound] and took it out and kind of threw it at me.

SP: Um, and this happened all right in front of the school?

Officer: Yea

SP: Did the child get into this interaction at all, or was he just.....

Officer: Nah, he was just I the back seat, they had obviously just picked him up from the middle school that I pulled him over for running the cross walk light.

SP: Okay, um, now I would like you to change gears for a moment, instead of thinking about the last traffic stop that you made I would like you to think about a stop that really sticks out in your mind, something from the past year. Again, in your own words could you please describe the stop from the moment you pulled the vehicle...[interrupted]

Officer: Okay, did you say from the past year?

SP: Yes

Officer: Oh my...Okay, it was at 78th and Thouome (sp?) and I had, um, well he has recently been made a captain, I had sergeant Steel in the car and we were going to go to lunch. Well the car did something in front of me, I can't remember what it was, well I went to pull him over and he immediately leaned down as if he put something under the front seat or retrieved something from under the front seat. So instead of approaching the car we got on the loud speaker and I told him roll his window down, set his car off and put his hands where I could see them. Well, he fidgeted around a little more and kind of ignored me for a while so I propped my door open, leaned out the window, I was trying to look. You know sometimes the windshield and the glare can block you vision a little bit so I kind of stuck my head out to look, and I gave the orders again and that time he complied. Well I started to get out of the car and approach him when he stepped out of the car. Well, I got back behind the open door, drew my weapon and pointed at him, and he wouldn't show me his hands anymore. And while I was doing that and was giving him his commands, "put your hands in the air, turn away from me and so forth" he was

compiling. And Sergeant Steel was sitting over in the passenger's seat [Officer is giggling a bit] he was climbing out and he said, "Man, you are doing this just textbook, this is awesome." [he goes into a deep belly laugh]. Well, I had the guy walk backwards towards my voice and made him kneel down and got him handcuffed. And I asked him, "well what were you fidgeting with? What was so damned important that you weren't paying attention to me?" He said, "I dropped my cigarette and I didn't want it to burn the carpet." So where I thought, was feeling a little bit threatened by his actions he was fidgeting around for a cigarette burning his car rug. Well, that one stuck out in my mind.

SP: And do you remember anything in particular about him, other than him being a smoker?

Officer: Yea, he was large, I mean really large!

SP: Okay, was he older, younger?

Officer: He was um, how old was that guy, he was in his early thirties

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything about the vehicle?

Officer: Um, it was a Buick, I don't remember what year and it was a dark color

SP: And you said you don't remember exactly what you pulled him over for in the beginning, do you remember if ended up issuing him a citation, or...

Officer: Oh, I am sure I did! It was a traffic violation, these people who do that stuff right in front of ya, I can't help it, besides I know it was a traffic violation.

SP: So, you, he did exit the car, and when he exited the car did you end up searching the vehicle or searching him, or after he told you about the cigarette did that kind of...

Officer: Oh, we always pat them down, always, if they get out of the car under our direction or on their own they are going to get patted down. So, after I got him handcuffed I patted him down, didn't find anything out of the ordinary, and I went to his car and looked into the front seat and into the area immediately under his control and didn't find anything out of whack there either, didn't find his cigarette that he was telling me about.

SP: So did he get the cigarette out of the car, or was the cigarette never found?

Officer: No, never did locate that thing

SP: Interesting, okay, and is there anything else about that encounter that you would like to let me know about

Officer: No ma'am

SP: Okay, um, finally just a few general questions to wrap up here. In general, if a driver says a stop was unfair, how do you respond to that?

Officer: I don't.

SP: Could you elaborate on that?

Officer: I just don't respond to it, when they start going off about I have better things to do, there's crime out in the streets and I am screwing with them and all their various thousands of excuses, I just ignore it, I just ignore it like they didn't even say it.

SP: Okay, so you don't respond to them verbally at all?

Officer: No, there's no reason for me to argue with them.

SP: Okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 58

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 81

SP: And what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: White

SP: Okay, and thank you very much for your time and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to call me at the university, my number is 785.864.3515

Officer: Oh, I won't bother you, but I am curious, what are you guys doing?

SP: Um, we are, well this initially started with a survey of drivers, asking about stops, and we thought we would get the other side of the story too, and we are interviewing cops from a few different jurisdictions from Kansas City to study the encounter of the traffic stop

Officer: Oh, you know it would be easier if you guys would just come ride along with us

SP: We probably wouldn't be able to do that with as many people as we can talk to on the phone though

Officer: Well, that's true, but you can't actually feel it if you are not there, and I highly recommend that you guys come ride with us

SP: Okay, well we will think about it, well thank you very much for your time

Officer: well ma'am, have a good day

SP: I am sorry did you have something else

Officer: nope

SP: bye

PD: 16

Case ID #: 16
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 2/14/06 9:00 a.m.
Date of Transcription: Friday 2/17/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Male
Age: 37
Years as a Police Officer: 16

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Okay, I would like you to start by thinking back over the most recent traffic

Officer: Let me tell my partner real quick that I have to do this so he'll know. [to the partner] Hey Jimmy, this is that phone interview I was supposed to do at 9:00, I am a little late, I forgot. So, I am going to go ahead and do it. So, I am going to roll up my window so I am not talking to you no more. [Back to the interview] Okay

SP: Okay, um, I would like to start by having you think back over the most recent traffic stop you made. First, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment that you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away, or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, um, it was an older white female driver, probably about forty-five, fifty years of age. She was speeding, I believe she was about 55 in a forty. I was running front moving radar in my car. I noticed her car came up speeding and of course I confirmed it with my radar gun. She was going like east bound, I was going westbound. We made pretty much eye contact, when she realized that it was the police, of course I am watching her hit her brakes, her front end is dipping down. And, um, make my turn around and approach the car, make a stop. Um, walk up to the car. The first thing out the lady's mouth is good morning. And I am like good morning ma'am. She asked what she had done and I explained to her that I needed her driver's license and proof of insurance first. And she gave me her driver's license, so once I had her driver's license um, I spoke with her for a few seconds. I explained to her the reason I stopped her was her speed, um and also she had failed to wear her safety belt when she operated her motor vehicle. And, um, told her if everything was current, I always ask, I am kind of like a recording. I ask the same thing, I say, "Is everything currently registered on your motor vehicle." And they will answer yes or no. I will ask them, is everything registered in your name, or a spouse, or if it is a younger kid I will ask even in your parents name. And they will answer either yes or no. And then I will tell them if everything is currently registered on the vehicle and your driver's license is valid, I am going to issue a citation for and I explain whatever it is that I am going to give them a ticket for, whether it be speeding or running a stop sign or you know not using a turn signal. Then I go back to either my motorcycle or my car and then I issue the ticket. Um, that is...do you what me to talk about when I go back up to the car?

SP: Yes, please

Officer: Okay, when I approach the car, the whole time when I am writing the ticket I am watching the driver. Their demeanor changes whenever see us either get out of our car with the ticket in the hand or leave our motorcycle with the ticket in our hand. Generally, if it is a, if it's a friendly encounter most of the time it, most of the time it turns to some tension. The driver's aren't very happy with us because we are giving them a citation. Sometimes it even gets to the point where they get pretty mad and they start cussing at us [he laughs a little]. But most of the time it is just a standard response to them. You know if everything is current when we hand it to them I tell them that it is either a mail citation, because in our city our citations are either a mail in fine that you can mail in to the court or you are given a court date. So I explain to them that it is a mail in citation, and if you wish to mail it in please have it mailed in and received by the court date I have issued. If you wish to appear before a judge, discuss your case with a judge, you need to make your first court appearance on and then I give them the court date which is on the bottom of the ticket. And uh, after that if they wore their seat belt or if they didn't, I mean a lot of things depend on how the car stop goes, I will tell them thank you for wearing your safety belt and please drive safely. And then I leave the car and I go back to my car or my motorcycle.

SP: Okay, and this particular stop, the recent one, with this woman, how did she act when you approached her? Did you end up issuing a citation to her?

Officer: Yes, I gave her a couple. I am one of the motorcycle officers, so I would say probably 95% of the time when you get stopped by us it is for you know one, two or three, or maybe even more than that, traffic violations, and you do receive a citation. Um, she was pleasant, like I explained when I first stopped her, she was good morning, you know how are you officer, what did I do wrong. I explained to her what it was. When I come back up and I issued the ticket to her, she told me, and this was her exact quote, "this was bullshit" [a bit of laughter from the officer]. She told me this was bullshit and I should be out catching you know murders and thieves and drug dealers and all of that and that I shouldn't be messing around with the good people.

SP: And how did you respond to her when she said that?

Officer: I just smiled, I give the same response to everybody. It is a mail in citation, if you wish to mail it in, it is the same. I issue, the guys in our unit issue anywhere from 2000 to 4000 tickets a year, you know per an officer. So it, we have done it hundreds and hundreds of times, so it is just kind of a smile, and like I said you explain please ma'am if you wish to mail it please mail it in by the date I have issued or appear in court on that date, and then we leave. Most of the time you are trying to avoid a confrontation, they are mad so, as she explained to me, it is bullshit and I should be catching murders and thieves and drug dealers, I have already explained to her what she has needed to know, I leave the car. That way it doesn't cause that person to get even more angered at me, it doesn't cause them to want to get out of the car, it doesn't want to cause them, in my experience to want to act stupid.

SP: And do you remember, about where this happened?

Officer: In our city?

SP: uhuh

Officer: Yea, it was about 78th and almost state ave.

SP: Okay, um, and you said this was kind of a middle aged woman, do you remember what kind of car she was driving?

Officer: Um, I think it was a ford ranger pick up, a little ford ranger pick up like a 95 or 97 ford ranger pick up.

SP: Okay, I would like you to change gears for a moment now and instead of the most recent stop, could you please talk about a stop that you made that really sticks out in your mind from the past year. Again, from the moment that you initiated the stop, or noticed the vehicle that you were going to stop to the moment the encounter was over.

Officer: Um, I noticed, this was one that turned into a felony case, felony arrest, car chase and [laughing] all the good stuff that people want to see on TV.

SP: Certainly memorable.

Officer: Yea, I um, I noticed a car it was probably a 85, 87 Chevy Camero, white in color, but the tag doesn't look quite right on it. When we look for tags we don't just look at your tags to see what state you live in or what month its expired in. We look at like if the tag is dirty and the car is clean, or vise versa, if the car is filthy and the tag is spotless clean, or if there is marks or separate screws or bolts in the tag holding it on, most people generally use the same types of bolts for you know the tags they put on. So when I looked at this it didn't look quite right to me it looked all beat up. The car looked beat up, but the tag just didn't look right. It had one screw holding it in, it didn't have two, three or four, it just had one. So I ran the tag, the dispatcher ran the tag back to me, and tells me it belongs on, I don't remember exactly what it was but it would have been something like a pick up truck. It was on like an 85 to 87 Camero. I get in behind him, I notice he has two people in the car, it has real dark tinted windows, which kind of perks my interest, because I can't see in the car know. So I notice two people moving in the car and that is all I can notice, moving. So I go to stop it and they don't want to stop, they kind of keep rolling. So I advise dispatch that we are still rolling that they are not eluding, we are only doing like 20 mile an hour, but they are just not pulling to the right immediately when the officer has activated his lights and sirens. So finally they pull over, I notify our dispatcher to you know go ahead and start me a back up unit to where I was. And as I approach the car I notice that the two passengers, or the two front seat people are moving around a lot. Well, I always approach from the passenger's side of a motor vehicle. As I approach from it I kind of lean forward, it is kind of a zone that we can see in your car and it is kind of awkward for you to come look for me. So as I look in the car the driver has now started to spin around and he has a gun in his hand.

SP: Oh!

Officer: Yea, so the driver, and the driver starts to like I said spin around and point this gun at me through the passenger's side, which like I have said there is a passenger in the front seat, now the driver is a white male and the front seat passenger is a white male. Now there is a passenger in the back seat which I come to find out is a white female. Well if he points the gun I

step back, I pull my weapon, I am getting ready to return fire it need be or protect myself. The car takes off. So I get back in my motorcycle, I tell dispatch, you know I got a car that I just stopped, you know they pointed a gun at me, I give them the information about the vehicle and now a car chase ensues. Well the car is about 4 blocks ahead of me, apparently what had happened is they had kicked the white female that was in the back seat of the Camero out. They had kicked her out as they had slid around one of the corners and left her in a yard, apparently they had thrown the gun out and a couple of yards or blocks away from there also. A car chase ensues we go over to the state of Missouri. Kansas City, Missouri gets involved in this so we end up catching the bad guys over there, after they end up doing a stand off with the SWAT team. Um, and that ends. In the interviews I find out that the driver was under the influence of methamphetamines. The car was registered to the white female, that was in the back seat, to her husband, but she had decided to go smoke dope or methamphetamines, with these two white guys that were in the front seat driver and passenger, and her husband had no clue of course [he laughs a bit]. The car of course was impounded. You know, then we found out that the driver, the one you know who pointed the gun at me decided he wasn't going back to the penitentiary that day, so he was, and she told this to our district attorney, the case has been closed know so I am sure that it is all public record, that the guy said fuck it I am killing the cop, I am not going back to jail today, and that was his intention on that car stop.

SP: oh so that is criminal threat as well

Officer: Right, and they charged him with felon in possession of a hand gun, um, I don't know everything they did. You know the district attorney made his plea with his attorney, he was a two or three time convicted felon, and of course these felonies he got from that day, in the state of Kansas we have a felony eluding law, um of course the traffic citations and everything else that led up to the felony eluding, there may have even been narcotics in the car I don't know because detectives took it after that. But that is kind of the spectrum we go through on every car stop, is it the nice little old lady that you make the judgment that you think is a nice little old lady that says you know this is bullshit. Or is it the, the bad guy that he doesn't want to go back to jail and he has already made the decision and he told people in the car I am killing the cop I am not going back to jail today.

SP: And you said this ended up going over state lines, so when you called for back up, you called for back up in Kansas City?

Officer: Well yes, we call it in here, the Kansas City, Kansas police department, the Kansas highway patrol are involved and of course it went over to Kansas City Missouri where at that time they take over the pursuit at that time.

SP: Okay, so when the vehicle eventually stopped, was it eventually stopped by you or was it eventually stopped by Kansas City, Missouri?

Officer: It gets stopped by Kansas City, Missouri.

SPL Oh, okay

Officer: And we just assist, you know with whatever charges we have, if Kansas City, Missouri has charges too, which most of the time if they are running they are going to have charges too.

And of course if they are in possession of a fire arm in Missouri by a felon then Missouri has their possession of a fire arm by a felon law and then Kansas also. So once they are done in the city they are taken into custody in then they do extradition back to the city it started in or the county or state, then he went from Missouri over here.

SP: Okay, so he was taken into custody in Missouri and then eventually extradited back

Officer: Right, eventually extradited back after he took care of the charges over there, or you know their prosecutor or their district attorney calls and works out a deal with our prosecuting attorney, and those gentlemen do whatever they do.

SP: Okay, and you said that the woman was kicked out of the car during the car chase, but she was kicked out in Kansas City, KS.

Officer: Yea, she was kicked out in Kansas City, KS, about 6 to 8 blocks from where he originally tried to shoot me.

SP: Okay, and so what, I am assuming that you kept following the car, so how was she eventually

Officer: She was taken into custody by another officer and she started telling her story because she didn't want to go to jail. They started putting the screws on her, and started asking her well whose car is it, where did the car come from? Well it is her husband's car, she is married, her husband doesn't know that she is out smoking methamphetamines with two other guys at the riverboats that day, they were at the Argosy River Casino. So her husband doesn't know that her, his car is being used in a commission of felony and his wife is out smoking narcotics with two bad guys.

SP: Yea

Officer: Once the picture got painted that her husband is finding out, she decided that she would be very cooperative with the police.

SP: Understandable

Officer: [he laughs again] Imagine her poor husband

SP: Well that is certainly a memorable stop, is there anything else from it that you would like to share with me?

Officer: Just that we are trained so much officer safety, you know, I know from listening to my commanders that they said that you guys are actually doing a book on this. But, we approach every car whether it be the little old lady or whether it be the, the stereotypical bad guy, whatever your stereotypical bad guy may be, we approach them all the same, using tactics we are trained, um, in our alertness, we are always at a high alert level, because it could go from something simple, like a little old lady that you are stopping and giving a ticket to the bad guy and it could be 30 seconds apart or ten minutes apart on car stops as far as that goes. You know one car stop be the bad guy and the next stop will be the little old lady or vice versa. So it is not that we are rude it is not that we are insensitive or was are callous, it is that most of us have

somebody or our families and we are worried or concerned about ourselves of them too. So you know the guy that tried to shoot me, I really do believe that if it wouldn't have been for my training or my tactics, if I would have gone up there really lackadaisical he probably would have shot me that day. But the old lady I approach her the same way.

SP: Okay, just a few general questions to wrap up, you kind of eluded to this earlier, but just to kind of get at it again, in general if a driver says a stop is unfair, how do you handle that?

Officer: All of them are issued a court date, most drivers, a lot of them want to plead their case right then and there, that is not the officer's job, we don't hear the pleading of your case, if we see a violation and we act on a violation, whether it be speeding or a stop sign violation or turn signal violation or a child safety seat violation, where you don't have your kids in seat belts. We act on that violation, we are not there to judge you we are just there to write the citation for the law. Now if you want to go to the judge, it is up to the judge if the officer did his job properly or if he did it you know wrong, or if he wants to show leniency that is up to the judge.

SP: Okay, and in what year were you born

Officer: I was born in 69

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: in 1990, right as I turned 21

SP: Okay, and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: I am sorry

SP: what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: I guess white male

SP: Okay, well thank you very much for your time and if you have again, if you have any other questions about this research please feel free to contact me at the university

Officer: And same to you, if you guys have anymore questions please feel free to contact us and I am sure with the commanders that you guys have talked to they have opened our ride along policies to you guys and probably told you how they work, and if you guys want to come do that you are more than welcome to come do that and see how a day works for us.

SP: Well thank you very much

Officer: Okay ma'am well you guys have a good day

SP: Thank you bye

Officer: Bye

PD: 17

Case ID #: 17
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 2/14/06 10:00 a.m.
Date of Transcription: Friday 2/17/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: Hispanic
Gender: Male
Age: 39
Years as a Police Officer: 18

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Okay, I would like you to start by first thinking back to the most recent traffic stop that you've made. In your own words can you please describe the experience from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped, up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, I just got off of one.

SP: Well then it is fresh in your memory that's great.

Officer: Uh, we were running laser on 435, I noticed a Chevy Avalanche coming towards me doing 83 miles an hour. As the car passed me I pulled out and activated my lights, and made a traffic stop on the vehicle. Um, walked up to the driver, it was a middle aged white male, advised him what he had done, asked for his insurance and driver's license. After he gave me, he didn't have insurance on him, I went back to my car, issued a citation, walked back and explained about having insurance with you and he took the ticket, said he hadn't had a ticket in a while and drove off.

SP: Okay, and you said you were on 435, do you remember which part of 435 you were at?

Officer: 435 and Georgia Ave

SP: Okay, so this sounds pretty standard and routine, did he react in any other way, or did he just say he hadn't had a ticket in a while?

Officer: Just said he hadn't had a ticket in a while, and that was about it, it was pretty normal.

SP: Okay, um, well for this next question I would like you to kind of switch gears and instead of thinking of the most recent stop that you made, could you please think of a stop that you made in the last 12 months that really sticks out in you mind? Again could you describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, um, well I tell you I have one thing, I was trying to stop a car in a burglary, got in a pursuit and ended up crashing on it, is that the kind of thing that want or do you want something else?

SP: Sure if you remember it and would like to tell me about it.

Officer: Sure I remember it

SP: Well it of course it sounds memorable

Officer: Back on St. Patrick's day, I went on a burglary to a residence call. After I got there I got the description of the person who had done the burglary and the vehicle. I was driving around the area and I noticed, uh, the thieves had stolen a motorcycle out of a shed and I was driving down the road and I see a truck, a green Chevy truck and that was the description given of the vehicle. And I noticed it stopped in a detail shop, uh, on Leavenworth Road on 60th Street. So I saw it and I saw there was a motorcycle in the back of it so that had to be it. There was no one in the vehicle, so I sat off it for a minute and after a while I saw a guys walking towards it and thought well this guy has got to be it. I was on my motorcycle and pulled over to it and um, the guy got into the passenger's side and I pulled up to the driver's side. Well I got off my bike and went to open up the driver's door well it didn't have a handle on it so I couldn't get into it. At that time he had slid over and was starting to drive away so he, he drove away and I got back on my bike. He went down a dead end street right next to the detail shop, so I started to chase him down there and he stops in a driveway. I got off my bike again, went to run up to the car and he decided he was going to drive off again. So, he went through a couple of yards and I had to go back to get on my bike and it takes a second to get back on the bike and get everything plugged back in, so I got on that and he took off down the dead end road again, towards where he could get off the road. And as I started to catch up to him he made a turn and I couldn't see where he had turned. So when I got to the intersection I looked both directions and saw a police car coming to my left, so I figured if he would have gone that way the police car would have seen him, so I decided to go the other way and as I pulled out I didn't see a car that was in front of the police car and I hit it on the side and had a pretty, a pretty high impact crash. But he got away, and about two days later that same gentleman was chased by the police and he ran two police cars and got away again. And then about a month later uh, they chased him from Missouri and about 40 police cars were behind him [oh wow] and they ended up chasing him then [officer laughs]. So that was pretty exciting.

SP: So that started as a burglary call? So you were just responding to a resident's call, and then you saw this man within the vicinity of the call?

Officer: Probably in about two miles

SP: Okay, and I am sorry, did you say there were originally two men and just one came out, or was it always just one?

Officer: No, just one

SP: Okay, and when you were on your bike, so were you doing traffic at this time, or was this

Officer: Well my mine job is traffic, but when we are in the area of something and it sounds like we can take a chance and maybe catch someone in the act of a felony of something, usually, or if it is a situation where an officer might be in trouble and we are in the area, then we will go to that too. And I was, when the burglary call first came out I was only like two blocks from it so I went ahead and went on that, and uh, the suspect had left already. But we were able, like I said to get a good description and locate him.

SP: And do you remember anything else about him, was he older, younger?

Officer: He was a Black male, about 32, about 6 foot 2, 180 pounds, a career criminal type of guy

SP: And when you chased him, you where coming out of the dead end street when the accident happened? And was the accident with a different vehicle?

Officer: With another car yes

SP: Okay, so this was just someone driving by

Officer: umuh [yes]

SP: Okay, and then when this finally did get resolved it wasn't until a month later?

Officer: When the finally caught him?

SP: umuh

Officer: Yea, it was about, it was about a month later

SP: okay, both of those stories were pretty quick, so just a few quick

Officer: Do you want another one?

SP: Nope, two is all I need today. But just a few quick questions to wrap up. In general, if a driver says a stop was unfair how do you respond to that?

Officer: If what was unfair, me stopping them?

SP: Yes

Officer: Usually our arguments are uh people that just don't believe they were speeding. I had a lady the other day, she was the only car coming you know I had her locked on radar doing like 52 in a 30 and you know she says, well I wasn't speeding and I said well ma'am I did lock you on radar and she got, I issued her a ticket and she got out of her car and she looks at my badge number and my name. And I pointed out to her on the ticket where she could find that information and she gets on the phone. A lot of people get on the phone and call someone they know, you know, like they know a police officer or something and they call right away and tell them we are doing them wrong or something because we are giving them a ticket and radar is the most argumentative thing, people argue about radar more than anything and its so

accurate. You know if there is any doubt in our mind whether we, whether you're the car that was speeding or not we don't even stop you, I mean if there is any doubt at all. So if we stop you that means for sure you are that car that was doing it. Um, so if they say it was unfair we just kind of play it off because we are for sure that was the car that was doing what we observed.

SP: And when you say you just kind of play it off then do you respond to them verbally, or when they respond in a physical way, like getting out their car how do you handle that?

Officer: Well, um, my philosophy is I will give you the first opportunity to vent your frustration without me bending any, if your first words are whatever, I wasn't speeding or whatever, I will explain to you sir, yes I clocked you on radar you know you need to calm down or I am just doing my job or whatever. Each situation is different, you have to come up with, you have to come up with phrase to get them to calm down so it doesn't escalate into fight or something, but you know a lot of times even the nicest people when they see lights in the back of their mirror, their rear view mirror, they get upset or get nervous. And, they don't think that they were doing whatever it was that you are accusing them of, so you know I always let the person vent it I talk to them in a normal tone of voice. Now if they continue, then you have to escalate up to the next level, but most people will calm down and you can get their license. You kill em with kindness, you're polite to them you know you're yes sirring them, no sirring them and eventually they will, most people will understand and calm down and then you go back and write them a ticket. You have to be, you have to, the nicer you are to them, they are trying to get your blood pressure up is what they are trying to do. And if they can get you to get mad, then they can eventually, you they can, you know eventually they might be able to use that against you, he called me this or he said this to me, But if you are kind to them the whole time then they have nothing, not a leg to stand on you know. So, we try to, alright, personally I try to remain calm to them, kind to them. Another thing is they don't realize they are being video taped the whole time, so when you go to court and they say that officer did this and told this to me and all you are doing is pull the video and say this is the car stop you make your own decisions on it.

SP: And do you video tape every stop you make then?

Officer: Um, no because on our motorcycles we don't have them, when we are on our cars we have video, but when we are on our bikes we don't have video.

SP: Okay, but when you are in your car, then you tape every stop

Officer: Yea, anytime you turn your lights on that video camera comes on.

SP: Oh, okay, so it is an automatic thing, interesting.

Officer: Yea, it is a good tool, I mean I had a guy that the other day, he stopped and he just cussed me up and down, was yelling and screaming and you know all kinds of stuff and you know I ended up writing him a ticket. Well a few minutes later, I get a phone call from one of our sergeants and he was a friend of his and he said you know could you give this guy a break and I said no I can't, I said he cussed me and screamed at me, and he said well he says he didn't do that. I said well you are welcome to come see the video. And so I showed him the video and we called the guy, right there and the sergeant says, you know you cussed this officer out and he goes I did not, and the office sergeant says, we got it on video I am sitting and watching it

right now. He's lying, you know and the whole thing is on video and the guy never would admit that he, you know that he had cussed at me and everything. So, they always think they are right no matter what, even if you show them and video tape of their reaction. So, it is, it's kind of, you know you get frustrated of one out of four people you stop are calling you names and cussing at you. And you know that gets frustrating, but you just learn to deal with it.

SP: Would you say that is typical number, one out of four, or?

Officer: Um, if you just want to use a slight, I am mad because you are stopping me then yea probably one out of four, but probably one out of eight really get over excited and really take it to the limit.

SP: Wow, that has to be quite a few considering the number of stops you do every year.

Officer: Yea, it's um, it depends on you know, it is not a cultural, or racial, or area or anything, I don't know if you know anything about our city, but we're next to Johnson county and they consider themselves a higher standard than us, but you deal with a Johnson county drivers and they think that you are just a total inconvenience to them, that you are stopping them for any reason, you know, and because they are in Wyandotte county now they can't be stopped by the police because, just cause they're from Johnson county. [interesting] Oh yea, it is pretty funny to listen to some of these people stories on do you not know who I am. I had a lady one time, she was a police man's husband, I didn't know who she was but I stopped her. I am sorry she was a policeman's wife, but I stopped her and she is on the phone and as soon as I walked up to the car she hands me the phone and says my husband wants to talk to you. And I didn't know who she was, and I said ma'am I don't need to talk to your husband and I hung up the phone and gave it back to her. And she says do you know who you were talking to and I said no I don't and she told me and I said okay, and she had expired tags on her car and I said if your husband is a police officer with us he probably ought to get his tags straight before he let you drive the car anymore. So it was pretty uh, she was pretty mad. So what are you guys doing a paper or what?

SP: They are looking to do a book project, about just driver and cop perspectives of police stops of traffic stops mostly.

Officer: Well that sounds neat, I mean there are so many stories to tell that, I mean there are a lot of good ones. I mean the thing about traffic stops is you could be dealing with anybody. You don't know if you are dealing with just a mother taking her kids to soccer practice or a murderer. You just never know, I mean traffic stops lead to more violent criminal arrests than any other type of enforcement, you know in mean on the job, because the criminals you know they have to move they have to go somewhere, and you know they are driving or they are a passenger or something like that, you know drugs and uh, um, shipments of drugs come in vehicles and we use a lot of that we use a lot of that, I mean Kansas is a pipeline of drugs because it is in the Midwest. And everything comes from all directions, California, Mexico you know it all comes through here to get to wherever it is going.

SP: Interesting, okay just a few quick questions. In what year were you born?

Officer: What year were you born? [laughter] I was born in 1967

SP: Okay, and what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 1988

SP: And, what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Let's go with Hispanic

SP: Okay, well thank you very much for your time, and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to contact me at the university, again my number is 78

Officer: I got it

SP: Okay, great well thank you very much for taking some time out to speak with me today

Officer: thank you

SP okay bye

PD: 18

Case ID #: 18
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 2/14/06 2:00 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Friday 2/17/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Male
Age: 48
Years as a Police Officer: 25

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SP: Okay, first I would like you to think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made, in your own words can you please describe the experience, from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: When I first spotted the vehicle?

SP: uhuh

Officer: When I was approaching a crest of a hill and the semi-tractor trailer was in my lane of traffic.

SP: Okay

Officer: It crossed the center line and was in my lane

SP: Okay, and you eventually then pulled this truck over?

Officer: Yea, after he realized he crossed the center lane he went into his own lane of traffic he was already pulled over by the time I caught up to him.

SP: Okay, so he pulled over before you put light and everything like that?

Officer: Yea

SP: Okay, and then how did you initiate the discussion with him?

Officer: I just walked up and asked for his driver's license and insurance card and you know asked why he crossed the center line.

SP: And was he response, or was he confrontational at all?

Officer: No, he just said he was sleepy and he kind of dosed off.

SP: Did you end up issuing him a citation?

Officer: Yes

SP: And did he, what was his reaction when you then gave him the citation?

Officer: He realized what he had done and there was no problem with him accepting the citation.

SP: And you said this happened when you came over a crest of a hill, do you remember about the location you were at?

Officer: About 94th and Parallel

SP: Okay, and this a, I think you keep referring to him as he, so I am assuming he was male, do you remember anything else about the driver?

Officer: Not really, no

SP: You don't remember if he was older or younger or anything?

Officer: I would say maybe in his thirties

SP: Okay

Officer: That was about three or four months ago

SP: Oh, and that was your most recent stop, three or four months ago?

Officer: Yea

SP: Okay, now to switch gears for a second, instead of thinking of the most recent traffic stop, I would like you to think back over a stop that happened anytime within the past year that really sticks out in your mind. Again, can you please explain the experience from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when you considered the encounter to be over, or the vehicle pulled away.

Officer: Oh let's see, uh, I was driving down 83rd street when I noticed a vehicle going north in the southbound lanes. The vehicle that was in the right hand side of the road way, somebody in the northbound lane was hanging out of the vehicle and I guess they were, knew each other I believe. And the car in the left lane took off and now the guy in the left lane went back over to the right lane. And, uh, I lost them and somebody said they went that way and they went into the ditch and that's when I found them. They were just backing out of the ditch and that's when I stopped em.

SP: And how then did you initiated that discussion?

Officer: I just walked up to them and asked who was hanging out the window, and asked them for their driver's license and all that, insurance. And uh, I went back to my car and wrote the citation and gave it to them.

SP: Then, you stopped the car that was going the wrong way in the lane, not the one with the person hanging out?

Officer: No, the one that was going the wrong way, the one that was going northbound in the southbound lanes

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything about the driver of that vehicle?

Officer: Uh, I remember he was a high school student

SP: And do you remember what type of car they were driving at all?

Officer: Ummmmm I think it was an SUV I think, I can't remember

SP: Okay, and really I just have a few general questions to wrap up. In general, if a driver says a stop was unfair, how do you respond?

Officer: Always tell them if they have a question about the stop they need to appear in court and talk to the judge about it.

SP: Okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 1958

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 1981

SP: Okay and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Ohhhhhhh Caucasian

SP: Okay, well thank you very much for your time and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me here at the university, again my number is 785.864.3515

Officer: Okay

SP: thank you, bye

Officer: bye

PD: 19

Case ID #: 19
Date/Time of Interview: Wednesday 5/10/06 4:30 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Friday 5/19/06 5:00 p.m.
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Female
Age: 46
Years as a Police Officer: 13

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].
[Note this is a patrol, not traffic, officer]

SP: Okay, I would like first think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Um, what kind of description are you looking for?

SP: I guess just kind of in a story form, how did you choose the car you were going to pull over, what was the car like, and how did the stop go basically.

Officer: Oh, okay, I did one about twenty minutes ago

SP: So it is fresh in your mind

Officer: He was um, east bound on Leavenworth Road and I was South bound on 91st, northbound on 91st and from about 50 or 75 feet I observed him run the stop sign, slow down but not completely stop. Um, I initiated my emergency equipment and he pulled over to a side street, um, when I walked up to the car he was already getting his license and his insurance out and he asked what he did and I advised him that I observed him not come to a stop and the stop sign. And he advised me, "well I did stop." And I said, "well not completely" Um, I went back to the car, ran him through the computer, everything was okay. He was fairly polite so I asked him to come to a complete stop next time and let him go.

SP: Okay, so you just gave him a warning and not a ticket?

Officer: Yes

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything about his vehicle, was it older or newer?

Officer: It was a '93

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything else more specific about this man, was he older or younger?

Officer: What was his date of birth, he was uh 17.

SP: Okay, so fairly young

Officer: Yes

SP: Okay, now I would like you to switch gears for a moment, and rather than think about the last traffic stop you made, I would like you to think of a stop that you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. Again, could you please describe the experience from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Um, well I haven't had anything really seriously happen in the last few months, but when I took this position in January as far as being in a traffic car instead of a dispatch car anymore um, I set up radar on a side street and stopped a 65 year old woman. You know, the stop was okay, she was polite and everything, but it, it just surprised me the age of the party that I was stopping for speeding and she had never had a ticket in her life and she almost started to cry.

SP: Um, but she was speeding, that is why the stop was initiated?

Officer: Yeah, I was doing radar

SP: Do you remember was her car older or newer?

Officer: No, her car was newer

SP: Um, so when you approached her, how did the interaction go that led her to become so emotional?

Officer: I don't know, I, the only thing that I can think of is that I think I gave her her first ticket in 55 years

SP: I pretty significant event then

SP: Okay, finally just a few general questions for you. In general, if a driver says a stop was unfair, how do you respond to that?

Officer: Um, I advice him that uh, his traffic court date is listed on the citation and he is more than welcome to go to court and to explain his side of the story to the judge.

SP: Okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 1960

SP: What year did you become a police officer?

Officer: The first time.....oh my god....93

SP: Okay, and you mentioned the first time, did you, have you been a police officer consistently since 93?

Officer: Consistently, yeah

SP: And what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: White

SP: Okay, well thank you very much for your time and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to contact me at the university, my number again is 785.864.3515

Officer: alrighty

SP: Thanks, bye

Officer: bye

PD: 20

Case ID #: 20
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 5/16/06 10:30 a.m.
Date of Transcription: Sunday 5/21/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Male
Age: 36
Years as a Police Officer: 15

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

[Note: patrol, not traffic, officer]

SP: Okay, I would like first think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: The last car stop was yesterday about 1:00. A pick up truck pulling a trailer, car trailer. Uh, approached the guy and spoke to him. He told me he owned it for 7 years and bought it for 140 bucks. He had no paper work to it. Ended up the vehicle was 2003, which you can't own for 7 years. It was a 2500 dollar trailer, ends up being stolen 2 years ago. Happened yesterday.

SP: Okay, so you initially pulled him over for the

Officer: No tags on the trailer, you have to have tags on a double axle trailer.

SP: Okay, and then how did it ultimately resolve itself, once you found out that the trailer was stolen?

Officer: Well once, I impounded it. Because we didn't know what any of the numbers were on it. I called the company later on, went back down about an hour later, and they told me where the pin number was and ended up finding it and tracing it back to a stolen trailer out of grain valley.

SP: Okay, and do you remember anything in particular about the gentleman that you pulled over?

Officer: Nah, just a typical guy who junks cars, hauls them down to the pulverizer. I mean he was a nice guy.

SP: So, did you end up issuing him a citation?

Officer: Yeah, at the scene I issued him a citation for failing to register trailer, because we couldn't confirm that it was stolen at the time, until we found the numbers. But it has been all worked up now and they are probably going to, well you know he said he had it for 7 years and

it has only been stolen for 2, and that he bought it for a hundred and forty bucks at a yard sale, which I have never seen a trailer at a yard sale yet.

SP: That's true...

Officer: Yeah, but they will probably end up charging him with possession of stolen property.

SP: And do you remember anything about the vehicle, you said that it was a pick up truck, was it older....

Officer: Yeah, it was just a regular old 83 ford pick up

SP: Okay, now I would you like you to change gears for a moment, instead of the most recent traffic stop that you made, I would like you to think about a stop that really sticks out in your mind from the last 12 months. Again, in your own words could you please describe the experience from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Okay, could it have been the guy passed out in the car blocking the driveway and I pulled up on him?

SP: That could definitely be a memorable experience, so yeah

Officer: Okay, well went to quicktrip at 75th and Swartz, went to use the restroom and the guy says hey can you check on the guy that is blocking our pump, passed out. It was a Silver Chevy Monte Carlo, brand new. Go out there, knock on the window and no response, so I order EMS to come and check him out. Door unlocked, and I go to open the door and there is a tag folded up between the seat and driver's seat and door and driver's seat. Go to grab it and pushes my hand away, well okay he is a little more alert than I thought. Grabbed the tag ran it and it comes back to a stolen silver Chevy Monte Carlo, the one he was in. Okay, already got back up coming and I go down to have him step out and he was coming to, he goes "why." And I go, "well I just want to chat with you." Because I am going to arrest him. And he goes, "well if you have be step out that is going to be your biggest mistake." So I go, "Okay stay there, just want to make sure that you are okay and you will be on your way." He passes back out. Well we ended up arresting him. The car was stolen in a burglary, there is all kinds of property from a house. This was just three weeks ago.

SP: Oh, so pretty sudden, or pretty recently

Officer: Yeah, this was, yeah, there was all kinds of stolen property from the house the car was stolen from, there was a gun in the trunk and he was a convicted felon. Found out later that this guy was shoot from another one of our officers, in another stolen car, because the guy started hitting him over the head with the night stick he tool away from the officer so the officer had to shoot him.

SP: So how did the stop eventually, I am assuming you arrested him?

Officer: Yeah, we arrested him, waited for back up to show up and we ended up kicking him out

of the car. And um, he got booked in and since he was a [with a lot of emphasis] *felon*, he got charged federal with the gun.

SP: Do you remember anything else about him, was he older younger?

Officer: He was a young kid in his 20s, mid 20s

SP: Okay, just a few general questions to wrap up. In general, if a driver says that a stop was unfair how do you respond to that?

Officer: I usually issue the ticket and if they think that it is unfair I will tell them, "go to court and explain your side of the story and I will explain my side and let the judge decide." I am not there to judge them if it is unfair or not.

SP: Okay, so you leave that up to the judge in court then

Officer: Yeah, if he thinks it is unfair, he can go tell the judge and explain his side of the story and see if the judge thinks it was unfair, which I rarely, I mean out of all the tickets I write, I may go to court once a month out of 200 tickets

SP: Oh, so it is a pretty rare occurrence that someone even challenges you on a ticket

Officer: For me, yeah, not that often they do

SP: interesting, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 1970

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: uh, started as a police cadet in June of 1989 and walked the streets as a patrolman in April of 91

SP: Okay, and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: uh, white, Caucasian

SP: Okay, thank you very much for your time and if you have questions about this research please feel free to contact me at the university again my number is 785.864.3515

Officer: Oh that is no problem, and I am sure that you have got a ton of traffic officers you have been doing

SP: yeah, we have been talking to quite a few people

Officer: Have you been getting some good stories?

SP: some really interesting stories yeah

Officer: yeah, I know I had two in three weeks

SP: Yeah those are pretty interesting stories for such a short time span

Officer: Yeah, that is pretty normal for me, happens all the time, alright that will work

SP: okay thank you very much, good bye

Officer: bye

PD: 21

Case ID #: 21
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 5/16/06 10:45 a.m.
Date of Transcription: Monday 5/22/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Male
Age: 45
Years as a Police Officer: 12

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

[Patrol, not traffic]

SP: First, I would like first think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Is it supposed to be somebody who was mad at the stop or just any stop?

SP: Just the most recent stop that you made

Officer: Well we stopped a car for speeding and um we explained the reason for the stop and the subject uh wanted to see the radar gun and our policy is not to let them get out of the car due to the fact that there are other cars coming and we don't want them to get hurt, or in case they want to start fighting us. So we explained that to him and he was satisfied with that.

SP: Do you remember about where this stop occurred?

Officer: It was at mission rd and southwest blvd, just south of I-35

SP: And do you remember anything in particular about the person you pulled over?

Officer: Yeah, he um, he was a doctor, he said that doctors should be exempt from getting tickets because they help people at the hospital

SP: oh, so he tried to argue against receiving a citation

Officer: Yes, and I explained to him that since he is a doctor at a hospital he should know that speeding causes most of our accidents on vehicular crashes. And he kind of shut up then.

SP: So when you approached the vehicle, how did the conversation start?

Officer: I always explain to them the reason for the stop, I just come up to them and tell them who we are we are the (city name) police department and the reason for the stop was for the

speeding and I always tell them whatever their speed was, say it was a 50 in a thirty mile per an hour zone, and I just need to see his driver's license and proof of insurance.

SP: And that is when he asked to...

Officer: Yeah, he said, "well I don't think that I was doing that speed." And I explained to him well we have it on radar gun and that is the reason for the stop, we have him on the radar

SP: He then wanted to get out of the vehicle, how did you talk him out of getting out of the vehicle?

Officer: Well, I just explained to him that uh since there was a lot of cars coming up and down mission road, for his safety I don't want him to step out of the car in case he got hit by a car, because that would put his liability on me, and also you never know if they are going to try and fight you or not, outside the car. That is why we don't let them out of the car, even if there's two officers at the scene, I always explain to them that um, all of this is being video taped with the in car camera, and I always put my radar gun in front of the camera so that it shows what his speed was. So if he wants a copy of the video tape he can contact the city prosecutor and he can get him one, or he can come to court and city prosecutor will allow him to see the car stop. Then he just said okay that's fine we will go to court on it.

SP: Oh, so he did say that he would be challenging the ticket?

Officer: Oh yeah, uh uh

SP: Interesting, okay now I would like you to switch gears for a moment, rather than the most recent traffic stop that you made I would like you to think about a traffic stop that you made in the last twelve months that really sticks out in your mind. Again, could you please describe the experience from the moment you noticed the vehicle up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: It was with a female [he is giggling a bit] again it was speeding. It was on, I think it was on a Friday night, coming out of Westport. I explained, when I got up to the car you could tell she was, she had already had her shirt unbuttoned down, one of those. Explained why the stop and then she um, I went back to write the ticket, after I explained the reason. And after I went back to give her the ticket her shirt was unbuttoned down to her pants and with no bra on. And you know we are getting a show. Explained to her that we just needed her to sign the ticket, it is not an admission of guilt or anything, just an assurance that she will appear in court or pay on it. And her next words were, "so even though I am showing you my boobs I am still getting a ticket?" And I explained to her, "yes, but thanks for the show." So, she tried to get out of it by you know flashing.

SP: And it is interesting that she asked you directly

Officer: uhuh, and I explained to her that you know basically if I wanted to I could take her in for indecent liberties. So she buttoned up and she signed the ticket real hard and um just said well thanks and took off.

SP: Interesting, and do you remember anything about the vehicle she was driving?

Officer: It was a convertible top, and it was down

SP: So it was a very public show

Officer: Oh yeah

SP: Okay, just a few general questions to wrap up. In general, if a driver says a stop is unfair how do you respond to that?

Officer: if the driver says it was unfair?

SP: uhuh

Officer: I just tell them that if they weren't speeding they wouldn't have been stopped and the radar gun doesn't lie

SP: And that usually stops the conversation

Officer: Yeah, and they may look and say that radar gun is wrong and I just tell them that I have to calibrate it every night, make sure it is running right and if it isn't running right we have to turn it in. and they kind of go the other way, I always kind of stop them and say I am not going to argue out on the street, that is what court is for, and they kind of quiet down.

SP: okay, and in what year were you born?

Officer: 61

SP: and what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: 94

SP: and what race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: white

SP: okay, thank you very much for your time and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to call me here at the university, again my number is 785.864.3515

Officer: Okay

SP: thank you, good bye

Officer: bye

PD: 22

Case ID #: 22
Date/Time of Interview: Tuesday 5/16/06 3:15 p.m.
Date of Transcription: Monday 5/22/06
Interviewer Name: Shannon Portillo
Transcriber Name: Shannon Portillo
Race: White
Gender: Male
Age: 26
Years as a Police Officer: 4

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

[Patrol, not traffic]

SP: Okay, first I would like first think back over the most recent traffic stop that you made, in your own words would you please describe the experience. Please describe it from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: Uh what do you describe as the experience from what aspect

SP: Well just your memory of the most recent traffic stop, from when you noticed the vehicle you pulled over, to the moment that you let it go

Officer: uhuh, and you want me to describe what?

SP: Just describe I guess, how you picked out the vehicle, what you said to the driver of the vehicle, what the driver said to you, how the encounter happened, that kind of thing.

Officer: Okay, the most recent one probably was by a radar, um, car was stopped for speeding, um, all traffic stops the way I conduct them are conducted high risk, but in a professional manner. The driver of the vehicle was approached and explained who I am, why the stop was made, what they did to generate the stop at which point the common responses I get are either compliance or argumentative. Finishing the stop I just explain the ticket, usually for most speeding tickets, if there is nothing else involved it is usually just fine payment or court date and they are released and advised not to do it again.

SP: Okay, and this most recent stop that you made, do you remember anything specific about the vehicle?

Officer: No not really

SP: Do you remember anything specific about the driver of the vehicle?

Officer: Basically just falls into the same profile of excuses, just said I was in a hurry on my way home from work

SP: Okay, so they just said they were in a hurry and you issued them the citation, it was rather non-confrontational

Officer: Well, yeah

SP: Okay, I would like you to switch gears for a moment now and rather than think about the most recent traffic stop that you made I would like you think about a stop that really sticks out in your mind. Again, in your own words would you please describe the experiences from the moment you noticed the vehicle you eventually stopped up to the point when the vehicle drove away or you considered the encounter to be over.

Officer: uhhhh, don't really have one...from how long ago?

SP: The past year, nothing really memorable?

Officer: Not really, the ones that, the traffic stops, the ones that I have tried to get done in the past year that have been memorable, aren't really stops, for instance, they don't stop

SP: Well that would fine to, anything where you tried to stop the vehicle or it started as a traffic stop and maybe turned into something more, is there anything like that?

Officer: Yeah, quite frequently

SP: oh really

Officer: Where you attempt to stop the vehicle and they just don't stop

SP: Could you tell me about one of those?

Officer: There really isn't much to tell, I mean, most of my tickets are generated from using radar, traffic control, speed violations. You treat it as any other stop, you get behind them, you know that it is different when they accelerate, and then don't find a place to slow down and pull over safely.

SP: So there is no stop that really sticks out in your mind from the past year?

Officer: Not really

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SP: Okay, then just a few general questions to wrap up. In general, if a driver says that a stop was unfair, how do you respond to that?

Officer: Like, what do you mean, like this is unfair or being argumentative?

SP: uhuh

Officer: I generally correct them, to take it up in municipal court

SP: So you just let the judge handle it then?

Officer: I generally stress to people that the side of the street during a stop is not the proper place to argue a citation, if they want to argue about it, if they want to contest it, they are more than welcome to do that in court, that is the way our system set up.

SP: Okay, and what year were you born?

Officer: 1980

SP: And what year did you become a police officer?

Officer: uh, been with the city since 1999, officially 2002

SP: What race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: Excuse me?

SP: What race or ethnicity do you primarily identify yourself as?

Officer: white

SP: Okay, well thank you very much for your time and if you have any questions about this research please feel free to contact me here at the university, again my number is 785.864.3515

Officer: No problem

SP: thank you, good bye

Officer: have a good day

