

ICPSR 32161

**Understanding the Fear of Street
Gangs: The Importance of
Community Conditions [Santa Ana,
California, 1997]**

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ICPSR Processing Notes for #32161

Understanding the Fear of Street Gangs: The Importance of Community Conditions

1. Data Format:

- These data are qualitative transcripts.
- The principal investigator(s) redacted the transcripts prior to submission to ICPSR.
- Minimum ICPSR checks were done for confidentiality.

2. Data Incompleteness

- The transcript for the Townsend Raitt neighborhood is shorter than the other transcripts. Conversations with the investigator have revealed that the transcript deposited with ICPSR is complete.
 - i. ICPSR decided that there was utility in the shorter transcript and decided to include it as a qualitative data set like the other transcripts.

Floral Park Focus Group
July 15, 1997
Conducted at Jack Fisher Park, Santa Ana

FP-W5: What class is this for Interviewer?

Interviewer: I'm doing my dissertation actually, it's data for my dissertation and so I'm getting a Ph.D. at UCI in Social Ecology. So as soon as I collect all my data and analyze it and turn it into my committee and

FP-W5: So did you come here for your Ph.D or did you do your undergrad..

Interviewer: My Ph.D. I did my undergraduate at Indiana so I had to get my Ph.D.

FP-W8: Are you getting an awful lot done this summer?

FP-W1: Where are you going to?

Interviewer: Right now I go to UCI.

FP-W1: UCI?

Interviewer: But I went to my undergrad at Indiana. Bobby Knight is what usually what people know. Yeah, Bobby Knight--- the chair thrower. **Okay, my first question for you is just is what are your biggest concerns about your community? If you could discuss the questions like whatever thoughts come to your mind when I say the questions.**

FP-W1: You mean safety wise? Are we afraid to walk the streets?

Interviewer: **Are you?**

FP-W1: I'm not.

FP-W9: Does it occur to you?

FP-W1: Well, I would think so I mean things are happening in the neighborhood and makes you kind of frightened but do I still lock the doors? No.

FP-W9: Have you been burgled or accosted or anything yet?

FP-W1: No. Door's still unlocked!

FP-W2: My biggest concern is frankly I feel that we have a very safe neighborhood and for

the most part. I don't know what the crime rate is overall compared to other neighborhoods. My concern is the instability that is so close to our neighborhood whether it's still over because I think there's probably a higher drug population and crime population and whether or not . . . You know, when a person is desperate for drugs they become opportunistic and whether they would still come into the neighborhood and cause problems. To my knowledge, that isn't occurring. The neighborhood has been very stable and probably is as safe as most neighborhoods but that is my worry, my concern is whether it would eventually impact our neighborhood.

FP-W3: I would second that just in talking with, we have a regular contact with the police department that I get monthly COP updates of what's going on in the neighborhood and, you know, occasionally there's a car stolen or occasionally there's a house broken into, but by and large nothing's going on in the neighborhood. And they'll even call and say why is it so quiet up there because we have a lot of people home at different times and so forth and people know their neighbors and watch out for our neighbors. We've been a fairly well-protected, but I would echo some of her concerns in the fact of the instability as well as the city and not so much even drugs or crime but just. . .I used to, I mean I've lived in my house for twenty six years and 17th Street used to really be a border between our neighborhood. Such a vast difference above 17th Street versus below 17th. And I would say now the border line street 19th Street and what I'm finding is the smaller homes are becoming rentals, people started moving out, and we saw a lot of rentals in our neighborhood, and multi-family rentals, and 19th Street is now kind of the line that we hold sort of in terms of the smaller houses are not owner occupied anymore and I think there is a fairly big section below 19th Street and 17th Street in all our neighborhoods is now Hispanic occupied. And the high density and I see such a change around our neighborhood, the deterioration of shopping centers, the deterioration of markets, the fact that I leave the city now to grocery shop, what our local Ralph's is like. We lost our Alpha Beta that used to be just a wonderful store and now it's an Hispanic market. And our Ralph's caters to the population that's around them and you see that in the selection. And I think Santa Ana is, we're becoming, we have become a last remaining. I think of all the neighborhoods in Santa Ana we're the last Anglo, truly majority Anglo neighborhood in the city. Maybe that would true for West Floral Park but by and large ours are the last two really majority Anglo owner occupied neighborhoods and that can't be...

FP-W4: Well it is diverse.

FP-W3: It's diverse in...

FP-W4: I kind of like that. I mean I . . .

FP-W3: It's getting more diverse in terms of age. It used to be a much older neighborhood,
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retired people and now we're seeing I go out and deliver new neighbor baskets. These are young couples moving into the neighborhood but still very much, Anglo, and I think the same, West Floral Park is slightly different. They're still an older neighborhood where we're on the younger side but that is not true for Washington Square, the Wilshire Squares, the Park Santiagos. They are much more diversified. So I mean just in terms of the changing landscape and the way our streets look and the type of businesses there are in this city and so forth, it's a dramatic change but we're still very safe and I have no problem walking the dog at ten, eleven at night without a second thought and that's a wonderful thing but the neighborhood's changing you see it in the council, you see it in everything. Santa Ana's really a changing city.

Interviewer: Anyone else have anything to say?

FP-W4: The change in the city, I've only been here four and a half years. I've only been in Orange County for four and a half years so when I lived in Long Beach I was used to more racial division where it was Anglo or white and Cambodian or Vietnamese, that kind of division. So in Santa Ana it's largely Hispanic. The fact that Hispanics are moving in the neighborhood doesn't, you know that's not, I think, the thing that worries me at all because I try not to have that, any prejudice or anything like that. I think it's the multi-family thing. Like FP-W3 said, when a rental comes up because there's a difference in the cultures, a Hispanic family may have, you know, ten people, not in one family, you know, more like extended family and stuff like that which probably is my only worry, not that a Hispanic family, not like a regular family would you know, a mother, father, and a grandmother, and a couple kids. I guess it's that multi-family in one family unit.

Interviewer: Why does that bother you?

FP-W4: Why? Probably because I feel like a lot of times, the homes aren't kept up, and maybe because there are just so many people that it would be hard not to keep them up and it's just I don't know and it doesn't have to be just Hispanic. I mean, it's any, we have white neighbors over us that were just horrible, so it's not that, it's just that it seems to be the other culture in Santa Ana.

FP-W3: I mean if you use the example I think all of you would know the two houses that are on the corner right next to you, they were on the corner of Ross and Santa Clara and that's right smack dab down in the middle of the neighborhood. That's not close to 17th Street and both the owners of the house moved out and moved out the city and they became rentals. One house had, what did we hear, fifteen in one house and ten in the other. With those fifteen people comes ten cars at least per house. And it stands out in the neighborhood with car repairs on the street, garage doors open, garage space becomes a living space for them with chairs and t.v.'s set up in the garage and soccer on the street and I'm not saying that that in itself is bad but it just stands out, all the things that go with it, all the cars, all the

people just standing out on the sidewalk on the front lawns kind of just drinking and hanging out or sitting in the cars and it just stood out like a sore thumb. And, as president of the neighborhood I was asked often how many people are in that house, what can we do about it? And one of the houses now is down to two people again so they moved out and they're down to two but the other one still has multiple people.

FP-W1?: Does anybody know if the young folks moved to the other house across the street?

FP-W3: ----- on Friday, when they were first moving in.

FP-W6?: (name) said that she met them the other day and they're real nice kids like (name) and (name).

FP-W5: What it boils to for me is very simple, it's our illegal problem. It has nothing to do with, well it does have something to do with Mexicans definitely but the ones that are family people and that have lived here for generations and have come legally, I don't see any problems. But it's the mess the garbage, and I mean garbage and we've got it

FP-W4?: Shopping carts.

All: Shopping carts. Shopping carts.

FP-M1: Yeah, yeah. (Laughter)

FP-W5: It's plain old garbage and these people come from the mountain areas of Mexico lot of them don't speak Spanish and they don't speak English. They're a culture that's something most of us have never seen up here and that's where the real problem is.

FP-M1: I think what I like best about being in Canada is the culture there. The culture is one that we're familiar with. It's the English, the Scottish culture and the values are very different. You have an agreement with somebody, and you don't have to sign something, people's word is their bond. They will do what they tell you they're going to do. You don't have to lock your doors. People share the same values.

FP-W5: But, here in Santa Ana, we lived with the educated Mexican culture for generations here in Santa Ana. This that we got now has nothing to with that. It's garbage and I mean it and that isn't all political in 1997.

FP-M1: Like that parking lot that used to be Alpha Beta. Trashy. Junk all over the ground.

FP-W4: Well, you're saying that's more typical like the first generation coming in. You're saying those are the problems that these weren't problems

FP-W5: The Mexican people who've lived here for generations and great, great grandkids, great people. They have kids. These kids are not the offspring of these folks. They have no education themselves. They know nothing to pass on to their children. They're a whole different breed. They're a whole different ball of wax and nobody seems to get the message that something... I don't mean nobody in Santa Ana but the country as a whole, we don't seem to have gotten the message you can't just... Canada's got it. You just try to walk into Canada and see how far across that border you get. New Zealand, I have a friend right now who's youngster lives in New Zealand and their getting elderly and they want to immigrate to New Zealand and what their going through is exactly what my father went through sixty years ago when I was a kid coming from England but this country of ours, just you'll come and it doesn't work.

FP-W4: I was going to say I don't know but we're drifting away into philosophical issues and how much you want us to... but I mean I think that their tangentially related that these philosophical concerns we have are...

FP-W5: That is the problem of Santa Ana, become. That's why I brought up.

FP-W4: I think that economic differences create, there are a lot of differences in how people live based on whether their white or purple or whatever, you know, economics create differences and their ability to keep up their property and where they're going to put their income, (That's right.) where their going to put their... as far as ...and I don't know . . .

FP-M1: And cultural boundaries as well.

FP-W4: Well, yeah, the people, the kids that I see of the immigrant families who come here are sometimes more conscious about fitting in and I'm not talking about all the kids but I think there's a percentage of the kids that become more "American" than we are. They're more concerned about wearing Nike and more concerned about looking American, more concerned about trying to blend and fit in. There's a group of these kids too, you know, even if their parents aren't speaking English. The kids desperately want to speak English and fit in and blend in. I think the probably the gang, you know in the gang areas, my question on here what I would ask the police chief would be concerns about what kind of preventative measures the communities are doing for getting kids jobs, I mean somehow helping them, instead of, they're remaining more isolated. They can...

FP-M1: Instead of arresting them.

FP-W4: Yeah, it's like whether there's opportunities for them to fit in a little more

into the culture such as job opportunities, and education, information to them about different models, different frames that they can identify with than believing that there's nothing more for them to just join a gang and that's where their going to remain you know at that economic level.

Interviewer: Do you have something to say.

FP-W8: No, I was just a fly.

Interviewer: Okay. This may sound naive but why is it that the deterioration in the neighborhood--what does it signal to you when you see it, when you see shopping centers going down or multi-families and the things that you talked about, what does it mean to you I guess?

FP-W4: Economic downturn.

Interviewer: For the neighborhood?

FP-W3: Loss of property values, (yeah.) loss of neighbors, the changing scope of the neighborhood...

FP-W8: Loss of tax revenues too. Like you said you go shopping, you don't go shopping here.

FP-W3: Leave the city. Out of the city borders.

FP-W1: I think a lot of it is that it starts off as a neighborhood that age and does not rejuvenate itself. There's like, Kim made a, that said that younger kids are starting to move back into the neighborhood here.

FP-W4: It's getting rejuvenated.

FP-W8: Yeah, this is rejuvenation.

FP-W3: I mean but it's changed though. I mean look at it five years ago, I had a lot of neighbors on my street specifically on Greenleaf. They'd had enough. They either moved in here and after awhile they decided to have children and when they had their children they became school aged, they're paying the most taxes in the city.

FP-W5?: Oh they leave because of school.

FP-W3: They can't think of sending their kids to school here so they send them to private schools and their talking about two thousand, three thousand dollars a year, whatever that is and they're saying could I, should I move out, should I pay a three thousand and live here, or what could I do with that three thousand dollars every

year and do it better. And we've lost a lot of people.

FP-W4: Than that's a neighborhood concern isn't it? The schools?

FP-W3: It was a major neighborhood concern and it's still a neighborhood concern.

FP-W4: The Santa Ana school district.

FP-W3: I can't tell you how many neighbors now are fighting to get over into St. Johns to get their kids on the waiting list into St. Johns, just to send their kids away and that was the time when the real estate market wasn't doing well, and a lot of houses in the neighborhood went to rental

FP-W1: and a lot went up for sale

FP-W3: And a lot went up for sale, and at one time we had eight or nine houses on my street that sat for a long time and some became rentals and some didn't and that's just my street and yet in the last couple years houses are selling in seven days and I get kind of jaded. I look at the city and immediately get off the freeway, and you've driven up from Irvine or wherever you've been and you get off and ugh, I'm back in Santa Ana. You get off 17th Street and you're kind of home and it's not the most attractive way to get in and you get back into your house and there's security back into your neighborhood but once you leave the neighborhood it's depressing (it's dirty).

FP-W4: It looks dirty and rundown. That's true when you come in...

FP-W3: Being now involved with the board I mean I see things that are happening in the neighborhood with shopping carts and with graffiti and just with the things that are kind of going on. It gets kind of a downer you wonder how long our neighborhood has before it really starts to change. How much longer people are going to put up with but boy, in the last year when I delivered new neighbor baskets, Sandy is just selling houses like it's nobody's business and these are young couples and they look like they just stepped off the pages of GQ magazine and they have money and they have kids and they're planning to start a family and they're buying their homes and they're thrilled to be in this neighborhood. And their ready to fix up their homes and they have really no concerns, no concerns about what's outside and I kind of look at them and I'm going wow. What are they seeing that I'm not seeing but they are seeing homes that are well cared for, and neighborhoods, and neighbors that are friendly. People getting out and walking in the evenings and this is what they look for and this is how they grew up as kids and they're not finding it in Irvine.

FP-W4: Well, we have a very unique.

- FP-W3: or whatever so they're moving here but...
- FP-W4: We have a very special, very unique neighborhood I think and it's very different from planned communities and I think a lot of people are drawn to that and want that feeling.
- FP-W3: I'm impressed when people are paying five hundred and fifty thousand dollars for a home in our neighborhood because it's not too many blocks before you're in a blighted part of the city.
- FP-W4: But isn't it true in every city that there's generally in almost a major city, there's a nice neighborhood and the slums butt right up against it? It seems to me that's city living.
- FP-M1: Like Hancock Park in L.A.
- FP-W4: I think it's easy to get, I mean I talk to people that live in Washington and Oregon in different places and their crime rate is far more than around here and so, I think we get, I mean I have to constantly step back and think gosh, I'm not sure that we should be as negative and be as apprehensive. I think that there's so many positives. I hear Main Place is fabulous. Flowers Museum was rated one of the top ten museums in the western United States by Smithsonian.
- FP-W3: And Main Street will be a revitalized street in the not too distant future..
- FP-W4: And friends are moving their art gallery across from Bowers and there's renovation occurring on Main Street you know, yes, it's gotten really run down especially with the freeways coming in. I mean we saw Main Place starting to look like a ghost town. I mean it really started looking.
- FP-W3: Yeah, the freeway construction. It's pretty nice.
- FP-W1: It's the revitalization that we need and that's I think we're getting younger kids moving in.
- FP-W5: Yeah it certainly is.
- FP-W1: It keeps it from deteriorating. My parents' neighborhood that I grew up in. I was one of the young children, and that was fifty years ago, and it hasn't changed and the houses are getting to look it, the neighborhood is all apartments now.
- FP-W5: Where is that?
- FP-W1: North Hollywood. It's turning all apartments. It's turning it's backed up into major streets in North Hollywood that are now the in places to go to but not to

live. This isn't happening. Like you say. Main Street is starting clean up if we can get 17th to clean up and keep the kids in the neighborhood, we'll have a nice area. We'll have something that downtown L.A. will be envious when they start trying to do Bunker Hill and Hancock Park.

FP-W4: My, I really feel absolutely that the only reason for the deterioration was that the city voted to put in too many apartment buildings too close together (exactly) and before that Seventeenth Street was, I mean it wasn't great but it was kind of funky. It was funky and it was kind of tidy. I mean, you know, it was okay and then we got a cluster of high rise apartment buildings, too close. Its was too much for any square footage anywhere to have been, you know to crowd that many, that much traffic in and it was within a very short period of time that even. You know, I consider myself having pretty good impulse control and when I start getting on 17th and getting angry at the traffic, you know, I know, there's too many cars here. What about people that don't have impulse control that we have? People who are more explosive. And, you know, they . . .

FP-W3: But also to when freeway construction happened in Main Street was like a ghost town during, a lot of the crud from the Main Street moved and 17th Street, the landscape on 17th Street really changed because of it. We've had bad councils in the past making bad decisions but I think not only is the optimism of our new neighbors going to save us but right now our council. It's really our savior and I've only been involved in the neighborhood movement maybe three years. I've been on the board the last two years, and I can't tell you how--what's the word I want to use--gratifying it is to be able to have at least the majority of the council that we deal with who has seen the neighborhood movement in the last years, really become a growing force and respect that and where neighborhoods like us who are probably one of the most active neighborhoods in the city. There's French Park. I mean what do they have, I heard what fifty one neighborhoods and I think they consider like seventeen of them active. But by and large our issues before a council before the city are vastly different than other neighborhoods. They're fighting things that we can't even imagine that they fight and ours are usually aesthetic or property value or traffic related but the council has said hey if the neighborhood association, that's what we want. We want the neighbors to come and talk to us and they know what's best and they know what they need in their neighborhood and boy, it's impressive what we've been able to accomplish and what's happened positively for our neighborhood in the years.

FP-W4: Well get them to take down one of those apartment buildings. They just by one of them.

FP-W5: They had a movement some years ago to do that.

FP-W4: Did they? Because there's too many cars, there's too much pollution, but there's

too much...

- FP-W3: They got code enforcement really cracking down on things but at least they have made the commitment, no more. No more high density housing and that's been going on for the last five or...
- FP-W5: Well, pay up is when they put the ---- the old gas station. There's no a bit of grass around that apartment. The one by the . . .
- FP-W8: There's no place for kids to play.
- FP-W5: Oh, it's terrible.
- FP-W3: But the last five or six years, you know, I don't know how long no more high density housing has been going on.
- FP-W4: Well we used to walk up and play tennis at the school at Willard. When we first moved in the neighborhood we played tennis and used to ran the track and I think it's too dangerous now to...
- FP-M1: I wouldn't go play tennis there now.
- FP-W3: No, they're fighting horrible things in the neighborhood now.
- FP-M1: Selling drugs across the street.
- FP-W3: Yeah, they've got horrible problems but I mean, the council, what we've been able to, not only our neighborhood, but whatever neighborhoods stopped from happening that they would consider possible deteriorating of their neighborhood. It's quite impressive. I don't know how much longer that will hold true but for right now, I can't say enough about how great it is to be able to call somebody within the city or somebody within, on the council and be respected for the neighborhood association the fact that we get out there and we stand up on issues and have stopped things from happening, and have made good things happen.
- FP-W4: What are the forces that you see when you say our neighborhood? I mean what other neighborhoods are, how long they can hold off. I mean what are you concerned about? What are the forces there you perceive threatening our neighborhood when you go to the city council meetings and what you're hearing, you know.
- FP-W3: Oh, our things are aesthetic, our things are traffic, our things are El Camal. Other neighborhoods' things are potential car washes and liquor stores, and things built right on the neighborhood. You know we're unfortunately zoned so that businesses butt up right up next against, you know, right next residential areas and

that's at least in the last two years, that's what our neighborhood and the other neighborhoods have been fighting.

FP-W4: Yeah we fought that and lost with the laundromat and other things.

FP-W3: And unfortunately you know we didn't have a neighborhood association when that 99 cent store and all that was built there wasn't a formed neighborhood association at that time or I can say, you know it probably wouldn't be there today. Aesthetically, what's going to help 17th street you know, the city Council has things planned for the beautification of 17th Street and they're working hard with Code Enforcement and, gosh, for our whole neighborhood. I get a monthly report from a Code Enforcement person that drives through the neighborhood and they make a checklist of things and report back to me and that's just our neighborhood. And she comes and tells me what they do with the city and they're working, you know, their butts off. They have a lot to tackle. They're working really hard.

FP-W8: That would be a really interesting article to put in the newsletter, you know I 'd like to know what kinds of things they're finding and things they take care of.

Interviewer: Do you think that your neighborhood has a crime problem?

FP-W3: I would say No.

Interviewer: Is there any type of crime that you would worry about here?

FP-W5: -----(response not clear)

FP-W7: The only thing I'm worried about is the things on the outskirts like bullets flying, passing through, at blocks or something like that. As far as the neighborhood goes I think we're really safe,

FP-W3: We're really safe. I mean I go to sleep to the sound of the police helicopters circling. They're not circling our neighborhood, but they're somewhere around. I mean every evening you hear the police helicopter going.

FP-W4: When we lived in Newport Beach, we did that every night too. Listening to the police helicopters.

FP-W3: And the problems I hear about are the problems that are at that 99 cent store, that's a real problem. Or the problems at El Camal, you know for what was going on there. But actually in the neighborhood we've had a couple little select problem houses, but by and large . . .

FP-W4: There's been a few break-ins, but I think in proportion to other affluent

neighborhoods, up in the hills we have a much lower crime rate. I mean I don't know, I haven't seen any statistics on this, is it true?

FP-M1: Much safer, uh-huh.

FP-W3: Well according to what I get in the COP reports about anything that goes on in the neighborhood, you know sure there's occasionally cars stolen, there's occasional break-ins, or sometimes there'll be a rash of break-ins, it turns out to be one person that's targeting the neighborhood. But by and large we're ...

FP-W6: Its mostly little things. A bike from a garage, we had a purse taken. The neighbor across the street, she was going to work in the morning and had her person on the table by the window, daylight, around 6:30, or 7, they came by, just broke the window, grabbed her purse and ran. Sometimes some car window,

FP-W3: or something stolen out of the garage, whatever it might be.

FP-W6: You know an easy target kind of stuff.

FP-W5: The strange part we have, I live on Santa Clara was the difficult [?] . The real problem that we had, which I thought was unusual was two young men that were born right there and they were living in the houses that their mother owned. And they literally ripped them apart, didn't they? Terrible.

FP-W3: Frat [?] house. Remember the one old house that had the beat up . . .

FP-W4: Oh yeah.

FP-W8: The sons of the original family..

FP-W5: The Latin folks on the two corners were great compared with these two wild Indian, well I call them kids but they were really 35, 40 yr old men. And,

FP-W4: Well didn't the man who just murdered, the murder case, the one who put the woman in the freezer, wasn't he living on Victoria?

FP-W5: He lived on Victoria, that was many years ago.

FP-W4: He moved away. (laughter)

FP-W5: Well let me say something, I have all the hope in the world, I blow about believers,-----cuz its an old soft spot, because I'm an immigrant too. .But I've watched this neighborhood for many, many years, and its amazing to me and that was when I first came here, I was a kid and they were all the old people, in fact they used to kid about being the grave yard of the west--this neighborhood. They

were all the old and retired people, and now its reversed. I'm the old lady of the neighborhood and all these kids are coming in. Which is what's really doing it.. And when you stand back and look . . . My husband lived here from 1929 on and he always said every neighborhood, in every city going has its ups and its downs, and when its down its gone. And he said one of these days its going to happen to this neighborhood. Well it hasn't.

FP-M1: We've worried about that since we've been here. 22 years. It hasn't happened.

FP-W5: Its been going since the turn of the century actually. Some of these houses have been here since before the turn of the century. And when you stand back and look at it, and as FP-W3 says, it really is pretty amazing. But the strange thing to me that's happening to the town is up here it's still pretty nice, and you get to the middle of the town, and it's getting horrendously difficult, and then you get way south again, Wilshire Square, and its adorable. Some of those neighborhoods down there are pretty terrific, way south, but the middle of the town, with your apartment buildings....

FP-W3: Yeah, and that gets back to your neighborhood association. They're getting together, and they'e fighting the problems of their neighborhood whatever those problems may be.

Interviewer: Are you concerned about crime, not necessarily in your neighborhood, but do you worry about it, is that something you think about, or does that not even come into your mind....You don't think about it?

FP-W1: No, I'm a firm believer in when you think that something's going to happen, its going to happen, if you don't think about it, it doesn't happen.

FP-W4: We always go out the front door we're so careful that the front door is locked and we've got the back door, and we come home and everything's opened in the back and that's how totally unaware. I mean I think we're constantly, every time we pick up the newspaper, we're bombarded with the crime around us. But I think that until it touches someone personally in some way, and I don't know if anybody here responded to whether they've been a victim of crime on the questionnaire but I think that's when people's sensitivity really skyrockets. And I really get very, very annoyed with the press over sensationalizing things. They can talk about, you know, how there's a drive-by shooting, and there's things that happen, but in relation to, it probably is occurring more, you know. I think violent crimes are higher, probably than, even in proportion to the population than it has been before, but until, you know, there hasn't been any violent crimes in our neighborhood. There was the knifing or something shooting at the restaurant, or something, but it wasn't in our neighborhood. There hasn't been any,

FP-W3: not that I can remember, and I mean, to the police departments credit. I mean that

was one of the questions, what would you ask the chief of police and I mean, I sat in leadership classes now with the city. I've been in the leadership for the last year, and just talking with COP and watching the council, they're doing an amazing job, and in terms of lowering the crime rate and the violent crimes and the gang task force and the things that are going on, like you talk to that to help the youth, and I'm very impressed with what the city has to deal with and how well they're handling it. I mean, my comment to him would be job well done. That kind of thing. But I mean, I guess we get all lackadaisical, we get into the neighborhood, and it's kind of our little safe are, and I think all of us, by and large feel relatively safe.

FP-W4: Well, FP-W3 your point, I mean I think if I were talking about enhancing or trying to do something for our neighborhood I think your point you brought up about the school system, I mean it's really the people who live in our community and pay the taxes should be able to send their children to the school system and feel that they're getting as fair and good in education as anywhere else. I don't know how that can be addressed, what the city is doing about that or...

Interviewer: What's wrong with the schools?

FP-W6: Their overcrowding

FP-W3?: Violent.

FP-W1: But what I understand I talked to a neighbor recently about that

FP-W6: Yeah?

FP-W1: and she said that she put her grandson, she's taking care of him, he's thirteen in the school district because a police officer told her that it's probably one of the best and she said that the education was excellent.

FP-W4: At where does she, at Santiago?

FP-W1: Yeah.

FP-M1: I wouldn't have ---- send my kid to Santiago.

FP-W4: Right.

FP-M1: But I would be very uncomfortable about Willard.

FP-W4: Now, Willard is age, what grades one through?

FP-W3: Seventh and eighth, I think.

FP-W4: Seventh and eighth, that's middle schools?

FP-W8: Six, seven, eight.

FP-W8: Six, seven, eight.

FP-W4: Okay.

FP-W8: ---

FP-W4: (name)(?) should be at Willard then.

FP-W1: She put him through the public schools. That's all she said that she's putting him in the Santa Ana schools.

FP-W3: Well you find that there's a lot of people in the neighborhood who think that Santiago is great and the kids are getting a wonderful education

FP-W4: Young, my neighbors send their kids there.

FP-W3: education where I think it's the one over Park Santiago, what is that? Hoover?

FP-W8: Hoover.

FP-W3: I think that people speak very highly of Hoover as well and then you have the others that just, they wouldn't think of it and they're going to whatever the private school may be.

FP-W4: Well, my niece went up there to observe class at Willard and said that the teacher had to wear a whistle. And actually requested of the students that they write one paragraph for homework and the paragraph they could choose, they all agreed to choose the person, and they chose Moses, which is, okay, that's fine to choose Moses. But, and then she said but it was almost a riot in the classroom over the request on the part of teacher that they submit a paragraph--a piece of homework and something's wrong with an educational system that .

FP-W5: What do you mean they knew? The teachers didn't want them to write out their homework?

FP-W4: No, the students refused to do it. She finally said, great, we're not going write, we're not going turn this in. This is too much.

FP-M1: What do you mean, write a paragraph over it?

- FP-W4: This is what she reported observing in the classroom now. How much of that goes on, I don't know.
- FP-W1: I just want to say it's too high school systems because I have a girlfriend who's a teacher at the L.A. schools and she's got the same problems, just...
- FP-W4: Just to write one paragraph, to do any homework, is considered it imposition.
- FP-W8: It's not like it was when you and I were kids. It's different today. Kids are ruling today.
- FP-W5: Kids throw chewing gum all over the floor and nobody says a word.
- FP-W3: But I mean back to your question, what can we do about the schools, I mean that's a huge, I wouldn't even know how to begin, to tackle everybody's perception of the schools is different and where the problem lies.
- FP-W7: If she knew the answer to that she probably should be mayor or president ---
- FP-W4: Well I know that Santa Ana has a parent involvement organization where they actually involve parents, even illegal parents saying look you be part of our program, you get your kid in school, you keep your kid in school, you know they've been rare. That's really wonderful because it's improved the the feeling that the parent is part of the community and that's, they've done a lot of very creative things like that from my understanding what they are trying to do, you know, involving parents in the school system trying to not, trying to minimize the legal issues so that it isn't something that because the school can't do something about that. Their kids are in school and it's better for them in school during the day then it is on the streets, you know so...
- FP-W7?: That's probably a good point you had though. I think that probably one of the main problems is that parents don't get involved with their kid's education and one of the reasons is because they don't speak the language and you know like when I grew up and stuff there was always PTA but they don't, they can't get that parents' involvement, and I think that's all over L.A. and all over every place.
- FP-W4: But they're trying to deal with it.
- FP-W6?: Our older daughter went to Santa Ana High when we first moved here. Went to Santa Ana High. People did not come to PTA meetings. Nobody would ever come and there would be this little sprinkling down in the front until the time that they had a PTA meeting that if your kid was going to get to take driver training in school, they could only do it if the parent came to the meeting that night and signed for them and the room was full.

It was a matter of motivation. These kids do have parents, but . . .

FP-W1: I think that's today's society. When I went back to school my parents
Never missed a meeting.

FP-W6 (?): No, same here.

FP-W4: Well, also, I'm sorry. Well, aren't they also, isn't it statewide that they are
mandating smaller classes, twenty a class so it's not just? So that
should help with some of the problems, too. Some of it. I think that if I
were a parent I would already have prejudices going in and looking at
just the way it looks. I mean, I don't know what's going on inside of the
walls but I know.

FP-W3: I didn't go to public school and I mean, I don't have any children, I only
hear what I hear from parents who have kids now that are school-aged and
I don't know. It's probably a combination of all those things and I think
in Santa Ana too, there's a language problem and I don't know if that is
applicable to elementary school, if that's a problem or if it's not, I mean,
I don't know. If that's something that do they have bilingual classes at..

FP-W6 (?): But they just stopped it. Didn't I saw, read in the paper.

Others: They didn't already.

FP-W6 (?): In Orange they are going to.

FP-W3: But that's only in certain levels and I don't know, when you're over at Santiago
school elementary and I was sitting over there in, when we sit in the
library for general meetings—English Spanish--whatever was up on the wall, you
know, class recognition for paintings whatever and it will say first grade class
whatever it's in English and in Spanish so I would assume then that
classes are bilingual and---

FP-W5: They refer to bilingual as special languages in this area now.

FP-W3: So I think everybody...

FP-M1: They can probably integrate 10-15% of the class from a different culture
into an existing culture and they'll learn how to accept it. When you get up to
around 30% it forms of subgroup and and it splits the group and they begin to
argue about what their values are going to be.

FP-W3: Yeah. I mean, you talk to parents that some people think is absolutely wonderful
to send their kids there and they're picking up all . . . they're young, they're

sponges, they're picking up a second language and it's wonderful and others you know private school out of the city that's the way to go so..

Interviewer: Are you concerned about gangs?

FP-W6: Absolutely

Interviewer: Absolutely, is that what you said? Why?

FP-W5: About gangs.

FP-W4: In our neighborhood? Or just around us?

Interviewer: Period.

FP-W6: Coming and going. You come home in certain times of the, you know you come home at night and you need to figure which way. Like if I'm coming from South Coast Plaza I probably would not drive up Bristol all the way.

FP-W1: Flower make me nervous.

FP-W6: I would go around do the freeway and stuff in fact, we started to go out one night and we were going out down Flower there and we heard shooting and I said to myself you know I think I'll go back and go on the freeway so it affects your life.

FP-W1: At night you hear shooting. I mean it's very nerve wracking.

FP-W6: Trying to avoid.

FP-W7: I don't hear it hardly anymore.

FP-W1: You don't. Oh gosh I still do.

FP-W7: When I, when we moved here ---- years ago, we used to hear it on the weekends, hear the gunshots. We knew it wasn't in the neighborhood but, like FP-W6 said I'm real concerned about the gangs in the city, not in the neighborhood but in the city.

FP-M1: We were down at the performing arts center at Flower. I'm never conscious of there being a gang or...

FP-W1: I'm terrified about it.

FP-M1: Maybe I'm oblivious by to it.

FP-W1: Flower gangs just scare me to death.

FP-W4: We go straight down Flower to the performing arts center.

FP-W3: Yeah, I drive around the city and I night day, I park, I go places, I never give it a thought And I at least talking with COP and the police department there's really no active gangs you know. I've been to meetings where that's it where neighborhoods like ours are tackling the gangs within their neighborhood and I'll always just ask the question you know, above 17th Street any gangs operating in any way, anyone? You know, it's almost a laugh. You know, they almost laugh at us. You know, there's no gang problem anywhere near except for occasional, only been recently, an occasional graffiti that we'll get. I mean I don't even think we're even marked as border for any gang territory.

FP-W1: No but I had to see the house downtown, down on, off of Chestnut and Broadway, on Broadway and I was terrified to see that place at ten o'clock at night.

FP-W5: Chestnut and Broadway?

FP-W1: Yeah. I was actually horrified actually going, "Oh my god!".

FP-W6: Is that just below first?

NI Visitor: 2 blocks down.

Interviewer: Why are you afraid of gangs? Mean, what cues you in there's a problem, why are you terrified there?

FP-W1: Uh, unfortunately I have really serious problem like with things called guns.

Interviewer: Hold that thought. (laughter.) Switch the tape. Thank you.

FP-W1: Basically the guns scare me. Things like guns scare me. Think like multiple people scare me.

FP-W5: No matter how often they say guns don't kill people, people who, people that operate the guns that do the killing.

FP-W7: I think it's just a lack of conscience, conscience, and a lack of morality that people in gangs seem to have. Maybe it's because they feel like they're, they may die young so they just, you know, do whatever they can. I think it's that lack of you know, that evil, I mean that, that evil, that lack of...

FP-W4: But gangs don't shoot at people. I mean they shoot other rival gang members. Yeah, you can innocently...

FP-W5: They mutilate people with them.

FP-W4: Yeah, but they try not to. I mean I don't really (side A ends)

FP-W3: But I think we all know that Santa Ana had the gang, you know, the gang problem like so many other cities do.

FP-W5: They have the problem.

FP-W3: But I mean, just the day to day, I read about the crime in the paper or however it is but I mean it's just, it's not even within my realm of focus day to day. I sat in a leadership class not too long ago over at the police department and one of the guys from the gang task force came and did an hour presentation for his portion about what they are doing about gangs in the city and the pictures that they show, and what's going on in the girl gangs and you know, when they go in and they bust some house they confiscate all the pictures and that's how they learn who other gang members are. You look at these pictures and it's just, you don't even get, I mean, I don't even get, it seems like it's so much of another world to me and the fact that it even goes on in Santa Ana I'm so away from that, that I don't even think that I can even begin to comprehend what goes on.

FP-W6: Have you been to any of the St. Joseph's ballet programs now where the kids talked about there...

FP-W4: Living in the neighborhoods with each other.

FP-W6: I'll give you the video. Yeah. These kids are losing relatives and neighbors right and left, these boys and girls it's St. Joseph's ballet, and it's downtown, it's a youth gang diversion, stay in school arts/ dance program that I've been involved there for about five, six years. I volunteer there a lot helping kids and I hear them talking and it's all around them. I mean it's next door, it's behind their...

FP-W4: It's a constant to them.

FP-W6: It's their younger brother, it's their, you know these girls signed on an oath. Like I said they, there's nothing to lose. They're young and they figure they're not going to grow up anyway, they're not going to get anywhere so they might as well just try to take like whatever they want.

FP-W1: ---and the cops.

FP-W6: Somebody gets, you shoot at them, if you hit a neighbor, “Oh, too bad”.

FP-W5: Too bad.

FP-W1: You go to jail you’re going to die, anyway. So, what the heck.

FP-W6: Yeah. There’s a lot of hope that’s just

FP-W3: And it’s hard to even, and it’s hard to comprehend that, that world that circles.---

FP-W6: I’ll give you a couple of videos. Of these kids talking about their lives . . .

FP-W4: Well, it doesn’t touch our world.

FP-W3: No, it doesn’t.

FP-W7: ---in their neighborhood. I’m not saying that but I mean if you have to have a larger concern on crime, you know, about current, it has to be the gangs. All you have to do is read the paper.

FP-W6: Sure.

FP-W3: You know. Even beyond Santa Ana.

FP-W7: Yeah, everywhere, everywhere.

FP-M1: Well, I think we’re all influenced by our peers but we have different set of influences...

FP-W6: Values.

FP-M1: Yeah, values where we came from. See young people are profoundly are influenced by their peers. You have a bunch of peers that have drifted into this mentality to meet people and more fear with other groups of youngsters, you’re influenced by that and your likelihood of doing . . .

FP-W6: It seems like there out, there out more, I don’t know what their parents, you know, they’re not kept at home.

FP-M1: Yeah.

FP-W6: All hours of the night. Really young kids will be on a bicycle going down 17th Street, like a eleven year old at midnight. What is this kid doing---he has no parents, they’re like out of control.

FP-W4: When I get scared of gangs is if I'm coming home and I see the kids cruising, you know, there's four, five of them and they're cruising, then I get scared.

FP-W3: (name) stopped the cruising. (Laughter.)

FP-W4: Then I get worried because if another car goes by and it's a rival gang or they spot one another whether they'll pull out weapons at that point, you know and you're basically worrying about it, moving about through the day, most of the time, no I don't give it much thought until I see it. I mean right on 17th Street, two weeks ago, there was a shooting where you know two cars got into it with each other.

FP-W1: There's not necessarily a gang for that either. A couple of adults who have guns in their car.

FP-W4: I don't think it was even a gang. There were a couple of, yeah, the gal got into a fight with another person in the other car, you know, so...

FP-M1: That was on Main Street.

FP-W4: On Main Street. On Main and 17th. Right by your home.

FP-M1: Between 17th and Santa Clara.

FP-W1: Guns are scary. People use them and they carry them. I don't like them..

FP-M1: Yeah.

FP-W5: I'm with you. I don't like them.

Interviewer: Do you take precautions to protect yourself from gangs and crime?

FP-W4: Do we what?

Interviewer: Take precautions to protect yourself.

FP-W1: Like carry guns? No. (laughter)

FP-W4: Vigilance is my protection.

FP-W7: Yeah, that's . . .

Interviewer: Do you take precautions to avoid crime?

FP-W5: Keep your doors fastened Keep your eyes on . . .

Interviewer: Do you avoid areas in Santa Ana?

FP-W8: Hmm, hmm.

Interviewer: You do?

FP-W4: At certain times at night.

FP-W1: Like I said, I won't go down Santa Ana period unless I have to. Going down to that house scared me to death. I don't go downtown during the day unless I have a man with me.

FP-W8: Oh, during the day you won't?

FP-W1: I won't. I will not go downtown Santa Ana for anything. Unless I have an escort.

FP-W6: It's probably the safest place to be down on 4th street, midday.

FP-W1: It scares me to death.

FP-W6: It's all families.

FP-W3: I think, I don't even think, the only time I think is, if I go by myself to say to the Ralphps shopping center or something at night. That's the only place that I would take a second . . . Yeah, I've heard bad, bad new stories.

FP-W5: Ralphps on Main Street?

FP-W3: Yeah, Ralphps on Main Street. I can't stay that I go and stop at any street.

FP-W4: At night?

FP-W3: At night.

FP-W4: What happened? I never even heard.

FP-W7: What Ralphps?

FP-W8: I need to get my fear up here (laughter).

FP-W3: People, ---you know people, no no, it's one thing I'm not saying that I don't go, but I, I'm cautious. I'm the kind of person I leave my purse in he car you know, I walk away, you know.

FP-W4: Are crimes occurring in the parking lot?

FP-W3: Yeah. I'm not saying it's heavy duty but I run into you know, a number of neighbors who said they had a problem.

FP-W5: I've never locked the house, the first 40 years I lived here. Now I got locks on the locks. It's just ridiculous.

FP-W3: But that's the only time I'm conscious, I'm just kind of looking over my shoulder.

FP-W7: What about going to Blockbuster's? I go there at odd hours. Is that scary? (laughter.)

FP-W3: I haven't heard. I can't say that I go over there. I haven't heard anything.

FP-W7: I go in there and there's families in there and kids and everybody's running around.

FP-W3: You get really, um, really, what's the word, complacent. I think when nothing's happened to you.

FP-W7: I know.

FP-M1: That's probably true.

FP-W3: And you put something in the car, and all the sudden all "aren't you going to lock this up?" You know, "do you really want to go there at night." And I'm kind of looking, you know, going I don't even think like that.

FP-M1: After tonight I'll be much more apprehensive.

FP-W4: Right. (laughter.)

FP-W3: And I leave windows in the house open, and I leave the backdoor open for the dog, and I think we're all like that. Yeah.

FP-W6: I think you could break into our house in two seconds.

FP-W8: You could walk in take what you want, take a shower.---

FP-W5: Is this all you want?—The horrible

Interviewer: This is fun. Well, I'm asking about concerns. About fear levels. Yeah. My dissertation is about concerns about the, yeah, but if you want to tell me good things, that's fine too.

FP-W3: I mean, we might even talk about, do you go to the Artist Village things at night? Do you go to any artist things at night? I mean I go down there and I don't even think about it.

FP-W8: We eat at Chow's.

FP-W3: Chow's Right. Or you go to something at the Santora building in the evenings or whatever.

FP-W8: We walk the streets down there.

FP-W3: I think, I don't think about it, but boy, I've heard over and over, you know the people, really, that keeps them away from Artist Village. I think that's like the biggest thing, the Artist Village, the area is going to have to overcome is the perception and I don't think it's true just for Artist Village, I think it's true for Santa Ana as a whole. The perception of Santa Ana has to overcome of what Santa Ana is.

FP-W7: Oh that's very true. You tell anyone you live in Santa Ana and they go, "Oh," you got to be kidding. The armpit of the world? You're kidding.

FP-W8: The armpit of the nation.

FP-W5: It's amazing.

FP-W7: All you have to do is look at our neighborhood is revitalizing itself and you know it's changing. The perception of Santa Ana is getting better and I think our Home Tours have helped tremendously in proximity working with our neighborhood.

FP-W5: Right, they have.

FP-W7: And they see our neighborhood like all the other homes here. --- We never know who they are.

FP-W6: Washington Square and French Park, and their music thing.

FP-W7: Yeah, people never knew they were here these wonderful neighborhoods down there. I think it's really helped Santa Ana's perception too.

FP-W4: Well, also the paper is simply when they were listing the best neighborhoods in the United States, wasn't Santa Ana like seventeenth, tenth, or twelfth or something.

FP-W5: We weren't in too bad of shape on the whole.

FP-W4: Yeah we came out, I was flabbergasted.

FP-W3: It was one of the safest cities.

FP-W4: One of the safest cities.

FP-W3: Because we're a really big city you know. We're in terms of population wise that puts us into a category with a lot of other cities.

FP-W5: Are we half million yet?

FP-W3: What are we three hundred fifty thousand, four hundred thousand?

NI Visitor: Three hundred and ten thousand. But that's census.

FP-W3: Three hundred ten?

Interviewer: Yeah, plus. Three hundred plus.

NI Visitor: Three hundred ten thousand people.

FP-W3: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: That's a big city.

FP-W8: Yeah.

FP-W1: We're also the county seat, which means it's even more important.

Interviewer: When do you think gangs became a problem in Orange County?

FP-W1: About five, ten years ago.

FP-W7: That's when we first started hearing about it.

FP-W4: Yeah.

Interviewer: When did you first start hearing about it? About five, ten years ago?

FP-W6: You know, it just kind of crept in.

FP-W1: It just did, didn't it?

FP-W6: I'm not even aware. It seems like it was always something that was a Los Angeles
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thing it was far away. It was.

FP-W1: We moved out of our house eighteen years ago to this neighborhood because it was turning really bad.

FP-W6: But I remember cruising on South Main and stuff way back, like '82, '83, people being concerned about it.

FP-W1: Yeah, I think that's why we moved out because they were just trying. It's a problem about seventeen years ago but we never pinpointed it.

FP-W6: Well, I just bought pepper spray the other day for the first time.

FP-W8: I've got some, but it's up in my closet.

FP-W6: Just thinking, well my daughter's is just going to be starting to drive and she'll be driving by herself and sometimes it'll be at night. And Tustin Hardware is going out of business.

FP-W1: What!

FP-W6: Yeah. And they are having a giant sale and I bought three.

FP-W1: ?

Interviewer: You bought that for her though.

FP-W6: One for me, one for her.

FP-W3: I think Santa Ana had a gang problem . . .

FP-W8: Is pepper spray legal?

FP-W7: Yes, it is now. You have to be eighteen or older to buy it.

FP-W1: Like I said, I've got three cans sitting on the kitchen counter been there for two years.

FP-M1: We bought mace, fifteen years ago was it, took the course and everything else.

FP-W4: I had a client that was gang raped and I went with her to the police department for safety protection and during that time when we took the security course together.

FP-W5: Was that here in her neighborhood?

FP-W4: No. That was in Santa Ana though. And we did a security, you know learn how to protect yourself and then we got the mace at that time. But you had to take all this examination and such to get it.

Interviewer: What made you buy that recently vs. two months ago or a year ago, or.

FP-W6: I think probably because she is going to be going out at night by herself in a car for the first time and I'm realizing like I am older and I know how to pay attention and look out for situations and she's sixteen and you know nothing bad has ever happened to her so she doesn't think about where she is and what she is doing so she thinks that nothing bad will ever. It was 25% off and it was little and, you know.

FP-W7: I think mothers of daughters do that. Mine is twenty-three and we bought her one for her car when she got her license. It's just that, it's not Santa Ana.... Or where are you going to be driving. It's just that you've got to have one extra thing of protection.

FP-W6: But it's a mother.

FP-W5: And when she is forty, you'll still be worrying. It's just one of those things.

Interviewer: Where do you think the gang problem is in Orange County? Is it only in certain places, is it kind of everywhere?

FP-W1: I think it's probably everywhere.

FP-W4: Westminster, Garden Grove.

FP-W6: Garden Grove, South Santa Ana, they are everywhere.

FP-W8: Orange, San Clemente.

FP-W7: I never thought there wouldn't be any in Orange.

FP-W4: Yeah, Orange has gang activities.

FP-W1: Wherever there are kids, there are gangs I think. I really do.

FP-W8: Do you think there's gang in Villa Park?

FP-W8: There are probably gangs in the Villa Park.

FP-W1: I haven't heard any, but I wouldn't be surprised.

FP-W7: I don't know that there's gangs but they have burglaries

FP-W1: Well it could be the name(?). We lived in Hawthorne for awhile and we lived next door to a drug house and an apartment building next to this one house, this one house next door was dealing and we know for a fact that somebody in the apartment building was dealing and yet our block, was never touched. We've never had a problem. With neighbors behind us had problems from these people going through the drug house to steal over there but they never messed on their street and I have a feeling that's probably what's with Villa Park, their the neighbor of a poor neighborhood, they're a wealthier neighborhood and they get the problems because of it.

FP-W4: I noticed in the papers, you know, or on television when I see shootings and such that it's not really in even poverty areas, I mean you look at the background of these houses and they look like they are fairly tidy homes and you know, so it must be that you know, I always, my, my stereotype of where gangs were, were like in, in slum regions, you know, where economic situations were terrible. I'm not seeing that when I watch the news and I'm not seeing that when I read police reports, in terms of addresses even where shootings take place that there in like in the Vietnam gangs, some of the, I've evaluated some of the gang members with them and I know that some of them are from pretty well to do families that have had a number of jewelry stores and you know, and they've done hard time, some of these kids already you know, and out again. So, they're not, it's not necessarily linked to, it's more culturally linked with other ties, you know, so, um, my awareness came about gangs I think in the mid 1980s when I was more aware of it. And what was happening in Garden Grove and the Huntington Beach, Garden Grove, Westminster area where there was high influx of the Oriental gangs that were. I heard more about that than actually I heard about the Hispanic gangs. Those kids were kind of quiet compared to, I mean there's a little tough, you know, street tough, you know turf stuff that was taking place but, and I worked at the juvenile hall with the kids and the kids that we got in for the most part that were hardened crime stuff were the Oriental gang, kids from the Oriental gangs. I don't know if that's still true. I know, I know that it's not entirely still true, I know that the Hispanic gangs are also getting into the drug trafficking, trafficking. I can't say that. But so, you know, it's, their getting more dangerous than just street turf stuff, you know, it's getting hard but.

Interviewer: What, not necessarily in your community but, what community factors cue you in that something is unsafe when you go into a place and you feel unsafe? What is it that tells you that, in the community?

FP-W6: When you see men hanging around in the daytime. They should be at school or at work or something.

FP-W8: Loitering, a lot of loitering.

FP-W1: I've gone in places where there's women. I don't want any part of it. It's just a gut feeling.

FP-W8: It really is a gut feeling.

Interviewer: There's nothing you see that tells you?

FP-W1: Smell of a place? I don't know.

FP-W3: That it's unsafe?

Interviewer: Yeah. If you, when you go some place and you feel unsafe what tells you that? What do you see that makes you feel like that?

FP-W6: I've got to go.

FP-W1: I got to take off too. (They leave).

Interviewer: Did you have something?

FP-W8: Bye, bye FP-W6.

FP-W7: Intuition. Intuition I think is one thing. I think another thing is when, if you kind of feel like places get silent when you walk in. It makes you kind of feel like your, oops, it's unusual for you to be there or something like that. I think intuition is, I was watching this thing on (name) and listening to the guy on the radio the other day, who wrote a book on "Help protect yourself" and he said that your intuition is the thing that you should go with more than anything. So, if your uncomfortable or you can see someone walking in on the street, ooh, this doesn't look safe, than you should go with that and go the other way.

FP-W3: You know what's really funny though, I, when I, and it doesn't even have to be within Santa Ana, I get more the inkling is my car going to be safe? I mean, I don't think even personally so much but if I don't feel like my car's going to be in one piece when I get back out that gives me, you know the inkling that you know, I shouldn't be stopping here. I have to actually pull out the stereo, that's supposed to be pulled out, you know, then I'm thinking, you know, I'm not in such a hot place. I really, I don't really stop and think for my personal safety. That's why I run into it more often, can I stop, leave the car, and feel like it will be there when I get back out?

Interviewer: So, it's just a gut feeling, you don't see anything, you just kind of feel it?

FP-W3: Oh sure. It gets back to, I think loitering is a big thing you know, and just kind of the aesthetics of the place and you know, and who's around and...

FP-W7: And how people look at you.

FP-W3: Yeah.

FP-W4: I'm very sensitive to just when I kind of glance around how people look at you. You know people look at, just look at you, and other people can look at you menacingly. And, I think that, you know, I can get very uncomfortable if there's people loitering outside and if there talking with one another and they glance casually in my direction I don't feel apprehensive but if there's a longer look, then I may start to feel apprehensive. I think it has more to do with the contact or the visual looking at someone and seeing how they're, if they're checking me out for my purse or my jewelry, you know, then I immediately respond to that.

FP-W5: Police say look very authoritative, you know exactly where you were going last. You know this is the little old lady that comes out, she's, just throw your head back and make a b-line for whatever and they know they can't fool around with me.

Interviewer: How do you feel about the media's presentation of crime and gangs?

FP-W7: I think it is terrible.

FP-W5: Pretty close.

Interviewer: Terrible why?

FP-W4: I said reprehensible.

FP-W7: Good. I thought we were saying the same thing but I couldn't hear you because I was...

Interviewer: What do you mean when you say that? Why is it reprehensible?

FP-M1: Selling papers with it. Sensationalism.

Interviewer: Do you believe what you hear, what you read?

FP-M1: It's probably true.

FP-W8: Yeah.

FP-M1: It's probably true but it's overstated, overdramatized, made it more prominent, it's
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on the front page, you know...

FP-W7: I don't think the newspaper quite as much, I do think they sensationalize, I don't think that they are as bad as the television news though 'cause I think they hit the headlines that have some, you know sometimes it's completely a logical explanation but it hit the headlines so you'll stay up until eleven and watch that particular news and the visual things that they show, you know, I just think are enough to make anybody very um (crazy). People, um, just get scared easily.

FP-W4: I think they exploit fear.

FP-M1: It's certainly one spectacular crash ---not necessarily a crime. They mix crime in, too. You get some real nice crashes of big rigs and cars and so on.

Interviewer:: Do they make you fearful or do you think that they're just sensationalizing?

FP-W7: Both.

FP-W8: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: When it's, when, so you're fearful when you know there is some sensationalizing or how does that work?

FP-W4: Um, you know it just makes me more conscious of the things that happen even though I know, you know, like when they did the ATM robberies, your chances of getting killed at an ATM were less than beingkilled in a plane crash.

FP-W7: But you still got scared of going to ATMs?

FP-W4: Yeah, but you still, I know---

FP-W7: I did. Yeah. That's a good point.

FP-W4: But um, you know that's, it's, it just makes you see, say oops, it could be me, it could be me.

Interviewer: And does that die off say when they have a big expose' about ATMs then, a couple months later, do you start going back to ATMs or is that something that lasts a long time, when you hear it, you know?

FP-W7: I think not, maybe fear doesn't last, what lasts is the caution that you use after hearing that.

FP-W4: I noticed for myself, I set up different patterns, different, then I choose to continue with those. Even though I may not be fearful any longer, I've already redirected

myself to bank at certain hours or something and get away from what I might have done. You know, I don't, I don't think it's driven by the fear as much anymore, as it's driven by having already put into place what I perceived as a safer habit, you know. And so then I just go more by continue doing that.

Interviewer: So this becomes habit after awhile and you're not thinking?

FP-W4: Yeah, not so much driven by probably if I were desperate need of some cash, ten o'clock at night, I'd go to an ATM you know, but if the stories have died down after a period of a few months.

Interviewer: Okay. That's actually all the questions that I had for you. Except I would like to ask if you would be willing to take a camera and take pictures of things that make you feel unsafe in Santa Ana. That helps me understand when you say, for example when you say deteriorating or whatever, that gives me a sense of what you mean when you say I feel unsafe with when I see this so um.

FP-W7: Stand on the corner of 17th and Ross and just shoot down the street at the high rises and the loitering that's going around outside. (laughter).

FP-M1: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay, I have them right here if you want. I also have ten dollars for each of you since I have a grant to do this.

FP-W3: Oh, the people that early.

Interviewer: Oh, they didn't get their money.

FP-W8: They didn't get their money.

FP-W8: Plus, the ten dollars worth.

FP-W8: That's what happens ---

FP-W8: There you go.

Interviewer: Transportation. I got a grant and I didn't want to inconvenience anyone anymore than I had to and time is enough I think, so I just asked if I could have some money from the grant to pay people for transportation so they wouldn't have to deal with gas and all that kind of stuff, so. Okay, so who's willing to take a camera?

FP-W3: I will.

Interviewer: Great. I just have a little label on here so if you could just put your first name and the date so I know when I gave it to you.

FP-W8: Okay.

Interviewer: Great. Anyone else?

FP-W7: Sure I'll take one?

Interviewer: Cool. And it's got...

FP-W8: Thanks for taking my picture.

FP-W8: Things that make you feel unsafe.

FP-W8: Take the picture not like. Take the picture.

FP-W7: Is it just unsafe or is it just things that you know, that bother you, that worry you in the neighborhood like people with the shopping carts.

FP-M1: Loitering.

Interviewer: You can do that, too. That's fine. Can you just write me a little note and tell me that you took both of those things?

FP-W8: Sure.

Interviewer: That would be great. Just stuff it in and you just have to seal it and send it off.

FP-W3: In what period of time?

Interviewer: In the next couple, two or three weeks? Will you take one?

FP-W8: How many pictures are there?

Interviewer: You don't have to take one though. There's twenty seven on it but you can take it as few as you want.---

FP-W3: Take one to your ATM machine at night.

Interviewer: Yeah. They just come on the twenty seventh so. Okay. Great.

FP-W8: Are they thirty five?

FP-W3: Oh that's thirty five millimeter. It's a twenty seven one.

Interviewer: But you can take two pictures if you want. It's just that's how they come.

FP-W5: I'm a lousy photographer. I'm barely going to pass this.

Interviewer: Um, okay.

FP-W4: Oh, we're leaving though on Tuesday for, I guess I can, we can mail it.

FP-W5: How long are you going to stay up in Canada?

FP-W4: Uh, until the end of August.

FP-W5: Til the end of August.

FP-W8: Wow.

FP-W5: That's a cool country in the middle of the summer, isn't it?

FP-W4: Nice yeah.

Interviewer: All I need you to do is to initial this so that they know that I gave it to a human being versus spending on myself, okay. Just put your initials that... Cause it's an anonymous thing that just tells you then somebody...

FP-W4: We have the same initials.

FP-M1: Yeah.

Interviewer: But different writing probably.

FP-W4: Yeah.

FP-W3: How many neighborhoods of Santa Ana are you meeting with.

Interviewer: Um, six, I'm doing just totally different parts of the neighborhood. I've tried to get them in different areas of Santa Ana and ask the same questions of you but kind of different responses.

FP-W5: Are we the first one?

Interviewer: No, you're number five.

FP-W5: So do they all talk pretty much the same way we do?

FP-W3: I would bet you that they don't.

Interviewer: Um, you know it really depends on the, it's really the area. I mean some people's first thing that they said was safety and crime scared them. Other people, the first thing that they said was speed bumps um, you know.

FP-W3: Park Santiago or Westwood Park.

FP-W7: And we're just more scared of things outside.

FP-W3: Speedbumps?

NI visitor: Liability on the city.

FP-W5: Can we donate it to something?

Interviewer: You can but I have to give it to you.

FP-W8: Do you have to miss too?

Interviewer: Um, because I got the money from my granting agency, I have give, I have to do exactly what I told them I would do with it so I'm not misappropriating it.

FP-W5: All righty. We'll be the first to take ten dollars.

Interviewer: You know, actually the other day, I gave somebody...

END OF TAPE!