

**Announcer**

KFI AM 640 heard everywhere on the iHeartRadio app.

**Steve Gregory**

On any given day in Southern California, hundreds of investigators are working more than ten thousand unsolved cases. That's thousands of friends and families who have lost loved ones thousands of people who got away with a crime and thousands of murderers who still walk the streets, killers who may be your neighbor, go to your church, or could be dating a close friend. For the next two hours, we'll highlight cases that have gotten cold, baffled investigators or just needs that one witness to speak out. This is Unsolved with Steve Gregory.

Welcome to this special edition of Unsolved. In this episode, we go behind the scenes of the major crimes Bureau of the LA County Sheriff's Department. It's part of our crime fighter series, which highlights the people who work to prevent crime and solve crime. Tonight, we're taping the show live from the Morton's Steakhouse in Burbank and joining us is Sergeant Mike Marr with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes Bureau. Sergeant, thank you for being here tonight. Appreciate it.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Great. Thank you Steve.

**Steve Gregory**

So I got to start right out of the chute sergeant. What is the difference between a major crime and a minor crime?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

It's a great question. So imagine your local police station, your local sheriff's substation. There's detectives and deputies and officers working, bicycle thefts, minor assaults, fights, those sort of crimes are handled at station level by station detectives,. Major Crimes, something more serious the next level of crime. Some examples, some examples of those would be murder for hire, kidnapping for ransom, bank robberies, threats on public officials, stalking, thefts and burglaries and robberies of extremely high valuable high value net worth losses and what we call pattern and serious crimes. Some sort of pattern is developing leading us to believe that this crime may cross over jurisdictional boundaries, station boundaries and different department boundaries.

**Steve Gregory**

Wait a minute. So we have kidnapping ransom issues in LA County?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

There are kidnaps for ransom, not as much as you may think. But the fact is, that is a level of crime, the potential for injury to a victim that rises to a level beyond what a station detective might want to handle.

**Steve Gregory**

And how many individuals are in major crimes?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

You know, roughly a hundred detectives are spanning many different teams that have many different responsibilities.

**Steve Gregory**

And of those one hundred and different responsibilities. Are they all working constantly? I mean, are you, are all one hundred in the field?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

No, not necessarily. But as we work a very flexible schedule. The Bureau as a whole is prepared to work anytime, any day, anywhere.

**Steve Gregory**

And right now, how many cases would you have going on at any one given moment?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Oh, that's a tough, tough to answer. For my particular team, it would be in the dozens per day. For the Bureau wide. I just couldn't answer that, but it would be significant.

**Steve Gregory**

When you talk about your team. What is the difference between your team or is there multiple teams in major crimes?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

There are there are several so Major Crimes Bureau is within Detective Division. We support Homicide Bureau, we support Special Victims Bureau, we support Narcotics Bureau, we support the entire department with specialized investigative skills.

**Steve Gregory**

One of the things that I think you said you've done also as threats on public officials. Given the climate that's been going on lately, has that risen?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Sure. I think it's consistent over the years, I've been in major crimes for a dozen years and maybe a little ebb and flow. But with social media and the bravery of people behind social media, I think there are a greater number of concerns regarding threats on public officials.

**Steve Gregory**

Concerns? I mean, do you have any? Are there any credible threats right now against public officials in LA County?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

I think every threat is deemed credible until we decide otherwise, it has to be treated as credible. None in particular, I'm gonna speak about today.

**Steve Gregory**

I was gonna say, I was gonna ask it to you different way. How many are there right now?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

You know, I don't have that number. I just don't know what, again, several.

**Steve Gregory**

Okay. And does that include threats against your boss, the sheriff?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

He would be a top priority for me and my team and the Bureau for certain. But again, the sheriff as valuable as he is to us as an individual entity, we look at everybody equally as important right, no matter their status.

**Steve Gregory**

We're talking with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes Bureau about some of the cases that he works on and some of the most interesting things because everything you've talked about that you do is stuff that movies are made of.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

That's a fact.

**Steve Gregory**

Yeah, I mean, especially the kidnap and ransom stuff, there's something sexy. I hate to say it that way. But there's something really sexy. You know what I mean? It's something very international and very, I guess just global, very James Bond-ish, if you will.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah, that that's true. You know, all of those movies tend to have some nefarious activities on both sides of the of the law, which makes it exciting in the movie industry. Many times throughout a day, a week, a month, speaking to my children and their friends, my kids are grown, but they'll say, 'Isn't that sort of what your dad does? Isn't that what your uncle does? Isn't that what the guys at Homicide Bureau or the SWAT team do?' And the answer is yes, some of it is,

**Steve Gregory**

Yeah.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

But so much of what we do is never depicted in a movie.

**Steve Gregory**

What I want to ask you about now is specific cases. Let's talk about like something current you're working on of that, that people might not know about, because there's a lot about what you do that we don't know about, the general public and that's probably by design, and it's probably for the better. But tonight, I want you to reveal some of those cases. Is there something that jumps out at you right now that you're either working on, recently worked on or worked on in your past, it's just something you can't ever shake?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Well, listen, I can't speak about ongoing investigations.

**Steve Gregory**

Why?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

What? Because they're ongoing. And again, I'm not going to because it's too it's too valuable, right.

**Steve Gregory**

Of course, I get it, I had to ask.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

No. And I'll be retiring soon, and we can talk then. So I do want to call out to Claudia. Going back to our support Major Crimes Bureau in support of our whole department.

**Steve Gregory**

You're talking about Claudia Apolinar.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Absolutely. The night of her incident when she was shot that was following a long day of civil unrest. Remember that day?

**Steve Gregory**

Right.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

The department was out in force, the streets were a mess.

### **TV Broadcast Audio**

The hunt is on right now for the shooter that the LA County Sheriff's Department says ambushed two of his deputies. All of this happening just down the street from us. This is East Palmer, the shooting happened down that way it is only just a few blocks from the Compton Sheriff's Station. You can see a man wearing dark clothing and what appears to be a ballcap walk up to the passenger side of a park black and white unit from the sheriff's station. Investigators say that the man opened fire multiple times striking the two deputies. Then the passenger door opens and the shooter can be seen running away. Now, one of the victims is female, 31-years-old, with a six-year-old son. The second deputy, a 24-year-old male, both graduated from the academy only 14 months ago. Both work for the Transit Bureau which provides security to MTA riders.

### **Press Conference Audio**

At the time of the arrest of Deonte Murray on September 15 2020 following the vehicle pursuit, we had no evidence that he was responsible for the assault on our deputies other than that previously stated today. We knew that he was a violent offender he was accused of stealing a black Mercedes Benz and lived in the area. However, there was insufficient evidence to support an arrest, much less a criminal filing for the charge of attempted murder on on a peace officer and to label him in the media as the person responsible. Additionally, bringing the public focus on him at that point of the investigation may have influenced the pending witness interviews, and further compromised the mission of solving the attempted murder of the deputies. As the investigation progressed, we gathered sufficient evidence to substantiate not only the arrest, but the filing of criminal charges in this case. I can tell you that that was pretty powerful when when the gun was thrown from the car and we knew it was a 4040 caliber, so that was one step. But then to subsequently get the ballistics report days later that said that gun was used in the assault on those deputies, coupled with days later after that forensic testing which linked him to that gun. That was pretty significant.

### **Sergeant Mike Maher**

What we do at major crimes, the entire Bureau is at any given moment an instant like that, we drop what we're doing and we go in support of at that Homicide Bureau handles and it's done like that. A hundred people stop. I get emotional.

### **Steve Gregory**

It's okay, take your time.

### **Sergeant Mike Maher**

She's a hero.

### **Steve Gregory**

When we come back we'll talk more with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes Bureau. But first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640, time now for news.

### **Steve Gregory**

KFI AM 640 heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory. This is Unsolved. We've been talking with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes bureau, and before the break an emotional moment in, in the sergeant's story about the evening that Deputy Claudia Apolinar was shot along with her partner. And I did not realize that Major Crimes bureau had a role in that case. I knew homicide did, but and I knew, obviously Homicide Bureau was a big part of that. But tell us what your role was.

### **Sergeant Mike Maher**

Sure. So in general, Major Crimes, us as teammates, sergeants and deputies and detectives, we work out of our vehicles. And in those vehicles, we have change of underwear, roll of toilet paper, clothing, because at any given time, we could be sent to the border, we could be sent to the edges of the county and beyond for surveillance purposes, for investigative follow up purposes, based on something like homicide might have a lead. In a case where a deputy a shot, all hands are on deck. And again, that was following a long day of civil unrest. And speaking for me and my team, it was 12 men and women calling me as a sergeant saying, "Where are we going right now in support of that incident." And at that particular evening, it was we've been out on civil unrest for 15 hours, we are all going home, to have a cocktail, visit our families and get some rest. Because tomorrow morning, we will

be up on that surveillance 24 hours a day going forward, based on homicides request following leads in support of capturing the suspect responsible for that shooting,

**Steve Gregory**

Right. So one of the things I was I remember and recall from that, that case, and just so you know, none of my sources would tell me anything about that case, which really pissed me off. But with good reason. Even the sheriff refused to tell me what was going on, and for good reason. The way I always explain it was that was the best kept secret of the LA County Sheriff's Department what you guys were up to behind the scenes. I have never seen an agency I can't I was trying to recall, even the Christopher Dorner case with LAPD few years ago, I was trying to recall a case where a department really closed ranks so quickly. And this was one of those instances because when you had that carjacking suspect and you guys, the three words I'll never forget the sheriff told me and the sheriff's Information Bureau at this time. At this time, it's a carjacking suspect. You knew all along who you had right?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

I will neither confirm nor deny.

**Steve Gregory**

Okay. Damn it. But you knew I mean, you knew you had you had somebody in mind because, I mean, I remember talking already and I think it's public knowledge that you had some surveillance going on, you just said, but you kind of had it. But things came together very quickly on that case, why?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

They did because of the level of investigators we have in homicide, because of the support that we find in bureaus like major crimes, and the support for command staff in giving us the tools we need to go forward. It's there is listen, there are children that are harmed and killed and civilians that are harmed and killed. When a deputy gets shot, it is a little different. It is and we can discuss the right and wrong of that. But it is different.

**Steve Gregory**

We're talking with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes bureau. So with respect to that case, tell us walk us through some of the nitty gritty you might think it's mundane in routine for you. But for the listener, I think I think they need to understand when you're talking about your underwear and the toilet paper in the car, you never know where you're going to go. Talk a little bit about the surveillance for that case, and how did it go down?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Sure. Well, there were there were many surveillances covering many parts of LA County. And it's a matter again, speaking for our, us at Major Crimes Bureau on my team in particular, we happen to be at the right place at the right time, when that suspect or that person of interest presented himself. And moments later, it was 100 miles an hour through the streets of Compton briefly. And then ultimately, he was he was detained and arrested by our SWAT team.

**Steve Gregory**

Now when you say presented himself, let's you know, boil it down. How did he present himself?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

He drove by.

**Steve Gregory**

Oh, okay.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Fortunately, he drove by right where we hoped he would drive by.

**Steve Gregory**

How did you know he was gonna drive by there?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

You know, I can't, I can't give you that information.

**Steve Gregory**

Okay. Damn it. And just so when I mean we get it, I understand it too. But I and I know you can't really reveal all that because it hasn't gone to trial yet.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

It has not.

**Steve Gregory**

Yeah, we don't want to jeopardize that. Absolutely not.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

So the important point, the important point to make there and again for Claudia is to know that those wheels begin to turn very quickly, support comes very quickly. And again transitioning away from from one of our partners being shot. That same sort of support does come when a civilian is killed when a when a crime when a regular crime occurs. Homicides motion and activity is the same. They still call major crimes to do surveillances. It's not a special surveillance because of her. It was special to us. But those that same machinery moves for our citizens of LA County as well.

**Steve Gregory**

I remember getting the call that night or that afternoon rather that you had a carjacking suspect in custody had from a source and I hightailed it down to Lynwood. And by that time, I think you had this person cornered around the house, or at least some sort of a neighborhood at that point. And I recall driving over the bridge, I can't remember the street and looking over to the school where you had your command post, and I knew this was an unusual situation, because that entire school had been commandeered by you folks. You had apparatus you had trucks. You had bearcats, you had multiple patrol vehicles, you had all kinds of stuff at this school. And that does not happen for carjacking suspect.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

That's not necessarily true, I mean..

**Steve Gregory**

No, you had half the department there.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

There was there were a lot of people there, it was important. But again, I'm telling you, for somebody with 31 years on the job, 13 doing this job, there were a lot of people there. There's a lot of people that all have these incidents similar to this, there are.

**Steve Gregory**

That many for carjacking suspect?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Maybe not for a carjacking suspect.

**Steve Gregory**

But okay, so now, let's tear that down, though. So what types of people what types of groups were at that command post? What what kind of resources did you need to go after this one carjacking suspect?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Every department resource was there in the event that it wasn't just a carjacking suspect.

**Steve Gregory**

Meaning?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

It may not have been just a carjacking suspect.

**Steve Gregory**

So what other but I mean, what other like being armed or you know, can you elaborate a little bit on that?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

I'm not clear. So...

**Steve Gregory**

You know what I'm saying is like in case it wasn't a carjacking suspect, why do you have two additional resources if it might not have been?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Well, Steve, you you know, we knew that it probably wasn't just a carjacking. Really, clearly.

**Steve Gregory**

Right.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Clearly.

**Steve Gregory**

You were just being prepared.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Absolutely.

**Steve Gregory**

Okay.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah. Being prepared for what we'd hoped.

**Steve Gregory**

Right,

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Which was a safe apprehension of a terribly dangerous individual.

**Steve Gregory**

How many from your 100 in your MCB were on the scene?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

That again, this is a ballpark figure, we go on to a 24, 12 on 12 off as a bureau. So half of the bureau's working that day shift, half of the Bureau was working that night shift. It was a couple of days later, a day or two I don't remember exactly. But we go into a 12 on 12 off so 50% during the day 50% at night.

**Steve Gregory**

We're going to talk more with Sergeant Mike Maher, but first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640, time now or a news update.

**Steve Gregory**

KFI AM 640 heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory and this is Unsolved. We're talking with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes Bureau. And we've been talking about the incident involving two deputies who were shot point blank range in September of 2019. And Sergeant before the break, you were kind of breaking down the incident, the command post and how many resources you had, and that a little bit about the surveillance that led you to this individual. You were talking about homicide bureau in their investigative skills on getting you a suspect. Right. And how does that work? Do they find out and identify someone they want to, they want to get in custody, and then they tell you?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

So listen, I don't really want to talk about homicide bureau. That's not my bureau, and nor do I have experience working homicides. But from a major crimes perspective, we are a tool for the homicide detectives. And when they see the need for surveillance, the gentlemen who are in suits and ties and the ladies in their professional attire aren't the ones to go out in the street. Whether it be pushing a shopping cart, Steve, just a few weeks ago, my wife can tell you I had long hair and a beard. I don't look nearly as dapper as I do here today. Normally, flip flops and shorts, and those of us that work in major crimes are able to get into those environments for long, extended extended periods of time to gather intelligence, and ultimately if need be to effect a tactical arrest in the street.

**Steve Gregory**

Did you have to do anything that unusual in this case?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

In reference to Claudia's case?

**Steve Gregory**

Yeah

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

We were in the in the streets of Los Angeles, blending in. When I mentioned, we saw the person of interest drive by, and I say this all the time, when when they see us it's too late. And when he saw us it was too late. So he didn't know we were there.

**Steve Gregory**

What's the difference between undercover and deep cover?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

That's undercover and plainclothes.

**Steve Gregory**

Plainclothes.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah.



**Steve Gregory**

Is deep cover a Hollywood term?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yes.

**Steve Gregory**

Okay.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah. it's like being a little pregnant. Yeah. Absolutely. So I work in a plainclothes environment.

**Steve Gregory**

Okay

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Meaning, I'm not an undercover detective. An undercover detective would assume the role of another person, you would assume the life and the lifestyle of another person. You would literally be acting as if you're somebody else, where me and most of us at major crimes work in a plainclothes environment. Meaning while we're actively on duty working in the field, we are just blending in with the environment and prepared at a moment's notice to do the best we can to quickly become identifiable as a law enforcement officer, and oftentimes, that's the machine gun and the badge. Right? But we sometimes need to be more clear more clearly delineated as a police officer, ray jackets, armor that indicates sheriff and law enforcement. But literally going from flip flops, shorts and a T shirt to a tactical operator in seconds. That's what a plainclothes detectives would do.

**Steve Gregory**

What special training do you need?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

We train extensively. Well, for people that Major Crimes Bureau, it is a it's a career long path. Working in the jails, working in patrol environment, being a detective, what I'll call a regular detective at a station, developing special skills through Narcotics Bureau, through narcotics training, through major crimes bureau training. We have extensive department training for plainclothes operations. And then once you reach that put, once you've reached that position, the training is ongoing. We train extensively with our vehicles, with our clothing, with our gear. We're expected to do some incredible things in the street, which is very different than driving a black and white in uniform, doing your standard police work, which is challenging, extremely challenging as it is. You take that into a VW bus with flip flops, a tank top and long hair, and now you're being you're being asked to or your job is to apprehend a violent suspect. How do you do that, one safely for yourself primarily, secondarily, the citizens around you who aren't really clear immediately that you're you're the cops. And thirdly, we have an obligation to take the bad people to jail as appropriately and safely as possible. So we train on that extensively.

**Steve Gregory**

We're talking mostly we're talking with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Detective Sergeant Mike Maher with the Major Crimes Bureau. And I want to ask what the hardest part of your job is?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

That's a good question. The hardest part of the job is turning it off. So we take these great cases that are like movie cases and then you go home to your wife and three kids, and the ballgame, right? That sort of stuff. And you have deaths in the family, marriages to attend, all the challenges of life and to turn off what you've just experienced for that previous 10 hours or whatever and I don't mean the the horror and the tragedy of it, I mean, the motivation of it. Like, how do you take away from your children, when you're thinking about, you know, Johnny Smith is right around the corner, we almost got him today. And we're going to be there tomorrow. And your your son's telling you about his grades but you are so turned on to what you've done that previous day, and on and on. So the work life balance is very difficult.

**Steve Gregory**

Is this what you always wanted to do?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Absolutely.

**Steve Gregory**

When did you know that?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

As a kid playing cops and robbers watching SWAT on TV.

**Steve Gregory**

Where you the robber or the cop?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

A little bit of both, which makes a great major crime detective. A little bit of both.

**Steve Gregory**

How was your family adjusted?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

You know, I can't answer for them. It's the only life that...

**Steve Gregory**

You don't have a feeling?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

No, I do have a feeling. My oldest son, thanks sheriff, just graduated the academy. So he followed in the footsteps, against my advice against my advice.

**Steve Gregory**

Really? I was going to say...

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Truly, truly, but it's the only life they've known. And I think, I think they're good with it. I have a younger son who at one time here recently at his school, they have a heroes day, when the cops go in the firemen go in your school, my son looked at me and said, or looked at his teacher and said, 'This is my dad. He used to be a deputy sheriff. Now, I don't know what he does.' And I look like a homeless guy. Right. So, so I was doing a pretty good job. Right? So even he doesn't know. Which is, which is fun.

**Steve Gregory**

That's great.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah.

**Steve Gregory**

What about the strain that this has, with the team because I I've known detectives for almost all my career and there's a certain it just takes a certain person a certain constitution it takes that drive. I don't know many detectives who can turn it off. And even when they pretend they can turn it off, they can't turn it off. Is there a case and you say you're growing near your retirement, Is there one that got away?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Oh, man, there's many over the years. Yeah, many too many. Um, you know, I have to think about that for a moment. I'm a positive thinker, I'm an emotional guy, but a positive thinker. So I don't dwell on the losses, right? We're gonna win today. We're gonna win tomorrow.

**Steve Gregory**

Well, then how many wins have you had?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

More than I've lost.

**Steve Gregory**

Do you have a number?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

No.

**Steve Gregory**

Over your career?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

No, no. I can tell you that supervising the burglary robbery task force at major crimes bureau, since 2010, were over 1000 arrests. The vast majority are crimes in progress. The vast majority of them are violent crimes and progress. I take pride in that. We wouldn't be continuing to do this job today for the sheriff and for the county of Los Angeles if we didn't do it safely. We don't get ourselves hurt. Very few uses of force, in 1000 arrests of violent crimes in progress. We've been involved in one shooting. I'm proud of that one.

**Steve Gregory**

Hold on that thought. When we come back, we'll talk more with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department. But first, this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640, time now for news update.

**Steve Gregory**

KFI AM 640 heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory, this is Unsolved. Talking with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes Bureau, and before the break, just talk a little bit about his personal experiences and how he balances his working life. And I wonder if there's another case that kind of jumps out at you something that's, you know, one of those that you'll never forget?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah, listen, I want to give credit where it's due, and that's to our investigators. So supervising the burglary, robbery task force, our bread and butter, our primary function is residential burglaries, and residential home invasion robberies, that's what we pride ourselves in as a primary function. And years ago, due to our networking, we're the sort of team that works well, with all of our substations for the Sheriff's Department, local law enforcement, LAPD in the smaller cities, a detective had reached out to us from a smaller city and said, we just stopped a vehicle that had some basic stolen property in it. And on that, in his car, he had a list of addresses, and this just a patrol deputy that makes his arrest and asked us to come out and take a look at it. And take a look at it. You have a bad guy in a car with a bunch of stolen property and a list of addresses, right? Maybe you want to follow up on those addresses. So our detectives do that. Come to find out everybody on those addresses had been a victim of a burglary. Trying to put this together over over the investigative span of this case, what we determined was very unique was that every person who was burglarized from that list had also indicated that they had reported themselves out on vacation to the LA Times. And the LA Times cooperated with us in this investigation. But they had done vacation stops on their newspaper delivery. Tech does follow up on that and what we determine is the LA Times are huge, at least at one time, I'm not even sure if they're still in business, but at one time they were a very popular newspaper. They they, one of their distribution centers, and they have

many of them, had a maintenance worker. The newspapers are tied with a little plastic tie right? Imagine newspaper being tied with a little plastic tie. He there was a serviceman who came in overnight and he maintained those little machines. Those machines I think were built in the 1930s. He was the one guy in Los Angeles, who maintained these ties. Well those machines, in front of the machines was a grease board, where they would write down for the delivery people on a daily basis, who not to deliver to. And through some investigative prowess, and an interrogation of that gentleman, he gave up, the people are breaking into these houses. It was hundreds of homes, to the tunes of to the tune of millions of dollars in losses. And it was so nice for these burglars that most of the burglars we deal with are in and out within minutes. They would be in and out within days, and they took everything from the toothpaste to the televisions in the house. And again, it's just sort of a basic case, but tenacity, something they're not going to make a movie about. But there were hundreds of people who got some justice behind these folks being put in jail.

### **Steve Gregory**

We're talking with LA County Sheriff's Sergeant Mike Maher with the Major Crimes Bureau of the LA County Sheriff's Department. Sergeant, what about, you're talking about all these crimes that are going on, are you do you ever feel under pressure to get them solved in a certain amount of time? Or are you working on a deadline? Or are there how long does this go on?

### **Sergeant Mike Maher**

No, there is no deadline. You can't put a time limit on it. You just have to you have to take it as it comes. In residential burglaries have waned during the pandemic because people are at home. But 10 years ago, the price of gold exceeded \$2,000 an ounce and a lot of these organized crews in the streets, street gangs, organized street gangs determined that it was one safer and two more lucrative to steal gold and jewelry from homes than try to raise money selling narcotics on the street. And those are the organized crews that we call them that we are that we are targeting. There they are making tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars in profit daily on residential burglaries. And that that trend is kicking back up now as a pandemic wanes.

### **Steve Gregory**

How can people protect themselves?

### **Sergeant Mike Maher**

You know, that's a great question and that's an important thing. You got to you have to harden your home. Some of the commercial video apparatus and surveillance apparatus is wonderful. Although that just depicts what took place. It doesn't stop it from happening. It's hardening your home right, lights, it's the standard stuff that we've known forever. It is. Information is so valuable. Social media, we're all posting when we're away from home. These crews are sophisticated. When the phone rings, we all think it's somebody's calling about your warranty being extended, so we don't answer the phone anymore. My recommendation is you answer the phone, because that's an indication that you're home. You don't call the LA Times, with all due respect to the LA Times, you don't call anybody and tell him you're away. You use a trusted neighbor or family member. Don't stop your mail. Have a trusted family member somebody take that mail. Information is so valuable. Leave a radio on in the house, leave KFI on in the house loud when you're away. Right? Have a car park in the driveway if you can.

### **Steve Gregory**

Yeah, if they hear John and Ken they'll never come in.

### **Sergeant Mike Maher**

So it's routine, it's routine house hardening. It's not being paranoid, it's being prepared. And look after each other in the streets. As a police officer, I know this, if I jump out of the car right now in uniform, and I just yell, nine people will be videotaping me with their cameras, and I'm fine with that. Matter of fact, I'm kind of a ham I like it. But if an odd car pulls down the street, and two odd people, whoever they are, get out of the car and begin walking around, suddenly, nobody wants to see anything. And suddenly people won't pick up the phone and call law enforcement. Call. That's what we're there for. You don't have to necessarily dial 911 and scream that there is a green pink violet person down the street. But if there's an odd person in the street that doesn't seem to fit, make the call to the local law enforcement. Let them come out. Make a determination. Be a good neighbor.

**Steve Gregory**

When we come back, we're going to open it up to questions in our studio audience and perhaps you'll get some tougher questions that I've been asking.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

I'm prepared.

**Steve Gregory**

Okay, good. But first, this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI. More coming up, but first, this news update.

**Steve Gregory**

KFI AM 640 heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory and this is Unsolved. I've been talking with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes Bureau. And before the break, he was kind of outlining another case and also giving some great tips about how you can protect yourself at home. And now we wanted to open it up to questions with our studio audience. We are here at Morton Steakhouse in Burbank, where we're recording live. And our first question, go ahead, sir.

**Felipe**

Hi.

**Steve Gregory**

What's your first name and where you're from?

**Felipe**

My name is Felipe Maldonado and I'm from Orange, California. I had two questions, actually, if you don't mind. First question is, you always hear about detectives, current detectives talking to retired detectives, about an unsolved case here and there. Knowing that you're going into retirement pretty soon, are up to talking to the newer detectives at some point? And are you open to it?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah, great question. And the answer is absolutely. It's, it's the people who came before me who laid the groundwork for me, and I am looking forward to retirement, but this drive will not go away so, I would make myself available. And through our department, we have a detective college, which is run through the department. And there are training classes and ongoing training where folks do come back, retired folks with experience to come back and share their experience.

**Felipe**

And the second question was, you hear, you know, in the past about defunding the police, and everybody was in the streets or against the police, and they're trying to do stuff to them, or whatnot. How do you feel about them? How have you handled it?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah, great question, right. That's it's an emotional roller coaster. But I'm a professional. I do support the right of the people in the street to to challenge law enforcement. I challenge my supervisors, right. I have no problem with it. Interesting, though, it's a great point. I remember a few years back with the incident in Minnesota, which sort of started this. And I'll speak for me in my peer group of dozens and dozens of detectives. We got it. That was ugly. That was terrible. Like we were on board with everybody who thought that was horrendous police work. Like we got it. And a month later, people are throwing rocks at us again, right? Sort of, but we but we understand that they don't know Mike, they don't know me. They're not throwing a rock at me. If they if they knew me, they might like me, they might not. But it became very different, right? As a country, everybody, you recognize what's terrible, and sometimes it's terrible what cops do, and there's a consequence for it. But does that mean what all law enforcement does is terrible? Of course not, right, of course not. So it can be a challenge. That's when you have supportive friends and family. And you have to try to turn off that the cop sort of thing a little bit. But a great question how I handled it was to double down and doing my job right, doing it the best I can, being the best supervisor I can, calling out mistakes, and impropriety when it's in front of me. That being said, we are not perfect, and we will never be perfect. I don't see

people challenging heart surgeons on how they crack a chest to save somebody's life. It looks ugly, if you saw it, right. It looks ugly. But hopefully it's saving lives. And a lot of law enforcement is ugly, and it saves lives. That's no excuse for bad law enforcement, though, right?

**Steve Gregory**

While Jacob goes to the next person, I wanted to ask you about politics and law enforcement. And, you know, you never really had..

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Uh oh

**Steve Gregory**

You never really had to deal with politics before. You know, years ago, many years ago, you never really heard about it. And now politics seems to be such and I don't wanna say important part, at least, it's on the front burner now. How do you guys deal with that? I mean, did you let it get you down? And how do you how you process all the politics going on?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

No, again, with all due respect the sheriff, my boss in the house, who I've got mad respect for, I can't let that get in the way of my job. I really can't. We've been around long enough to have a few different sheriff's, a few different captains, a few different partners. You have to we have to concentrate on doing our best job, and we have to have faith that our leaders are concentrating on doing their best job. Politics in the media today, from my perspective, has become a bloodsport and entertainment, and it's a shame. Again, I told you I have a son who's now in the Sheriff's Department. Don't worry about it. Do your job. Again with all due respect, I have a job to do no matter what the sheriff believes or thinks or the captain believes or thinks I have a job to do. Stay honorable, stay within policy which they said, stay within the law, and you'll be fine.

**Steve Gregory**

Talking with Sergeant Mike Maher of the LA County Sheriff's department's Major Crimes Bureau. Back to another question, what's your name and where you from?

**Chris Little**

My name is Chris Little and I'm from Rancho Cucamonga. I've got a question I was fascinated about, you're talking about being in your flip flops and your crazy hair and Volkswagen van, and you have to jump out and grab a dangerous guy. How do you clearly identify yourself as a police officer, when you're looking like that and people are gonna look at you go. No, he's not.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah, it's a great question, and it also puts us in an unsafe environment. And I'll tell you that I'll speak about a mistake I made years ago, but a mistake without harm. We tell our deputies and detectives, you have to clearly make yourself identifiable and the way we do that is with a ray jacket that says Sheriff, markings on the shoulders and in front, a badge hanging from your neck. Legally, at the end of the day, if I stand up and say stop, I'm the sheriff or I'm a deputy, I've legally identified myself as a law enforcement officer. So years ago, in mid city, we were chasing a suspect, and as I was going down the sidewalk, and I'm a sergeant, with deputies, who I'm telling, you need to identify yourself, as I was running down the sidewalk in flip flops and shorts and a pistol in my hand, yelling stop, and I looked like a crazy man. As the city police were responding to our assistance, a young deputy who I had scolded before looked at me and grabbed me or grabbed me and said, 'You know what the bleep is wrong with you. Get back in your car', you know, because he realized I was out of bounds and what if the cops would have shown up and seen me running with that pistol right? Again, being surrounded by good professional people who aren't afraid to reach out even to a supervisor and check them back into place. But the answer the question is, however best you can quickly make yourself clearly a police officer. Badge, identifiable markings, your words.

**Steve Gregory**

More of a Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department, but first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for a news update.

**Steve Gregory**

KFI AM 640 heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory and this is Unsolved. For more on this and other cases and other stories highlighted on this program, head over to KFI AM 640.com keyword Unsolved. We've been speaking with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes Bureau. And Sergeant before we get to another question, one of the things I find fascinating about what you do major crimes Bureau also known as MCB, I didn't realize you have all this stuff under you. I'm looking at just the Metro detailed task forces. You were talking about the murder for hire and these are all task forces. So these are active units or active teams, right?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

So, those would be the detail the detail or the team those would be responsibilities. So the Metro detail handles those responsibilities, kidnap for ransom, murder for hire...

**Steve Gregory**

Right

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

..and then so forth different

**Steve Gregory**

Than the burglary robbery task force.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Which is my team...

**Steve Gregory**

Right

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

...which handles residential burglaries series pattern burglaries.

**Steve Gregory**

Fugitive Task Force,

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Fugitive Task Force, that's the FTF. That is our team that partners with the US Marshal Service, and again, things movies are made of. When there are fugitives from out of state in Los Angeles, they go and seek and find.

**Steve Gregory**

Prison gangs,

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Prison gang unit so we have detectives that specialize in prison gangs solely. They integrate with the jail population and some of the prison population intelligence gathering.

**Steve Gregory**

Cargo cats,

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Cargo cats. Those are detectives and specializes in thefts, whether it's a truckload of grapes coming off the port, or a truckload of firearms taken from a train.

**Steve Gregory**

They were busy this year, weren't they?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

They are busy every year.

**Steve Gregory**

Yeah, casino operations,

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Casino operations, licensing of casinos, maintaining appropriate casino procedures and any casino theft and crime investigations within those casinos in the county.

**Steve Gregory**

Criminal enterprises organized crime,

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Organized crime, which is you know, traditional organized crime investigators.

**Steve Gregory**

Outlaw MC gangs

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Outlaw motorcycle gangs, we have guys who work in specialized detectives, guys and gals in intelligence gathering and enforcement of outlaw motorcycle gang, criminal activity.

**Steve Gregory**

ATF gun shows, what's that all about?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

So the ATF gun shows so we have a detective who works with the ATF as it relates to gun shows in the county, making sure that they are acting appropriately the sales, things I can't speak to, I don't know, but that they're following the appropriate procedures with guns sales at gun shows within the county.

**Steve Gregory**

And it looks like you also handle 'prohibited persons.'

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

There is a team, the sheriff supports a team along with state officials, they're called prohibited possessors, prohibited possessors, who who in Los Angeles County has a firearm registered to them that we know is a prohibited possessor. And we can go out and do an investigation to make sure that guns been turned in. If it hasn't given an opportunity to do so

**Steve Gregory**

And recently, the Attorney General's Office you guys just had one big sweep.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Correct, that's part of that part and parcel to that yeah.

**Steve Gregory**

SAT team,



**Sergeant Mike Maher**

SAT teams, surveillance apprehension teams. Those are teams that then go in support of the metro detail investigations. Like my team, they support homicide, special victims. We have so many detectives that are you know, handling these crimes with children as victims, Homicide Bureau, when they have workable information, that there's a suspect or person of interest that needs to be found, maybe needs to be seen needs to be put to an address the surveillance and apprehension team to do that.

**Steve Gregory**

Let's go to another question here in our audience. What's your name and where are you from?

**Oswaldo**

My name is Oswaldo Orias, I'm from Los Angeles. I have a couple of questions.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

In espanol or Ingles?

**Oswaldo**

<speaking Spanish>

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

<speaking Spanish>

**Oswaldo**

There's a couple of questions that I have about ghost guns. It's a huge problem out there in the streets. It appears that I know there's been a couple of lawsuits filed against some of the manufacturers but still a big problem. And the other one is a lot of the criminals that are going south of the border thinking that they're going to get away but there is a foreign prosecution process that takes place to allow these criminals to be brought back and prosecuted eventually.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

There is. So ghost guns, I don't have any special knowledge in that prohibited firearms as a whole is a problem and balancing that with our right to be armed right. But listen, that's that's, you know, a suspect taken off the street with a firearm, whether it's a ghost gun, or just a gun, or even a stolen gun, but a felon taken off the street. If I'm a police officer and I, I make an arrest of a guy with a gun, a bad guy with a gun and I put them in my patrol car, and as I drive him to the station, I forget to roll the window up and I forget to handcuff him and I forget to lock the door. And as I get to the station, he jumps out and runs away. The sheriff is going to discipline me and he's probably going to fire me. But if I take him into the jail cell and I write a report of his crime of his illegal possession of that gun, they're going to let them out with no bail or bond anyway and nobody's going to be disciplined. So the right answer to that, in my humble opinion is the laws are on the books, we enforce them as cops in the street. We need it to be enforced down the line. That sort of makes sense, what I'm saying, you know, if I, if I let a criminal go, if I don't do my job and let a criminal go, I will be punished. It's odd that the people beyond street police officers are not held to that held to that account.

**Oswaldo**

Is that a reference to the district attorney's office, particularly?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

The system, the system.

**Oswaldo**

Then can you talk a little bit about the foreign prosecution because a lot of these criminals, once they commit the crime, a lot of them seem to think that it can just go south of the border and it's resolved?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Sure. I think that I think a lot of criminals leave the state, not only into Mexico or otherwise, the state. Major Crimes does handle you'll see on my list extraditions those expeditions are from the state in the United States, we travel to pick them up. We do have a report with our federal partners. And we do have contact with our federal our law enforcement partners south of the border. There is a process that I can't speak to professionally, that we we have good connection south of the border to seek those people out.

**Steve Gregory**

What about the pawns and licensing team?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah, interesting pawns and licensing. So we have you know, running a pawn business is a good business as I as I imagine, but they are subject to licensing and regulations and those are all done through major crimes bureau.

**Steve Gregory**

Yeah,

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

As well as the pawn slips we have thousands and thousands of pawn slips and copies that come through our bureau.

**Steve Gregory**

Tow yards?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Tow yard licensing again, that's a it's an important business but it needs to be regulated and and monitored.

**Steve Gregory**

I heard that's a pretty cutthroat business

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

I think it is an ugly business. I don't know much about it, but I think you're right.

**Steve Gregory**

Yeah, absolutely.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

We could do it. We could do something that down the road.

**Steve Gregory**

That's good. Listen, we're going to come back talk more with Sergeant Mike Maher, take some more questions from the audience. But first, this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640. Time now for news update.

**Steve Gregory**

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory, this is Unsolved. Follow us on social media UnsolvedKFI on Twitter and Instagram. You can also check out more about this case and other stories we've done on Unsolved at KFI AM 640.com keyword Unsolved. Speaking with Sergeant Mike Maher with the Major Crimes Bureau of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. And before the break, sergeant, you were telling us a lot more about I'm just absolutely amazed at all the different things your unit or your bureau is in charge of. You said a hundred, about a hundred people in this bureau and you're going through all these little sub task forces and all these different groups and teams and are you fully staffed?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

No, I would say in a ballpark figure not speaking from an administrative standpoint, we are probably somewhere in the 30 to 35% fewer detectives in the field today than when I began at this bureau 13 years. 12 years ago. We're hurting, we're hurting for people.

**Steve Gregory**

More crime can be solved if you had more people.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Absolutely.

**Steve Gregory**

Yeah.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Absolutely.

**Steve Gregory**

Let's go to some more questions now. Just tell us your first name and where you're from, please.

**Ruth**

I'm Ruth from Redlands, California. I'm curious how the technology, the advancements in everything that's happened. How does how has that worked for you?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Great question, right, and Steve is going to be upset because I'm not going to share much of what I know about technology. Has it been advantageous? Absolutely. As a detective nearly 20 years ago, I wanted somebody's fingerprint. Today, I want their phone number. Technology that's technology has aided us greatly in solving crimes, it's a valuable tool. Again, as a person who believes in my fourth amendment, and I don't want big brother spying upon me, and I don't. As long as we in the law enforcement community, do it honorably, within policy within the law, those those sort of technical investigations. It's a very valuable tool. It really is.

**Steve Gregory**

That help? And she actually sparks a question that I have too

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Big brother is alive and well if anybody wants to know.

**Steve Gregory**

Yeah, I know. Yeah. Believe me, I'm very cautious with my phone.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yes.

**Steve Gregory**

But that also begs a question about technology and some of the gadgets that you use, and we've referred a few times to Hollywood. And if, you know, how close if art imitates life, in this case? Do you have a lot of those gadgets that we see in the movies and see in James Bond?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Well, if we if we were fully funded, we'd have more. But we have some.

**Steve Gregory**

What more...what do you need?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

So we, listen, we are operating with Ford Pintos, right? We need some Tesla's so yeah, so there are there there is a wide variety of gadgets that are open source gadgets we haven't the public can purchase on on a on the website. If used appropriately. They're a great aid, but they're not cheap. They're not cheap.

**Steve Gregory**

Jacob and I were on an undercover prostitution sting, and we're sitting in a minivan. The door flew open wouldn't close, it was a piece of crap and, but I remember the detective who shall remain nameless, he, he had binoculars that were broken and only one side of the binoculars worked. So he's sitting there with the binoculars like this with the one side up like this, because that's the only end that would work. And I thought to myself, is this where it's become and then the microphone, that it was a female deputy playing the role of the prostitute, and then he was it John sting, and the microphones were all taped up, it was all beat up. It looks like stuff we have in KFI, and I'm thinking to myself, since the sheriff's department were busting criminals here and there. It's like bandaid tape and stuff on there. I mean, is that pretty common?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Listen, I'm not gonna say it's quite that bad.

**Steve Gregory**

Well I can.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Well, maybe in the John

**Steve Gregory**

I saw it!

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Well, maybe the prostitution sting, as it goes for our surveillances of violent armed individuals, we have some cutting, cutting edge technology. We feel supported from our sheriff and administration we do. As a matter of fact, I tell our guys all the time. There is no excuse for not doing your job, what do you need, and we will deliver it to you and we most always do. We most always do. But it should always be it should be automatic. It's like medical care and education for kids, you can't sort of not have it. You can't sort of not be ahead of the curve in the states in California and Los Angeles, how can we fall behind and we're beginning to it's we're beginning to hurt. Deputies are ingenious, there's nothing we can't do. Guys and gals come out of their own pocket to support some of the stuff we do. And it's not because we don't get the support. It's because it's, they can only do so much. Right?

**Steve Gregory**

We're talking with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes bureau. And, Sergeant, I do want to ask that, about the future of policing. You're about you're, you're in the homestretch of your career. Would you say ten months?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Yeah, about 10 months

**Steve Gregory**

About 10 months from this taping? Yeah. And are you comfortable and confident with the next generation?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Absolutely. You know, I'll speak for my son, and friends and other family members, an honorable profession. It is absolutely honorable and necessary. It's sort of different, right? We watch, we've all grown I see myself growing from 30 years ago, I was a young caveman joining the sheriff's part. I mean, like, physically, you know, I was right now, my son wouldn't got a college education before deciding to become a police officer. The sheriff is encouraging new law enforcement, deputies to have an education. How wonderful is that? You know, thank God for me it wasn't required, but I definitely believe it should be. Some more world experience, whether it be military or college. I have full faith I do. I've seen the pendulum swing, right, somewhere in the middle is right in the wrong right. We're coming back to some more moderate reasonable positions from the politicians and the people that make these decisions. Full faith, I really do.

**Steve Gregory**

Good. Another question, first name and where you're from?

**Don**

Don from Westlake Village. This is a tough question okay? Because growing up, police officers, firemen always revered from little folks all the way up. In the world we're living in today, you're down 35%? How difficult is it for you guys to police each other? How difficult is it to hold each other accountable to make sure that you're keeping those rules right?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

It's a good question. And it's an important question, right? You have to you have to the individual has to come from a place of power. The badge means less to me than my name. So I get choked up again. When my son graduated, I pointed to his name badge. That's my name, that's more important than the badge. But then there's the balance, right? Because it's awesome to stand behind the Sheriff's Badge. It is, right? But it's an awesome responsibility. I remember the LAPD putting me in, and I'm a cheesy white kid from the valley. I remember the LAPD putting me over the hood of their car, because I was carrying a BB gun down the street. Right. And I was beside myself about it. But do I think they treated me wrong necessarily? I don't know, right? Today, if I saw an officer put a kid over the hood of a car for a BB gun. You know, I would be...I'm comfortable enough to say, 'Hey dude, knock it off,' right? I don't know that I would think it's an LA Times or newspaper worthy story. But I'd say it's probably you don't need to do that. Right? Like that deputy who told me 'Hey, Sarge, you look like an idiot and your flip flops and a pistol get back in your car.' I didn't get mad at him about it. I'm a big enough man to say thank you for correcting me, right. So it's a matter of it's a matter of staff hiring the right people, college educated, life experienced, confident in themselves. He him or she or he or whoever, be confident in yourself, right. And I don't buy the thin blue line and we're not going to rat on people, I don't buy that. Because, you know, I wouldn't stand for that. I've been around 31 years. I was in the jails during the Rodney King incident. During the Northridge earthquake. The job meant too much to me, my name too much to me, my badge meant too much to me to let people tarnish all of that along the way, I wouldn't stand for it. And I hope my peers wouldn't stand for it.

**Steve Gregory**

We're going to pause, more with Sergeant Mike Maher, but first this is Unsolved with Steve Gregory on KFI AM 640, time now for a news update.

**Steve Gregory**

KFI AM 640, heard everywhere live on the iHeartRadio app. I'm Steve Gregory and this is Unsolved. We've been talking with Sergeant Mike Maher with the LA County Sheriff's Department's Major Crimes Bureau, we've been sort of outlining all of the different types of teams and task forces and all of the different things that this MCB does on behalf of the general public. And one of the teams here is a halt team. What's the halt team?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Halt team is a county health authority team. They are detectives who investigate some of the local clinics, the mom and pop clinics and pharmacies in LA County, trying to bring them in line with appropriate medical care and distribution of controlled substances.

**Steve Gregory**

Did you have a big problem with that I remembered the riots in 2020. A lot of pharmacies were broken into.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Sure, pharmacies in general are a strong target for burglaries because of the street value of the pain medicine and things like that. This is more a little institutional or maybe there are segments of the community that don't have access to a pharmacy, expensive pharmacy...

**Steve Gregory**

Right

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

...and go to these sort of holistic, you know, neighborhood pharmacies. That's more what that is, right?

**Steve Gregory**

Sheriff's Intelligence Unit,

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

The SIU, sheriff's intelligence unit was born out of sort of international terrorism awareness, sort of nationwide terrorism awareness and intelligence gathering. So those investigators are a bit more analytical, analyzing information, whether it be national, international information, and how it can directly affect Los Angeles County.

**Steve Gregory**

You know, with this being such an international market, do you deal a lot with foreign law enforcement? Do you dealing a lot with Feds Are you coordinating and liaising with them a lot?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Sure. Great question. So, the burglary robbery Task Force, our task force, we are all cross credentialed through the US Marshal Service. I support the FBI, as does my team, through the LA County or LA City, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Violent Crime Task Force. So we are direct partners with the FBI. If you saw an incident in the street tomorrow that had ten FBI agents standing on the corner, strong probability that seven of those ten are deputy sheriffs. You saw in the FTF, The Fugitive Task Force, those deputies are all working directly with the US Marshal Service. We have a great liaisonship with the feds. And in today's climate in Los Angeles, we do as many federal prosecutions as we can for violent crimes, what are called Hobbs Act crimes. You know, a residential burglary, there is no federal crime that's not a federal crime, stealing a car is not a federal crime, but there are certain violent acts that are federal crimes that we can then act as pseudo federal agents and we file through the US Attorney's Office. And we see real prosecutions.

**Steve Gregory**

Okay, back to the studio audience. And we have another question. What's your first name and where are you from?

**Gabriela**

Hola, Gabriela, and I'm from Los Angeles. I have a question that is like several folds, and one of them is considering everything that we've heard today, and as a citizen of Los Angeles, should I feel insecure today? Do I feel like should I feel more confident about our safety in Los Angeles? Or, or otherwise, if you're in a Latino community, should you be hearing more?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Great question. So I would always ask folks, don't be paranoid, but be prepared. 31 years in Los Angeles, born and raised in Pacoima and Sun Valley, I thought I was a Latino until I was 16. But but the fact of the matter is, and we hear it from the sheriff, and we hear it from law enforcement, I don't know that I've ever seen the streets as dangerous as they are today. And I mean that sincerely. You know, I'm not a panic kind of guy. But this is the first time when my wife goes to the store, I've never been concerned about that today, previously, to today. It is, you should feel comfortable as long as you're not looking for trouble. Generally speaking, going through your life, you should feel comfortable, you should. But the streets are more dangerous today

than I've ever seen. And that's from Santa Clarita to Long Beach and everywhere in between. So unfortunate.

**Steve Gregory**

What is the biggest myth about what you do? What's the biggest myth about law enforcement?

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

That's good question. I think the biggest myth about law enforcement is that it's a great question right is, one, that that cops think they are something special. Like we're all something special, I get that right, and firemen and cops and doctors and lawyers, everybody's special. But people maybe look at us through Hollywood lens is, and we talked about it before with what happened in Minnesota when, when we as people see something go wrong, whether it's the cop that did it wrong, we get it. Like we heard and know we know what's bad and we know it's good. We have families to go home to, like, you know, tomorrow, you're not going to be probably thinking about today's you know, today's interview in the show. Cops, it's a 24/7 job. Now it's getting convoluted and confusing, right? We know we need George Noory here to get into the space but few professions, right short of being a self employed businessman that you're completely committed to your product. Few professions require you to to try to turn off after your eight hour shift or your 12 hour shift. You know, as a, as a patrolman, how do I go home after seeing three children violently killed, and go home that night, and watch Barney with the kids and do homework? It's a difficult thing to do, right? And cops, men and women in law enforcement are not robots and they do have feelings, and they do recognize when cops do things bad and when things don't go right. We do recognize when we get better at what we do. It just takes time, I think for sometimes the press to get in line with that. But I can say with 31 years and I don't know anybody in here, many people in here. When I go out in the street, I know that the vast majority vast majority of people that street support what I do, I really do. Because I've been in the streets for 31 years. We don't get too excited about the the far naysayers from either end of the spectrum. Stay committed to what you're doing, do what's right, the people are behind us as law enforcement. Anyway, that's a that's a long diatribe. And I apologize.

**Steve Gregory**

No, that's okay. So bottom line it.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Bottom line is we're going to be alright, you're going to be alright, we're going to be alright. But listen, we're looking for help and law enforcement to right, the end of the day we can you know, I can go to work tomorrow and choose to do absolutely nothing other than respond when somebody calls. Like a fireman and this is no knocking firemen, firemen are out there running around spraying water on the grass before it's burning. But as a proactive law enforcement officer and a deputy sheriff, I'm out there trying to stop the crime before it happens, motivated to get in front of the crime, and I want the public to support us in that. Or do we shut down and just wait for the call and write what you tell us that took place? And I don't think we want that.

**Steve Gregory**

Sergeant Mike Maher, thank you so much for your time tonight, much appreciated.

**Sergeant Mike Maher**

Thank you.

**Steve Gregory**

Really appreciate it. That's gonna do it. Unsolved with Steve Gregory is a production of the KFI news department for iHeartMedia Los Angeles, Robin Bertolucci program director, Chris Little news director. The show was produced by Steve Gregory and Jacob Gonzalez, the digital produce is Andro Mammo, the field engineers Tony Sorrentino and the technical director David Callaway. Coming up next it's Coast to Coast AM but first, this is KFIAM 640, time now for news update.