

Interview with Brian Avery, 2015

Blaire Smith: Have long have you been the sheriff for Lake County.

Brian Avery: This is my, um, 5 year

Blaire Smith: What was your occupation before you become the sheriff?

Brian Avery: Um, I worked 7 years with the Tennessee Highway Patrol and also worked 7 years with the city of Tipton Vile

Other Interviewer: Were there any difference between you working as a police officer and as a sheriff or even more responsibility

Brian Avery: Yes mama, as the city police man I was basically responsible for patrolling the streets of Tiptonville and, um do I need to look at you now or look at him. And as far as being on highway patrol I was responsible for county, whole county during the??? Being a sheriff

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there is a whole lot of responsible ,um, I'm responsible for both cities, we served silver process which is sliver paperwork, we housing inmates here, and we responsible for them, they medical needs, their anything they might need, so there is a lot more of responsible being a sheriff.

Blaire Smith: Ok so what I'm getting from this is that you are basically just made a living out of being in some type of way in police force correct?

Brian Avery: Um, my real first job was in a printing factory in??? Working color press, I work there for eleven years and then I become city police officer in Tipton vile.

Blaire Smith: What made you want to become a police officer?

*Brian Avery :*Um, no I just through always like it um, my dad was an officer for 38 years, um, I respected for what he did and I always wanted to be a police officer

Blaire Smith: Ok would you say that he,

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idolized, that he was your idol whenever you decided to start deep diving in the becoming of a police officer?

Brian Avery: Yes, my dad was my idol

Other Interviewer: Do you see any differences in the right of calls or necessities in Ridgley and Tipton vile

Brian Avery: As far as the numbers of calls, way it varies you know one day you might get 10 calls in Tiptonville and 1 call in Ridgley and there is other days that you might get 10 calls in Ridgley and 1 call in Tiptonville, there isn't a set number of calls you get. You might go through 2 or 3 days without getting a call and then you make 2 or 3 days, you just flooded with calls.

Blaire Smith: Ok so is there a higher crime rate that you would say between Tiptonville and Ridgley and like there is more like you say criminal then the other?

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Brian Avery: I don't think so, um, I think it even out I think you got criminals on both ends if the county, throughout the county. Crime is something that is everywhere.

Blaire Smith: Is there like a very big range differences between the age limit of people become criminals in originated from Tiptonville.

Brian Avery: Not, you got young criminals and you got older criminals. There is no age limit there.

Blaire Smith: OK so there more young people getting arrest in both cities then there is older people

Brian Avery: Nahhh, I think we have a lot of young people being arrest. I think our younger people don't have anything to occupied they time because, there is not much for them to do and I think for that reason they attend get in trouble

Blaire Smith: So do you believe that if there is something here that they can do other than break the law that you wouldn't have to arrest so many young people

Brian Avery: Definitely, um, you know ...if you

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have something else to occupied your time you wouldn't have enough time to get out her to found something ended you up in juvenile court or general session court

Blaire Smith: So would you say that for an activity center one of the main thing that we really need in this county

Brian Avery: I think an activity center would if it run properly I think it would be a great aspect to Lake County

Blaire Smith: Do you have any other thing that you believed would be great aspect to this county

Brian Avery: I think, um, one thing I see is being a law enforcement I think parents need to get involve in their children lives. Don't wait when they get in trouble on how much you love them, you tell I love them before they cross that line.

Blaire Smith: Ok why do you think that that it is right now because from what I know from back in the day, you didn't have that issue?

Brian Avery: I think today you have younger parents, um,

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from what I see now is that parents want to be more of the children friends instead of being their parents.

Blaire Smith: Ok, if you weren't the sheriff would you spend as much time in Ridgley you do now since you live in Tiptonville

Brian Avery: Um, probably not

Blaire Smith: Why

Brian Avery: There isn't any reason for me to go to Ridgley Tennessee I mean.....I just wouldn't, I mean

Blaire Smith: So even know like do you not have any people that you would go to Ridgley and visits

Brian Avery: While my girlfriend lives there and I guess that I left that out, but yea I mean that would be the only reason. That would be the only reason I'll go to Ridgley to see my girlfriend, but if I haven't had a girlfriend down there, no I wouldn't go to Ridgley I wouldn't be hanging out in Ridgley

Blaire Smith: Ok, so why is that, like is there nothing in

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Blaire Smith: Ridgley that draws you in Ridgley

Blaire Smith: Nope, nothing at all

Other Interviewer: Ok, was Ridgley was a place that was booming I guess, did you like when you was younger was there like anything that propping you to go to Ridgley instead staying in Tiptonville

Brian Avery: Nothing at all that I recall

Other Interviewer: So it haven't change since you were a kid

Brian Avery: Nope not at all

Blaire Smith: Ok, you had said something about how we needed, um, a activity center or something to occupied the younger generation minds and cells, um, why do you believed that the county haven't got something like that.

Brian Avery: This county in my opinion is so far behind on so many things. I felt like we been keep in the dark for so many things, you know, I blamed

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it on the older people generation. They didn't want this town to be successful or want this county to be successful. They wanted to hold us back and I felt like they done that, um, I see things every day that I deal with that is so far behind on and who do you blamed. You have to blame it on the older generation.

Blaire Smith: Can you liberate on what you just said that you see things on your job

Brian Avery: I can, um, something simple is having a dog catcher in the county, and that might sound simple to you or funny to yall, you know when we get a call up here about straight dogs in the county. And my officers aren't dog catchers they officers, when they go out to these dog calls, they don't have anything to do to the dogs because we don't have a dog catcher in the county, you know

Blaire Smith: What is the difference between the older generation and the new generation?

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Brian Avery: One word, respect. My opinion the younger generation don't have any respect, they don't respect themselves, they don't respect anybody and I think that is the difference

Blaire Smith: Ok, um, why do you believe it's like that?

Brian Avery: I'll go back to the parents I think a lot of parents failed. When I was growing up you respect it your elders even you didn't like them or not you respected them, whatever they told you do you did it. Today yall see it, ever few kids now a day respect elders and respected their parents. There is kids who don't respected their parents, I see that everyday

Other Interviewer: Ok, so when you were talking about how the reason that Tiptonville have a lot to offer at this moment especially the younger generation, you spoke

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about the older generation is the reason why Tiptonville is left in the dark or Lake County was left in the dark. What would you say that the difference between that generation mindset and your generation mindset

Brian Avery: It's like night and day is totally different my idea and somebody ideas, 65 and 70 year old are two different things. I feel like I bring this law enforcement, I felt like twenty years ago the sheriff was the man and pretty much did what he had to do. Now a days sheriff go to jail like everybody else its guide lines and rules you have to buy by. You know he don't have the opportunity he had like have twenty years ago.

Blaire Smith: Why do you feel it's been a Jurassic change between that?

Brian Avery: Because it needed to be done because you had sheriff taking braves and

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commenting all kind of crimes selves and there is no better than anybody else I mean they wanted to up posed the laws not break them

Other Interviewer: Would you say crime in Lake County is higher than when you were a kid?

Brian Avery: Very much so, when I was a kid growing up, you didn't hear about when I was growing up as a kid drinking a beer was, when I was a senior in high school drinking a beer was a big thing. Now it's nothing, it's so many drugs out there today and its so many kids getting hook on different type of drugs and it is just scary.

Blaire Smith: Why do you think it become such you know just everybody brushing it off its shoulders now

Brian Avery: As far as

Blaire Smith: As far as the younger generation drinking or doing drugs

Brian Avery: Because I think that it is so many more drugs out there and knows you got the internet now and the computers and it

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just wide open. With you want to know how to make meth just go on the internet it will teach you

Blaire Smith: What you saying that you would believe that, with the, how modern technology now is the main reason why it's so difficult to keep the children from making bad decisions as from doing drugs or drinking alcohol.

Brian Avery: I think that the internet have a lot of to do that, I think that age is, I understand that the generation yall growing up in, me personally I don't like it one bit, I wish they never invent a computer but that did and it is something we have to deal with, life goes on

Other Interviewer: I'm going to go back about the split generation, do you see more older generation station in this certain town, like do you do you think the

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older people of Lake County live in mostly in Tiptonville or live mostly in Ridgley or does the young generation live in one place over the other

Brian Avery: I don't see that divide, I think that people grow up in certain Tiptonville and Ridgley that is still living in those cities just because it is there comfort zone that is where they grow up

Blaire Smith: Ok do you feel that people are more draw in Tiptonville or drawing over Ridgley

Brian Avery: I do believe that one thing we have a very clean in Tiptonville and we have a grocery store in Tiptonville and have two dollars stores, I mean we have a little bit more then we have in Ridgley does

Blaire Smith: I just want to thank you for taking your time to do this interview

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today, do you have any last thing to say that we didn't pin point on

Brian Avery: No mom I think you did a great job

Blaire Smith: Ok thank you