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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,840

This episode is sponsored by a company I've used for well over a decade and that is 511.

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00:00:05,840 --> 00:00:11,120

I wore their uniforms back in Anaheim, California and have used their products ever since.

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00:00:11,120 --> 00:00:17,440

From their incredibly strong yet light footwear to their cut uniforms for both male and female

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00:00:17,440 --> 00:00:23,520

responders, I found them hands down the best workwear in all the departments that I've worked for.

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00:00:23,520 --> 00:00:28,480

Outside of the fire service, I use their luggage for everything and I travel a lot and they are

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00:00:28,480 --> 00:00:35,280

also now sponsoring the 7X team as we embark around the world on the Human Performance Project.

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00:00:35,280 --> 00:00:40,720

We have Murph coming up in May and again I bought their plate carrier. I ended up buying real

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00:00:40,720 --> 00:00:45,760

ballistic plates rather than the fake weight plates and that has been my ride or die through

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00:00:45,760 --> 00:00:50,640

Murph the last few years as well. But one area I want to talk about that I haven't in previous

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00:00:50,640 --> 00:00:55,760

sponsorship spots is their brick and mortar element. They were predominantly an online

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00:00:55,760 --> 00:01:00,960

company up till more recently but now they are approaching 100 stores all over the US.

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00:01:01,520 --> 00:01:07,040

My local store is here in Gainesville Florida and I've been multiple times and the discounts you see

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00:01:07,040 --> 00:01:14,640

online are applied also in the stores. So as I mentioned 511 is offering you 15% off every

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00:01:14,640 --> 00:01:20,640

purchase that you make but I do want to say more often than not they have an even deeper discount

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00:01:20,640 --> 00:01:31,760

especially around holiday times. But if you use the code SHIELD15 you will get 15% off your order

16

00:01:31,760 --> 00:01:37,840

or in the stores every time you make a purchase. And if you want to hear more about 511, who they

17

00:01:37,840 --> 00:01:44,000

stand for and who works with them, listen to episode 580 of Behind the Shield podcast with

18

00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:51,520

511 regional director Will Ayres. This episode is brought to you by Thorne the industry leader in

19

00:01:51,520 --> 00:01:58,080

nutritional solutions. Now Thorne is actually trusted by eight US national teams and championship

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00:01:58,080 --> 00:02:04,160

teams in the NFL, NBA and Major League as well as recently becoming the official sports performance

21

00:02:04,160 --> 00:02:11,760

nutrition partner of the UFC. So when it comes to supplements the tactical athlete space and the

22

00:02:11,760 --> 00:02:17,280

athletic space need two things. We need efficacy meaning the products do what they say they're

23

00:02:17,280 --> 00:02:21,440

going to do on the label and then we need to trust the fact that we are not going to fail either

24

00:02:21,440 --> 00:02:27,520

athletic drug tests or work related drug tests. Now Thorne has actually been around since the 1980s

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00:02:27,520 --> 00:02:32,480

where they were used by physicians and hospitals for nutritional supplements for the patients.

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00:02:33,120 --> 00:02:38,480

They were so successful that athletic teams and even special operations teams reached out to them

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00:02:38,480 --> 00:02:43,280

and they started supplying them as well. Very recently they actually opened their doors to the

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00:02:43,280 --> 00:02:48,240

general public. Now what sets Thorne apart is they manufacture their own products in a state of the

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00:02:48,240 --> 00:02:54,320

art NSF certified facility in South Carolina. They use only the purest possible ingredients

30

00:02:54,320 --> 00:03:00,480

formulated with no stearates or arbitrary fillers in the cleanest manufacturing process. Most of

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00:03:00,480 --> 00:03:05,040

you listening come from a profession where it can take its toll physically and mentally and many of

32

00:03:05,040 --> 00:03:10,560

us are not able to bolster our nutrition purely with the food that we eat and that's where

33

00:03:10,560 --> 00:03:15,680

supplementation comes in. So if you're ready to maximize your health and performance visit

34

00:03:15,680 --> 00:03:23,040

thorne.com take a short product quiz to be paired up with the perfect health and fitness

35

00:03:23,040 --> 00:03:31,920

supplements and for you the audience if you use the code BTS10 behind the shield 10 BTS10 you will

36

00:03:31,920 --> 00:03:38,720

get 10% off your first order and if you want to learn even more about Thorne go to episode 323 of

37

00:03:38,720 --> 00:03:44,640

behind the shield podcast and you will hear my interview with Wes Barnett and Joel Totoro from

38

00:03:44,640 --> 00:03:49,760

Thorne. Welcome to the behind the shield podcast as always my name is James Gearing and this week

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00:03:49,760 --> 00:03:56,480

it is my absolute honor to welcome on the show veteran law enforcement officer John Womack. Now

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00:03:56,480 --> 00:04:02,880

what makes this conversation so powerful is at the age of seven John was a victim to drunk driving

41

00:04:02,880 --> 00:04:09,360

after his mother's boyfriend wrecked the car and John was ejected. After a long mental and physical

42

00:04:09,360 --> 00:04:16,640

recovery he ultimately became a police officer and in 2016 was assigned as a sergeant over DUI.

43

00:04:17,280 --> 00:04:22,560

So we discuss a host of topics from the millions of accidents on American roads,

44

00:04:22,560 --> 00:04:29,920

some proactive solutions to reduce the number of injuries and deaths, alcohol, cell phone distractions

45

00:04:30,400 --> 00:04:36,720

and his work with the non-profit Mothers Against Drink Driving Walk Like Mad. Now before we get to

46

00:04:36,720 --> 00:04:42,080

this incredible conversation as I say every week please just take a moment go to whichever app you

47

00:04:42,080 --> 00:04:48,640

listen to this on subscribe to the show leave feedback and leave a rating. Every single five

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00:04:48,640 --> 00:04:54,080

star rating truly does elevate this podcast therefore making it easier for others to find

49

00:04:54,080 --> 00:05:02,640

and this is a free library of over 900 episodes now so all I ask in return is that you help share

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00:05:02,640 --> 00:05:08,880

these incredible men and women stories so I can get them to every single person on planet earth

51

00:05:08,880 --> 00:05:20,240

who needs to hear them. So with that being said I introduce to you John Womack enjoy.

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00:05:20,240 --> 00:05:29,600

So

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00:05:36,480 --> 00:05:41,360

well John I want to say thank you so much for taking the time and coming on the Behind the Shield

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00:05:41,360 --> 00:05:47,200

podcast today. I know that you have not only a passion when it comes to road safety when you're

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00:05:47,200 --> 00:05:51,360

wearing uniform but obviously there's an origin excuse me an origin story when it comes to that

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00:05:51,360 --> 00:05:55,840

as well so I want to begin just by welcoming you to the show. Thank you very much for even having me.

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00:05:57,200 --> 00:06:03,680

So where on planet earth are we finding you this afternoon? I'm currently in Land O' Lakes Florida

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00:06:03,680 --> 00:06:14,400

is where I've been for the last 23 years and the last two of it of my retirement. I retired in

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00:06:14,400 --> 00:06:20,080

March of 2022. All right well I want to start the very beginning of your timeline as I said before

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00:06:20,080 --> 00:06:24,560

is obviously it's very pertinent so where were you born and tell me a little bit about your family

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00:06:24,560 --> 00:06:33,600

dynamic what your parents did how many siblings? I was born in Tampa Florida pretty much lived here

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00:06:33,600 --> 00:06:41,040

my entire life in Tampa till I met my wife and then we moved up here in Land O' Lakes did a

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00:06:41,040 --> 00:06:51,760

little time in Brandon but I was born in 1970 just to my mom my mom was a single parent she my dad

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00:06:51,760 --> 00:06:56,160

was never in the picture still is not in the picture I met him but still not in the picture

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00:06:57,920 --> 00:07:06,000

we went to she was a I guess like in a I don't know what her current title maybe an accountant or

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00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:13,680

some type of purchasing and money type thing for a it was called Tampa Independent Dairy Farmers

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00:07:13,680 --> 00:07:21,920

Association is where she worked that I can remember my entire life but we grew up in

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00:07:21,920 --> 00:07:29,360

Templetares for the most part is where I grew up and she dated a guy I don't remember exactly when

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00:07:29,360 --> 00:07:39,120

but I can remember at least when I was seven he was around he was an alcoholic so from that point

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00:07:39,120 --> 00:07:47,280

he was around for that I can remember I don't know how long before seven but at least till probably

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00:07:47,280 --> 00:07:56,000

12 so at least five years in my life but other than that I just had a few uncles I got no siblings

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00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:04,320

I'm an only child that were in in the picture. Well let's start around the age seven then because

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00:08:04,320 --> 00:08:08,240

I know that was a very pivotal point in your life and most of us can't remember too much prior to

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00:08:08,240 --> 00:08:13,600

that age anyway so walk me through you know the events that happened when you were a seven-year-old

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00:08:13,600 --> 00:08:22,640

boy and what how alcohol contributed to your near-death. Okay so like I explained my the guy my mom

76

00:08:22,640 --> 00:08:30,800

dated was a an alcoholic so I don't ever remember a time where he was not impaired at least the

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00:08:30,800 --> 00:08:36,640

majority of the time I don't think I ever saw him where he had not been drinking but I know as far

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00:08:36,640 --> 00:08:44,800

as going anywhere that it wasn't just it was not a big thing back then you know in the in the 70s

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00:08:44,800 --> 00:08:52,720

it DUI penalties were not there they didn't really I don't know it I want to almost say like they

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00:08:52,720 --> 00:08:59,520

didn't really care about it so as much it was like a victimless crime as long as you didn't hit or

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00:08:59,520 --> 00:09:07,520

kill anybody which we all know that that could that could end up happening at any point. So

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00:09:07,520 --> 00:09:17,760

I turned seven in December of 77 and then in January it was January 6th of 1978 is when

83

00:09:18,560 --> 00:09:26,080

my mom her boyfriend and I were all on our way to a family gathering I don't even know if it was

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00:09:26,080 --> 00:09:32,320

a really our family it was kind of like his friends and some of his family but mainly his side of the

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00:09:32,320 --> 00:09:38,480

the picture was where we were headed out in the Turkey Creek area I don't know if you're familiar

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00:09:38,480 --> 00:09:44,800

with that so if you're going out towards Brandon on Highway 60 you would go out going towards Bartow

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00:09:45,600 --> 00:09:50,080

and in between like Brandon and Bartow there's like a little area that's called Turkey Creek

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00:09:50,080 --> 00:09:57,840

and Antioch so it was out in that area so we were traveling down Highway 60 going east

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00:09:57,840 --> 00:10:02,400

and at he had already you know partaken in some alcoholic beverage beforehand

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00:10:02,960 --> 00:10:09,600

and you know and what we preach nowadays is you know especially teaching kids now we always would

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00:10:09,600 --> 00:10:15,200

say hey you've got a voice you know if you see your parents drinking too much at dinner or at a

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00:10:15,200 --> 00:10:20,960

friend's house or wherever you are you can speak up and say hey listen I don't I think you've I

93

00:10:20,960 --> 00:10:25,200

don't want to ride with you because I think you've had too much to drink and you know you know

94

00:10:25,200 --> 00:10:28,880

I don't want to ride with you because I think you've had too much to drink back then you just

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00:10:28,880 --> 00:10:34,960

didn't say that you got in the vehicle and you did what you were told the truck we had was a 68 GMC

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00:10:34,960 --> 00:10:41,920

step side pickup truck no seat belts it wasn't a law back then so I don't think I never wore seat

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00:10:41,920 --> 00:10:52,080

belts to be honest with you until oh man till I probably started driving my senior year of high

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00:10:52,080 --> 00:10:57,440

school I don't think I ever wore a seat belt so we're on our way out there not wearing a seat belt

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00:10:57,440 --> 00:11:03,280

I'm sitting on the passenger side my mom's in the middle and he's driving and we're at a point

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00:11:03,280 --> 00:11:10,800

where we're gonna make a northbound turn making a left from 60 onto Turkey Creek Road I guess he

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00:11:10,800 --> 00:11:17,920

felt like he had enough room he made the decision to go and he did not so he violated the right away

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00:11:17,920 --> 00:11:27,520

of a single vehicle and they basically t-boned us kind of like at the crease of the door in the

103

00:11:27,520 --> 00:11:35,520

fender of the passenger side which immediately made that door open so not being seat belted in

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00:11:35,520 --> 00:11:43,120

I was ejected somehow I don't know I don't remember any of that I just kind of remember sitting in the

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00:11:43,120 --> 00:11:52,480

middle of the intersection and then I don't remember anything after that until I guess I came to or

106

00:11:52,480 --> 00:11:58,160

somehow they got me to I was talking I remember talking under the vehicle and then it was actually

107

00:11:58,160 --> 00:12:02,960

my mom's boyfriend telling me that everything was going to be all right I was under a vehicle pinned

108

00:12:03,840 --> 00:12:10,800

and they were working to get me out so what was weird about that whole thing is I don't remember

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00:12:10,800 --> 00:12:20,240

how or why but my shoes my shorts my shirt everything was off of me somehow during that crash

110

00:12:20,240 --> 00:12:29,360

shredded the only thing that I had on was just my underwear socks everything was shredded so while

111

00:12:29,360 --> 00:12:37,520

that the vehicle I was pinned under it I guess the battery had cracked so it became where it was

112

00:12:37,520 --> 00:12:46,160

leaking quite a bit I ended up getting you can see here I got a scar that pretty much takes up

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00:12:46,160 --> 00:12:52,480

the entire right side of my face that's all from the battery acid I got a little scar on my elbow

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00:12:52,480 --> 00:12:58,480

and a few spots on my back which is kind of weird because it's nowhere else you know so I don't know

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00:12:58,480 --> 00:13:02,960

if it had gotten on the ground and where I was laying it was concentrated in the area or whatever

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00:13:02,960 --> 00:13:10,640

but all I can remember I remember waking up talking and I was calm and you know looking back on it now

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00:13:10,640 --> 00:13:15,920

from from my perspective now as a Christian I know that it was God that kept my eyes closed

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00:13:16,720 --> 00:13:22,640

because right at the top of my eye I don't know if you can see it but the scar comes like right

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00:13:22,640 --> 00:13:27,840

down by the edge of my eye and if I would have opened my eyes for any reason I would have probably

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00:13:27,840 --> 00:13:32,880

been blind in one eye which would have taken me to a higher level of my life and I would have

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00:13:32,880 --> 00:13:37,440

a whole different career path or what you know who knows what would have happened at that point

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00:13:40,560 --> 00:13:47,040

so I don't remember anything after that I remember at some point they did get me out

123

00:13:47,600 --> 00:13:54,400

and I was in an ambulance I remember being in the ambulance and all I can remember was you know like

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00:13:54,400 --> 00:14:02,320

a sizzling like burning and what I the analogy I use is if you've ever cooked bacon and you hear

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00:14:02,320 --> 00:14:08,560

that sizzling in the pop of the bacon grease popping that's what it felt like and that's what

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00:14:08,560 --> 00:14:14,080

it reminded me of when I was driving and out in the EMT or the paramedic that was in the back of

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00:14:14,080 --> 00:14:21,120

the ambulance I remember him spraying water or some kind of liquid in a bottle spraying it on

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00:14:21,120 --> 00:14:29,760

my face I guess trying to cool it off so I don't remember anything after that point until

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00:14:29,760 --> 00:14:37,440

probably several days later when I woke up in the hospital room with you know bandages and dressings

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00:14:37,440 --> 00:14:43,360

and stuff like that to after they've already had done several surgeries I don't and so that probably

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00:14:43,360 --> 00:14:51,360

would have been like maybe four or five days later and then I ended up spending probably about two

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00:14:51,360 --> 00:15:00,880

months in a hospital started out at TGH and back then TGH wasn't as good as a hospital as they are

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00:15:00,880 --> 00:15:08,000

right as they are today so my mom actually had me transferred to university community which is now

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00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:15,040

Advent Health so I did that for two months going in and out of surgeries trying to basically I

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00:15:15,040 --> 00:15:21,440

guess smooth the scar and get it as best under control as they could you know being that it was

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00:15:21,440 --> 00:15:28,800

only seven didn't go to school I basically had tutoring and stuff like that while I was in the

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00:15:28,800 --> 00:15:37,360

hospital and then I yeah I think it was about after two months I don't remember exactly how

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00:15:37,360 --> 00:15:43,680

long I had been out of the hospital but I eventually went back to school and after that

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00:15:43,680 --> 00:15:50,000

I went back to college and as you can you know and I don't know what what age group you're in but

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00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:54,960

it's pretty much been the same as long as I can remember when kids you know how kids are and how

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00:15:54,960 --> 00:16:01,680

ruthless they are when it comes to any type of ailment or something they see wrong with somebody

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00:16:01,680 --> 00:16:10,640

how they immediately start picking on it or or use as an excuse to bully kids around so as a part

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00:16:10,640 --> 00:16:19,760

of the surgery being out of the hospital and trying to prepare for later surgeries down the road the

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00:16:19,760 --> 00:16:27,520

doctor told my mother that I was going to have to wear a mask so of course it wasn't a cool mask

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00:16:27,520 --> 00:16:32,560

you know it's a flesh tone basically a mask that you would see I don't even know if they do it now

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00:16:32,560 --> 00:16:37,920

it's still in the in the wrestling world the wwe I don't I don't watch it so I don't know if they

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00:16:37,920 --> 00:16:42,000

do it but back in the day they used to do that and they would cover themselves up with a nice

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00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:48,960

flashy mask so but unfortunately mine wasn't flashy so I had to wear this thing to try to

149

00:16:48,960 --> 00:16:55,920

smooth out the skin as best as possible so that it would make it easier for them to do surgeries

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00:16:55,920 --> 00:17:05,280

down the road so I started out doing that and you can imagine what kids would say and and and just

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00:17:05,280 --> 00:17:10,800

the bullying that started and just all kinds of different things like that as a second grader you

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00:17:10,800 --> 00:17:18,880

know so my only recourse back then was I mean it hurt my feelings when you know you got called names

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00:17:18,880 --> 00:17:26,960

or or picked on or anything like that so I became an angry kid I mean it was it was pretty bad

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00:17:26,960 --> 00:17:33,840

short-tempered and just angry and ready to fight over any little thing that you that somebody would

155

00:17:33,840 --> 00:17:41,040

say or anything particular to my face or scars or anything like that so I don't remember exactly

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00:17:41,040 --> 00:17:50,560

how long I wore the mask um but eventually I was like I just told my mom I said you know I'm taking

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00:17:50,560 --> 00:17:59,360

too much at school with these kids and I said I just can't wear the mask anymore so I ended up

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00:17:59,360 --> 00:18:05,520

taking it off and not wearing it but obviously that didn't do any good because now the scar is

159

00:18:05,520 --> 00:18:12,560

exposed so as a go back to school thinking everything's gonna be all right I'm the same kid

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00:18:12,560 --> 00:18:19,200

but now you can see who I am um unfortunately it was not that way the bullying continued but now

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00:18:19,200 --> 00:18:24,800

they've got a name to associate you know the mask was no big deal but now they can see that I have

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00:18:24,800 --> 00:18:32,560

a scar so everybody started or not everybody but the kids that were the bully type kids were

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00:18:33,200 --> 00:18:39,600

you know scar face was the name that I got called so that just made it even kind of worse and getting

164

00:18:39,600 --> 00:18:46,400

into trouble and I tried to do the best I could um unfortunately it didn't work out as well as I'd

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00:18:46,400 --> 00:18:54,720

liked it had worked out but um so fast forward in and out of the you know the second third fourth grade

166

00:18:55,520 --> 00:19:00,640

when I finally made it to fifth grade my my aunt had a lady that lived across the street

167

00:19:01,360 --> 00:19:08,960

that she was really good friends with and she had known me since I you know since I was a baby so

168

00:19:08,960 --> 00:19:16,800

she was a teacher at the school and this is where it kind of turned around my uh my thinking about

169

00:19:16,800 --> 00:19:24,320

the whole having the scar I was on the lunch room got my food I was walking to my table and the the

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00:19:24,320 --> 00:19:30,240

same it was usually one the one or two kids but it was the same kid that I had a problem with every

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00:19:30,240 --> 00:19:40,800

since the second grade yelled out scar face so I kept walking to my table excuse me I walked put

172

00:19:40,800 --> 00:19:47,360

down my tray and I start heading back to back to his table because him and I are gonna fight well

173

00:19:47,360 --> 00:19:55,040

she saw me so she quickly like intervened and rushed over and like cut me off and pretty much

174

00:19:55,040 --> 00:20:00,000

embarrassed me in front of everybody because she grabbed me by my ear and she was like

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00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:05,440

I'm gonna get you hurt and I'm gonna get you hurt and she was like I'm gonna get you hurt and like

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00:20:05,440 --> 00:20:12,880

lifted me up on my tiptoes and walked me off to the side and she said where are you going I said

177

00:20:12,880 --> 00:20:17,040

well nowhere she's like well it didn't look like nowhere because you would have stayed at your

178

00:20:17,040 --> 00:20:22,080

table and ate your food she goes I know where you're going and you know where you're going and she

179

00:20:22,080 --> 00:20:29,120

goes I want to know why I want to know where you're hurt and where he hurt you to make you go back to

180

00:20:29,120 --> 00:20:36,880

your hurt and I said well I'm I mean I don't know what you mean I mean I'm not hurt he didn't hurt me

181

00:20:37,760 --> 00:20:42,000

she goes oh so you're going back over there because he called you a name

182

00:20:44,320 --> 00:20:47,200

said well yeah she goes listen

183

00:20:49,440 --> 00:20:54,800

you've got to make a choice right now if you keep living your life

184

00:20:54,800 --> 00:21:01,360

wanting to fight everybody that calls you a name you're either going to end up in prison

185

00:21:02,160 --> 00:21:08,320

or you're going to end up dead way before your time and I had never really thought about it

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00:21:08,320 --> 00:21:11,840

like that I mean you know in fifth grade you're a 10 year old

187

00:21:13,360 --> 00:21:17,760

and you don't think about the rest of your life and how it's going to affect you you're living in

188

00:21:17,760 --> 00:21:23,840

that moment and you know that's all you care about is getting ready to fight for your life

189

00:21:23,840 --> 00:21:28,720

is getting revenge on the kid that called you a name so I started thinking about that and I was

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00:21:28,720 --> 00:21:34,240

like wow that's you know that that really kind of does make some sense and it is going to get me

191

00:21:34,240 --> 00:21:41,440

nowhere because it hasn't gotten me anywhere yet so from about that fifth grade point I you know

192

00:21:41,440 --> 00:21:46,480

I'm not going to say I never got into any other trouble from it from fighting or name calling

193

00:21:46,480 --> 00:21:55,840

because the name the name calling continued pretty much I mean shoot even to I haven't heard it lately

194

00:21:55,840 --> 00:22:02,240

but it continued pretty much well into my adulthood adult life listening to you know just

195

00:22:02,240 --> 00:22:06,320

various people you know obviously either you know either ignorant people now this is the way I look

196

00:22:06,320 --> 00:22:13,280

at it but really never had any issues past fifth grade other than maybe a handful

197

00:22:13,280 --> 00:22:17,840

so it was never really a big deal they told me that I couldn't get any more surgeries to get it fixed

198

00:22:18,560 --> 00:22:28,080

until I stopped growing so by the time I stopped growing I was you know in high school probably

199

00:22:28,080 --> 00:22:35,200

close to you know probably a senior by then I and now I've had it for 10 years so it doesn't bother

200

00:22:35,200 --> 00:22:38,800

me it doesn't prevent me from doing anything so I was like yeah I'm not going to worry about it

201

00:22:38,800 --> 00:22:46,960

so kind of started you know living my life going to school and you know did a little bit of college

202

00:22:46,960 --> 00:22:51,760

time then you know really couldn't afford that because my mom was a single mom so I just kind of

203

00:22:51,760 --> 00:22:56,480

started in the workforce and a friend of mine that I went to high school with

204

00:22:59,280 --> 00:23:05,600

basically said um hey man I don't know I'm coming back from the military I need a place to live

205

00:23:05,600 --> 00:23:12,240

I was wondering if you wanted to you know be roommates so we did and somewhere during that

206

00:23:13,120 --> 00:23:18,880

that term in the middle of probably started in 94

207

00:23:20,640 --> 00:23:24,240

nine end of 91 maybe early 92

208

00:23:26,640 --> 00:23:31,120

he said hey I'm doing this thing that Tampa police department's doing a recruitment

209

00:23:31,120 --> 00:23:35,120

and they're trying to get new officers minority officers

210

00:23:36,240 --> 00:23:42,320

so I looked at him and he's a white guy and I'm like uh I don't know if you've looked in the mirror

211

00:23:42,320 --> 00:23:48,880

lately but you and I are both white guys we don't really fall in the minority category so he's like

212

00:23:48,880 --> 00:23:53,680

you know what I don't I don't care I'm gonna do it I'm just gonna go in and put in for it and

213

00:23:53,680 --> 00:23:59,280

you know see what happens so I had never thought about it and I'm not gonna do it I'm just gonna

214

00:23:59,280 --> 00:24:05,680

do it so I had never thought about being the police you know had a few interactions over you

215

00:24:05,680 --> 00:24:12,320

know my driving time with cops but really nothing nothing major never even thought about it but then

216

00:24:12,320 --> 00:24:18,640

I started thinking I'm like oh man that kind of sounds like an okay career so we both started it

217

00:24:19,360 --> 00:24:28,080

doing the process and I continued with it and he decided that it just wasn't enough money for him

218

00:24:28,080 --> 00:24:32,800

that he didn't follow through with it so what other minority job did he get in the end

219

00:24:34,320 --> 00:24:42,960

uh he didn't get one he ended up being um something to do with engineering or something with I know he

220

00:24:42,960 --> 00:24:47,840

worked worked for a different couple of different companies I know the last one or the one he worked

221

00:24:47,840 --> 00:24:55,920

for Zephyrhills water and then he started working with waste management so doing some kind of um

222

00:24:55,920 --> 00:25:03,280

executive position or something like that but he he's still working and I'm retired so

223

00:25:05,680 --> 00:25:11,520

we were both working for a cash and carry warehouse basically that was where your if you saw

224

00:25:11,520 --> 00:25:17,280

I ever went into a grocery store and you saw the all the boxes and stuff stacked up on pallets

225

00:25:17,280 --> 00:25:25,280

we were the ones that were actually we would pull those orders and uh so I we I did everything

226

00:25:25,280 --> 00:25:30,960

I did everything like real quick like six months I did several things and then I didn't hear from

227

00:25:30,960 --> 00:25:34,640

the police department for man about a year and a half

228

00:25:36,880 --> 00:25:41,280

and almost at a point where I had written them off you know like man yeah okay we didn't get it

229

00:25:41,280 --> 00:25:52,800

you know and then in the summer of 94 um out of the blue I got a call from um one of the recruiters

230

00:25:52,800 --> 00:25:59,440

at the police department and said you know this is so and so and um we were calling to see if you

231

00:25:59,440 --> 00:26:05,120

were still interested in being a Tampa police officer so I I said yeah I yeah I'm ready to go

232

00:26:06,160 --> 00:26:10,960

so they said okay well we got an academy coming up in two weeks we need to run you through a bunch

233

00:26:10,960 --> 00:26:16,080

of stuff to get you ready and prepared and are you willing to do that you just tell me the date and

234

00:26:16,080 --> 00:26:27,120

time and I'll be there so basically I started the academy in August of 94 um graduated January of 95

235

00:26:27,760 --> 00:26:31,600

and got hired on the police department February 26 of 1995

236

00:26:34,480 --> 00:26:41,840

Going back to the accident first um I had a real eye-opening discussion with a couple of my law

237

00:26:41,840 --> 00:26:46,800

enforcement friends I'm writing a second book now I'm actually starting to finally finish it but

238

00:26:46,800 --> 00:26:51,360

there is a scene where there's a traffic accident and I wanted to find out okay legally who would be

239

00:26:51,360 --> 00:26:57,360

at fault what would happen so I can make sure it's correct and I was blown away by the fact that they

240

00:26:57,360 --> 00:27:03,360

both told me here in Florida that unless you intentionally kill someone with a car like you

241

00:27:03,360 --> 00:27:07,440

are chasing someone down the road you know deliberately trying to murder them with your

242

00:27:07,440 --> 00:27:13,760

vehicle that's about it from the from the legal side everything else is lawsuits and I couldn't

243

00:27:13,760 --> 00:27:18,160

believe that my well no wonder there's no you know real punitive elements and no deterrent when it

244

00:27:18,160 --> 00:27:23,920

comes to poor driving because you know you can cause an accident you can maim or even kill people

245

00:27:24,480 --> 00:27:29,760

and ultimately if it's not proven that you did it on purpose you were just a bad driver or an

246

00:27:29,760 --> 00:27:36,240

erratic driver that on the law side of things you walk away scot-free and it's only the the

247

00:27:36,240 --> 00:27:43,280

litigation side so talk to me about please educate me on your perspective of that first

248

00:27:43,280 --> 00:27:53,280

yeah so that'll say that's not necessarily true if it's you know if you're proven to be at fault in

249

00:27:53,280 --> 00:28:02,480

the crash by either some type of negligence or something like that then you can be charged with

250

00:28:02,480 --> 00:28:08,480

something with DUI manslaughter or vehicular manslaughter not DUI DUI would obviously if

251

00:28:08,480 --> 00:28:17,440

you're impaired and you and you cause a crash no matter what um probably 99.9 times out of 100

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00:28:17,440 --> 00:28:25,440

you're going to be charged with um DUI manslaughter at minimum so but if you don't if you don't kill

253

00:28:25,440 --> 00:28:32,960

someone and you haven't been drinking though right so that's why i'm driving and we're just

254

00:28:32,960 --> 00:28:38,480

gonna say it's at the other so i'm driving mind of my business i've got a green light

255

00:28:39,280 --> 00:28:46,320

you run the red light in front of me and i t bone you and kill you at that point you're you know

256

00:28:47,120 --> 00:28:53,680

i've got no negligence in in the crash even though you're the one who resulted in death

257

00:28:53,680 --> 00:28:59,280

i'm probably not facing any charges based on that because i've got nothing that shows that i was

258

00:28:59,280 --> 00:29:06,240

negligent in my driving now if i'm driving the same scenario you've got the green light and i'm

259

00:29:06,240 --> 00:29:11,200

driving not paying attention because i'm on my phone i'm speeding and i go through the red light

260

00:29:11,200 --> 00:29:17,280

and i kill you i'm probably looking at vehicular manslaughter what if you don't kill me what if you

261

00:29:17,280 --> 00:29:24,240

seriously injure me but i don't die now then serious injuries is just gonna that's gonna

262

00:29:24,240 --> 00:29:31,120

the only time you would get charges is if there's a death if there's just injuries that's all like

263

00:29:31,120 --> 00:29:35,760

your your other law enforcement that's just going to be civil litigation at that point

264

00:29:36,560 --> 00:29:41,680

i don't think most civilians know that so think about those dangerous drivers the guy and i had

265

00:29:41,680 --> 00:29:47,680

in in literally 24 hours two days ago i had a guy lay on his horn because i was waiting for a

266

00:29:47,680 --> 00:29:53,040

cyclist across the road when the cyclist had the pedestrian right here all the time and and then i

267

00:29:53,040 --> 00:29:59,280

had a old fucker ride my ass in a school zone when i was doing 20 in a 20 and then he ends up getting

268

00:29:59,280 --> 00:30:05,840

into into the school and it's like every ounce of my restraint to not walk over to his than you know

269

00:30:05,840 --> 00:30:10,320

have a word but that would again result in nothing just like your teacher said we have to carry that

270

00:30:10,320 --> 00:30:16,080

that lesson forward even in the world of driving however to think that those aggressive drivers

271

00:30:16,080 --> 00:30:21,120

because then plow a minivan full of kids into a wall because they were driving so close and they

272

00:30:21,120 --> 00:30:28,480

had to break for whatever but someone isn't killed that there is no punitive action no deterrent to

273

00:30:28,480 --> 00:30:35,040

someone driving like a fucking asshole as long as they don't actually physically un-alive someone

274

00:30:35,040 --> 00:30:42,720

as they say these days that's correct and it seems like it's you know it's almost like we've gotten

275

00:30:42,720 --> 00:30:54,800

worse as the years go by since i started driving until now how impatient drivers have become

276

00:30:54,800 --> 00:31:06,000

and how reliant on we'll just say google maps ways we're getting where people aren't they don't

277

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:11,840

have common sense when it comes to driving you know and that's why you see a lot more wrong way

278

00:31:11,840 --> 00:31:20,400

drivers nowadays because i mean most of those are impaired but i have stopped wrong way drivers and

279

00:31:20,400 --> 00:31:27,840

the excuse i get is well the gps told me to turn here i'm pretty sure the gps didn't tell you to

280

00:31:27,840 --> 00:31:36,000

turn the wrong way but even if it did you've got three big signs that says one way and you turn the

281

00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:42,400

ray that it says not to go you you still bear some of the responsibility even though the gp you're

282

00:31:42,400 --> 00:31:51,040

following a gps and i can't i've you know i've been you know victim to this as well with a gps

283

00:31:51,040 --> 00:31:54,720

where you get somewhere and it tells you to turn somewhere you're like i can't turn there

284

00:31:55,360 --> 00:31:58,640

and then it wants to reroute you because you didn't go the way it told you to go

285

00:31:59,360 --> 00:32:06,000

but you know people just have to realize that you cannot rely on something like that 100%

286

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:12,960

to do the driving for you you still have some responsibility for a operating that vehicle and

287

00:32:12,960 --> 00:32:18,800

to pay attention to your surroundings and i just find that people are way more distracted with

288

00:32:19,360 --> 00:32:25,200

you know the little ding on their phone that shows that a new tick tock came in a new instagram

289

00:32:25,200 --> 00:32:30,720

photo or a facebook or something like that and i've got to see it right now i've got to i've got to

290

00:32:30,720 --> 00:32:36,240

look at it right now now i'm not going to tell you that i'm not guilty of you know texting while i'm

291

00:32:36,240 --> 00:32:44,800

driving and but and not that it's an excuse but i almost say that i'm a professional at it because

292

00:32:44,800 --> 00:32:52,240

i've been dealing for you know over 20 20 years probably 25 years of driving in a police car where

293

00:32:52,240 --> 00:32:59,440

i have a laptop that were that we that were doing several things throughout the day driving where

294

00:32:59,440 --> 00:33:04,880

we're getting calls on it we have to look at directions in the maps we have you know you have

295

00:33:04,880 --> 00:33:11,040

messages and calls and different things that you do running tags and licenses and all those different

296

00:33:11,040 --> 00:33:18,080

things which doesn't you know make it better or excusable but you've come to adapt and i only do

297

00:33:18,080 --> 00:33:24,160

it now i like most of the time i don't type it i'll speak it if i have to answer it but for the

298

00:33:24,160 --> 00:33:31,040

most part i try not to or i wait till i get to a red light but we see a lot of now and to go just

299

00:33:31,040 --> 00:33:37,440

to expand on that a little bit about distracted driving and how it affects the next generation

300

00:33:38,080 --> 00:33:46,160

before i left the police department starting 2016 through even today they still do it is we have a

301

00:33:46,160 --> 00:33:52,240

program that we go to the high schools with a it's called sydney cart basically it's like a little go

302

00:33:52,240 --> 00:34:01,280

cart it runs off batteries it's electric and we can control the vehicle by a button that makes

303

00:34:01,280 --> 00:34:09,280

it on a delay so we once we put it in impaired mode we can it delays the steering the brake and

304

00:34:09,280 --> 00:34:15,520

the gas so we tell people we've done it with kids in high schools where we put them all right i want

305

00:34:15,520 --> 00:34:21,440

you to get on your phone and i want you to start you know texting or doing whatever you normally do

306

00:34:21,440 --> 00:34:27,040

look at your tic tocs whatever you would normally do and see how you drive and we basically have a

307

00:34:27,040 --> 00:34:34,160

course set up with cones and we have them drive this course and we explain ahead of time that each

308

00:34:34,160 --> 00:34:42,800

cone that you hit is like hitting a vehicle and killing a person and you would be surprised

309

00:34:42,800 --> 00:34:52,160

how many cones that these kids hit and but now the last i had heard they're coming around a lot

310

00:34:52,160 --> 00:34:58,080

better and they're like wow man that's what it that's what it's going to be like if you know if i

311

00:34:58,080 --> 00:35:04,640

drive impaired you know not being in control the vehicle like that and we're like yeah and you hit

312

00:35:04,640 --> 00:35:13,200

three cones and on average it's 12 to 15 years if you kill somebody while you're impaired

313

00:35:14,400 --> 00:35:24,640

so you do the math you're looking at you know what is that 45 years maybe six to 45 years you're

314

00:35:24,640 --> 00:35:33,440

looking at doing well two things to pull from what you said is firstly um when it comes to law

315

00:35:33,440 --> 00:35:38,800

enforcement when when we're in the fire service you know we're fortunate enough that was usually

316

00:35:38,800 --> 00:35:45,040

at the least two people in a vehicle and usually more so for example rescue ambulance you know the

317

00:35:45,040 --> 00:35:49,840

the same kind of thing that we have in the fire service one of us is driving usually the emt if

318

00:35:49,840 --> 00:35:53,520

it's a combined crew and then the other one's going to navigate you know if we know our first

319

00:35:53,520 --> 00:35:56,320

you really well you know you don't have to worry about it i know where i'm going we're good

320

00:35:56,320 --> 00:36:00,400

otherwise you know we're going to navigate one person's checking blind spots you know as we go

321

00:36:00,400 --> 00:36:05,920

um and so it's a very coordinated effort then you transfer over to law enforcement and what has

322

00:36:05,920 --> 00:36:11,120

always blown my mind and driving is just one portion of this the other part is officer safety

323

00:36:11,120 --> 00:36:15,120

you know the the force multiplier effect of having two officers come out of a vehicle

324

00:36:15,120 --> 00:36:21,760

to do a traffic stop for example versus one um the danger we put our police officers in when they're

325

00:36:21,760 --> 00:36:26,240

one to a car and this also applies to the driving i you know i think a lot most firefighters will

326

00:36:26,240 --> 00:36:30,480

agree we we're kind of blown away how you're even able to do it it's hard enough navigating

327

00:36:30,480 --> 00:36:35,360

we're not normally chasing someone we're just trying to get there quickly but that route isn't

328

00:36:35,360 --> 00:36:40,400

deviating if someone suddenly decides to you know pull a ui right in front of you so what are your

329

00:36:40,400 --> 00:36:48,560

thoughts on you know if if we really invested in our law enforcement officers properly having two

330

00:36:48,560 --> 00:36:56,000

to a car from the driver safety point of view as well well i i mean i think it's a good thing

331

00:36:56,000 --> 00:37:04,400

i mean i'm all i'm a proponent for two to a car um because it just it makes things more efficient

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00:37:04,960 --> 00:37:11,440

and like you said like especially in a chase you know and i've been in in quite a few car chases

333

00:37:11,440 --> 00:37:19,120

by myself and i've had people in the car with me and it's much easier to navigate and do things

334

00:37:19,120 --> 00:37:26,720

when you have a second person because as an individual just by myself i've got to operate the radio

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00:37:26,720 --> 00:37:33,360

i've got to make sure intersections are clear and do all that on my own as well as telling directions

336

00:37:33,360 --> 00:37:41,520

and updating i mean there's numerous things that you're doing and it it's it's hard you know so it

337

00:37:41,520 --> 00:37:46,960

takes a lot of practice to be good at that but on the other hand when you have a second person all

338

00:37:46,960 --> 00:37:52,800

i do at that point is i concentrate on driving and i'm watching the vehicle in front of me whereas

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00:37:52,800 --> 00:37:58,960

the passenger now that officer is responsible for he does all the radio traffic he's looking to the

340

00:37:58,960 --> 00:38:04,480

right so i don't even have to look to my right he's going to tell me clear clear clear or he's

341

00:38:04,480 --> 00:38:11,440

going to tell me hold up hold up so you also have to have a partner that you trust in that car with

342

00:38:11,440 --> 00:38:18,160

you because you're you know you're basically putting your life and his life you know in in

343

00:38:18,160 --> 00:38:22,400

in his hands by telling you it's clear because you're watching your side and you have to make

344

00:38:22,400 --> 00:38:27,840

sure that he's watching his but it does make things go not only in that perspective more

345

00:38:27,840 --> 00:38:33,360

efficient but just in the job in general you know if you have to make an arrest everything goes so

346

00:38:33,360 --> 00:38:39,280

much quicker and smoother when you have two people if you have two people that need to arrest one big

347

00:38:39,280 --> 00:38:45,440

guy well he's now going to think about it because man i if i was just one i could probably get away

348

00:38:45,440 --> 00:38:51,440

with it but now i got two to fight you know i might you know and all one's got to do is hold me down

349

00:38:51,440 --> 00:38:57,520

and maybe they don't do it it's a deterrent whereas you know the one person you know they're

350

00:38:57,520 --> 00:39:04,080

more likely going to to give it a shot even with the uh you know the the officers at a shot and

351

00:39:04,080 --> 00:39:08,560

traffic stop and we had uh brandon coats here in orlando right in the area i used to work in that

352

00:39:08,560 --> 00:39:13,920

was murdered and they found it in this taser deployed and he was shot dead but i would imagine

353

00:39:13,920 --> 00:39:18,560

again i'm not in law enforcement but i would imagine if someone realized that if they shot

354

00:39:18,560 --> 00:39:22,960

one officer the other one was going to kill them you would then think that would reduce a number

355

00:39:22,960 --> 00:39:28,480

of single officers that were murdered on the streets too yeah i mean for the most part you're

356

00:39:28,480 --> 00:39:34,000

still going to have you know the people that are going to do whatever they're going to do no matter

357

00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:39,920

what and we actually had two officers at tampa killed um at the same time they were riding two

358

00:39:39,920 --> 00:39:47,040

men they did everything right i mean the the one guy worked for me and i knew what type of officer

359

00:39:47,040 --> 00:39:58,160

he was very safe um but a lot of the times when people are compliant compliant compliant compliant

360

00:39:58,160 --> 00:40:04,000

we get a little bit complacent we think everybody's going to be compliant and i'm and i'm guilty of

361

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:10,560

that many times up until that point after that i didn't care who you were how you acted i handcuffed

362

00:40:10,560 --> 00:40:15,360

you the same way every time if you're sitting in a vehicle and basically that's what that was uh

363

00:40:15,360 --> 00:40:23,760

curtis and co-cab in in uh june 29th of 2010 they basically had a guy that all he had was a warrant

364

00:40:23,760 --> 00:40:32,880

for bad checks however he thought they knew that he had just he had already he was a suspect in

365

00:40:32,880 --> 00:40:40,080

three murders they didn't know that because that had not been um information that was provided to

366

00:40:40,080 --> 00:40:45,920

us that was just something the detectives were working on but two of the cases were in um

367

00:40:45,920 --> 00:40:52,720

hillsborough county's jurisdiction one was in our jurisdiction so when they went to arrest him on the

368

00:40:52,720 --> 00:40:58,000

bad checks he was compliant stepped out of the vehicle did exactly what they told him to do

369

00:40:58,560 --> 00:41:07,600

and as soon as they like went to move him from like the the the the a pillar of the car where the

370

00:41:07,600 --> 00:41:14,880

door the like the wedge of the door the where the where it opens he moved slightly they were

371

00:41:14,880 --> 00:41:20,880

slightly moving him back towards the b pillar and as they did that they just kind of let their guard

372

00:41:20,880 --> 00:41:28,560

down just slightly and he turned and shot so quickly that they didn't even have a clue what

373

00:41:28,560 --> 00:41:39,760

was going on and basically shot both of them in the face um so that's just you know one of those

374

00:41:41,200 --> 00:41:46,960

things that's going to happen no matter you know who you are but your odds are much better

375

00:41:46,960 --> 00:41:55,120

with two people compared to one absolutely well going back to the school initiatives i think is

376

00:41:55,120 --> 00:42:01,200

great the um what's it called the sydney cart it's a great great initiative i just shared a video

377

00:42:01,200 --> 00:42:06,960

recently and it was miami date i think that did this um and i've actually been a part of these in

378

00:42:06,960 --> 00:42:12,560

california and we did one in orange county as well but it was the mock um you know dui death at the

379

00:42:12,560 --> 00:42:17,280

high school right and you know we come in you know and we cut the car open and we extricate a body

380

00:42:17,280 --> 00:42:21,120

and then you know they handcuff the the person who was responsible and in this particular one

381

00:42:21,120 --> 00:42:26,960

i've never seen this before they even went as far as then conducting a funeral service in front of

382

00:42:26,960 --> 00:42:33,200

the school which is another addition coming from a country where our psa's are certainly were known

383

00:42:33,200 --> 00:42:40,160

to be so raw but they they work i mean they absolutely work um i'm a huge fan of the

384

00:42:40,160 --> 00:42:46,480

work i'm a huge fan of pulling this out into the front where it needs to be and these are you know

385

00:42:46,480 --> 00:42:51,360

they're educational not meant to scare or trigger anyone you know over a point but they're just

386

00:42:51,360 --> 00:42:56,320

supposed to show the reality of how dangerous these vehicles are if we're not paying attention

387

00:42:56,320 --> 00:43:04,800

so what is your perception of those um i think those are great and we actually um did something

388

00:43:04,800 --> 00:43:13,840

similar to that um my first my first year as the dui sergeant maybe this um maybe it might have been

389

00:43:13,840 --> 00:43:22,960

the second year those are great and we found that it was just such a hard time to get people to get

390

00:43:22,960 --> 00:43:31,200

the cars there and and in the high schools i don't know it just seems like nowadays they're

391

00:43:31,200 --> 00:43:35,600

they don't want to offend anybody they don't want to they don't want to scar anybody or get them

392

00:43:36,160 --> 00:43:41,280

you know make them feel uncomfortable or anything like that so i don't think we've that we've done

393

00:43:41,280 --> 00:43:48,160

anything like that in a long time but i do think it's a powerful message um and and one time that

394

00:43:48,160 --> 00:43:54,320

what we actually did is they conducted a um they didn't do the funeral service but they did like a

395

00:43:54,320 --> 00:44:03,440

trial and you know it's powerful i mean there's there's nothing better than for you to see a crash

396

00:44:04,640 --> 00:44:11,600

see somebody get taken out go to a funeral and then go to a trial and watch somebody on trial

397

00:44:11,600 --> 00:44:20,160

for their life you know no better message i wish we could get more into that but just the way

398

00:44:20,160 --> 00:44:25,280

society's going they don't want to hurt anybody's feelings they don't want to you know now you got

399

00:44:25,280 --> 00:44:30,640

people identifying as other people and different things like that so they just don't want anything

400

00:44:31,920 --> 00:44:38,800

like that to you know to educate people i think the root of the problem that we're seeing to be

401

00:44:40,000 --> 00:44:46,080

extremely fair on our younger people is a lot of the the figures that have found themselves with a

402

00:44:46,080 --> 00:44:53,120

microphone in the hand are divisive and cancerous and don't walk the walk themselves so we've got a

403

00:44:53,120 --> 00:44:57,120

you know a youth that's kind of bumbling around trying to find well who the hell am i supposed

404

00:44:57,120 --> 00:45:02,320

to look up to then the last two presidents have been horrible fucking people you know some of these

405

00:45:02,320 --> 00:45:07,440

sports stars are doing horrendous things like who you know my my pastor just got caught doing this

406

00:45:07,440 --> 00:45:11,200

you know who who are the good people of the world who are the people i should be looking up to

407

00:45:11,200 --> 00:45:15,760

who are the good people of the world who are the people i should be looking up to and so i think

408

00:45:15,760 --> 00:45:21,200

it goes back to walking the walk ourselves being mentors in our own communities i mean even one

409

00:45:21,200 --> 00:45:26,240

thing that nauseates me of what call them out is the police officers that drive around my town

410

00:45:26,240 --> 00:45:31,280

that speed that ride the ass of cars in front that don't use their blinker i mean you're supposed to

411

00:45:31,280 --> 00:45:35,280

be the prime example so how the hell are we expecting our people to drive well when you're

412

00:45:35,280 --> 00:45:41,680

driving like a fucking asshole yourself so it all goes back to education and setting that bar now

413

00:45:41,680 --> 00:45:45,200

we're going to get into the other roles that you've you've played in law enforcement especially when

414

00:45:45,200 --> 00:45:51,040

it comes to you know safety on the roads but i was amazed when when i kind of dug into the stats

415

00:45:52,240 --> 00:46:00,880

we have six million car accidents a year in america six million of which 40 000 people die

416

00:46:00,880 --> 00:46:07,440

and i would imagine a large percentage of those are teens and younger and then of those six million

417

00:46:07,440 --> 00:46:13,600

there's 2.5 million injuries now again some of them are going to be oh my neck my back you know

418

00:46:13,600 --> 00:46:17,440

call your lawyer type injuries but then there's going to be a lot of people with truly life

419

00:46:17,440 --> 00:46:24,640

altering injuries coming from a country where the bar truly is held extremely high when it comes to

420

00:46:24,640 --> 00:46:28,880

this issue you know we have you know old country lanes and we don't have dividers and medians in

421

00:46:28,880 --> 00:46:34,880

most roads it's extremely hard to pass the british driving test you know and most people take about

422

00:46:34,880 --> 00:46:39,680

two or three attempts to even pass it and that's with you know 10 plus lessons with a professional

423

00:46:39,680 --> 00:46:44,560

driving instructor and you know having to truly prepare but what i think it does in the end

424

00:46:45,440 --> 00:46:51,200

is you have a huge respect for the responsibility and you have a huge understanding because of this

425

00:46:51,200 --> 00:46:56,720

depth of knowledge that you need to get of why you use your indicator your blinker you know why you

426

00:46:56,720 --> 00:47:01,680

have certain spaces between the vehicles in front of you obviously why you don't start screwing

427

00:47:01,680 --> 00:47:07,280

around with your phone contrary to that when i came to america and took my florida driving test

428

00:47:07,840 --> 00:47:12,320

i genuinely thought the portion that i did was kind of like a little warm-up let's get used to

429

00:47:12,320 --> 00:47:17,200

the streets before we start and i got back to the center and he's like congratulations you passed

430

00:47:17,200 --> 00:47:23,120

okay yeah congratulations and i just watched my son do the exact same thing you know 22 years later

431

00:47:23,120 --> 00:47:30,800

as a 16 year old boy and so this is just you know every country does certain things really well and

432

00:47:30,800 --> 00:47:37,920

other things really poorly and this is my opinion is our standards are set so low how could we not

433

00:47:37,920 --> 00:47:43,680

have chaos on the road we set expectations so poorly they have no real understanding of the why

434

00:47:43,680 --> 00:47:49,280

behind the rules that you guys enforce so what's your perspective okay i'm going to kind of break

435

00:47:49,280 --> 00:47:55,520

down all these different levels but at the driving test standard level and age what is your perspective

436

00:47:55,520 --> 00:48:02,880

with all the the horrible things that you've had to witness in uniform um well i personally think

437

00:48:02,880 --> 00:48:08,880

that the driving age should be a little bit higher than 16 i think it's 16 just with a little bit

438

00:48:08,880 --> 00:48:15,920

because they only require you to have your permit for a year and with the parents being so busy

439

00:48:15,920 --> 00:48:20,480

not many people are going to hire a driving instructor to teach their kids to drive they're

440

00:48:20,480 --> 00:48:26,480

going to do it themselves however they're only going to do it you know in little phases and

441

00:48:27,040 --> 00:48:32,960

you know you just don't have enough experience behind the wheel as to be a 16 year old a year

442

00:48:32,960 --> 00:48:37,280

later going and now getting a license to where you can drive on your own

443

00:48:38,400 --> 00:48:43,360

because they all think they know it you know everything on the road they know what to do they

444

00:48:43,360 --> 00:48:50,720

know how to react and i'm here to tell you they don't they do not they cannot react and that's

445

00:48:50,720 --> 00:48:56,080

you know a lot of the accidents are because kids don't pay attention and they just don't realize

446

00:48:56,080 --> 00:49:03,040

they just think it's their right that they've been given because i'm 16 now i'm i'm able to have a

447

00:49:03,040 --> 00:49:10,880

license and i should you know and i find now too that when i was 16 and 15 getting my license i did

448

00:49:10,880 --> 00:49:18,080

it right away however we don't have as many teens nowadays wanting to get their license

449

00:49:18,640 --> 00:49:23,600

which i'm okay with you know if you want to wait till you're 18 19 20 years old

450

00:49:24,640 --> 00:49:28,400

um then you know you're not that you're going to have more experience but at least you're a

451

00:49:28,400 --> 00:49:32,720

little bit older and you're a little bit you know you're wiser and you've just you've had more

452

00:49:32,720 --> 00:49:41,280

life experience watching other people and watching what people are doing whereas 16 you know up until

453

00:49:41,280 --> 00:49:45,440

you're you know when you really think you're going to start learning about driving maybe 14

454

00:49:46,480 --> 00:49:53,360

how much do they really pay attention when you're driving to the vehicles outside the patterns

455

00:49:53,360 --> 00:49:58,320

how people are doing how do you go through it you know the turn signal the people running red lights

456

00:49:58,320 --> 00:50:02,640

you know the turn signal the people running red lights how long do you wait at a red light before

457

00:50:02,640 --> 00:50:07,360

you proceed making sure that somebody's not coming the other direction deciding they're going to run

458

00:50:07,360 --> 00:50:16,400

a red light just today on the way home i was um coming up to a red light clearly clearly red

459

00:50:17,200 --> 00:50:25,680

probably 250 feet from the stop bar there was a car that was just in front of me maybe two car

460

00:50:25,680 --> 00:50:33,760

links so that one's roughly 200 feet from the stop bar the light is completely red and she drove

461

00:50:33,760 --> 00:50:40,240

right through it thank goodness the other people that were going to go north and south saw what

462

00:50:40,240 --> 00:50:44,880

that you know that they were coming and they didn't go but it's that kind of thing it just

463

00:50:44,880 --> 00:50:53,360

people don't pay attention and that's you know she was an adult she was probably mid-40s so you know

464

00:50:53,360 --> 00:51:00,160

we got somebody that's like 16 we've said oh you've taken a written test so you know some of the laws

465

00:51:01,280 --> 00:51:06,720

that we want that we think that are important and you've gotten a little bit of experience driving

466

00:51:06,720 --> 00:51:12,320

with your parents and we're going to go do this little easy test that mainly takes place in a

467

00:51:12,320 --> 00:51:18,160

business park you know not really a whole lot of driving on the road you might have a little bit

468

00:51:18,160 --> 00:51:22,800

but for the majority it's on roadways that are in this business park so you don't have any

469

00:51:22,800 --> 00:51:29,920

interaction on doing a red light stopping and having other cars around you in three lanes and

470

00:51:29,920 --> 00:51:36,800

different things like that and we just expect our kids to know you know i think it should be

471

00:51:36,800 --> 00:51:42,320

you know maybe not quite 21 you know because it becomes more of an inconvenience you know but it

472

00:51:42,320 --> 00:51:47,360

should be at least 18 or graduated from high school because now you're going to be going to college

473

00:51:47,360 --> 00:51:54,240

you know some kids go to colleges where you're going to have to drive but it just needs to be or

474

00:51:54,240 --> 00:52:01,920

like like like you said over in in um your country they just they take it more serious

475

00:52:01,920 --> 00:52:06,960

you know i just don't think the united states takes that kind of thing serious they just think

476

00:52:06,960 --> 00:52:13,280

it's oh it's my right yeah just let them do it it's convenient but you know kind of parents don't

477

00:52:13,280 --> 00:52:19,600

want to have to shuffle their kids back and forth everywhere yeah well i think i mean i i train my

478

00:52:19,600 --> 00:52:24,080

son diligently and would like to think i'm a decent driver obviously coming from the uk and

479

00:52:24,080 --> 00:52:28,080

then having to drive you know fire engines and ambulances and all kinds of things you know you

480

00:52:28,080 --> 00:52:32,080

have to now you know you have to be a better driver how can you not after you know going

481

00:52:32,080 --> 00:52:38,800

license sirens and all that kind of thing but then it was also fear base having cut dead people out

482

00:52:38,800 --> 00:52:44,640

of cars for a living it really motivates you to make sure that your child is as safe as possible

483

00:52:44,640 --> 00:52:49,200

so i mean i was talking to him when he was 14 and walking him through it and then when he came 15 we

484

00:52:49,200 --> 00:52:54,160

were constantly going to you know any area and kind of incrementally loading you know as he got

485

00:52:54,160 --> 00:52:59,520

more and more confident getting into bigger and bigger roads so that when he took his 16th test on

486

00:52:59,520 --> 00:53:05,040

his 16th birthday he did pass but again it was so disappointing what he was being asked to do

487

00:53:05,040 --> 00:53:09,840

but i think we just set our people up for failure whether they're 16 year old kids or 60 year old

488

00:53:09,840 --> 00:53:16,560

immigrants that have come from wherever that you basically have to have this base level of skills

489

00:53:17,040 --> 00:53:22,880

and then you know you look at the the the results i think if i got this right the uk is is 10 percent

490

00:53:22,880 --> 00:53:27,840

of the deaths that we have per capita so the proof is in the pudding the higher the standard is the

491

00:53:27,840 --> 00:53:32,800

better driver you're gonna have which is gonna carry on but if you and if you drive in the uk

492

00:53:32,800 --> 00:53:37,600

you'll see there's a sharing of the road this is very very kind of gracious you know people

493

00:53:37,600 --> 00:53:41,760

emerging on the freeway people will kind of go over a latency people do here as well and this

494

00:53:41,760 --> 00:53:46,560

isn't you know tarring everyone with the same brush whereas here though it's kind of like a race

495

00:53:46,560 --> 00:53:51,440

and it's almost like people's egos get hurt oh you passed me and so you know what what is the

496

00:53:51,440 --> 00:53:56,480

difference between the do and how can we change that at the testing and and education step

497

00:53:56,480 --> 00:54:02,080

i don't think you're ever going to change that i mean i i think that is just the fast pace

498

00:54:02,480 --> 00:54:10,000

of our society everybody's in a rush you know and nobody wants to wait they're impatient

499

00:54:10,720 --> 00:54:17,920

you know so you know i'm gonna i'm gonna keep in that middle lane and i'll just um give you an

500

00:54:17,920 --> 00:54:24,800

example on 275 going through like getting close to the tampa downtown area and you know you know

501

00:54:24,800 --> 00:54:35,360

to the tampa downtown area where you can merge on to i-4 that is a constant backup and people will

502

00:54:35,360 --> 00:54:43,200

go in that the the they'll be in the lane to go to i-4 and then the two lanes next to it will back

503

00:54:43,200 --> 00:54:49,680

up and slow because people are driving till the last minute and then try to cut in and then you

504

00:54:49,680 --> 00:54:53,440

know you got people like me that are like hey wait a minute i've waited in this line you're not cutting

505

00:54:53,440 --> 00:54:57,600

in front of me and then that's how you have accidents i had we were on the way to a lightning

506

00:54:57,600 --> 00:55:06,960

game um it was me my daughter and her boyfriend and there was a car that basically was doing that

507

00:55:07,680 --> 00:55:14,400

and ended up like swerving because you weren't paying attention that the car had stopped trying

508

00:55:14,400 --> 00:55:21,680

to get over into the i-4 lane so now she had to swerve around that didn't even look in my lane

509

00:55:21,680 --> 00:55:27,280

so thank goodness i was paying attention because she was right even with me and my daughter wasn't

510

00:55:27,280 --> 00:55:31,680

paying attention it was like one of these you know she pays attention when she drives she actually

511

00:55:31,680 --> 00:55:39,040

did well when i taught her but they have no concept she wasn't even all of a sudden you know she feels

512

00:55:39,040 --> 00:55:44,320

the truck jerk over to the left and say oh what you know what's going on what's going on and her

513

00:55:44,320 --> 00:55:49,520

boyfriend was actually paying attention he was just like froze there because he didn't he was

514

00:55:49,520 --> 00:55:56,080

like i can't believe like you i said yeah well i pay attention i pay attention i'm on constantly

515

00:55:56,080 --> 00:56:02,880

looking around me and looking at the habits of other drivers you know because if you don't pay

516

00:56:02,880 --> 00:56:07,040

attention you're going to be a victim you're going to be in the you're going to be in the wall

517

00:56:07,040 --> 00:56:10,800

because they're going to hit you and and then you're not going to you're going to get pushed

518

00:56:10,800 --> 00:56:14,480

into another car and now we got a free car accident and somebody's getting injured

519

00:56:14,480 --> 00:56:20,320

just from the little slight not paying attention i touch wood i'm going to bang on my desk now i've

520

00:56:20,320 --> 00:56:25,280

never had an accident on the road but i am an absolute shit magnet and i've you know when i

521

00:56:25,280 --> 00:56:29,360

first started dating my my wife now i told her and she's like yeah yeah whatever and she got in the

522

00:56:29,360 --> 00:56:34,000

car and she's like holy shit you really are and then my son you know had that a little bit too

523

00:56:34,000 --> 00:56:38,080

but again at first you're like okay is it me but it's not it's just the people pulling in front and

524

00:56:38,080 --> 00:56:41,680

you know like you said cutting over and things that are nothing to do with the way you're driving

525

00:56:41,680 --> 00:56:47,440

it's that entitlement yeah you know and that's the thing that irritates me i can't even tell you how

526

00:56:47,440 --> 00:56:53,840

many people i've stopped over my career where i'm in a police car some of them were marked and then

527

00:56:53,840 --> 00:56:59,440

later down the road i mean i guess you wouldn't know that it's a police car other than i mean it's

528

00:56:59,440 --> 00:57:09,920

a white dodge charger so chances are it's probably a police car but they think because i've turned my

529

00:57:09,920 --> 00:57:18,640

blinker on that everything else around them has to stop and let them over and i've been cut off so

530

00:57:18,640 --> 00:57:25,280

many times in my personal vehicle and in the police car but the good part about being in the

531

00:57:25,280 --> 00:57:30,480

police car is i just put the little lever off to the right and and the lights come on and

532

00:57:31,440 --> 00:57:37,440

now we can adjust that that driving habit because um and the one guy basically when i stopped him

533

00:57:37,440 --> 00:57:44,320

after he cut me off and i'd slam on i mean slam on my brakes to avoid hitting him and once i

534

00:57:44,320 --> 00:57:52,320

stopped him he he was like confused you know what what did i what did i do officer um i don't know

535

00:57:52,320 --> 00:57:59,040

maybe you cut me off to the point where i had to slam on brakes his answer was why i had my blinker

536

00:57:59,040 --> 00:58:06,960

on i said so what you're telling me is you're driving along and no matter what anybody else

537

00:58:06,960 --> 00:58:13,760

is doing as long as you turn your blinker on that's pretty much permission and saying hey

538

00:58:13,760 --> 00:58:19,440

i'm coming over you need to stop and let me in i said unfortunately it doesn't work that way

539

00:58:20,560 --> 00:58:25,600

even though you put your blinker on you still have the responsibility to make sure that that lane

540

00:58:25,600 --> 00:58:27,440

that you're trying to go into is clear

541

00:58:29,840 --> 00:58:34,480

so of course i wrote him a ticket he took it to court and he tried he tried that same

542

00:58:34,480 --> 00:58:40,640

uh reasoning i guess with the judge and the judge is like yeah that's not gonna work you know and

543

00:58:40,640 --> 00:58:46,400

he had to pay the fine in court but but that's how people think that i've turned my blinker on you

544

00:58:46,400 --> 00:58:52,640

have to stop and let me in and because you know that's i put it on i put the blinker on that's

545

00:58:52,640 --> 00:58:57,600

what it's there for you're supposed to let me over yeah yeah and i've got a you know a heartbreaking

546

00:58:57,600 --> 00:59:05,200

story for every every you know infringement of a safety element of driving from motors as a

547

00:59:05,200 --> 00:59:10,720

motorcyclist once in california and this woman again was impatient she was about the hov lanes

548

00:59:10,720 --> 00:59:15,600

over there and they have the chevrons you're not supposed to drive through she got impatient the

549

00:59:15,600 --> 00:59:20,880

traffic decides she's going to cut over to the hov lane knocks this this motorcyclist off his bike

550

00:59:20,880 --> 00:59:26,960

knocks this this motorcyclist off his bike under the between the front and the rear wheels of a

551

00:59:26,960 --> 00:59:32,800

tractor trailer wheels he's seen trying to crawl out traffic eases off in front of the tractor

552

00:59:32,800 --> 00:59:37,200

trailer because they're stopped and just before he can clear it the the trailer runs him over and

553

00:59:37,200 --> 00:59:41,920

kills him you know what i mean so for each of these things like the the person that's riding

554

00:59:41,920 --> 00:59:47,680

the ass and then the the car stops for a child and they would have stopped in time but that car

555

00:59:47,680 --> 00:59:52,080

behind them crams in behind them and they go over the child you know what i mean every single one of

556

00:59:52,080 --> 00:59:58,320

these safety reasons has it not just one thousands of death stories attached to them but if you don't

557

00:59:58,320 --> 01:00:02,800

understand the why like one thing that drives me crazy people will stand on their brakes go into a

558

01:00:02,800 --> 01:00:07,200

turn lane and then when they're in the fucking lane with a big arrow then they'll put their blinker on

559

01:00:07,920 --> 01:00:13,360

like the blinker is letting people know i'm gonna slow down and turn if you're already in the lane

560

01:00:13,360 --> 01:00:18,880

having slowed down a turn then you clearly don't why are you putting it on now exactly and it goes

561

01:00:18,880 --> 01:00:24,480

back again rather than just you know emptily talking shit is is about how do we fix this

562

01:00:24,480 --> 01:00:30,000

and what really disgusts me is i've been in america for 22 years now i've never heard anyone talk

563

01:00:30,000 --> 01:00:35,360

about traffic safety every single year it's about 40 000 lives lost never seen a little

564

01:00:35,360 --> 01:00:40,800

counter on cnn on fox for that and you think about the money lost every time there's a wreck

565

01:00:40,800 --> 01:00:46,560

on a freeway or a main line you know an archery road in a city it's probably billions of dollars

566

01:00:46,560 --> 01:00:52,960

in commerce left lost from all the people stuck in those traffic jams so i don't understand why there

567

01:00:52,960 --> 01:01:00,640

isn't a conversation of addressing the issues on our roads it's just never a big topic you know i

568

01:01:00,640 --> 01:01:07,920

know um we work hand in hand with fdot especially being you know with i do volunteering with mothers

569

01:01:07,920 --> 01:01:15,760

against drunk driving once i got involved with them back in 2016 but we also go as when i was

570

01:01:15,760 --> 01:01:22,560

a sergeant on the department we would go to these fdot meetings so i mean fdot they do a lot of

571

01:01:24,080 --> 01:01:29,040

education in high schools and and stuff like that trying to get to these new drivers

572

01:01:29,040 --> 01:01:40,960

um but everything's everything's money driven to be honest and um people want it's just like in the

573

01:01:40,960 --> 01:01:47,200

school system the more that you show your school has issues the less money you get because your

574

01:01:47,200 --> 01:01:54,640

ratings gone down so i feel like you know you're not going to see a lot of this stuff or any type

575

01:01:54,640 --> 01:02:01,760

or any type of remedies for it because if we show that we have an issue in tampa or texas

576

01:02:02,400 --> 01:02:09,040

or anywhere they're afraid that they're going to lose funding because they're not doing something

577

01:02:09,040 --> 01:02:14,240

to fix it so we're just not going to report it correctly or we're going to report it but

578

01:02:14,960 --> 01:02:19,680

we're going to leave it to them if they want to show it or do anything like that to the public

579

01:02:19,680 --> 01:02:25,840

then we'll do that the only thing we're going to highlight is serious like wrong way drivers

580

01:02:27,440 --> 01:02:34,560

um dui crashes anything with negligence high speeds they're going to say that kind of stuff

581

01:02:34,800 --> 01:02:41,920

but that's easily fixable you know with high speed and impairment you would think don't drink

582

01:02:42,400 --> 01:02:46,800

and then get behind the wheel it's real simple you know when you get in there that's why they

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01:02:46,800 --> 01:02:55,920

have those little signs on the side of the road that say 45 55 35 if you go that speed and you

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01:02:55,920 --> 01:03:03,280

have a crash at that speed it's less likely for you to have serious injury or death not that it

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01:03:03,280 --> 01:03:10,480

can't because it there are there are exceptions however that's why they base those speeds like

586

01:03:10,480 --> 01:03:17,280

that because they're basing it on two vehicles hitting at that speed so if i have one that's

587

01:03:17,280 --> 01:03:25,120

going 45 and i hit you at 45 now we've got a 90 mile an hour impact with the safety features of

588

01:03:25,120 --> 01:03:32,080

most vehicles those those are survivable you know because of the airbags but if i'm going 100

589

01:03:33,040 --> 01:03:39,760

and you're doing the speed limit now we have 145 mile an hour crash definitely going to be some

590

01:03:39,760 --> 01:03:47,120

injuries possibly death out of that you know but that's you know i think that that's a big issue i

591

01:03:47,120 --> 01:03:55,600

just think everything in this country is driven by how much money and funding and and how much i can

592

01:03:55,600 --> 01:04:03,120

line my pocket before i get out of this profession absolutely i think that's the the corrupt nature

593

01:04:03,120 --> 01:04:08,400

that you know we need to address all the way down you know from top down to bottom and if you even

594

01:04:08,400 --> 01:04:13,760

look at the way that we select people to be president you have to already be a millionaire

595

01:04:13,760 --> 01:04:19,680

to even afford the campaigns and you have to be willing to accept money from lobbyists so that you

596

01:04:20,240 --> 01:04:23,920

promote whatever it is that does you know that's going to really help the country like Oxycontin

597

01:04:23,920 --> 01:04:28,800

and cigarettes and fast food and other things that are killing millions of people so you know

598

01:04:28,800 --> 01:04:35,600

that whole ethos has to be changed and you know if our country was full of svelte healthy people and

599

01:04:35,600 --> 01:04:40,400

roads were safe and everything would be like all right it's working let's keep doing this model but

600

01:04:40,400 --> 01:04:46,320

if it's you know a country that has 70 percent overweight and obesity and 40 000 people dying

601

01:04:46,320 --> 01:04:51,680

on the roads every year and you know god knows how many dying of cancer maybe just maybe the way

602

01:04:51,680 --> 01:04:57,680

we're doing it isn't working and we need to change it up right but see but if you do it the right way

603

01:04:57,680 --> 01:05:05,040

and well you know it's it's about it's about convenience to be honest you know a lot of the

604

01:05:05,600 --> 01:05:10,800

the products that they're doing as far as our food and why everybody seems to be getting cancer

605

01:05:10,800 --> 01:05:17,120

nowadays on you know all the little things that they do it's they're doing it to make it convenient

606

01:05:18,000 --> 01:05:24,720

and you know us as a society here you know i don't have time to cook the healthy healthy meal all the

607

01:05:24,720 --> 01:05:30,640

time so what do i do i i do something quick i go to fast food and that's how you end up doing that

608

01:05:30,640 --> 01:05:36,560

it's just and it costs more to eat healthy you know it costs less to go to the fast food and

609

01:05:37,120 --> 01:05:44,160

and all the preservatives and and all that kind of stuff you know those already packaged meals and

610

01:05:44,160 --> 01:05:50,800

stuff like that so i think it's that's a big part of it as well is it's just a convenient and as a

611

01:05:50,800 --> 01:05:57,200

society i think we've just become impatient with everything everything once we we just want it now

612

01:05:57,200 --> 01:06:04,720

and fast and and easy an issue i talked about a lot especially in the fire service because most

613

01:06:04,720 --> 01:06:09,360

of our firefighters work 56 hours a week um you know some might have an extra day thrown in here

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01:06:09,360 --> 01:06:12,640

or there but then now you add in the hiring crisis now a lot of them are working eight

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01:06:12,640 --> 01:06:17,600

hour weeks when they're forced to stay for another 24 and so in this profession it is

616

01:06:17,600 --> 01:06:23,600

extremely clear to me that sleep deprivation is extremely detrimental long term for all diseases

617

01:06:23,600 --> 01:06:29,120

that we get in the mental health problems but also short term the acuity and i wonder how many you

618

01:06:29,120 --> 01:06:33,440

know things that we've classed as a line of duty death like intersection wrecks and getting lost

619

01:06:33,440 --> 01:06:39,360

in fires or actually it was sleep deprivation at the genesis of that what have you witnessed as far

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01:06:39,360 --> 01:06:43,840

as in your profession but also in the civilians how many are attributed to that because as you

621

01:06:43,840 --> 01:06:50,240

said even in the general population we have a a mal you know a population that's overworked

622

01:06:50,240 --> 01:07:00,640

understaffed and malnourished um i've seen it quite a bit um especially in you know not as much in the

623

01:07:00,640 --> 01:07:08,640

fire profession just because that's going to be dependent on like in tampa on like what station

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01:07:08,640 --> 01:07:14,880

you're at um i can just tell you my best friend's a firefighter and the station he's at he might get

625

01:07:15,520 --> 01:07:24,320

one or two calls every two or three shifts so he's definitely sleeping through the night so there's

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01:07:24,320 --> 01:07:30,560

should be no issue with uh sleep deprivation but in my profession with law enforcement um

627

01:07:31,280 --> 01:07:37,840

you probably don't see it a whole lot on day shifts it just kind of depends on you know what

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01:07:37,840 --> 01:07:42,080

you have going on in your lifestyle if you're working extra duty and stuff like that where

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01:07:42,720 --> 01:07:48,720

you know you're living above your means so now i've got to go work extra you know and that's

630

01:07:48,720 --> 01:07:53,280

where you're going to get that sleep deprivation from the day shift but like if if nobody's ever

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01:07:53,280 --> 01:08:00,000

worked midnights and had to stay up all night long that is just it's rough on your body you know and

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01:08:00,000 --> 01:08:07,760

i i know i can just tell you from experience because i was on midnights for probably 14 out of the

633

01:08:07,760 --> 01:08:16,320

27 years and driving home driving to work when the sun's up and then coming back home

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01:08:17,360 --> 01:08:24,320

when the sun's up is it's it's pretty rough you know it's just it takes a totally different toll

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01:08:24,320 --> 01:08:32,480

on your body and i can tell you that i can't i've been on the way home and go i don't remember this

636

01:08:32,480 --> 01:08:37,600

getting from this stretch you know like at this point of the road and now i'm like three miles

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01:08:37,600 --> 01:08:42,880

down the road and don't know how i got there i'm like uh you know i must have fallen asleep at that

638

01:08:42,880 --> 01:08:50,480

point you know and at one point i hit a curb and busted two tires up you know it's it's it's a

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01:08:50,480 --> 01:08:58,240

rough deal and then just imagine as a society everybody's burning candles at both ends trying

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01:08:58,240 --> 01:09:04,880

to get as much in a day as they can so along that along with no common sense and not paying

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01:09:04,880 --> 01:09:12,320

attention and then your social media i'm surprised we don't have more car crashes than what we have

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01:09:13,440 --> 01:09:19,040

i know there's been some horrific um wrecks with with semis i know one of them barreled into a

643

01:09:19,040 --> 01:09:23,920

school bus here in north north of us in o'calla um killed a little girl and she was trapped while

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01:09:23,920 --> 01:09:28,960

the bus was burning and again i don't know if that was uh the same kind of thing because i know a

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01:09:28,960 --> 01:09:33,760

lot of our truck drivers they have safety parameters but are they actually you know sticking to them

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01:09:33,760 --> 01:09:38,080

right but do they abide by exactly so you have these micro sleeps that they don't realize they're

647

01:09:38,080 --> 01:09:44,240

asleep and i've seen this recently more so than than often you know and part of it is is cell

648

01:09:44,240 --> 01:09:48,560

phones but other times you're like that person looks like they're barely you know barely awake

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01:09:48,560 --> 01:09:52,480

and i'll call it in if it's someone who's clearly doing that but you know you see a lot of cars just

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01:09:52,480 --> 01:09:57,520

not even staying in the lane anymore so again like you said the distraction of a device coupled with

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01:09:58,240 --> 01:10:04,880

you know extreme fatigue already is is a pretty dangerous combination well you know and and and

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01:10:04,880 --> 01:10:11,680

nowadays what's going to even make that a little bit worse and make it happen more often is they've

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01:10:11,680 --> 01:10:18,160

got these new vehicles that come out that kind of drive themselves the lane departure i mean i was

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01:10:18,160 --> 01:10:24,400

in a rental car and i was like no there's no way that this is going to do this and i hit the button

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01:10:24,400 --> 01:10:35,120

and i mean it drove it stayed in the lane i mean going around curves i mean i was shocked so when

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01:10:35,120 --> 01:10:42,800

you have a vehicle that can do that 100 you're going to have more people pushing the envelope

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01:10:42,800 --> 01:10:47,680

and going oh well i mean the car pretty much stays in the lane as long as we're going straight slight

658

01:10:47,680 --> 01:10:53,680

curves you know i can catch a you know a three minute little snooze as you know it's they're

659

01:10:53,680 --> 01:11:00,320

going to push the envelope guaranteed i mean i i i have a motor home and i heard of a story

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01:11:00,880 --> 01:11:10,480

where somebody was told that they have cruise control on the motor home and they're like oh

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01:11:10,480 --> 01:11:15,520

that's great i'm just going to put it on cruise control i'm going to go to the back i'm going to

662

01:11:15,520 --> 01:11:23,760

make myself a sandwich and they get up and they go make a sandwich while they're nobody is driving

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01:11:23,760 --> 01:11:29,120

this motor home and then wonders why it goes off the road and crashes you know on the interstate

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01:11:29,920 --> 01:11:36,000

that's the type of people that we have in this society that i mean really you think that the

665

01:11:36,000 --> 01:11:42,160

car is driving itself but eventually you're going to have that something they've already got some of

666

01:11:42,160 --> 01:11:48,880

them that that do it i mean what about the total other side of the spectrum i live in you know the

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01:11:48,880 --> 01:11:54,320

o'cala area we've got the villages we've got on top of the world i have definitely witnessed some

668

01:11:54,320 --> 01:11:59,600

people behind the wheel who are definitely very advanced in their years that have done some very

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01:11:59,600 --> 01:12:04,240

dangerous things we do get you know pedestrians walking out that i just think they again their

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01:12:04,240 --> 01:12:10,960

their perception of how far away cars are and they get creamed um so there's a there's a there's a

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01:12:10,960 --> 01:12:15,680

kind of tug of war though because we all know that when you take away someone's independence

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01:12:15,680 --> 01:12:20,400

then you know their their longevity their will to live can be shifted from that so it can be

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01:12:20,400 --> 01:12:24,640

detrimental to someone who's older when they're having their license revoked what is your

674

01:12:24,640 --> 01:12:32,000

philosophy on the older driver and retesting or you know ways that we can make it i'm all for that

675

01:12:33,360 --> 01:12:40,240

and matter of fact that's funny that you bring that up because i my mother-in-law is 77 and we

676

01:12:40,240 --> 01:12:49,120

were on the way to an appointment the other day now she hasn't driven in uh we'll say six or seven

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01:12:49,120 --> 01:12:56,160

years we pretty much take her wherever she needs to go um but we were talking about that because

678

01:12:56,160 --> 01:13:03,360

she could not believe on our way to the doctor's office that there was two or three cars that kind

679

01:13:03,360 --> 01:13:11,120

of just cut us off for no reason and then when i was able to get up alongside was an older person

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01:13:12,320 --> 01:13:17,760

and she was like oh they probably need to go and i'm like you're exactly right i know where you're

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01:13:17,760 --> 01:13:23,680

going with that they need to be retested and i think that should be a mandatory thing that

682

01:13:23,680 --> 01:13:29,120

you don't just go in and have your eyes checked and and things like that you need to go in and

683

01:13:29,120 --> 01:13:36,000

they need once you reach a certain age and they need to do basically redo your driving just like

684

01:13:36,000 --> 01:13:41,520

you would do it at 16 you need to come in you're at this age now we need to see how your reactions

685

01:13:41,520 --> 01:13:48,240

are and how you're doing on the road and because i mean you have a lot of crashes where older people

686

01:13:48,240 --> 01:13:52,160

are hitting the gas instead of the brake and they're driving through you know the front of

687

01:13:52,160 --> 01:13:59,920

restaurants that should never happen unless there's a malfunction with your car that should never

688

01:13:59,920 --> 01:14:05,840

happen and that's just all not paying attention or you don't remember or you know little things

689

01:14:05,840 --> 01:14:11,040

like that that start going wrong when you're older you know and and and god forbid you get any type

690

01:14:11,040 --> 01:14:18,160

of you know the start the onsets of dementia or alzheimer's or something like that and you know

691

01:14:18,160 --> 01:14:21,440

obviously you don't want anybody to know that because then they're definitely taking your

692

01:14:21,440 --> 01:14:27,920

driving privileges away so you hide it and then you just you push the envelope and then now you're

693

01:14:27,920 --> 01:14:34,160

hurting somebody i definitely think that needs to be something that needs to be addressed well it's

694

01:14:34,160 --> 01:14:37,840

protecting them as well and it's the same conversation as you know fitness in first

695

01:14:37,840 --> 01:14:42,320

responder professions and fitness standards it's you know people get oh you're trying to take jobs

696

01:14:42,320 --> 01:14:47,680

like well firstly no because we do a very physical job you should be in great shape but secondly

697

01:14:47,680 --> 01:14:52,000

that then in turn is going to make you healthier and hopefully have a long retirement so there's

698

01:14:52,000 --> 01:14:56,880

no downside at all and it's the same with this if you can prove that you are still competent behind

699

01:14:56,880 --> 01:15:02,560

the wheel then beautiful off you go again and if you can't there's no better time than now with uber

700

01:15:02,560 --> 01:15:08,080

and lift and all these other great services that have really evolved where you know you you hand

701

01:15:08,080 --> 01:15:15,040

in your license and allow someone who's younger and more apt to be able to get you safely from a to b

702

01:15:15,040 --> 01:15:19,760

because we yeah yes older people can kill other people but we're also protecting them they more

703

01:15:19,760 --> 01:15:24,400

often not going to get killed and i've been we had a post office anaheim someone drove through an

704

01:15:24,400 --> 01:15:30,960

older person no sooner had they repaired the front another person drove through the exact same window

705

01:15:30,960 --> 01:15:36,560

so like twice twice in about seven or eight days so it does happen um and i you know and again so

706

01:15:36,560 --> 01:15:43,200

it's not about overreach in that particular example if someone is danger to themselves or others then

707

01:15:43,200 --> 01:15:51,040

that's that's where the line has to be you know put it in the sand right i agree 100 well i want

708

01:15:51,040 --> 01:15:55,600

to hit one more topic and then go to alcohol you know when i was you know early in my career that

709

01:15:55,600 --> 01:15:59,840

was kind of it that you know again i'm sure some of it was sleep deprivation that we now would

710

01:15:59,840 --> 01:16:04,800

understand but more often than not when you went to you know a bad wreck one of the people was

711

01:16:04,800 --> 01:16:08,960

drunk and i can think of a you're talking about dying at a slower speed i remember someone

712

01:16:08,960 --> 01:16:13,520

blowing through a stop sign and killing this this poor woman who was just you know she had the right

713

01:16:13,520 --> 01:16:19,280

away she pulled out and just got t-boned and it didn't even look that bad on the outside and she

714

01:16:19,280 --> 01:16:26,320

was dead on the inside of the car so but before we get to the alcohol side it's funny i've seen so

715

01:16:26,320 --> 01:16:32,080

many people where i live our community is like 30 mile an hour on the main outside 25 through the

716

01:16:32,080 --> 01:16:38,240

streets and most people do adhere to that it's very good but when i'm seeing people driving by

717

01:16:38,240 --> 01:16:45,360

i'm talking not school-aged kids you know 30s 40s 50s everyone has their phone in their hand

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01:16:45,360 --> 01:16:50,160

and these are new vehicles where you have you know cradles and bluetooth and all the things

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01:16:50,160 --> 01:16:53,840

we don't even need to hold a device even if you do want to make a phone call or whatever it is

720

01:16:54,560 --> 01:16:59,440

so what have you seen because your career spans a lot more than mine does you know what were you

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01:16:59,440 --> 01:17:03,840

seeing as the causes of a lot of these crashes early in your career and what has been your

722

01:17:03,840 --> 01:17:13,120

observation with the smartphone being put in the car um well early on in the career it was

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01:17:13,920 --> 01:17:21,520

you know just not paying attention that you know or over driving yourself you know

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01:17:22,080 --> 01:17:28,160

but most of it was just not paying attention just distracted by something eating it's always been

725

01:17:28,160 --> 01:17:36,800

some sort of distraction but nothing is more i and then as my career has gone on definitely with the

726

01:17:36,800 --> 01:17:48,720

smartphone is it increased a little bit when we first got just a regular smartphone but where i

727

01:17:48,720 --> 01:17:58,000

saw the big increase is when we started these social media platforms and it's all about i need

728

01:17:58,000 --> 01:18:04,160

followers i need likes i need this and that and when you hear the ding you want to see who's

729

01:18:04,160 --> 01:18:11,280

commented on your picture to see if they say that oh you're so cute it all that looks oh my gosh

730

01:18:11,280 --> 01:18:21,920

that's great um and and now you can just see from everything that we have you know influencers on

731

01:18:21,920 --> 01:18:28,720

tik tok only fans and all this kind of stuff all they're looking to do is get as many people on

732

01:18:28,720 --> 01:18:36,960

their following and doing that and subscribing because it all goes back to the root of money

733

01:18:36,960 --> 01:18:44,240

everybody wants to live a lavish lifestyle and the more i have following me subscribing to me

734

01:18:45,040 --> 01:18:51,120

and all that the more money i'm gonna make so if i can hear the ding and i'm just driving you know to

735

01:18:51,120 --> 01:18:56,960

to the the grocery store i'm gonna pick it up i'm gonna look and all it takes is that little split

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01:18:56,960 --> 01:19:04,560

second you know looking away or you know you go to pick your phone up and it drops to the passenger

737

01:19:04,560 --> 01:19:09,920

side you're gonna leave you think somebody that's an influencer or anything like that that's big

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01:19:09,920 --> 01:19:13,520

into the social media especially when they're making money it's gonna leave their phone on the

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01:19:13,520 --> 01:19:18,880

ground until they get to the grocery store they're leaning over they're trying to pick it up and what

740

01:19:18,880 --> 01:19:23,680

they don't realize is their hand still on the wheel they might be driving straight until they reach

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01:19:24,160 --> 01:19:30,320

and once you reach your hand's going exactly the same way you're gonna go so if you're going over

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01:19:30,320 --> 01:19:35,440

to the right your car is going to the right but they don't they don't think about that beforehand

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01:19:36,240 --> 01:19:41,840

and i think that's you know the a lot of the big problem that we have is it's just you know the

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01:19:41,840 --> 01:19:50,240

you know the common sense to realize that any little thing that you distract yourself from

745

01:19:50,880 --> 01:19:57,280

paying attention on that road it it could it could be detrimental it could be you know it could be

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01:19:57,280 --> 01:20:05,280

fatal absolutely well let's go to alcohol then so circling around to the beginning of this conversation

747

01:20:05,280 --> 01:20:11,760

seven years old you're rejected after a dui crash with your mom's boyfriend driving walk me through

748

01:20:11,760 --> 01:20:17,760

how you found yourself in the very unit that deals with that in your agency and then let's talk about

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01:20:17,760 --> 01:20:25,040

the the alcohol element of driving so you know once i became a police officer i mean obviously

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01:20:25,040 --> 01:20:33,760

all the part of it is you know you you enforce all types of crimes and in in traffic some of it and

751

01:20:33,760 --> 01:20:39,200

and then dui is also throughout my career i've always you know i've done duis here and there

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01:20:39,200 --> 01:20:48,080

but we actually had a specialized unit from 1996 and and it's current today we still have it

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01:20:48,640 --> 01:20:56,320

so a lot of the time once they made that segregated unit they wanted people calling them to come do the

754

01:20:56,320 --> 01:21:05,280

duis because they specialized in it and for me as a patrol officer if you you know you don't do them

755

01:21:05,280 --> 01:21:11,200

all the time but you know how to do them you're typically for a dui from start to finish you're

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01:21:11,200 --> 01:21:17,200

about three hours off of the road so you still have to do all your field sobriety then you got

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01:21:17,200 --> 01:21:23,200

to go to the jail go to cbt do all the observations do all the stuff and by the time you get back

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01:21:23,200 --> 01:21:30,400

you're off the road three hours whereas you got two or three guys on your squad that are doing that

759

01:21:30,400 --> 01:21:37,200

then you have the majority of the others that are taking the calls and being just run over from all

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01:21:37,200 --> 01:21:43,280

the other calls that are coming in so that's why they created this unit so that that's all they did

761

01:21:43,280 --> 01:21:54,560

was that so um fast forward throughout the years i become the dui sergeant so um and over the years

762

01:21:54,560 --> 01:21:59,040

and i'm going to tell you that i'm guilty of driving impaired myself as you know my early 20s

763

01:21:59,040 --> 01:22:04,720

um and even when i got on the department a little bit until i started seeing these crashes and the

764

01:22:04,720 --> 01:22:15,040

results oh my goodness i mean and people just do not realize and and still to this day i don't

765

01:22:15,040 --> 01:22:26,960

understand how you cannot see the tv paper articles on social media where you haven't seen the results

766

01:22:26,960 --> 01:22:36,320

of a dui or an impaired crash you've got you at some point you've had to see it and knowing that

767

01:22:36,320 --> 01:22:43,920

and you still take the chance is just it's mind-blowing that you know i don't even drink

768

01:22:43,920 --> 01:22:49,840

anymore now just because it's you know it just i lost the taste for it and had a kind of some

769

01:22:49,840 --> 01:22:53,600

health issues with my liver where the doctors say you probably shouldn't you know just knock it off

770

01:22:53,600 --> 01:23:00,560

so but just the crash part of it and seeing all the alcohol things which that's kind of what so when

771

01:23:01,440 --> 01:23:06,160

sparked me with got me into this the whole thing that i do with mad and volunteering

772

01:23:06,960 --> 01:23:12,560

even realizing that i'm a dui victim because growing up i never considered myself a victim

773

01:23:12,560 --> 01:23:20,400

i kind of still i know i am but i don't feel i am because i don't i'm not prevented from doing

774

01:23:20,400 --> 01:23:26,800

anything in life this little scars i mean it doesn't prevent me from doing anything so but

775

01:23:26,800 --> 01:23:31,840

when you see some of the people that go to these walks that i'm going to be doing here in march

776

01:23:31,840 --> 01:23:37,280

and some of the people that talk on the victim impact panels and just some of the people that mad

777

01:23:38,240 --> 01:23:42,560

helps through their journey of being you know a victim slash survivor

778

01:23:42,560 --> 01:23:50,800

um it's just it it opens your mind and you go you know you just feel bad for some of these people

779

01:23:50,800 --> 01:23:56,720

that you know they were doing absolutely nothing wrong they were abiding by the law just driving

780

01:23:57,440 --> 01:24:03,840

coming home from the grocery store or out to eat and the one guy or the or the girl that says

781

01:24:03,840 --> 01:24:10,160

oh you know i'm okay and they take that chance and their reactions are slow and they're like

782

01:24:10,160 --> 01:24:16,560

that's the big thing that they just most people don't realize

783

01:24:18,960 --> 01:24:25,520

that they're impaired that's you know they don't think they're as bad as they they really are and

784

01:24:25,520 --> 01:24:31,520

i see it on the end where guys you know though coming across and just dealing with it more so

785

01:24:31,520 --> 01:24:41,440

from 2016 on till about mid 2018 we're just guys are macho they just don't want to have anybody

786

01:24:41,440 --> 01:24:46,000

know that they're out of control of their faculties and and they'll take the chance

787

01:24:46,720 --> 01:24:54,720

um you know a lot more than than i've seen women but however um right near the end

788

01:24:54,720 --> 01:25:02,560

i was actually seeing an increase of more women um probably the ages of

789

01:25:04,560 --> 01:25:13,040

probably 22 to to 35 is our you know the the main offenders you're gonna have some other ages but

790

01:25:13,040 --> 01:25:21,200

that 22 to 35 range um i would probably have to say that the the the men are just barely

791

01:25:21,200 --> 01:25:31,280

squeaking by of of being in the lead of of who's getting the most dui's it seemed to be in my career

792

01:25:31,280 --> 01:25:37,680

that the the drunk driver always emerged somewhat unscathed and everyone else would die was that

793

01:25:37,680 --> 01:25:44,160

something that you witnessed a lot yourself i did witness um and you're absolutely correct seems a

794

01:25:44,160 --> 01:25:50,160

little unfair you know that you know the the person is driving along doing nothing paying their

795

01:25:50,160 --> 01:25:58,560

you know minding their own business doing nothing wrong and the the impaired person is the one who

796

01:25:58,560 --> 01:26:06,880

basically survives it seems a you know way unfair um we've had actually law enforcement officers

797

01:26:07,440 --> 01:26:12,800

that have put themselves in harm's way um and we just had one um from our agency

798

01:26:12,800 --> 01:26:20,160

that did that he was on his way home and basically heard the call say

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01:26:22,160 --> 01:26:29,520

that there was a a wrong way driver going southbound in the northbound lanes of 275

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01:26:30,720 --> 01:26:36,480

and you know the car was doing easily i think i think they'd said it ended up being

801

01:26:36,480 --> 01:26:43,680

like 107 something like that and you know you don't want them to kill somebody else so

802

01:26:44,240 --> 01:26:49,360

we're thinking you know we're better than the average driver and being in the in the police

803

01:26:49,360 --> 01:26:55,520

world because you're trained to drive at pursuits we do driving courses and you pretty much drive

804

01:26:55,520 --> 01:27:01,840

11.4 hours a day four days a week and that's not if you if you're working off duty it's even more

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01:27:01,840 --> 01:27:07,680

but we feel that we're better drivers and that we could you know take somebody out per se

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01:27:08,800 --> 01:27:14,480

by just hitting their you know timing it and hitting their car right which you know

807

01:27:15,760 --> 01:27:23,200

it's hard to do um we've had some successes i think fhp did it once a lady was able to stop the car

808

01:27:23,200 --> 01:27:29,120

a lady trooper and she didn't get killed but she was injured unfortunately we've had some htso

809

01:27:29,120 --> 01:27:33,600

deputies that have been killed doing the same thing trying to stop these impaired one-way

810

01:27:33,600 --> 01:27:42,480

drivers but just as civilians and in the majority of the crashes i have seen that the impaired driver

811

01:27:44,320 --> 01:28:00,160

accident compared to the injuries from the the civilians what is the penalty of one-way driving

812

01:28:00,160 --> 01:28:04,720

the reason i asked that i remember years ago i lived in california i think was nicole richie

813

01:28:04,720 --> 01:28:11,360

lino richie's daughter was going the wrong way on 101 and if my memory serves me right i might be

814

01:28:11,360 --> 01:28:18,240

completely wrong but she got off pretty much scott free and again oh yeah there's there's no

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01:28:20,560 --> 01:28:26,480

unless you're impaired with it that would be the only type of penalty that you would do so like

816

01:28:26,480 --> 01:28:33,360

say you're the they're the typical out of town tourist and you make a wrong way and we're just

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01:28:33,360 --> 01:28:38,880

going to say like downtown it's easy to do in downtown because you're going and you go oh

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01:28:38,880 --> 01:28:45,200

oh the gps said and you turn the next thing you know you find yourself in a 20 mile an hour 25

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01:28:45,200 --> 01:28:51,920

mile an hour zone going the wrong way that i can understand so if you get caught doing that

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01:28:52,800 --> 01:28:58,000

all that if the officer wants to write you a citation all it is is a hundred and fifty three

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01:28:58,000 --> 01:29:06,560

dollar fine that's it so the only type of penalty that you would have for wrong way driving is if

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01:29:06,560 --> 01:29:10,880

you're impaired along with it and obviously that's going to create a dui that's going to

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01:29:11,440 --> 01:29:19,120

you know typically cost you in the neighborhood anywhere from depending on your history 7500

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01:29:20,080 --> 01:29:28,400

to about 15 000 and that's if you're just caught for dui now if that's your second

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01:29:28,400 --> 01:29:33,600

third whatever then it you know obviously the penalties go up your you know your first dui

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01:29:33,600 --> 01:29:39,280

you're you're not doing any time in in jail other than the time that you're booked which is usually

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01:29:39,280 --> 01:29:46,480

you have to stay there at least eight hours depending on at least eight if you're if you

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01:29:46,480 --> 01:29:51,680

blow and and if you don't no matter how impaired you are you're there at least eight hours

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01:29:53,120 --> 01:30:00,160

whereas if you on your second third your third if you have a third conviction of dui now you're

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01:30:00,160 --> 01:30:06,320

into the felony so now you're looking at you can do prison time just on dui but if you're that's

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01:30:06,320 --> 01:30:11,840

the only penalty that you're going to get from a wrong being driving the wrong way is if you're

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01:30:11,840 --> 01:30:20,400

associated with an impairment other than that's a civil fine now flipping it around a little bit

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01:30:20,400 --> 01:30:25,280

um because as you were alluding to earlier in your life i think a lot of us listening if we

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01:30:25,280 --> 01:30:29,840

look you know ourselves in a mirror we can think of times where had we blown that day we would have

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01:30:29,840 --> 01:30:37,520

been over and we would be subject to a dui um a lot of the people that i've seen on on rex though

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01:30:37,520 --> 01:30:41,280

you know you have people that are a little bit over but usually you know they're they're extremely

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01:30:41,280 --> 01:30:46,720

intoxicated and when you talk about the mental health crisis in this country you know some people

838

01:30:46,720 --> 01:30:53,760

lean into crack or meth or opiates but alcohol is the most readily you know available coping mechanism

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01:30:53,760 --> 01:30:59,840

for people both in and out of uniform so what have you witnessed as far as alcoholism through

840

01:30:59,840 --> 01:31:13,200

this dui lens that you've got um you know to be honest i don't it's it's hard to say with alcoholism

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01:31:14,160 --> 01:31:22,720

i don't think that i've i guess you'd have to be around a person i mean on numerous occasions to

842

01:31:22,720 --> 01:31:28,320

see that because just from my interactions with you on a traffic stop or the little bit i mean you

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01:31:28,320 --> 01:31:33,920

can't really tell from that type of thing just from but just like knowing some people i've i

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01:31:33,920 --> 01:31:42,640

mean i don't recall um very many of my friends like even like growing up and through high school

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01:31:42,640 --> 01:31:52,000

that have been alcoholics i mean where they have to have it um usually it's a it's more of a binge

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01:31:52,000 --> 01:31:57,920

drinking type thing you know where you'll see that people don't drink during the week

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01:31:59,360 --> 01:32:04,960

but on that saturday or sunday boy they're going to tie one on um so i see a lot of that and that's

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01:32:04,960 --> 01:32:11,760

typically what you see in in my world which is basically the college is you see a lot of that

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01:32:11,760 --> 01:32:20,560

and i think that plays a big a big part with uh you know the impaired driving and people aren't

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01:32:20,560 --> 01:32:26,480

just they're just i mean it's i think it's slowed down a little but clearly not enough because we're

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01:32:26,480 --> 01:32:34,720

still having people that are being killed by impaired drivers but once the the lift and

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01:32:34,720 --> 01:32:43,680

and the uber started it did go down a little um but i don't think it's gone down enough for us to

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01:32:43,680 --> 01:32:50,960

go oh it's you know these that the rideshare stuff is working um it's improved but i don't it

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01:32:50,960 --> 01:32:57,680

definitely has room for for better improvement but i but the ultimate thing is we're never going to

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01:32:57,680 --> 01:33:08,320

we're never going to cure it until people realize and that they're man i could take somebody's life

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01:33:08,320 --> 01:33:13,120

or i can spend the rest of my life in prison i just don't think the penalties are stiff enough

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01:33:13,120 --> 01:33:22,320

right now you know where it it's a fear thing man if i get caught drinking and driving my first time

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01:33:22,320 --> 01:33:28,960

i've got to do 10 years in prison wow man i don't know if i want to take that chance whereas

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01:33:30,640 --> 01:33:37,200

i lose my license for you know a year or six months yeah i can take uber you know it's not

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01:33:37,200 --> 01:33:44,640

that big of a deal where is if you're looking at 10 years in prison or something substantial where

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01:33:44,640 --> 01:33:48,880

it's going to take your freedom that's when people are going to start taking notice and go

862

01:33:48,880 --> 01:33:56,720

you know and and i just use this as an example um i got insurance from a guy that i don't know

863

01:33:56,720 --> 01:34:05,120

10 years ago no it would have probably been 15 years ago now he was actually a bobby over there

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01:34:05,120 --> 01:34:15,280

in in england and he was telling me some of the um penalties and stuff from singapore and he goes

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01:34:15,280 --> 01:34:19,600

and he goes have you ever been over there or know anything about singapore i was like no i don't have

866

01:34:19,600 --> 01:34:29,760

any idea he goes singapore has one of the lowest crime rates that you'll find and they don't have

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01:34:29,760 --> 01:34:36,720

very many re-offenders and i think this is a big issue with any of it he said there is no probation

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01:34:37,600 --> 01:34:44,000

there is nothing like that every crime has a certain penalty associated with it whether it be

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01:34:44,000 --> 01:34:50,080

dui driving on a suspended license burglary robbery it doesn't matter so we're just going to

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01:34:50,080 --> 01:34:59,280

he used burglary he said so if you do burglary and you get caught you go to trial if you get

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01:34:59,280 --> 01:35:08,400

found guilty you get 10 years in prison 10 years is only if you're a model prisoner so he said you

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01:35:08,400 --> 01:35:18,000

could go 364 days have a fight that year you just did you didn't make it to 365 but you're almost

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01:35:18,000 --> 01:35:26,160

there starts over so your 10 years starts over so now you basically have 11 years so he says that

874

01:35:26,160 --> 01:35:30,080

first of all that tends people to you know stay on the straight and narrow and not get in trouble

875

01:35:30,640 --> 01:35:36,960

and he goes another thing they do he says why do people re-offend dui you know whatever it is

876

01:35:36,960 --> 01:35:44,000

whatever crime why do people re-offend he says well because that's all they know he said they do

877

01:35:44,000 --> 01:35:51,200

not know any trades their education is not there so they're going to go back to what i know i know

878

01:35:51,200 --> 01:35:56,160

how to do crime even though i got caught i'm still not bad at it so i'm going to go back to doing that

879

01:35:58,240 --> 01:36:03,680

he goes this is why they don't have re-offenders over there he goes what they do is they make you

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01:36:03,680 --> 01:36:13,520

work 14 hours a day six days a week they pay you a dollar an hour all of that money goes into a fund

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01:36:13,520 --> 01:36:20,800

for your time in prison while you're there they teach you a trade of some sort plumbing electrical

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01:36:22,240 --> 01:36:25,760

something they're going to teach you some type of trade so when you get out

883

01:36:25,760 --> 01:36:33,600

you now have a trade that you know and now you have a bank account that has 25 30 000 in it

884

01:36:35,840 --> 01:36:39,360

he goes and you don't so you don't see a lot of re-offenders he goes if you do

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01:36:40,400 --> 01:36:45,440

it doesn't matter what crime you do no matter what your first crime so if your first one was

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01:36:45,440 --> 01:36:52,880

burglary your second one is a dw a driving with suspended license your term now doubles

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01:36:52,880 --> 01:37:00,400

doubles so your first year your first one was 10 driving with suspended license 20 years

888

01:37:01,920 --> 01:37:09,200

he goes in you don't have re-offenders so i think before we see a big dramatic change

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01:37:09,840 --> 01:37:15,120

we're going to have to have some stiffer penalties on certain crimes especially dui

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01:37:15,760 --> 01:37:22,640

it's got to get stiffer where people are afraid to do it because you're just not going to make it

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01:37:22,640 --> 01:37:28,160

decision if you go somewhere and you start drinking and you didn't make the decision ahead of time

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01:37:29,040 --> 01:37:34,320

how you're getting home if you get too impaired you're not going to do it you're going to drive

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01:37:35,200 --> 01:37:40,240

probably 95 percent of the time five percent you might get it where they're going to go hey i can't

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01:37:40,240 --> 01:37:44,560

do it and i'll leave my car here but that's you know people don't want to leave their cars

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01:37:44,560 --> 01:37:49,440

because they're going to they're they're afraid that a it's either going to get towed it's going

896

01:37:49,440 --> 01:37:55,600

to get stolen or somebody's going to damage it so man i'm just going to take the chance

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01:37:57,200 --> 01:38:01,680

yeah and the answer like you said if you've been drinking is uber or if you know what i do a lot

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01:38:01,680 --> 01:38:06,480

now with my wife is if you're planning to even go out i mean ubers are so inexpensive now especially

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01:38:06,480 --> 01:38:11,600

if you're fortunate enough to live in a in a city or a suburban area i get it with the rural side

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01:38:11,600 --> 01:38:16,640

that's another challenge but most of us i mean you can get to your local you know bar of a 10

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01:38:16,640 --> 01:38:22,560

15 bucks each way which you know okay is that a little bit money yeah but again when you count it

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01:38:22,560 --> 01:38:27,600

when you compare it to what the the alternative would be even just the parking ticket for your car

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01:38:27,600 --> 01:38:34,400

alone is going to be a lot more so so yeah well i want to like my daughter you know we live in

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01:38:34,400 --> 01:38:41,920

land o'lakes she likes to go down to um this place called hide park they call it the soho area so for

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01:38:41,920 --> 01:38:52,960

her to her and her friends you know to drive from here to there roughly costs 40 or 50 dollars each

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01:38:52,960 --> 01:38:57,920

way something like that i think it's cheaper to go and then later in the night it sometimes it's a

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01:38:57,920 --> 01:39:01,920

little more but they're splitting it three two to three ways most of the time but even if you're

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01:39:01,920 --> 01:39:13,920

not say you pay for it yourself 100 30 years in prison or 15 000 for a dui i'm taking 100

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01:39:13,920 --> 01:39:21,280

dollars every time you know what i'm saying i'm paying the 100 it's just it's too convenient

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01:39:22,240 --> 01:39:29,840

you know to not do it absolutely well you know we talked about obviously the victims of some of these

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01:39:29,840 --> 01:39:36,000

accidents so educate us all on who mothers against drink driving are and then let's talk about the

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01:39:36,000 --> 01:39:42,480

walk that you're doing in march okay so i'll just kind of give like a little bit of a background on

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01:39:42,480 --> 01:39:52,240

how i got started with with uh with mad so 2016 when i became the dui sergeant as the dui sergeant

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01:39:52,240 --> 01:39:59,920

in the dui squad we always participated in the walk and doing stuff that's just because the

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01:39:59,920 --> 01:40:10,160

departments around the area are partners with mad and support them so as a sergeant i was basically

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01:40:10,160 --> 01:40:15,520

got told hey listen um these are one of your responsibilities that you have to do they do this

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01:40:15,520 --> 01:40:21,600

walk every year we go participate we go there we try to educate people with some materials that

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01:40:21,600 --> 01:40:25,760

we have and we just put some stuff together and and go out there and just participate with the

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01:40:25,760 --> 01:40:32,640

community so that's kind of how i got started um knowing that i just i was the sergeant and i just

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01:40:32,640 --> 01:40:40,480

you have to go do it well a corporal that i had at the time said hey you know it's funny i've known

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01:40:40,480 --> 01:40:48,720

you for many years now but i've really known i don't know how you got your scar so me explaining

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01:40:48,720 --> 01:40:58,880

the story just like i explained earlier to you he's like uh dude you're a dui victim he goes man mad

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01:40:58,880 --> 01:41:03,600

is gonna they're gonna eat this up they're gonna love this they're gonna love you being the sergeant

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01:41:03,600 --> 01:41:10,480

because you're gonna be you know you're a walking billboard for them so that's kind of what kind of

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01:41:10,480 --> 01:41:18,720

sparked me getting into the walk and realizing that the money that's raised and what it goes for

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01:41:18,720 --> 01:41:26,320

because they're constantly fighting for new legislation on um stiffer penalties for dui

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01:41:26,320 --> 01:41:31,280

they're always looking for something in the automobile industry which um they just recently

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01:41:31,280 --> 01:41:38,080

got passed um and they're and i think it's going up for some type of appeal because some people

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01:41:38,080 --> 01:41:45,200

don't want it but they are they actually got it approved where the automobile industry within five

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01:41:45,200 --> 01:41:55,040

years will have to have every vehicle that has some sort of technology that combats or realizes

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01:41:55,040 --> 01:42:03,040

or detects um distracted and impaired driving of some of some capacity so and the one that they

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01:42:03,040 --> 01:42:10,240

kind of explained was it'll be something with the technology either in the the glass the the windshield

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01:42:10,240 --> 01:42:17,600

or the mirrors or something but it's going to be able to detect your facial expressions

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01:42:18,720 --> 01:42:24,880

like we're just going to say like we were talking with sleepiness sleep deprivation you know where

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01:42:24,880 --> 01:42:29,200

we try to push the envelope and now all of a sudden we're driving and i've even seen it in cars now

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01:42:29,200 --> 01:42:35,280

where if you like not paying attention and you hit the little side markers a few times all of a

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01:42:35,280 --> 01:42:40,640

sudden the car will like beep and it puts a little coffee thing up and says hey maybe you should stop

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01:42:40,640 --> 01:42:47,680

for some coffee you know but eventually within five years supposedly that there's going to be

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01:42:47,680 --> 01:42:53,680

this technology in there which will be nice because if it detects that you're sleepy or your your eyes

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01:42:53,680 --> 01:42:59,920

are shut or you're not paying attention to the roadway it's going to pull you over to the side

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01:43:00,320 --> 01:43:05,760

there's been no other talk with like oh you know like an interlock device where you have to blow

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01:43:05,760 --> 01:43:09,760

into the machine before you get into the car i don't think it's going to be that extreme

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01:43:10,480 --> 01:43:16,640

unless you're an offender that may be coming down the line where you know your first time offense

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01:43:16,640 --> 01:43:21,600

usually right now they don't do it as a first time offense unless you're you you blow excess

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01:43:21,600 --> 01:43:28,480

you know like two or above a 0.15 i think you're you could be subject to the interlock device

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01:43:28,480 --> 01:43:36,080

which is double the limit um so that's kind of how i got started with just telling the story

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01:43:36,080 --> 01:43:42,960

and doing all that and then and what kept me going is just over the years seeing the different cases

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01:43:42,960 --> 01:43:51,840

that we've had um from people just being you know killed or injured and seeing the results and and

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01:43:51,840 --> 01:44:00,240

how mad basically right from the beginning if you contact mad because your family member or you were

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01:44:00,240 --> 01:44:09,520

involved in a crash they now assign somebody to you and they walk with you the entire way through

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01:44:09,520 --> 01:44:16,480

the court process and even afterwards on any type of things that you need um and then now they also

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01:44:16,480 --> 01:44:24,560

do which i participate in is education in the high schools so i work along with one of the other

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01:44:25,520 --> 01:44:33,840

ladies that does that part of the program and she has her little uh program that she does which talks

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01:44:33,840 --> 01:44:38,960

about distracted and impaired driving and you know marijuana and stuff like that because people

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01:44:38,960 --> 01:44:44,480

don't really think that that's a drug you know and that you can't drive while you're on it

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01:44:45,760 --> 01:44:50,800

so i go into the classes and i basically kind of just tell my story you know as a victim and

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01:44:50,800 --> 01:44:58,320

and you know they get to see firsthand the result of a dui crash so that's what kind of got me

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01:44:58,320 --> 01:45:05,120

started with that and then i've kind of just kept it going and and you know made it my goal to try

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01:45:05,120 --> 01:45:11,200

to raise as much money as i can for the walk that i do in march and then i also do a bike challenge

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01:45:12,560 --> 01:45:18,000

that we do in may they're just looking outside the bite or outside the box on trying to get more

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01:45:18,000 --> 01:45:27,200

people involved um with the awareness of impaired driving um and just looking for different avenues

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01:45:27,200 --> 01:45:33,520

to raise money to continue their fight with legislation stiffer penalties in the courts

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01:45:33,520 --> 01:45:39,200

and the education with the high school students brilliant and when is the walk this year

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01:45:40,240 --> 01:45:46,800

so the walk is going to be march 22nd um it's it's held at usf every year at least for the last

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01:45:49,200 --> 01:45:55,120

since 2016 that i've been doing it's been at usf and basically what that is is people sign up

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01:45:56,320 --> 01:46:01,440

they they fundraise and we all come there as victims and you just get to they walk around we

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01:46:01,440 --> 01:46:06,080

have vendors out there the law enforcement that have different type of things that they do

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01:46:07,360 --> 01:46:13,840

as well as we have some volunteers that cook and do that kind of thing and just a place to gather

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01:46:13,840 --> 01:46:18,960

and show that you you know victims you're not the only one out there other people do care about you

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01:46:18,960 --> 01:46:25,760

and care about your loss and it's just you know it's it's a it's an interesting event to attend

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01:46:25,760 --> 01:46:30,960

to attend and where can people find their website and then how can they don't know

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01:46:30,960 --> 01:46:36,560

donate to your team specifically um well there's several ways that you can do it

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01:46:37,360 --> 01:46:44,160

if you're just looking and you say hey i just want to find it you can go to mad.org and you can

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01:46:44,160 --> 01:46:50,960

hit up events and it's going to give you a list of an event there's several of them but you would

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01:46:50,960 --> 01:46:57,520

obviously look for the date march 22nd it's going to say um tampa bay area i believe it says

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01:46:58,480 --> 01:47:05,440

or um and then you can and then you'd have to that's a harder way to do it um me as a participant

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01:47:06,080 --> 01:47:12,880

um and a captain of a team i actually have my own link so i can you know i can share that link

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01:47:12,880 --> 01:47:18,480

to anybody and it just makes it convenient and easier to get to but other than that because if

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01:47:18,480 --> 01:47:24,080

typically if you just go to mad.org and you hit support it's just going to throw it into a general

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01:47:24,080 --> 01:47:31,120

fund and not specifically to the walk which the walk is specific to tampa in the tampa bay area

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01:47:31,120 --> 01:47:39,920

which the funds at that point stay with that chapter which gives them more um more money to

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01:47:39,920 --> 01:47:46,640

do what they want to do in this and locally here in tampa well i will put your your specific link

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01:47:46,640 --> 01:47:52,000

on the web page for this episode as well so people can go straight to that oh that would be great

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01:47:52,800 --> 01:47:57,360

well i'm sure people you know would love to to learn more about you reach out to you where are

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01:47:57,360 --> 01:48:05,200

the best places online or social media to do that um unfortunately i do not have any social media

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01:48:05,200 --> 01:48:11,200

anymore um i kind of do it through my wife's um but i can i can have an email address

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01:48:11,200 --> 01:48:18,560

um or even a phone number if somebody wanted to you know just inquire more about it yeah what's

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01:48:18,560 --> 01:48:21,760

your email address let's put that out there just so you don't get any crank calls

989

01:48:22,960 --> 01:48:32,160

jjcm so john john charlie mike nine four six at gmail.com

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01:48:32,160 --> 01:48:37,840

and the purpose is if we're a i could do a phone number too i have an alternative phone number if

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01:48:37,840 --> 01:48:44,160

people wanted to call but email is probably the better way to do it absolutely well john i want

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01:48:44,160 --> 01:48:48,160

to thank you it's been such an interesting conversation obviously being kind of laser focused

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01:48:48,160 --> 01:48:55,520

on you know driver safety in this particular chat but with your you know small child lived experience

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01:48:55,520 --> 01:49:00,240

and then how that's carried you to where you are now is a very very powerful tool to help you

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01:49:00,240 --> 01:49:04,960

where you are now it's a very very powerful conversation so i want to thank you so much for

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01:49:04,960 --> 01:49:10,640

being so generous with your time and coming on the behind the shield podcast today well i appreciate

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01:49:10,640 --> 01:49:17,200

you even wanting to hear my story i like i said it's been a challenge over the years and you know

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01:49:17,200 --> 01:49:22,880

if i you know any way i can get messages out to where we can eventually stop the impaired driving

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01:49:24,080 --> 01:49:29,040

that that's my end result is my end goal is trying to do that so any way we can do that i

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01:49:29,040 --> 01:49:45,600

i'm just grateful that you wanted to take the time and even have me on the on the on the show