

Basic Detail Report



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Title Interview with Nick Rankin

Date 2022 May 26

Primary Maker Nick Rankin

Medium born digital audio file

Description (a) Interview with Nick Rankin. Interviewed by Peter Moran on May 26, 2022 at Otis Library, 261 Main Street, Norwich. (b) Photograph of Nick Rankin taken at his interview. He was interviewed as part of the Connecticut Historical Society's Community History Project discussing his experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Nick Rankin is a police sergeant in Norwich, Connecticut. He first heard about Covid-19 through his work as a police officer. Mr. Rankin oversaw the community policing unit, and the first major disruption he faced was when his department was informed that they were no longer allowed to interact with the public face-to-face. Mr. Rankin considered personal interaction to be a vital part of his job in both finding out the issues the community was concerned with as well as building positive community rapport. He recalled the community outpouring of adoration for “essential heroes” and expressed how he felt that much of it felt phony. A “weird and major disruption” that emerged shortly after the pandemic was the question over mask mandates and whether it was the police’ s job to simply educate the public or to actually enforce mandates, and if it was the latter, what that entails and whether it is a worthy use of force. Rankin spent the bulk of the interview recounting the protests from the Spring of 2020, describing how the police “went from being essential heroes to society’ s villains overnight.”

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Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 38 Minutes, 36 Seconds