**Name of Project: R.O.O.T.S of Sunflower County**

**Date of Interview: November 17, 2016**

**Location of Interview: Indianola, MS**

**Name of Interviewer(s): Nicholas Warren**

**Name of Interviewee(s): Marekus Hibbler**

**Name of file used for transcription** (audio and/or video file): Audio File (Marekus Hibbler)

**[0:14 ] NW:** What is your job title?

**[0:16 ] MH:** Chief of Police for Sunflower County Consolidated School District

**[0:17 ] NW:** What motivated you to be a Judge or a Police Officer?

**[0:18 ] MH:** What motivated me was uhm, at first I didn’t want to be a police officer, just tell you the truth straight out. As I got older I started seeing different things happening around the community and I got tired of being a umh, how can I say it, uhm I got tired of watching it and I decided to go ahead and do something about it.

**[0:34 ] NW:** What is your role in keeping your community safe?

**[ 0:37] MH:** Ah man, my role is… right now I’m in the school district. So, my role now is to effect the youth in the district and the citizens I also work for the police department in my city. So my role is uhm basically just to make sure that umh kids understand what law enforcement really is instead of the stuff they see on social media. Help them to understand exactly what a Police Officer is.

**[1:00 ] NW:** What are you conveying to children and families about law enforcement?

**[ 1:03] MH:** I want them to know that police are not here to harm. That uhm I know the stuff they see on social media shows the opposite of what I just said. But uhm police are here to actually help. We are here to protect and serve and my role is to make sure that uhm people have an understanding of what exactly a law enforcement officer is.

**[1:23 ] NW:** How do you feel about SROs in schools?

**[1:27 ] MH:** Well now the strange part about that is that they didn’t have SROs when I was in school. But now that the times changed, you have to change with the time. So, like I said earlier you have a lot of things dealing with social media to where bulling is now a big issue. Uhm, easier access to so much stuff now because of smart phones and computers and things like that that we didn’t have when I was going through school. So, I think there’s a need for them but while they’re there they need to be affective while they’re there.

**[1:57 ] NW:** How do you see school discipline police impacting students?

**[2:00 ] MH:** If you used properly it can be very effective to actually be a positivething. But if not used properly it’ll be real messed up. It’ll mess everything up**.**

**[2:16 ] NW:** In your role as police officer/SRO what are you protecting?

**[2:18 ] MH:** Uhm, young people. People period. That’s my main goal.

**[2:32 ] NW:** What is your opinion about the use of corporal punishment.

**[ 2:33] MH:** Uhm, to me it depends. To me it’s different strokes for different folks. Because. So people you can used corporal punishment on and it will have you know a positive effect. The other side of that is if somebody is not raised in that type of environment to where they are whipped and they don’t understand why you’re doing it, I think it could go bad. It will be negative.

**[2:58 ] NW:** What do students need to be protected from?

**[ 2:59] MH:** Ow, that’s a good question. What do they need to be protected from? Dang, can’t say what they need to be protected from because every household is different. Let’s say in my household I need to be protected from say certain things I watch on television. Other people might actually need to be protected from their own parents. Somebody might need to be protected from other relatives so it just depends on your environment.

**[3:30] NW:** What advise do you have for African American Young Men?

**[3:32] MH:** Educate yourselves. And what I mean by educate yourselves I don’t just mean just by books. I need you to understand who you are by race. Not just what they tell you in the history books. I need you to go deeper because you have the access to the information. So access that information and find out your, your true bloodline and who you really are as a black person, African American.

**[4:00] NW:** Is there anything that you would like to add.

**[4:02] MH:** Aw man just for my people**,** for my African American people for my melanin people, as they say on the internet. Uhm stay positive. What I mean by stay positive is stay motivated. Understand who you really are. Don’t just go on what people tell you are and what social media tells you you are. Understand who you really are, go deeper and find out your real roots in who you really are and the reason why you have this skin color.

**4:24: NW: Yes sir**