

**Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) – Chapter Meeting
Sherman Oaks Library – Community Room
Sherman Oaks, CA
8/24/19**

MEETING COMMENCES AT 10:00 A.M.

>>> Can you hear me, no? Do you have your tell coil on? You can hear me okay if you can't hear me, can you hear me? You don't have the tell coil.

>>> I hear you.

>>> Okay cool all right everyone good morn. Where is -- okay good morning I am Jennifer N the President of the Los Angeles chapter thank you for coming. I knew it would be a small group today. It is summer, people are my whole Facebook page is filled with people bringing their children to college. My entire feed is that. So I knew people, it would be a small group. But any ways. If you don't know you can have your hearing aid on telecoil. We looped the room. So the sound from this microphone goes right into your device. If your hearing aids don't have that, go to your Doctor and ask. Not something you can do yourself, have to have them do it for you. But it is beautiful. This streams right into your ear. I highly recommend you do that. It makes these meetings way easier to hear.

If you want to stay in touch with us we are on Facebook, we have a website. Yahoo groups, well phasing that out.

Well these are HLAA - LA dot ORG. So have a private page and public page. So the private page where we post, articles. And you can e-mail us if you have questions for any of us. Today's agenda. We will do first time visitors. A couple of you. And then prepare for law enforcement interaction with Dan Widman of the famous Pat Widman

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previous H L A A President. Talking about chapter news. The hearing, that was in June, but we have had some. We have had problems getting Wendi here, she will give us an update today, and then talk about the next meeting at the end. And take a break after Dan speaks at 11 o'clock so our lovely captionist gets a break. Okay.

Intros.

So for anybody who is new, we would like you to stand up introduce yourself. Your name, your hearing loss, how you heard about us, what your hoping for in joining the chapter.

>>> Hi everybody I am the new chairman of the orange California chapter, so okay. So on my way to visit my son and family so opportunity to stop here and meet you guys. I am totally new to the chapter, just got a cochlear implant. I have been laid off, group was struggling -- so I was dragged to HLAA. They were going to close their chapter so stepped up. So never a person to talk on a mic, but I will learn. So really happy to be here today meet you guys that is it that is my story. Have had hearing loss worn two hearing aids since 30 so real struggle in network groups. So big awakening. Still struggling with us, it can be painfully slow. Just June, and I am new.

>>> You have telecoil?

>>> Yes, I do but have not noticed when I turn my tell coil on if it makes any difference will see --

>>> Well welcome there is many people here with cochlear implants. Which one. That is okay my sister had that one all the same just different bells and whistles. We have a vast group here. So e-mail us, you can e-mail me, I am happy to give you tips. We are here to help you, help you make your chapter successful. Thank you for coming today. Yay! Okay saw someone come in. Hi are you knew?

Are you new could you introduce yourself to our group.

>>> My name is Livia, I have I guess 50 percent hearing loss. I think I got your magazine before. And, I will see what I can learn about hearing aids basically this is what I am

interested in. Many people have the same problem. The volume is not the problem, the clarification. Understanding the words is the problem. Cannot figure out what hearing aids to get, or try new hearing aids. If the very expensive hearing aids are any better, how much difference might that make.

>>> Well, welcome, we can help you, a few audio-specialist we know and people with hearing aids we can help you figure that out.

>>> I am Janet, not new, was here last time. Just wondering if it is not to personal ask people with cochlear implants. Raise your hand.

>>> He has them.

>>> Great thank you know who to talk to after the meeting.

>>> So.

>>> One thing the kit.

>>> You want to talk about it since I don't -- This is Tim. Our vice President.

TIM: Good morning everyone want to talk to you about this now. So as some of you know I work for princess cruises, I am getting more involved with the acceptability programs. So on the ships, they have T T Y kits, T T Y kits, and they told me that they are phasing out the older models for new ones, so they ask me to work with you guys, H L A A California, maybe national, to see if there is interest to have one of these for yourself. Or if you guys have suggestion on how to donate them to organization that find the value. So I got this over break have a look at it. So it is older technology, but it is used on the ships in the cabins. They will have I think 12, 13 of these kits. They usually consist of the T T Y device. The keyboard to type to a land line for the other person to see. But the kits in the cabin also include smoke alarm alert, door knocker, and someone might have been on the ship and tried. Also bed shakers for an alarm. Stuff like that. Most of these kits were either not used or just a back up so not much. So they are older but would hate to throw these out, so wanted to ask you guys to have a look. If you're interested, Princess will mail it to you free. You can get it. Have it for

yourself. Also if you have suggestion on organizations that might be interested in this stuff. Just hate to, well, I thought I would reach out. Reach out on Facebook I know a lot of members are not here today, and put pictures up. Just trying to get these devices new homes. Lots of features. They do work all the cables everything is there instructions. So if you're interested let me know have a look during the break, if you have further questions let me know. Thank you.

>>> I am definitely interested.

>>> Okay.

>>> Okay so I am we will move on to our presentation now. I think you know what this is about will have you come up introduce yourself and what have you but very excited to have you Dan Widman give him around of applause.

DAN WIDMAN: Thank you. Good morning everybody my name is Dan. Pat Widman's son. Second time I have been given this opportunity to speak in front of this committee. Last was the Huntington hospital. Apparently was successful enough I was asked to come back, so my pleasure.

Couple things people know my mom, Pat. And next to my mom my wife patty. So she was nice enough to come, be here with me, to support me, and my mom. And little thing about me. Obviously you know I am a police officer with L A P D. Been with the Los Angeles police department 25 years. Most of all that time is working patrol. I am currently assigned as a field supervisor. Sergeant not true holly wood. So been a sergeant 11 years. Part of my job as a field supervisor is making sure officers in the field are doing their job properly, enforcing the law the way they are supposed to. Provide the best community outreach, and respect for the community to be able to help people in need, absolutely love my job.

Enjoyed 90 percent of it. Obviously every job about 10 percent bad with it. But vast majority of the years on the job very pleasurable. I enjoy it.

About 8 more years before I retire.

Some of the things I do as a field sergeant is provide roll call training to officers before they start their shift. Start the day watch. Part of my roll call training, probably 6 or 7 times a year is speaking about people in the hearing loss community. I come from my mom, who has been having hearing loss for pretty much a majority of her life. I remember from the time I was a little kid. And my grandfather.

So I grew up knowing how to be able to better communicate with my mom. Don't speak sign language, but always learned over the years when I am having a conversation with my mom I have to look at her. She reads my lips. Cool. There are times I can have a conversation with my mom, don't want people to hear, so I mouth the words she picks it up pretty cool. What I try to emphasize to officers is how important it is to be able to communicate to people suffering from hearing loss. Myself I am diagnosed about 3 months ago losing anywhere from a quarter to half hearing loss in my right ear.

So I am also suffering from it.

As I get older it becomes more apparent especially for my wife. Have to repeat things for me to hear it. So at work it is challenging to. I can understand now that I am getting older how frustrating it has to be. I am starting to see it cannot imagine how difficult it is for people with hearing loss especially communicating with first responders.

So want to emphasize the Los Angeles police department prides its self on providing the best service we can. We have sign language interpreters. Also have, as a first responder, if we are at a call, and somebody is completely hundred percent hearing loss, they communicate through sign. If we have no police officers available that are sign language interpreters. We have a program with the city of Los Angeles where a company will send out an interpreter that works with the city. There is a network of so many if we call the number, they will get somebody within 10 minutes to respond to a radio call.

That really makes a big difference.

Some things I emphasize speaking at roll call is making sure when you encounter somebody with hearing loss how important it is to be able that when your speaking to them your speaking directly in front of them a lot of times they read your lips. Pick up what it is your saying. Sometimes it is difficult a challenge at night on a radio call and someone cannot hear you. We have to sometimes compromise. Maybe going inside a house, or even getting under a street light, or putting our selfs in a position where the person can read our lips. Other thing I emphasize in my roll call training with officers is how important it is in traffic stops. At the police academy we had three or four hours on zealing with people can hearing loss. So we have a few signs, so when you show up on a traffic stop some of the the sign language for drivers license. This is if your a police officer. That was 25 years ago for me that is something we as police officers forget because we don't go through that training over time, so forget some of that. So I really make a point as a sergeant in the roll call to reemphasize the training, how important it is. Knowing personally with my family, with my mom, knowing there is a lot of fear out there because of the interactions with law enforcement. What happens if I get pulled over? What happens if they mistake my car that was maybe a car that matched a description that was used in a crime, now I have police officers behind my car, and I cannot hear them.

Now, we have been trained in how to deal with these situations, but what I want to emphasize to folks in this community is the fear factor. And, you know, being a police officer, I still get nervous when I see a police car when driving, when I am off duty, see the car behind me, have the same reaction. Also same reaction with the doctors, paranoid with Doctors, the white coat syndrome, I see a doctor I freak out. I get that, my thing today this morning is to try to answer any of the questions you have to for you to better understand where we are coming from. What you can do to help situations to take your anxiety away so if you find yourself in a situation getting pulled over. Knowing some of the things, what to do to make you feel more relaxed. We have all, oh, police

officer pulled me over, cannot communicate, pulling me out of the car, thinking I am bad because I am not listening to them. We are a great judge of character. Part of being a police officer is seeing people and identify people who are, I would -- want to say more the criminal element as opposed to just the general population. And when we are dealing with regular folks on a traffic stop. We know if you are not listening to us, it is not because you disrespect us, or, you know, you're not listening to us because you have no respect for the law enforcement whatever. Oh lot of times it is because we pull someone over that has hearing loss. We pull someone over who suffers from over physical ailments. We pull people over who are handicaps. So we have to adapt to situations we come across all the time.

Some of the things I want to provide to you, the community here, when you deal with law enforcement officers, and use this example.

Pulled over, the police officer comes to your window, the most important thing is to already have your driver's license, registration, and insurance ready. All the officer does is get that information from you. Most of the time when the officer pulls someone over, the times I have the person that says, I am deaf, I understand, so maneuver, and communicate to them, and talk to them, they are able to read my lips.

There are times I have the note pad, the field officers notebook, we will write questions down, and provide that to them and they will respond. That for me, makes a huge difference. It puts them at ease. My point is make the person at ease I understand how stressful.

There was a situation somebody was pulled over at least two police cars behind this particular person who was deaf, and they did not know for the longest time they were being pulled over. What happened was police officers showed up.

I have to tell you, 97 percent of the police officers I work with great people. A couple jerks. Yes in every job out there. But a lot has to do with how the officer feels with that particular situation, and goes in with the wrong attitude. And in this particular situation,

from what I understand, don't know this first hand, is that the officer gave a bad attitude to the person pulled over, and the person pulled over had no idea, they could not hear. So if that officer worked for me we have a one on one conversation in the sergeant room and make sure that situation never happens again that is not professional. What you do in a situation like that with one or two police cars behind you. Sometimes we have high risk stops, and the probability of you getting pulled out of your car at a high risk stop is less than 1 percent. Not often.

Police officers are great judges of character, so they know this is a normal citizen, handle this different. That is my idea as a field supervisor, when I show up to these critical incident. Just officers, this is not what you're thinking. They pick it up right away, and are able to modify our tactics and response. So going back to that situation where the gentleman got pulled over, two police officers behind that person. A high risk stop where the officers are not approaching the vehicle, but standing behind the door, like the news, the police officers sometimes at gunpoint are behind the door ordering the person out of the vehicle. Very unlikely that happens to anybody in this room. If it does happen this is what I encourage. Most important thing for a police officer is our safety, is watching people's hands.

The hands is the most important thing for us when dealing with a situation. Rolling down your window and slowly putting your hands outside the vehicle, the driver's door is the most important thing, now even if you don't hear the commands. Every police officer there on that scene knows you're not a threat. Then it changes the situation a little bit. If your able to, stick your head out the window, communicate with the person your deaf, cannot here it changes the situation. Will we jeopardize the officer safety not necessarily, but handle it differently absolutely. So very, very rare that happens, if it does happy am trying to give you the tools so you know if you ever get pulled over, and the police officer is not approach, you are thinking calling me out of the car, cannot

hear. Rolling down your window putting your hands outside the window takes the stress off that officer about 50 percent, you're not a threat.

So I have walked up to the violator's car. Introduce myself. Notice no response. So introduce myself again, they say, sorry, I am deaf, okay changes my reaction how to handle it. Ask them, you read lips. A lot of times they say they do. So driver's license, registration, insurance, most of the time people know that, have that out before you even get pulled over before an officer walks up that is important.

It changes the whole situation as far as how we handle it so you don't feel like you have to worry something bad will happen because you cannot hear the officer speaking to you. Situations in dealing with someone that is a victim of a crime it happens had a case. The thing I love about my job is interacting with different members of the community.

In this situation there was this lady lives in a nice area. Parks her vehicle in her driveway about 10 o'clock at night and a couple guys pulled up robbed her at gunpoint. Felt so bad. Heard the call come out I responded to it. The officers were having a difficult time, she was deaf. So spoke to the officers, let me handle the situation. So -- so was able to answer her questions as far as description and writing it down and had everything I needed for the report.

I made the time to sit down write everything out. Cannot imagine if that happened to my mom, a difficult situation, but we handled it. And also just my mom with a hearing loss, made a big difference with this lady, and a big difference for the officers too. You don't encounter that situation all the time.

And also for your safety, so important, we have a lot of crimes going on that everybody is aware of where people are being robbed, or having the purses stolen from them when they are walking out of super markets. Things of that nature. Always be aware. I tell my daughter this now 19 going to college that the biggest thing you can do to prevent yourself from being the victim of a crime is making eye contact with people.

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When walking to or from your vehicle have your keys in your hand ready to go. If somebody is going to victimize you, there is a lot less chance they will do that when you have eye contact with them. Being aware of your surroundings is one of the most important things. Walking to your car at night, leaving a market or restaurant, always pay attention, who is behind you, in front, if somebody is thinking about coming up, taking your purse, or carjacking you, lot less chance that will happen if you already made eye contact before they even approach you. That is really important.

When you have hearing loss, you cannot hear the person coming up. So always emphasize that, be aware of your surroundings. That is about it. Don't want to ramble. Really here to answer your questions. If anyone has questions I could answer for you to clear up confusion. Maybe something I said. More than happy.

>>> You said that when you get pulled over to have your license and registration and insurance handy, but I keep that in my glove box, so have to be completely stopped before I get it out. Maybe they think are you getting something more dangerous out. You know.

>>> No. No. Yes.

>>> In the counsel it might end up with other items.

DAN WIDMAN: Yeah most of the time they keep it in the glove box. When we see you reaching for the glove box we know that is what you're doing. It is important, having all those things ready to go.

It speeds up the process makes you feel more relaxed. Now you know these are the three items that the officer, the C H P officer is going to ask for. So have these things available. It takes all that concern or confusion away. Just something that is helpful. Most of the time I will tell you when I pull people over, they are digging drew their glove box. So tell my wife and kids if you're driving keep those handy so you don't have to dig around and look for it. Just important to have that weather you keep it under the visor or center console.

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Another important thing to do. If you feel anxiety because you're in a situation where you don't think the officer is hearing you. Just let the officer know I have my driver's license in the center console or glove box, I want to reach for it. The police officer will say yeah I understand not a big deal other questions?

>>> Hi. I -- so you get pulled over, and speaking from experience unfortunately. So not from California originally, where I am from you get pulled over, like, the officer cop or C H P, they come up on the driver side. I find here I don't know what is consistent.

Waiting on my drivers side, then hear the banging on the right the passenger side. I jump out of my seat, because I am deaf in that ear and that triggers the officers. Had one guy reach for the gun. Very unnerving. What is the policy. The officer approaches on left, the right, do you have to know for other cities is it the same.

DAN WIDMAN: Great question. When you're dealing with the traffic stop with the California highway patrol on the freeway they always approach the passenger side for the safety of the officer. They don't want their back exposed to the traffic. So they will always, always, approach on the freeway, even L A P D officer, I train my officers to approach the passenger side if you are conducting a traffic stop on the freeway. Most of the time we like to use the loud speaker, tell them to get off.

But in the hearing loss community you don't hear it.

Good thing. The emergency flashers. That acknowledges the fact I know your pulling me over. The car is behind, if you're close to an off ramp my recommendation is put your emergency lights on, drive in the slow lane with emergency lights on. Drive off the off ramp at a slow speed, so no evading, the officer will be assured. That makes a big difference for us. Great question. As far as different agencies. C H P that is how we train. L A P D a little different. Sometimes police officers working by themselves approach the passenger but very unlikely in the city of L A. Question?

>>> Yeah just wondering, what you guys are trained, you mentioned training, how do you train to handle people with hearing loss.

DAN WIDMAN: Good question so we go through the academy, about four hours of instruction. Do we need more training? Absolutely. It effects me personally with my mom. So try about 7 times a year have standard roll call training on how to communicate with the deaf. Do we need more training. Yes. We have what we call POST. Police officers standard training, which is California. So POST has mandated training we as police officers in L A P D, whether San Diego or. We have to complete training video training. And sometimes the training will talk about people within the hearing loss community. It happens probably once every two years we get a video. Just a reinforcement. But not constant training.

>>> Okay thank you.

>>> The D M V there is a sticker correct. A thing we can have in our car. Have talked to a number of L A P D who don't know what that symbol means. You're not trained to recognize that.

>>> That is important that we get behind something like that. I like the idea of a plaque, putting it in the windshield of the car or handing it to the police officer with the drivers license or registration.

>>> Yeah the D M V provides it, we can all have them. If you guys don't recognize it.

>>> Yeah really important.

>>> Was going to say I agree with you. The D M V gives it out, the L A P D should recognize it. There is a deaf women I follow on Twitter. So she has an E T S Y store, so it goes over your seat belt, says hard of hearing, or deaf. Have it for children who are autistic. If someone gets in an accident the parent is knocked out you see the child is autistic. Maybe not have it 24, 7. But when you're driving really great. If the police officer comes up, does not recognize the plaque, they see deaf, or hard of hearing, and belief they are super cheap.

>>> Just want to add to that my, I was out recently my son is a fire captain, and a homicide detective there, one aspect of the seat belt sign, if there was an accident, the

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child was in the car seat, this would help first responders and getting to the hospital, but they say it is really hard once they pass it on to the hospital, it might get lost in that. The guys taking you out of the car to the hospital don't necessarily give that information to the hospital.

>>> And one other thing heard put your hands on the steering wheel.

DAN WIDMAN: Good point remember, opening it to questions there are things I forget. Really important, when you get pulled over, I do this, putting your hands on the steering wheel.

So referring to the gentleman pulled over, high risk stop. By rolling down your window putting your hands out. If it is a regular routine stop. At night, hands up. Maybe in the interior light. The officer will likely use the big spotlights any way.

One of the reasons they do that, why do they shine the big bright lights in to our side mirrors. We don't want you to see us approaching for our safety. Safety issue for us. A lot of situations happen where police officers are shot with traffic stops, so as -- for a safety. So hands on the wheel when the officer approaches. Interior light on. Those are the things we look at the most. Once we see them, our heightened state of alert dissipates a little, we are not concerned about that.

>>> I have two questions. One is. I work in a public school. And I participated in kind of an active shooter drills. So have a question about how people who are hard of hearing or deaf, what they can do in an emergency situation with a larger police presence or first responder presence. We cannot hear directions especially in chaos. And other question I have has to do with also when try are things in the neighborhood. Where we live, it is high crime. So oftentimes we get the helicopter shouting commands but don't know. So if they are shouting commands to a criminal or telling people to stay in their house. So will call the local police station, can you tell me, cannot hear the commands, but not always hundred percent they tell me what is going on, I mean security reasons.

But many situations where we are involved with not just traffic stops that effect our ability to communicate with law enforcement.

DAN WIDMAN: Very good question. The helicopter that is orbiting over a scene they will not communicate with people in the neighborhood. If they communicate at all it is because we are sending out a K 9 a dog. We are required by our department policy, if we are looking for a suspect wanted for a serious crime, they are in someone's backyard. We have a helicopter. Before we can send the dogs we have to give that suspect a warning an opportunity to give themselves up. The only communication from the helicopter is to the criminal to give themselves up. We don't communicate with the community. People cannot hear especially that thing is orbiting up there with the blades I would not hear it. As far as active shooter great question, we zeal with that training once every 18 months. If your in a situation, you don't hear what is going on. But see and alerted to the fact there is other people in the crowd. Go with the crowd. Go with the crowd. In the situation, we had this situation in Wal-Mart. At El Paso, first responders were on scene. They are trying to get you out. But we don't know the bad guy so have to call everybody out. Looks terrible, but again have to make sure our safety, and safety of the other people are not compromised by having the customers come out, hands up. Follow the crowd, what the crowd is doing, that will keep you safe in that situation.

Any other questions with active shooter there is a lot to it. My answer, you're not able to hear what is going on, and there is instructors from first responders, go with the flow. We are taking 30 people out of the a establishment, a movie theater or mall, go with the flow that answer.

>>> Yeah.

>>> Okay.

>>> Um unfortunately I have almost been in a situation with active shooting. There is a lot obviously trying to figure out what is going on. What is, if anything, is there a way,

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do you recommend to see, communication, like an LAPD app, or use the media. So to find out what is going on, if you're by yourself, go with the crowd that is true. But how does L A P D communicate to the public.

DAN WIDMAN: Well we do have a Facebook app the department, the city of Los Angeles, the fire department, police department, they do have alerts all the time. And it is active. 24/7. And the moment they have a critical incident taking place, it gets shot out through social media, so people are aware what is going on. Street closes, things of that nature, so people are aware.

>>> Gentleman in the back with the hand up.

>>> You can keep the mic.

>>> Question so there has been fatal shootings involving the police and the person is deaf.

DAN WIDMAN: Could you start over.

>>> How have you guys like changed your protocols or anything or have you have you changed anything about the way you guys handle deaf and hard of hearing people in traffic stops.

DAN WIDMAN: Well the answer to that I don't know of -- I, I have known and heard of incidents but don't know of those particular incidents your referring to. Cannot really answer the questions in regards to those situations. Don't know the circumstances so don't know the situation. But can tell you this, we have on a extremely strict use of force policy. Our use of force policy is more strict than L A P D more strict than California police officers post. In what we call deadly situations, where we are required to use deadly force, it is the last resort. Only time we use deadly force is immediate defense of life.

Ourselves, partner, or the community. It is the last resort. The things we train on when dealing with the deadly force situation is first thing, background. Age of the suspect. Knowledge of the crime, what is the crime we are stopping this person for and the

seriousness of it. So, there are situations we have encountered where a criminal is deaf, it has happened. Don't know a particular situation, but I do know we are well trained. When we are dealing with a situation where we have to pull our firearm out the most important thing we have is time on our side, if we are dealing with a critical situation. Where we have the ability to get resources there. We have what we call less, lethal. So the bean bag. And we use that with situations where a suspect is armed with a stick or poll or knife in some cases so don't have to use deadly force. Also the Taser. But some things we emphasize to minimize, and have to tell you L A P D our officer involved shootings decreased 40 percent last year. Huge number. Because of the training, we are constantly going through. Putting our selfs in situation where we have cover, resources, communicate with the subject, it minimizes the chances of that. Obviously when your dealing with someone who is deaf, can not hear, that is why I emphasize if your on the other side emphasize the officers can see your hands. If you know your in the right, the officers have mistaken you for someone else. Go with the situation. Once everything is done, and the situation is stabilize, they realize you're not the person we are looking for. Handcuffs off.

They provide you a business card. My job as a field supervisor is, understand, so sorry this happened. We had a description. Matched your vehicle. Had to pull you out at gunpoint, I apologize, this is frightening. 9 times out of 10 I explain it people get it. How are we supposed to though we don't we get limited information sometimes when someone reports a crime. This person kidnapped there person, took off north black S U V. So see the S U V, what do you do, or the traffic stop, and it is a mom taking the kids to a movie theater. Not ordering the girls out at gunpoint. Not the suspect your looking for. But those are the situations you have to know as a police officer that 98 percent of the people in the world are good people. We are here to work for you. To provide you the best service, protect you guys. The 2 percent is what you look for. The two percent disguise them themselves with everyday people.

So have to find them.

When you're the good person, keeping your hands visible. Listening to what the police officer has to say. Going the program, even if you don't hear doing what you know police officers want. Having your hands in a place they don't feel threatened. And when handcuffs come off. The whole situation is explained, and that is the best way for us to handle it.

>>> Want me to.

>>> Hi a lot of people have been saying that it is easier for them to take a picture of say if they have the license, the registration, the insurance card, and have it on the phone. So in that, if I have it on my phone, is that the same, or, I know try was a young man shot and killed all he had was a cell phone. Thought it was something else. Is it still better to use the paper. Or try to use the cell phone. And then somehow, I don't know. Because people are getting shot about a cell phone. But, I do like having mine on here too so.

DAN WIDMAN: Yeah that situation a horrible situation happened in Sacramento, the Clark shooting. That was involving the cell phone, he was in his grandmothers backyard, a short foot pursuit the officer had a call of cars broken into. Was not the suspect, and they mistook the cell phone for a gun, a horrible situation. A lot changed if you watched the news.

Gavin Newsom has changed a lot of that, when police officers are able to use deadly force in those situations. Horrible for that family. Having said that though in your situation keeping all of your information on cell phone, good idea. When I deal with folks in a traffic collision, an exchange of information, having a picture of your license and registration is easy. Drivers license the police officer would like to have the license in possession. They will go back and run your license, and I am a firm believer, a police officer for 25 years, if a person makes a honest mistake, I go back, run it, no moving

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violation for two years. You get a warning. Good driver you made a mistake. So always give the officer a license.

>>> Like swipe it.

DAN WIDMAN: We run it through the computer, run the status, make sure it is valid. Number two, look at the persons driving record, if they have oh good record.

>>> So physical license to run it.

DAN WIDMAN: Yes not taking cell phone back to the car to run the drivers license information.

>>> Okay thank you very much. If you have more questions we can continue after the break.

>>> No he is leaving.

DAN WIDMAN: I can answer a few more minutes.

>>> Five more minutes.

>>> Okay keep going.

>>> Okay passing it.

>>> Sure very simple I appreciate your time and everything. So you are telling us a lot of policies for L A P D is this general through other cities. Santa Monica, loss Vegas. Or.

DAN WIDMAN: Well Vegas is separate but pretty standard across the board. Like I said, post, the California police officer training, encompasses most officers.

>>> Thank you.

>>> So have had some difficulty processing the routine stop, and I understand you said we could get our license registration and insurance. But if I am out there I will be nervous about the officer think I go am grabbing a weapon. In a routine stop is there a reason to put hands anywhere or just reach right for the papers.

DAN WIDMAN: So routine stops are, no such thing, we call it, no such thing as a routine stop. Every traffic stop there is a chance something bad could happen. But, for all purposes and your situation, situations involving general members of the community,

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when you get pulled over on a regular traffic stop, those are generally routine stops in the sense, it is not high risk where the officers are pulling you out of the car.

In my situations, what I like as I approach somebody's vehicle, like it when they have their hands on the steering wheel as I approach. Like I said at the beginning, having the stuff readily available so you're not digging through the glove box, say that for everybody. Number one helps you, you're in a stressful situation. I see people's hands shake, my hands shake when I hand C H P my license. But with my background being a police officer I make sure when I am pulled over hands at 10 and 2 so officer approaches the first thing they see the is hands on the wheel.

>>> So you reach for the papers once the officer is at your window?

DAN WIDMAN: Yes have it available for them there. I like it when people tell me, have my drivers license here. Great. Someone says it is in my back pocket reaching for it. Thank you for telling me. It is courtesy far as I am concerned. I have a family at home don't wouldn't to worry -- so when people do that puts me at ease changes the dynamic of the situation. When people are friendly to me I am friendly back. Usually a warning, not a citation.

>>> Anyone else?

>>> Is there a particular app that we could put on our phone like she talked about earlier to find out what is happening at the time.

DAN WIDMAN: Well I know there is a 311 for the city of Los Angeles. Very important. You can get it fed through Facebook, or social media on your phone.

So, 311, city of L A. There is a website directory puts you in contact with the city of Los Angeles. Gives all sorts of information. Fire prevention. Flash flood situations. What to do with things of that nature.

>>> One of the things that I have out in S A N T A, C L A R I T A, on my Facebook are different groups with communities. So one is light, signals, sirens, so if you log into that page people are talking about saw cops over at the target store, or whatever. Lot of

times, if you search Facebook, you will feel, find a group for basically your neighborhood, and there is always somebody that logs in and says oh I saw such and such happening some of the kind of helps to reassure that your not in danger. Or, if you are, what you -- you need to stay put not go outside.

>>> Question?

>>> Just one quick question came in late so if someone asked this sorry. I know you do the training, but is try within LAPD, I am sure all bucks stop with the chief. But is there a certain A D A disability person like that is their job to work with people with disabilities. Mental health side that exists. Right now I feel like our hearing, I don't know is it consistent is that someone's job within the city.

DAN WIDMAN: Within the city yes absolutely all sorts of programs, the victims advocates program. Far as the police officer department its self. Does not necessarily stop at the chief. The police commission appointed by the mayor. The privy commission, what makes them wonderful they are members of the community. And they are in charge of the chief who is in charge of us. If there is an issue not being addressed by the department go to the commission office. And always work with a civil department office of inspector general. We are a community. We work for you. If you are not happy with the service that we are providing you want to see something change. We want do hear from folks to make those changes.

>>> Is there something you can get for the car that will flash, if, um, if the lights are in the back of you, or the police are in back. Since you don't hear, maybe see something flashing inside your car. Any such thing.

DAN WIDMAN: No that is why we have the rotating lights. Yeah couple more questions.

>>> Yeah last two.

>>> So address the lady who just spoke. What I have done, on my computer I printed out in large letters on a piece of paper I am hard of hearing and put that next to me in

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the slot on my car, if I am ever stopped, I pull that out. I am hard of hearing. Then I assume the person the police officer would know immediately I am hard of hear. Just oh very simple thing with the computer.

DAN WIDMAN: That is a great idea wonderful idea.

>>> Well a couple things, the idea she is speaking of. There are some preprinted cards and things that speak to that. Either you can keep them in your car, or in your wallet, and hand them to a police officer that says I am hard of hearing. As oh group we might want to look into getting those. Had some at one point. Should get some more. Especially for traffic stops. Secondly I know you are talking about training. So, and I know you have a more personal interest and personal experience with hearing loss and just, you know, the sensitivity of it. So my question is, the police department as a whole to, do you think that there is any training on the horizon that would, you know, maybe pull more people into this sort of, so they have a better understanding. And you know, how it should be done. For example, I am sure you are here on your own time today. We thank you. But would your department or any of the departments say, require officers to attend a meeting such as this to really get a better understanding of who we are what is happening. I know about training, and they are cute, interesting. But not the same thing. Have to say that, it is easy to forget. Our families and friends forget, so sure police officers with all they do day in and out can forget. And especially if your trying to stop someone. That is probably the 54 thought in your brain, might be hard of hearing. It is all those over things. So I guess my question, then, is, you know, what do you see going forward maybe as a more intensive and come prehence -- training for the police department, if you have ideas or thoughts to implement, that are even more helpful. I know it can't all fall on your shoulders. Thank you.

DAN WIDMAN: So very great point.

I have actually had the privilege to ride with the chief -- psychologist of the department. Went on a ride -- along. So teaches all the officer from the front to the first recruits.

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Speak with her all the time. I will bring that up. I think it is very important. She is very responsive to that. I do believe try definitel needs to be more training for officers. We have so much other training but this is just as important a any other training. Far as the interaction with the officers. I don't know if you meet here on a regular basis here. The senior lead officer in this area, you know that program. Great program. The senior lead officerser is a police officer here assigned, and they job is to work directly for members of the community. Like the communicate liaison between the department and community. And the senior lead officerser has a small district. Not the whole division, have a small that you they are responsible for. So inviting him to one of your meetings, and he would be in uniform, they lover these meetings. And it is important. Makes you feel like you have somebody that is an advocate on your side. I am a firm believer. We need to reinforce it. I tell everybody that works for me as a police officer, my first day on the job my training officer told me, stuck with me, everybody else out there has a story. Not one is better than the other. Everybody has a story, all human beings, they all deserve the same respect. 25 years later that still stays with me. We as police officers, it is a privilege, to work with members of the community. To have this to speak with members of the community. Folks in this room remind me what I am working for. Working 25 years police officers gets jaded we deal with a lot. Dealt with a double homicide, it effects me. Thank God I have a wonderful wife so supportive. So are wrap it up. You deal with one bad thing after another after another. But most important thing for us as police officers officer is to be reminded by the members of the community, that we are on a team, so what I can do to be more effective for you.

>>> The captioner needs a break so let's stop.

DAN WIDMAN: Thank you very much been a pleasure.

>>> Thank you so much by the way. Normally if Dan did not have to believe we break and he does Q and A, unfortunately he has got to go. But I have learned so much. My biggest take away is not only showing your hands, but putting on your emergency lights.

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That to me is brilliant, because it is a way of communicating with you instantly. Even if you talk over the loud speaker, I have no idea what you say. At least you know that I know your back there, I am trying to do the best I can. That is such an amazing simple tip that is like. Any way. I hope you all learned something. We will try to bring you back more often. If you do have direct questions you can always e-mail us we can forward them to Dan. We can have you come back to speak sooner. So I really appreciate it. You have, from all of us here. Just a small token a gift for coming to speak. But we will take a break. Thank you another round of applause.

We will break for about 10, 12 minutes. About 11:30 come back.

Thanks.

-- break till 11:30 --

>>> Hello. Tim. Can everyone take their seats. We need to finish up business here.

And we only have the library till 12.

So any way, that was a great presentation very happy about that.

So before we move into this was going to say some people trickled in. We usually do new member introductions in the beginning but saw a few come in late so wondering if you would stand up now, introduce yourself. I will go back to this slide.

Tell us your name, type of hearing loss, how you heard about us, your new correct?

Yeah.

>>> Hi my name is Sharon, used to be in H L A wrong time ago, dropped out. But this was interesting to me so came back. First meeting in a long time with H L A, so trying to get back into it. Took a detour for a couple years for different reasons.

>>> Thank you welcome.

>>> Welcome back.

>>> Are you knew new? Your not new.

>>> Oh I am not. I know.

>>> Sorry you have not been here in a while maybe. Anyone else. Yes!

>>> Yeah my name is Robert, and I have hearing -- almost acute hearing loss. So went to the Doctors, they told me about an infection. But heard about this, I am a member of the library, come here and stuff like this, so thank you.

>>> Welcome welcome to you all thank you for coming. Okay so. She already knows. Yeah Vivian. So to attend a chapter meeting is free. We are free and open to the public always. But we do, we thrive on donations that is how we pay for our captioner. How we pay for coffee and marketing materials and all we do. If you feel this meeting was fruitful. Just visit her over here. Just a dollar or two we are grateful for that. So two kitties, a general fund, and a scholarship fund. Wherever you want your money to go drop it in the jar extremely grateful. So now the lovely Wendi our team captain! She will give us a recap of everything we accomplished which I think was a lot.

>>> Good morning! So the walk was in June. Taking a while to get to the recap. But it was very successful. Very happy about that.

It is an annual event for us, and it is also the, throughout the country, but ours is the Long Beach. So called the Long Beach walk, but L A rules, and we are there, and we really show up and do a great job. This year as usual beautiful over cast day perfect for walking down by the beach. Beautiful.

We had about 30 teams come on. Several booths. Lots of pizza. Several hundred walkers. Sponsors, 11 major and local sponsors. As you see the grand total for the walk just shy 50 thousand dollars. Goal was 55 thousand so 90 percent of that. We were the number one team. Raise over 10 thousand. We competed our goal. We had about 20 members on our team. And we had team members that either came to the walk or did not but threw the hat in our ring on our team so very grateful to everyone who time

out. An L A star, we are number one. We had our top fundraisers. Gary, always our top fundraiser, and always so generous, and gives us this money. Don't know where he gets this money from but always does that happy to share with us. This year was my best year I raised almost 25 hundred dollars. I want to con -- as a first timer great job raising money. So awesome. So with this money, 40 percent of it goes to our chapter. And again that covers many of the things that we do, our social events, our captioning. Our outreach. Our supplies. Our coffee. And et cetera. So always good to keep the chapter going financially. The walk was a lot of fun. You know what, I thought we took more pictures just don't have them up. You can see the new T-shirt this year, a nice purple. View of the people there, so many more. If you go on our website you can also see lots of pictures. This is just a recap, and thank you for everyone who par. I appreciate the support. Was frightened about doing it. But everyone was so support -- and just as a group we did a great job! L A!

>>> Thank you Wendi was a fabulous captain hope you do it again next year. I know right. Okay next month we have elections for the steering committee. What the steering committee does is that we are the ones who put this together every month. We find the speakers, figure out how money is budgeted, we work in the communities. So really anything that keeps this chapter going is on the steering committee. I am the President. Tim is vice President. Sharon is our every women social media all the dirty details. And sandy Blake, not here, and Gary, our treasurer tax guy money guy anything money is Gary, but, every year we welcome people to the steering committee. If your interested these are the prerequisites what it takes to be on the steering committee. A paying member of H L A A belief you need to join national 30 or 40 for the year, you get a lot the magazine and news letter. So worth joining national. I would say about 5 to 10 hours a month of communication. We try to meet in person. We will meet after this to talk about chapter business. E-mail, did you get the PowerPoint there the speaker. So

in constant communication. So you need to know how to work e-mail, and to try and get back to us within 24 hours if that is possible.

Like I said, attend all steering committee meetings, we meet every other month we need you to show up at the meetings. Takes oh lot of work to put the room together. The loop down, projector. Screen, coffee, everything like that, so ask you are here by 9 o'clock for each meeting to help us set up and stay after to help us breakdown. Yeah. Tim will train you on anything that, you know, needs to be trained on. But basically if you know how to use e-mail your good to go.

Well, what we do like is if you have attended chapter meetings for at least 6 months really to understand the chapter, just walk in, will be on the steering committee meeting. Not that we would not love to have you. But fruitful for you to know how the chapter works, get the ins and outs before you come on the committee. So if your interested in that how do we want to handle that.

>>> E-mail.

>>> Just e-mail us let us know if your interested in being on the, on the committee, and next month we actually will take a vote. Do we vote on each person or. Just vote on each person. So Jennifer, yay or nay. Pretty low key. Can only vote if your an H L A A paid member. So only allowed to vote if your paid with national.

>>> Do you, are you on terms, or rotate, how does that work.

>>> So terms or rotate. So it is a yearly thing, right now this has been our steering committee the last year. And we just, every September we have election, and some people stay on, some people leaf. You know, what have you, for various reasons, but it is a yearly commitment. So pretty big commitment.

>>> Who is the out reach chair.

>>> So we are all sort of doing out reach right now. We don't have an out reach chair. What will happen is like I was in contact with our Sherman Oaks counsel member, named Paul K, I reached out to him said hey, can we make Sherman Oaks a more hard of

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hearing friendly community. Knew nothing about hearing loss. Super interested in helping. So did that on my own. Would love to have somebody do that but that is just something we have focused on right now. We have just been so busy with other things. And anybody by the way don't need to be on the steering committee. You can do anything you want. Going to hospitals say you go need out reach. Going to Dan say I would like to talk to your police officer force I am a hard of hearing person maybe they benefit talking to me. So anyone can do the out reach don't feel your constrained by not being on the steering committee. So not necessary. If you are going to do that, which is awesome, you also need to commit to all the things. Like I said, social media, attending meetings. So just something to think about. Okay.

Next meeting is September 28. We will be meeting here. It will be Doctor Cohen, she will speak about Tinnitus. She is a doctor of audiology. And also specializes in Tinnitus, I work for the Doctor do her marketing. Her clinic at this point about 75 percent Tinnitus patients the other hearing loss. Many have met her she comes here is interested in learning about people with hearing loss, how they cope. So she is an excellent resource, an excellent speaker, and she has a lot to offer. Have been around audiologist 10 plus years she is incredibly knowledgeable right here in Sherman Oaks. She will be the speaker for next month. Anything else you can think of the. Anyone questions before we cut. No? All right well thank you everyone for coming out. We appreciate yes James! Can we get around of applause for James. Thanks everyone see you next month!