

Safer Steps Interview Transcript

Present:

Jasmine Kozak Gilroy, Cooper Point Journal (CPJ)

Chloe Marina Manchester, Cooper Point Journal (CPJ)

Stacy Brown, Police Chief

Sharon Goodman, Director of RAD

Interview date: January 13, 2017

Manchester: Talk about Safer Steps and how is it new or different from what is currently in place?

Goodman: I don't know if it's necessarily different than what's in place. But we were tasked by RDP, Wendy, to look at just making sure that there's more information about safety on campus. And so, Safer Steps, all the stuff that you see on that poster are stuff that we are currently doing. And we wanted just to remind people that the -- the statistics, you know -- the tone was just to remind people because we've heard some people are feeling uncomfortable walking around, yet no one's reported anything and nothing's happened that we -- nothing statistically has changed.

But, I think just -- I think we haven't done a campaign to really remind people of this service. And so, we wanted to do that in case people are feeling really uncomfortable. And if more people are using escort program than we have -- new safety escort program than we have staff for, then we can look at re-staffing by doing that. And so, that's why we wanted to just send stuff out.

And then, knowing that students were all gone for break, and then people come back, trying to send out posters and Stacy had found this cool -- more computer programs. And there's more stuff going on that we didn't [inaudible 1:34] necessarily. I guess that's -- it's not new, but we just haven't advertised that there's the companion program and that the bookstore, for a long time, has sold safety supplies, but we just wanted to remind people.

Brown: And we have a few more things that they picked up. This is one of the things that was -- the sound grenade.

Gilroy: Oh, I've seen those. Yeah.

Brown: Yeah. So, you pull it and it's really loud.

Goodman: [Inaudible 1:57] a really fun game.

CPJ Interview about Safer Steps

Brown: Yeah. I know. I love it. But that was -- so, they're kind of showcasing the personal safety items so that people can see them and they know where they can get those.

Manchester: Speaking of the personal safety items, I know it's advised to carry pepper spray or whatever, but a lot of students think it's -- it's very expensive. Would there, perhaps, be a program to help students have access to personal safety things if they couldn't afford to get them themselves?

Brown: Well, pepper spray is actually not something that I fully endorse because having been sprayed with it myself and having to deal with that, it often does not land where you want it to land, and often will be blown back in your own face, disabling you. So, it's not my personal favorite safety tool.

Manchester: But, in general, would you --

Brown: But in general, that's something that we could certainly look into. I know that Regina does a really good job of getting discounts and buying things in quantity so that they can be cheaper. And also, there's other places that sell them, too. But that is something we'd like to entertain. But, of course, we have to look at our budget, as well.

Goodman: And that's what we had talked about, too, with like sound grenades and whistles, like if there was -- you know, we were kind of launching this and if we heard from folks, so if we do hear from students, that's something that we can look into. Some schools give out whistles or do other stuff. And so, we were trying to figure out...

Brown: And the other thing that we had talked about is there's personal [law 3:27] and personal safety apps. And one of them is called -- that's pretty popular -- is called Companion. It's where you can, on your phone give -- have you guys seen it?

Gilroy: Yeah.

Manchester: Yeah.

Brown: Okay. So, yeah. The problem is, sometimes with this campus, is spotty cell service. But, it's -- I think it would cover most of the campus. So, there's just some other ideas as well.

Manchester: So, what exactly will police do for students if they call and ask for an escort? What will happen from that?

Brown: We will meet them where they'd like us to meet them and we were either walk with them where they need to go, or give them a ride where they need to go.

Manchester: I know a lot of the students who would use that service are from like traditionally marginalized communities, and those students are often fearful of police. Do you have any way to address that?

Brown: Yeah. I think the best way I can address that is why it's so important that we take these steps, and our students take the steps, is what a better way to get to know each other? And on a level, you know, when you're walking with somebody or talking with somebody, usually you talk about things. You can get to know the community members. And so, I know that there's things going on nation-wide, but our Evergreen officers are really kind, compassion, and respectful officers.

And I feel like they're going to get really kind service. And if there was ever a time that a student didn't feel that way after an interaction, then I would like to know about that. But we don't get those type of complaints here. We get a lot of accolades for the way that our officers interact with the community.

So, with that, I know that people are coming from other parts of the country may still have some distrust. And I hope that we can work together through that.

Manchester: All right. So, there's not like necessarily a plan to address that? You're just hoping that it will work itself out?

Brown: Well, what kind of plan do you --

Manchester: Well, like I know some schools have a program where other students who go through like a vetting background check process will sign up to be escorts. And I know a lot of students would probably feel safer with that. But -- so, it's going to like just be police?

And I know there was an email chain among faculty saying that they would be interested in doing that.

Brown: Yeah. So, I think that we would be open if a student group wanted to get something like that going. But, it doesn't seem like, if what you're saying, you know, people are worried about the police would make sense for it to be housed in the police department. So, that could be a grassroots project that the student government took on, or someone -- it doesn't have to be us. We're set in place and it's a logical response because we're 24/7, and some students may sign up to be escorts, but not want to be called at 2:00 in the morning when you're leaving the library.

So, we're -- it's definitely something that we'd love to see started up. If somebody wanted to take that on. But it also -- it doesn't really make sense, if that is what people are feeling, that that be housed in the police department.

Goodman: Yeah. I think we talked about a little bit when we were trying to do it because we are hearing that students are feeling that way, but no one has called or talked to anyone in my department in RAD, and so, trying to figure out how to do that? I was here -- been here for about 10 years, and years ago, we did have a similar program where students that worked with police service, but they were students that did an escort program. And it got dismantled because no one was calling and using it. So, we're not saying that that -- I'm not saying that isn't a need. And so, that's what we're also trying to assess.

So, that would be great in your article. I mean, if we could assess and there's students that really feel uncomfortable, and are feeling like they're having a hard time walking at night, and they've had bad interactions with our police officers or the program's not working, then that might be a program that we could try to start.

And so, I think starting something, I mean, that's the hard part, right? We're so small. Like up at UW, lots of big schools have these huge programs, they have golf carts, they're driving people around. And that might make sense if that -- I mean know, obviously, if people are feeling uncomfortable, it's the college's responsibility to try to come up with something. And if we're just hearing rumors from people that might feel uncomfortable, that's the hard part, right? Is trying to figure out if that's -- I'm not saying it's not factual, but trying to figure out --

Manchester: And I know a lot of students [inaudible 7:49] would also feel uncomfortable voicing that discomfort, which is one of the problems.

Goodman: Yeah. And so, that's the hard part. There is an anonymous reporting tool online, so people could anonymously report that, or they could go to the student government, maybe and try to... That's the problem that way.

Brown: You mean somebody feels uncomfortable reporting --

Goodman: Reporting that they feel uncomfortable calling the police, or they would feel uncomfortable, right? And so, that's the hard part. How do we get a sense of what that true number is?

Brown: It's a tough situation.

Goodman: It's a real -- that's the tough situation and so -- and I'm not -- we have no way of knowing if it's -- [inaudible 8:22], just trying to figure out how do you gauge that sense? And this is -- I think this is the beginning of awareness, right? And so, then, if people lash back and say that's not what they want, they want something else, or they're voicing their concerns, then we can work on other solutions. And we're open to other solutions.

We're very limited in resources, both [of our 8:49] departments, the whole college is. And so, spending a lot of money on something that people aren't going to use isn't going to be super

helpful, either. But hearing that if people are uncomfortable, it would be nice to figure out how to figure that out.

And you know, we did think about that for a while. We were trying to figure out how to make it more accessible.

Manchester: I know you also say that taking self-defense classes is good. But, police services doesn't offer self-defense classes, does it?

Brown: We don't at this time. We have an instructor -- or we have an officer that is being trained in defensive tactics right now. Traditionally, we have not had one in the department. We've received training outside in Thurston County. And so, that was -- that's one of my priorities, is when he get back from that training is trying to put a class together, and hopefully people would like to do that.

Goodman: And I know the college offered, I think it was in the CRC, I think, I don't know if it was through Student Activities or through...

Brown: I know that I've seen --

Manchester: There are some self-defense classes, but there's nothing that's like a regular one that someone could go to. They're very sporadic and often inaccessible to students if they have class during that specific time and it happens maybe once every two months.

Gilroy: [Liz 10:02] and I are talking about pushing back the meeting on Wednesday to go to the one at the [inaudible].

Brown: Yeah, so that is one of my goals, is to have that. But not just have it be a self-defense class, but really also have it in talking about your awareness and some other tools, and kind of incorporating more than just the physical aspect of it, too.

Manchester: Do you have a sense of when that will --

Brown: Tim's in training this week.

Manchester: Okay, so maybe like end of this quarter?

Brown: I hope so, yeah. Um-hum.

Manchester: Is this going to be like the end-game program for this? Or is this going to be a step?

Brown: I like that.

Gilroy: We have it on tape, so...

Manchester: Excellent. All my great quotes should be on tape.

Brown: Yeah, that's good.

Goodman: I think there's going to be a coffee and doughnuts event to sort of launch this a little bit.

Manchester: That got canceled.

Goodman: It did get canceled?

Manchester: Which, I would also like to ask about.

Brown: It was canceled after a lot of people determined what was most prudent for the safety of the entire campus.

Manchester: So, it got canceled because of the protests at the reception?

Brown: It was canceled because we are concerned about there -- we had some information that there were plans to sabotage that event, which put us in a position of being concerned for people that would be caught in to that coming into staff coffee and donuts and talk with us about the program. And we did not want to put people in jeopardy if something were to escalate.

Goodman: So, it's hopefully postponed and not canceled, and we have the funds to try to do it again.

Manchester: Because I know that happens at the beginning of the year, I know, and sometimes throughout the rest of the year.

Goodman: Yeah. We were trying to -- and Stacy, since she's come onboard is wanting to do that more, and so collaborating...

Manchester: I know people who like free coffee would --

Brown: Yeah, I'm actually not even -- I'm really looking forward to -- we can talk a bit more about at the second part. But that's one thing that I really -- why I chose to leave Lewis County and come here is because I really like community policing. And I'm also a graduate from here. And I'm wanting to try to bridge some of the gaps that I see, and have open conversations. And even though coffee and donuts seems like a real benign event, it gives me a chance to meet people and make people feel comfortable in coming to talk to me if they have ideas on projects or forums or things that we can do in the community for clear communication.

And then, just getting to know the students I think is huge because that's how a community operates, is getting to know each other. And I don't want it to always be coffee and donuts because even though that's fun, I would love to have something that goes a little bit deeper in conversation.

Goodman: And at that event, we were going to give out bookmarks and little cards.

Manchester: Yeah, I picked up one of those.

Goodman: Okay, yeah. So we were going to try to give out some more of that information. And I guess we had planned it so early in the quarter, we didn't have a chance to look at whistles or if we were going to get any more swag to give out. So, that's something that we can look into, as well.

Yeah, so the first part -- so, we don't know if there's another part. But we wanted to see -- so, our hope is that everybody would know the services that were offered, and then people would start calling and using it, and so, if we had statistics on that, we could email the community about that.

And if we didn't get that information, we heard what Eva just said, people like, "I wanted to call, but I couldn't call," or get more information, then the committee would meet again and try to figure out what the next steps were.

Goodman: I know it's unfortunate that cell phone reception is so spotty, especially if you're like in the parts of the woods.

Manchester: Yeah. I mean, I think on campus, direct paths from the library when people are directly walking, and especially back from the residents halls because I think that's where I get the most nervous --

Brown: And walking with a buddy.

Manchester: -- yeah, at night. And yeah, if you're on the main paths through the woods, you should have full bars all the way down to the water and back. And again, at night, we don't recommend that. But, during the day. But yes, depending on your cell phone, if you're not a Verizon or AT&T, it's going to be a little spotty.

Gilroy: Those are the recommended carriers?

[Laughter]

[Crosstalk]

Goodman: I mean, people always ask me and it's like, you know, we can't. But I know those two -- because that's what we use for all of our --

[Crosstalk]

Manchester: Yeah, I have Verizon and it's pretty much great.

Goodman: Yeah. But I mean, I'm in the Greenery sometimes and people are looking for [inaudible 14:41] and --

Brown: And see, I have AT&T and when I'm in the Greenery, I have --

[Crosstalk]

Manchester: When I was a freshman and in the Greenery, I would just have no bars, very little reception.

Goodman: Yeah. Yeah. Just -- I mean, I have full Wi-Fi, so they can text me. But it's like there's [inaudible 14:54] just text me, you know? It's like, "I'm right here! I'm just eating my lunch."

Manchester: What if, say, like an underage student on campus was drunk and was feeling afraid, and wanted a police escort from, I don't know, their friend's house where they were drinking back to their dorm? What would happen?

Brown: On campus or?

Manchester: Yeah.

Brown: On campus. Hmm.

Manchester: Because I know that's a situation that could be dangerous for that student, but they would also be afraid to call the police because they would think that they were going to get arrested or something. And I know -- yeah. I know.

Brown: Yeah. First off, I just want to say that we are -- kind of our mantra is if you draw attention to yourself, you'll get it. But we don't -- our role on campus is not to --

Manchester: Yeah, I know you don't arrest drunk students. You turn that over to --

Brown: Yeah. Yeah. Student Conduct. That's a tricky question.

Manchester: Because I know that would affect some people using this or possibly having a bad situation happen to them.

Brown: You know, I don't have a black and white answer for that. I really don't. I think it would be a case by case. That's a tough situation because if it was a student that we knew had repeated problems or a possible substance abuse problem, we're going to want to reach out and get help for that student, and not necessarily just look the other way to get them home. So, I would like to give you, "We just escort them," but if we knew this was a student that was having some problems in school or having some substance abuse issues, then we probably would address it.

Manchester: All right. I think that kind of wraps up what I wanted to ask about Safer Steps.

Goodman: And if you're in your article and you were both open to hear more, so if students -- I mean, if they want to write back to the paper, if they want to be more anonymous, but if people have concerns about some of this stuff, that would be helpful to know.

Brown: I recognize that some people don't trust the police, obviously. I get that. But I really do want to work on building relations with students. And so, if students have ideas or they just want to talk with me, I'll sit down and talk with a student one-on-one about concerns, or suggestions, or ideas, or programs, or how we can better serve the community. Because it's like a business here and the students are our customers. And so, we do care about our customers and we do -- our community. We care about our community.

Gilroy: I actually have one more question about Safer Steps.

Goodman: Yeah, yeah. Of course.

Gilroy: Mostly for my own curiosity. I know that at the end of last quarter there was a series of events and conversations regarding student safety on campus and I know some of the talking points that students had were related to the fact that campus is really poorly lit and that they did feel unsafe. Was this planned before that, or was it in some way a reaction to that?

Goodman: Just so you know, we do a survey in RAD every other year, and soon we'll do another survey every year about safety. So, we also did a thorough walkthrough with police services, people from RAD. We did a walkthrough of the entire campus and checked out all the lights and we did reports. That was in November. So, this information was around that same time. But, I mean, I think --

Gilroy: There was some overlap?

Goodman: Yeah. I mean, it wasn't in response. And I think as we saw, I mean, I think when asked students, I mean, last year or two years ago -- or was it last year there was a sexual assault right at the beginning of the year?

Manchester: Yeah.

Goodman: Yeah, I think it was last year. So, students felt, and when we did the survey last year -
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Gilroy: Yeah, it was like the second day I was here.

Goodman: Students felt still pretty relatively safe when you look at the statistics about walking on campus. So, there are some dark spots. I've been concerned about that. My facilities staff in RAD, we've been doing lots of cutting, and probably if you came back to [crosstalk] as you saw, tons of cleared, cutting, and cutting around the HAC. We've been spending a lot of time trying to do that.

So, that's been sort of an action that we've been doing the last two years. And those are all in response, I think it is sort of a build-up from trying to do a big campaign at the beginning of the year for -- and trying to have an event during orientation to get people out into the woods and to be more aware. I think people come to campus thinking it's -- and these are awful things that have happened, you know, that assault and other things where, you know, the stranger in the parking lot. I mean, that's like the worst thing.

Manchester: Yeah. And I know some people have gotten like knives pulled on them in the woods.

Goodman: Yeah. The woods is -- we're too small to [inaudible 19:40] if people don't stay on the trails. And, we also want people to know about all that stuff. And so, we've been trying to put up more signs in the woods. We gave out bandanas. We've been trying to do a lot of more safety stuff. We sent more emails. I sent more emails --

Gilroy: Did you say bandanas?

Goodman: Yeah. They had these cool bandana maps that had a map of the woods.

Manchester: Oh, really? That's cool.

[Crosstalk]

Goodman: They were so popular during orientation that we got rid of most of them --

Manchester: Kinda wish I was a new student.

Gilroy: Yeah. I only saw the lanyards and...

[Crosstalk]

Manchester: They got backpacks, too, this year.

Gilroy: I saw the backpacks.

Goodman: So, the event that I helped run --

Brown: You started the wrong year.

Manchester: I did.

[Crosstalk]

Goodman: Like the first couple days of school, we did a safety walk down to the beach and so...

I mean, again, so some people -- people often report that it's dark. I mean, it gets really, really dark at night, right?

Manchester: Yes.

Goodman: And so, I mean, it's pretty well-lit. But people are also going in places that are never lit and saying it's dark. So, that's what you have to try to figure out. If you go on a main path down to the residence halls, it's very well-lit. There are some shadowy spaces because we live in the forest.

Manchester: Well, I don't know. I feel like some of them are not very well-lit at all.

Goodman: On the main paths?

Manchester: Um-hum. I had a ballet class [inaudible 20:42] class last quarter and I would try to walk to F Lot and it would be like completely dark going through -- walking around the residence halls, the path from the CRC and the [CON 20:52] building down through, and then, around the field. It was just like completely dark and kind of terrifying. I pulled out my phone light because it freaks me out.

Goodman: Interesting. So, because if you go on the main paths, all those LED lights should be on, unless -- when we did the walkthrough, we ran all the main paths. So, I mean --

Gilroy: I mean, it is also a problem living in the area [inaudible] --

[Crosstalk]

Manchester: There's just trees everywhere.

Goodman: And it's wet. And I mean, yes, and it's like -- and it can be sometimes like there's tons of people walking around, and sometimes you walk and there's like no one on campus,

and you're like, "Is anyone here?" Like, winter break was a little eerie. It was lit, but I'm like, "I don't see anyone."

Manchester: It does feel a little post-apocalyptic...

[Crosstalk]

Goodman: So, Matt Lebens, Environmental Health and Safety officer used to work in RAD Facilities, so he's been working on campus really diligently with Campus Facilities to try and improve lighting and making sure that lights aren't out and it's not dark.

So, that's always been going on and we're trying to definitely create that. And then, working with those Campus Facilities to cut up some of the brush. We don't like chopping down trees. But we had, you know, a beautiful spring, as you remember, but then all the lights got kind of covered.

Manchester: Yeah. I remember those weird setups that looked like cherry-pickers with just lights on them because so many of the lights were down.

Goodman: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Well, yeah, and the we had the flooding last year, and so some of the lights were down. But if you are seeing areas that are dark, I mean, you can definitely get a hold of myself or Matt. We will try to do another walkthrough in the spring. And we do try to really look at some of those things. But, yeah. I would love it to be even more lit because it is...

Gilroy: Are the surveys you do, are they general? Like where you ask questions like, "Do you feel like it's dark on campus," or are they specific asking how people feel about specific locations?

Goodman: It wasn't that specific, but it was pretty -- like, "Do you feel comfortable walking?" And then, it was like, "Do you feel comfortable in your room? Do you feel comfortable in your apartment?" It was more residentially-based.

The EBI is a standard residential survey that the whole country does, and then you can compare how you are compared to other folks. But the questions were pretty specific. It's like, "Do you feel comfortable walking at night?" and that kind of stuff.

And so, people felt -- whenever there's been an assault, I noticed that numbers go up. But they still felt really comfortable in their rooms, which makes me happy as the Director of RAD. But people felt -- sometimes people felt uncomfortable on the paths. And then, obviously, people felt less safe in the parking lot.

Gilroy: Um-hum.

Manchester: Yeah.

Goodman: I mean, F Lot's really well-lit, and something happened. I mean, it's like super well-lit, but there's always margins, right, that aren't as well-lit.

Manchester: Yeah.

Goodman: Does that answer all your questions?

Gilroy: Yeah.

Goodman: Yeah. So, I'm sorry that you felt like it was dark.

Manchester: It's okay. It's just it's dark at night. This is not a surprise to me.

Goodman: Well, and it's a 5:00 [inaudible 23:40], and so then you start and then --

[Crosstalk]

Manchester: Yeah, and I would get out of ballet at 8:00 and it was just a bad time.

Goodman: Then you get paranoid and then you're -- like, sometimes there's no one on campus if it's raining because everybody's hibernating.

Manchester: Um-hum. Right.

Goodman: And we do have the safety emergency phones on campus and all of those things.

Goodman: Do those work?

[Crosstalk]

Brown: Yeah. They're tested. We test them. They ring right to dispatch. Um-hum.

Manchester: I was at Eastern once and we had to ring one, and it took 30 minutes for the police to show up, and they showed up 50 feet away, drove around a bit, and left.

Brown: Hmm.

Gilroy: That's not -- that's rough.

Manchester: Yeah. I mean, it's Eastern.

Gilroy: Yeah.

Goodman: I think whenever we've seen in anything in RAD about safety, it's using the three minute or less. I mean, response time is really, really, really fast when it's a -- like a 911 emergency. And I've seen the lights in action and I've seen them come. But we do test them.

So, you're going to ask more police questions?

Gilroy: Yeah.

[Crosstalk]

[Off-topic from 24:43 to 25:13]

Gilroy: Why don't we go back to a little bit what we were talking about, and I have some other questions. I guess the first thing, you said that you were worried about student safety when canceling Cops and Donuts? I just want to clarify because I --

[Crosstalk]

Manchester: Yeah. I'm also curious about that.

Gilroy: If you were specifically concerned that there were threats about, or there was like grumblings that there was going to be something that would in its nature be violent? Or if you were worried about escalation specifically? Or if it was unclear?

Brown: Well, it's peaceful until it's not. And that's what we have to evaluate and make the best guess possible for the safety of everyone involved. And it's a really hard line because we hope everything stays peaceful because this is a college that values, you know --

Manchester: Free speech.

Brown: Free speech, yeah. So, yeah. We just made the best decision that we could.

Gilroy: And was it something different -- because I saw when I was looking at Facebook, when I was actually specifically after what I -- because I was at [Beholden Inauguration 26:21], the --

[Crosstalk]

Brown: It was my swearing-in, where I swore to uphold the oath to protect the Constitution and -- yeah. Which is kind of ironic because I was there to swear in that was I going to protect your right to free speech, and then... Yeah.

Gilroy: Yeah.

[Laughter]

Gilroy: That is -- but I was looking, after that, I was checking because I saw there was this Cops and Donut event and there was something that was like...

[Crosstalk]

Brown: Smoke out the Bacon?

Gilroy: Oh. Wait, I thought that was the first one?

Brown: There's been several things that we've seen.

Gilroy: Where they were saying they were going to bring coffee and donuts in a separate room, but maybe -- or like off to the side.

Brown: The information that we had was that they were planning on disrupting that event.

Gilroy: Okay. It might have been something different, as well. I really don't -- that's all I saw, was that. And then, there were some people who were sitting there later on in the day with pamphlets.

Brown: The ACAB.

Gilroy: Yeah.

Brown: Um-hum.

Gilroy: I was just curious.

Manchester: Yeah, they were there yesterday, too.

Brown: They were. Um-hum.

Gilroy: Okay. That was my -- I just wanted to clarify with that.

You were talking about community policing, and I read some of the articles that I saw. Lewis County is where you came from?

Brown: Um-hum. Did you do the Google Images?

Gilroy: No.

Brown: Oh, you should have because I'm -- oh, there is the best picture ever. If you guys ever -- please don't ever run it.

[Crosstalk]

Manchester: ...you just gave us our idea for this.

Brown: No. Because it's funny. I was nine months pregnant with my youngest daughter and I was testifying, and it is the worst picture -- it looks like I just ate -- it's the worst picture ever, and that's what *The Chronicle* chose. I'm like seriously?

Manchester: That's awesome.

Brown: I'm like you guys --

Manchester: Apparently, newspapers are the same wherever.

Brown: Well, I was the Public Information Officer for Lewis County, and so, I had really good relationships, working relationships, with the people down there. But that was a new photographer and I went over and I'm like, "Okay, you and I are going to have to talk here. Like, come on."

[Laughter]

So, anyway. It's really bad.

Gilroy: Is there a picture you would like us to run?

Brown: Well, actually, the ones that Shawna took.

Gilroy: We just choose whatever Shawna has, anyway.

[Crosstalk]

Brown: Anyway. I'm sorry. I interrupted. So, you were talking about community policing. You were doing your research.

Gilroy: Yeah. Oh, that I read what I could read about you. I was just going to say they seemed every enamored with you. There were quite a few articles. And I guess, I was curious before you started talking about that why were you moving to Evergreen in particular? It seems like -- it doesn't feel like, necessary -- like, you're not older and retiring. It does seem like it's a quieter job, in some ways. So, I am curious.

Brown: It's not quieter. It's not quieter. It's different. That's a misnomer...

[Crosstalk]

Brown: So, that's a really good question. I spent 20 years in Lewis County and I worked for the State Patrol before that for five years as a dispatcher. And I really enjoyed all of the opportunities I had in Lewis County, and I was -- I handled sex crimes and child abuse for seven years. I worked patrol. I mean, I went through -- and I was a chief for the last seven years. But I felt like I was ready for a new challenge and I felt a little stagnant. And although I love the people of Lewis County and I loved being involved in those kind of events, I just felt like I need -- I kind of felt like a calling to do something different.

I live in Olympia, but Lewis County is -- it's very set in its ways. And so, I was just looking for personal growth. I think that's just the best way to explain. And there's a lot of different ideas that -- you know, I graduated from here in 2006, so there's a lot of different ideas, a lot of critical thinking. And so, I've always heard -- I've heard negative things about law enforcement -- about people trying to cope here in law enforcement, about how the community is not very accepting. And so, that was one of those things that made me pause. But then, I'm really dedicated into trying to make a difference. And that's not just a buzzword for me. I really do want to make a difference and be a change.

While part of my job is making arrests, and is holding people accountable, and keeping people safe, that community aspect -- and especially now, in where we're at as a nation, I can sit back behind my computer and get really mad about what I'm seeing on Facebook, or I can actually do something about it.

I'm not here to preach at anybody. I'm here to talk to students who are young, smart thinkers and say, "What are some things that we can do as law enforcement to make things better? Give us some ideas."

While I don't -- I can't speak to everything that's going on in the nation, I know that the Evergreen Officers here are committed in the same way that I am to policing in that manner. It's just a -- it's very challenging. It's very challenging coming to work and seeing a sign that says All Cops Are Bastards and me never being given a chance for them to get to know me as Stacy. All they see is my badge and instantly hate me. That's tough. And I know that's really tough on my officers. It would be tough to come in to work every day and see those kind of things. We see graffiti on the walls that say "oink-oink bang-bang" pretty regularly. And so, to have that hatred spewed, it's pretty tough, and I think it takes a special person to work here. And so, I'll continue trying to work with the community to come to positive solutions.

That's kind of a long answer. But really, that's what it is.

Gilroy: I guess that, for me, goes into another question I have about -- I guess, sort of about protesting, and sort of about things that happened at Evergreen in the past, and sort of what students have said in the past, about how there was a lot of protests in the '90s when cops on campus got guns. And I know that that's a continuing thing that I've heard a lot --

Manchester: I have a question about that, too, once you're finished.

Brown: That's a continuous thing that comes up is whether people feel comfortable with cops on campus having guns, and whether that is -- I mean, not just at Evergreen. I think that that's in general. I mean, on bigger campuses, I think that where the force is bigger and it feels more like an institution. I'm just wondering what your...

Brown: So, what I think a lot of people don't understand is that it isn't just an issue with students here. That we have a lot of homeless and transient people that come on...

Manchester: Yeah, there are a lot of people that live in the woods.

Brown: ...that come on campus and they're around here, that are people that are concern for officer safety and community safety. We are commissioned police officers. But, the thing that kind of surprises me by that notion is that the alternative is having outside police departments police Evergreen who may not know the community...

Gilroy: Yeah.

Manchester: Yeah.

Brown: ...know the inequalities of it. But, when there is an assault or a sexual assault, or you know, we just caught the vehicle prowler out there, that if you had security guards here, they wouldn't have that capacity to be doing that enforcement. And then, bringing outside police officers, you're not going to have that same -- or potentially, not have the same understanding of the uniqueness of Evergreen.

So, I really wish that people would stop and think about that in a more critical manner, what that means if we weren't here.

Manchester: And not just you not being here, though. Is it a state requirement for all police officers to have guns?

Brown: For police officers, yes.

Manchester: Okay. So, it's -- okay.

Brown: It is. It is a requirement. And I don't believe you would find anybody that would be willing to be a police officer without a firearm because the hatred that's spewed at us sometimes escalates and we have no way to protect ourselves. And I think it's, personally, an unfair request to ask me to go into a dangerous situation where somebody may have a gun, a knife, or something, and hope that it's going to resolve peacefully.

I have children. I have friends and family who want me to come home at night. I want to go home at night. And so, it is the profession I chose, but I also have the tools to protect myself. And not just myself, but also the community. If there is an active shooter on campus, there is a delay in who is going to come and respond. And so, it's important that we are armed and we use the tools when necessary.

Gilroy: You said that you want to facilitate community conversations about important issues. Do you feel like that's something that you want to tackle? Or what kind of conversations are you interested in having around that sort of...

Brown: Well, I've reached out to First Peoples because I would like to have a program that resembles the Café Conversations at OPD. Are you guys familiar with that?

Gilroy: Vaguely.

Brown: Okay. I went to one of theirs just to see how they modeled that. And their officers went and met with community members. And I was there, and we did roundtables, and there would be a topic and we'd discuss it as a community. It was really good because we heard from the community, "When you police officers do this, this is how it makes us feel."

And then we said, "When a citizen doesn't show us their hands, and we don't know if they have a gun in their hands, that's why we react this way." So, there was these conversations that went back and forth, and this deeper understanding, and it was incredible.

So, I would love to have something like that here. But it's a two-way street, right? The police can say, "We want to talk to you about it," but if nobody wants to talk to us about it, it's not happening.

Gilroy: Yeah. Absolutely. Just like the issue with [free space speech 36:29], that's the issue with conversation.

Brown: Yeah. Yeah.

Gilroy: Okay. Let me see what we have gone over and what haven't we. Some of this stuff has just come up pretty naturally.

Yeah, I guess, I'm curious if you have some sort of plan or idea about moving forward, how you intend to try and communicate with students? Or if you are -- intend on trying to communicate with students who clearly show disdain for cops? Or even have just expressed that they don't feel comfortable with cops on campus?

Manchester: And those are different students.

Gilroy: Yeah.

Manchester: There are some who just want to say words, and some who are terrified.

Gilroy: And even some who are just -- don't get it.

[Crosstalk]

Gilroy: There's so many camps.

Manchester: Right.

Brown: There are. There's --

Gilroy: And there's the truly neutral.

Manchester: Yeah.

Brown: Right. Of course, I always hope that I can -- this is going to sound really cheesy, but I -- Maya Angelou's quote right there is -- like that's really my favorite quote and that's -- because it embodies who I am. I feel like it's very simple. You treat people the way you'd like to be treated. I really think everything boils down to that.

And that means being respectful, and being fair, and compassionate. And so, when I'm out in the community -- you'll hardly ever see me in a car here. I walk everywhere I go because I want to interact with people. And I am asking my officers to do the same. Because sometimes, standing in line waiting to get my bagel at Einstein's, somebody comes up and looks unfriendly, and we strike up a conversation, and they see me as a human being, and I see them as a human being. Those little things are what starts that movement, I think, is just people seeing me as a person without those barriers, without the badge being the barrier.

And where people came from, I'm not discounting their experience. They may have had really negative experiences with police wherever they came from, and I can't change that. But, what I can change is how we respond and how we treat people here at Evergreen. That's my aim, is to try to continue building those relationships. I've spoke at different classes. And I've invited people to come talk to me.

Gilroy: What classes have you spoken to?

Brown: I spoke in -- I have met so many people the last four months, and everybody knows my name, but I'm still trying to remember everybody else's names. I spoke at Greg Mullins?

Gilroy: Yeah, that sounds like a name I know.

Brown: Greg Mullins?

Manchester: Yeah, I might have heard of him.

Brown: And then, I spoke to First Peoples. And I spoke to -- or, that might have been the multicultural -- I'm still learning of them. I'm so sorry.

Gilroy: That's okay.

Brown: There's been like three or four different groups. And there's more scheduled. After this week, I've had more requests for me to come talk. And then, different employees, too, throughout the campus. But yeah. I mean, I've just been -- just exactly four months yesterday. So, I'm still just trying to get my bearings in a different department and then dealing with everything here, and parking, and then... But that's like -- I feel like that is the most important work. So, I'm trying to do that whenever I'm asked and not put that off.

Gilroy: How are you planning or trying to communicate -- or do you have some ideas about how to communicate or serve students who don't want you there, but still you're in a position where you need to...

Brown: Yeah. That's tough. That's tough, and that's something that I think about every day. I've been at a few events where students -- where I was talking to students -- the Clam Bake was one of them -- and I was giving out stickers and one student said, "I'm not taking that from you because I talk to anybody in a uniform," and then spewed some other things. At first, I was just kind of like ouch. But then I was like, okay, well, you know -- I think you respect that move on.

I can't -- if people aren't willing to communicate with me in a civil manner, I don't know how we can communicate. But I think that's part of the challenge, right? It's learning how to communicate when you have opposing views because even though it's my profession, I know that there's bad apples in every bunch, whether it's teachers or doctors or cops. I'm not going to stand up for that. But, I can explain why we do some of the things we do, the case law that surrounds some of the decisions we make. I can't change people's minds on -- like, some people think there shouldn't be any law enforcement anywhere in the United States, like there should not be cops at all. It should be just -- I don't want to say lawless, but... So, I can't change people's minds on that. But if people want to have an intelligent, civil, peaceful conversation, I'm totally open to that. Yeah.

Gilroy: Did you have a conversation -- I'm just curious. I don't even know if they would talk to you, but the people who had the booth yesterday because I did hear them talking about alternatives to -- I was standing across with the acoustics.

Manchester: Yeah.

Gilroy: They were talking about alternatives to policing. I'm just curious. I mean...

Brown: Yeah. No. It would be hard for me to engage with somebody that has already told me that I'm a bastard before I even walk up and talk to them.

Gilroy: Yeah. That's fair.

So, your swearing-in was a bit of a fiasco. I have a -- my biggest question is if you've experienced anything like that when you were at Lewis -- in Lewis County --

Brown: Never.

Gilroy: Never?

Brown: I -- never.

Gilroy: Yeah.

Brown: No. My kids have never been put in a situation where they felt unsafe or crying and scared and ushered off.

Manchester: Your kids were there?

Brown: I'm sorry.

Manchester: It's okay.

Brown: I try to be tough, but when it comes to my kids and the situation that they were put in...

Gilroy: Yeah.

Manchester: Yeah.

Gilroy: Absolutely.

Manchester: It's hard.

Brown: It was pretty frustrating.

Gilroy: Yeah, I can see that. It's frustrating enough when it's just you, obviously.

Brown: Yeah. Yeah, my six-year-old has been extremely clingy this week and keeps asking me if I'm going to be hurt at work. And in 20 years at Lewis County, not once did my kids ever ask me that. Of course, they knew the inherent dangers of what I did, and I've been able to shield them, pretty much. But my -- but, of course, my kids have -- they've seen hatred towards law enforcement, so they're not stupid. But my six-year-old is having a rough time. And that -- I

never would have imagined that would have come from Evergreen State College. I mean, we're peaceful, right? I graduated from here. So, to have that -- I'm sorry. I'm sorry for that.

Gilroy: No.

Manchester: No. It's okay.

Brown: When I talk about my kids in that situation and what is...

Manchester: It's understandable.

[Crosstalk]

Gilroy: ...apologize.

Brown: It's pretty frustrating. And I'm reassuring, and I'm sure she'll move on from it, but it's been a tough week in our house.

And then, I have friends and I had family from my previous place of employment that were there, and now everybody's been pretty worried about me here now, and it's like my mom said, "I used to worry about you in Lewis County" -- she was there, too, and she says, "Now, I'm more worried about you at Evergreen." I said, you know, I don't --

I think that -- I hope that things are peaceful and that things don't escalate, but that was just kind of a -- to have the swearing and all of the things that were happening in front of my kids, that was tough.

Manchester: Yeah.

Gilroy: Do you feel like the climate is different in general at Evergreen, or if it's just a certain group of students? Because you did go here before, did you see anything -- you're saying that didn't imagine that came from Evergreen, so I'm assuming you never saw anything like that?

Brown: I didn't see anything like that when I went here.

Gilroy: Okay.

Brown: No, I mean, heated discussions, for sure. But they were always civil, you know what I mean? Like I remember in some of our classes people would go back and forth, and it would get heated, but it wasn't to the point where anybody felt unsafe.

Gilroy: Um-hum.

Manchester: Um-hum.

Gilroy: Moving would. I know [inaudible 45:07] curious just in general when it comes to the police on campus, what do you feel like your role is when it comes to protests in general? And obviously, not all of them...

Manchester: Are like that.

Gilroy: Not all of them are like that and not all of them have anything to do with...

Manchester: We had the walk-out after the election.

Brown: Yeah, I was here for that.

Manchester: And that was very civil. People were emotional, but every civil.

Brown: Sure. Yeah. Yeah. I think that we need people who will stand up and try to make change in the world. And again, I took an oath to uphold that right, that right to free speech, and I will defend it. Whether it's something I agree with or not, that's not the point. My job is to protect it. And I always will do that.

So, a lot of great work has been done in this country through protest. And a lot of great work has been done through peaceful protest.

Gilroy: Um-hum. Okay. Earlier when you were talking about guns and you were talking about bringing in outside policing organizations that maybe wouldn't understand the campus, I know that that's a major concern for students on the campus. Are you [inaudible 46:23] more of a concern than having any police on campus is having -- specifically, I've heard that the major complaint from people who are not -- who don't feel super comfortable around police, for a variety of reasons, but that don't feel super uncomfortable around Evergreen police.

Manchester: Yeah. They more fearful of OPD.

Gilroy: Well, specifically, have their biggest complain about Evergreen Police has been that they -- at the smallest sign of real conflict have, in the past, called OPD. And that has been a real concern. And so, I'm curious what your feeling is? Like when you feel it's necessary to bring in outside...

Brown: That's an excellent question and it's one that we've been pondering a lot. So, again, I'm going to go back to it is peaceful until it's not, and then it's too late.

Gilroy: Yeah.

Brown: So, when you don't plan for an event and you don't plan for things to escalate and then they do, that's when use of force can happen. Because what happens is, if it's me and another

officer on, which is usually the case around here, and a group of 20 people assemble and it's peaceful until it gets heated, and then, somebody gets assaulted. Now, it's two against -- and this happens often, when an officer goes in to break something up, now the crowd often will turn on the police officers. And now, it's two against 18 or 20. And that's how an officer gets clocked in the back of the head, or somebody gets hurt, because you can't -- you're outnumbered. And that's how use of force typically happens, when you're not prepared to deal with masses.

That's why you see Seattle PD, New York PD, LAPD, you know, OPD, taking that -- they call it a skirmish line. And they basically let them protest peacefully, but they hold that line so that if things do get out of control, people aren't getting hurt and use of force isn't happening. That's why you will see -- if they're saying disburse and you don't disburse, you'll see them using other techniques, where if it was just one officer and that was happening, you're going to see a taser or shots fired. You just don't know. Because when it's that crowd against one officer, that's how those things happen.

So, it's a really hard balance as a college, right? Because it's, do you bring people in and make sure that it's going to be safe and that there's enough people to cover it? Or do you have one or two officers on standby and if things go sideways, then somebody gets assaulted, and then the crowd's dealing with that because you're not going to send an officer into that situation where, then, now, the officer is going to be hurt and anybody else in the crowd that chooses to engage in that.

And sometimes, that crowd mentality, you can have people that are there to be peaceful, but sometimes something happens and then there's that crowd mentality that changes. And there's also studies on that, too. And then, some bad choices are made. And then, that action causes our reaction.

It's a super hard question and I wish I had an answer to it. The campus policing is different in that aspect because a regular police department or the sheriff's office is going to show up with enough people to take care of the problem right from the get go.

Gilroy: Yeah.

Brown: Does that answer your question?

Gilroy: Yeah. It does. A conversation in process and it kind of always needs to be in process. It's a complicated question with a lot of dimensions, and a real fear for your own personal safety, as well as the personal safety of...

Brown: Yeah. I've heard a lot of people say, "Well, you shouldn't be a cop if you're scared." Well, first off, I think there's a difference. I think maybe it puts us, you know, [inaudible 50:06] has got a level of courage [inaudible] or they would not do it. Period. But, I think it's reasonable for an officer to want to go home safe to their family, too.

Gilroy: Yeah. I know alongside that, but kind of a little bit broader, there have been some issues in the past with Evergreen Police and privacy concerns of students relating to, I think, at least [inaudible 50:33] federal agencies. I couldn't give you all the details in a very concise manner.

Brown: I've heard rumors about this before I started here, actually. And I don't know that anything has ever been founded on it because I did ask about it. I can tell you that there are a lot of people that would like to have more cameras up around campus for vehicle prowls and that kind of stuff.

We would, for a safety aspect of things. But I think that the college has really good balance of respecting privacy and then trying to have a safety aspect.

Of course, as police officers, we'd like to see more cameras because it would help us with our job in, if we have a vehicle prowl, being able to see the suspect right there and being able to catch that. Or seeing it in action and then sending an officer out there. But there's a balance, right? And so, that's the hard part of that. And that's not just at Evergreen, that's everywhere.

Gilroy: Is some sort of video surveillance program something that you're interested in pursuing?

Brown: That would have to be a collective decision by the college.

Manchester: Um-hum.

Gilroy: Okay. I guess, alongside that, because you said that you heard about issues with Cops and Donuts, is that something that people are reporting those sort of thing to you? Or is part of what you do as campus police is looking for those things like on Facebook and...

Brown: Both.

Gilroy: Okay. Obviously, part of what I was interested in with you coming in and with the old chief of police leaving, is it always sort of feels like it's this rejuvenation, especially coming in an era where, you know, a lot of...

Manchester: The times are changing.

Gilroy: ...organizations are not as tech savvy, and you're bringing in newer people who are -- you were saying that Lewis County is very stuck in their ways. I don't know exactly what ways that you're talking about. But I assume that means a number of things, and I'm wondering if you're -- part of what you're interested in pursuing is that sort of movement towards maybe more tech-savvy policing?

Brown: Well, it's funny, because a lot of people think that there's all these resources and all these gadgets that you see on *C.I.S.* employees and you can go fingerprint a rock or...

Gilroy: Yeah.

[Laughter]

Brown: ...fingerprint feces in the toilet of a burglar. No, seriously. I do presentations and I used to do that in Lewis County, and people would be like, "Well, why didn't you do this? Or why didn't you do that?" Or, "Why didn't you shoot him in the leg?" And a lot of those things come from Hollywood, and they're misperceptions.

And so, we don't have -- you know, when you watch *The Black List*, you don't see all these things popping up on your screen. We don't have that. But we have basic functions like, you know, looking for Facebook. And then, we do have a lot of supporters and people do tell us if something's brewing because they're concerned about the safety of the campus. But, I think it's important that we stay on top of things. And so, if we have the capabilities, then, yeah, we use them.

Gilroy: What are you looking for, like looking to change or renovate or -- do you have any programs in particular that you're interested in pursuing?

Brown: So, this is my fourth month, so I'm still trying to assess what needs to happen. We've had some turnover in our police department.

Gilroy: Um-hum.

Manchester: Um-hum.

Brown: We're hiring and I'm kind of reorganizing the department right now. And so, that's been a lot of my focus, is internally on that. But then, also, trying to balance getting out in the community. I'm hoping that things will settle down a little bit so that I can start focusing and actually getting a strategic plan together for some of those things. And then, again, asking the public, "What do you want to see from us? What do expect from your police department?"

Another thing that I'm implementing right now that I'm hoping to roll out here in the next couple of weeks is new leadership framework. A lot of police departments are ran by command and control, which means, "Don't do this, do do this," militant. I want our police department to be a value-based, mission-based police department, which means, I'm hiring people that have those core values already because you can teach anybody how to hold a taser or how to take a report. But you cannot teach people core values at this point. So, I would rather have somebody who has integrity and is respectful to everybody and understands diversity, than have somebody that comes in and has -- you know, huge and can swing a baton. So, that's what I'm looking for.

I need more talker -- people who can talk and relate to people. And then, also, making sure that everybody that works in this police department understands the customer service aspect, including the dispatchers and everybody, and then, who are abiding by those core values, and the code of ethics.

And so, that's all part of what I'm doing right now so everything's standardized and everybody has a very clear expectation of what our role is in this community.

Manchester: I was wondering if you could talk about a history of use of force on campus?

Brown: I don't know enough about it yet.

Manchester: Okay. Because I don't, either.

Brown: I just don't. I know that...

Manchester: I know I haven't heard of happening very often.

Brown: Yeah. The officers are extremely patient. They are taught to deescalate and disengage if we know who the student is and something's escalating -- if it's safe for that person, for us, and for the community.

Again, these officers are incredibly patient. They're very professional and do a really good job of working with students. And also, with the people on campus who have mental health issues that come from outside that aren't students --

Manchester: Are you talking about [inaudible 56:45].

Brown: Wow, that was impressive.

Manchester: We talked about it a lot at the paper last year, and it just kind of got stuck.

[Crosstalk]

Brown: Yeah. That's awesome. I just sent all of our officers to crisis intervention training, which is mental health, dealing with people who are in crisis with mental health crisis.

Gilroy: Where does that training take place?

Brown: Where?

Gilroy: Yeah?

Brown: It was -- gosh, where was that? It was local because I sent -- it was local, but I can't remember who hosted that.

Gilroy: I guess I'm just -- no, no, no. I'm just curious in general of the police who are at Evergreen are trained -- because my understanding is that it's part of the broader Olympia's kind of thing? Or part of the county? I guess I'm not completely -- I'm saying that and as I'm saying it, I don't think it's right. But I'm curious if the training that they go through is the same, or how training works --

Goodman: CIT Training is required by Criminal Justice Training Commission. It's not a mandate yet, but it's going that way, so a lot of agencies -- and a lot of agencies were already going to that because we realized the value in it.

And so, in answer to your question, there's a lot of training that's out there that's required or mandated by the state. And then, there's a lot that's done by agencies that are accredited. And then, there's a lot that's just offered because it's best practice or industry standards. But each officer has to have a minimum of 24 hours of training per year to continue to be a commissioned officer. But most agencies go above that because there's a lot of value in having trained, educated officer, obviously.

Gilroy: Right. Yeah.

Manchester: Um-hum.

Brown: Yeah. We're actually hosting -- Evergreen is -- hosting implicit and explicit bias training for police. And there's a bunch of other agencies that are coming to that training, but we're hosting that. That's happening in March. So, that will be really good.

Gilroy: That sounds interesting. I think that's it. I crowd-sourced questions, as well.

Manchester: Yeah, I did, too.

Gilroy: I had questions and then I asked around.

Brown: No, that's good. No, I like that because -- and please don't ever hesitate, if you guys hear something is going on, I am very open. Being the public information officer for Lewis County, I know that the more information you get to people, the less fact -- the making-up and rumors are. And I always give you a straight answer, even if it makes us look bad, because if you hide that, it's going to make it worse. If we screw up, you're going to hear me say, "We screwed up; we're going to do better."

Manchester: And we, in the journalism community, appreciate that.

Brown: Yeah. I'm not going to try to hide it.

Gilroy: Though, it does make it a little bit more fun, honestly.

Manchester: It actually does.

Brown: Well, it does. Because you get to dig and get to be an investigative journalist, right?

Manchester: We don't get to do that that much, but still pretty fun.

Brown: That's kind of funny that you said that because the last journalist that was at *The Chronicle* said, "You take all the fire out," because I'll call and I said, "We had a deputy get a DUI last night. Let's just get it out there right now." I mean, it was -- and that deputy ended up getting fired, and we moved on.

Gilroy: That could have been so much more fun for that journalist.

Manchester: Yeah.

Brown: It could have. And that's why she said, "Thanks a lot." I mean, it's kind of joking, but yeah.

Manchester: Yeah.

Brown: You're not ever going to get me hiding anything.

Gilroy: I do actually have some more questions. They're not on my sheet, but I'm definitely curious about the Green Dot program and what the Evergreen Police involvement is with that program.

Brown: So, I'm still learning what our involvement is in that. That is really ran by Kelly Schrader, so she would be better to ask about that.

We don't have a ton of people that report things to us. It usually comes in a round-about way like through an RA or something because -- for whatever reason. Well, I'll tell why. I know. Young adults don't like being known as snitches.

Gilroy: Yeah.

Manchester: Yeah.

Brown: So, they're going to talk to an RA or somebody they have a relationship with and let that person --

Manchester: Yeah. And I know some people have done the anonymous reports.

[Off topic from 1:00:58 to 1:01:45]

Gilroy: I guess the only other question I have, and this is also a little bit of a Kelly Schrader question. But, I am interested in the accessibility of crime statistics for campus?

Manchester: Yeah.

Gilroy: Because I've noticed -- and part of this is probably an issue with reporting, obviously.

Manchester: And the Bias Instant Response Team emails, also, I think skew it in the public perception.

Gilroy: Yeah, no. I'm not talking about -- I'm talking specifically like there's specifically there's statistics on the website, I think it's the --

Brown: Clery, the Clery Act?

Gilroy: Yeah. The Clery Act that talk about incidents and I -- I don't know if I -- I'm kind of interested about your feelings about --

Brown: So, what I would like to do is I would like to do like I did in Lewis County. Every day I used to give a news brief -- not like a formal. But I would record it and I would say, "This is what happened the night before," and then they would call in...

Gilroy: We'd like that.

Manchester: We would love that.

Brown: I would love that. But see, I'm not the PLO here. It's Todd Sprague. So.

Manchester: He's my boss.

Brown: Yeah. So, I have to -- these are all things that are percolating in the back of my mind, but I have so many things to do internally that I'm kind of --

Manchester: We'd love be able to print police repots. In my home town, they're hilarious. And I make my mom send me picture of them because they're so funny.

Brown: Oh [inaudible 1:03:00] good.

Gilroy: My friend's really disappointed. She used to live in Spokane and you could read it in the paper every morning.

Brown: Yeah.

Manchester: Yeah.

Gilroy: And OPD doesn't really do it, either.

Brown: No. I think that's [crosstalk] it helps the community know what's going on. But also, you have a couple factors going on here, right? I don't know that people want -- some students are very reactionary. So, for example, when this incident happened with this young man that had assaulted the female in the woods back in October. Somebody took that information --

Manchester: I think it was November.

Brown: November, maybe. Yeah. Somebody took that information and they made it into this big huge -- and I'm not saying what happened wasn't bad. They totally twisted it and took all these things, and ran with it.

Manchester: They also got the location wrong.

Brown: Wrong. Exactly.

Manchester: Because they said the Shrine and then said that was over there, but the Shrine isn't...

Brown: Right. So, that's the problem when you put that information out, that the reactionary students are going to be like, "Well, why aren't you doing anything?" And you know, that's one thing I heard the other day. Is, "Why do we have police here? They don't do anything. They didn't stop that rape."

And I'm like... Okay. So, then, there's that fine line. There's one or two of us. We can't handle all 1,000 acres, and we don't have cameras, and we aren't everywhere. So, there's some people that I don't know if they could handle that information in a way that would suit the community. But, I would like to put it out there because I think it does two things. I think it tells people what's going on in the community, and I think it tells people what we're doing to protect people.

Gilroy: [There's 1:04:32] also it is more alarming when once a year, twice a year, three times a year there's just something on all the windows that have the police report.

Manchester: Yeah.

Brown: Yeah.

Manchester: That's super freaky.

Brown: I just got a new office assistant yesterday, because there was never an office assistant here, I don't know how they did it. And that's part of the thing, too, is I feel like there's a lot of data that we should be tracking and a lot of things that we should be tracking. In three to five years, I would love for us to be an accredited agency, which means a lot. I mean, it's a big deal. You really have to do a lot of things right for the community and for your department, for your officers, for everybody. And it's a lot of work. But down the road, I'd like to do that. I helped Lewis County become accredited.

And that's one of those things, is being transparent to the community because if you hold it like this and then somebody finds out about it, they're like, "Well, what was the big deal? Why didn't you just tell us about it?"

But then you also have to realize, you know, your audience has to be discerning, as well, because if you take that and manipulate that information or -- I don't know. I don't know if I'm making sense. I don't know.

Manchester: Yeah.

Gilroy: No, yeah.

Manchester: I feel like doing a police log would be interesting to add in. I really love police logs.

Brown: Yeah. And we're getting a new report exec system, which will have a way of doing a log with a synopsis. So, maybe that's something. I can talk to --

Manchester: Yeah, that's what we had in my hometown. And so, you would get entries like --

Goodman: [Inaudible 1:06:00] the names and all that. But maybe I could talk to Todd and Wendy about that being a possibility of something going to you guys down the road. Because why wouldn't we tell our community what's going on?

Gilroy: Yeah.

Manchester: I would have to do that. I'm the PR assistant as well, and so, that would just be more of my job.

Brown: There you go. Well, the system that we're trying to get in place is -- the report would come out and it would be -- I think it could be emailed to whoever every day at the same time and that kind of stuff. So, yeah.

Gilroy: It could be a newsletter. People could sign up.

Brown: Yeah, that, too. I just actually --

[Crosstalk]

Brown: I just actually sent out a message -- did you guys see that?

Gilroy: No, not yet. I haven't checked my email.

Manchester: Yeah.

Brown: A My Emma. I just sent one out in newsletter...

Manchester: Oh, yeah. My Emma is a really nice piece of software.

Brown: It really is. The sending it out is kind of complicated.

Manchester: Yeah. I send out the Google Doc student calendar emails.

Brown: But you'll see in your emails, I just sent one out that showed -- it recaps all the things we've done in the last four months. And there's a letter from me in there to the community. That just came out. So.

Gilroy: Awesome.

Manchester: Awesome.

Gilroy: Well, then, I'll look at that.

Manchester: Yes.

Brown: Well, thank you guys for coming and talking me. And please don't be afraid to come and ask me the hard questions because even though I may not have a popular answer, I will always get -- I wear my heart on my sleeve. What you see is what you get. I don't have a hidden agenda.

Gilroy: Yeah, it was great to talk to you.

Manchester: Yeah. You've been very helpful.

Gilroy: I'm sure I will get to speak to you again.

Manchester: Oh, yes.

CPJ Interview about Safer Steps

Brown: It's kind of a unique situation here because I think that -- like in my old job, I [inaudible 1:07:38] before you do that. So, yeah. I'm still trying to figure out all the different nuances here. But I'm so glad to be here.

You see what I got from some students today?

Gilroy: Oh, that's lovely.

Brown: I know. I was glad.

Gilroy: That's a cute sticker.

Brown: I was happy about that because like when things like that happen [inaudible 1:08:00] and that kind of helps you feel energized.

Gilroy: Yeah.

Brown: Yeah. Thank you very much. I'll walk you guys out. Thank you.

Gilroy: Here, I'll grab the...

[Off topic from 1:08:19 to 1:09:15]