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TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

10 JUNE 23, 2014

P R O C E E D I N G S

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Interviewer (Q): Unknown female

Interviewer (Q1): Unknown female

Interviewee (A): A

Interviewee (A1): L

Q It is June 23rd, we're here with L and A.  
Thank you so much for being able to sit down with us.  
I suppose we could start out by just talking about what  
do you think makes Fairview unique as a community?

A1 I'll let you speak first and then I'll add in, can I do  
that just because you've lived here at least 15 years  
longer than I have.

A The Fairview -- what makes the Fairview unique as a  
community is the diversity of people, diversity of land  
uses and its unique physical layout.

Q Okay. What physical layouts, unique how?

A And physical layout meaning it's a traditional  
neighborhood, small, it's a block -- small blocks,  
about 300 feet long, it's very walk-able. It is laid  
out on a grid pattern and it has alleys. So yeah,  
those are characteristics of old time America, you  
know, prior to the dominance of the automobile, so.

So Fairview, you know, has those characteristics,  
has all the characteristics of a traditional

1 neighborhood and it's in close proximity to the  
2 downtown, within walking distance of downtown, it's  
3 within walking distance of midtown and it's got a great  
4 location in the fact that.....

5 A1 You have to say (indiscernible - voice lowered).

6 A What?

7 A1 I just realized you're going to say it all, then I'm  
8 (indiscernible - voice lowered).

9 A Well.....

10 A1 No, I was just asking you to say something. Go ahead.

11 A Well, it's great -- it's got, you know, access to  
12 trails. On the north side is Ship Creek Trail, on the  
13 south side is Chester Creek Trail, so you've got access  
14 to some significant public amenities, which was, you  
15 know, another attractive feature.

16 So the diversity of people, you know, in the  
17 neighborhood, it means that you have -- you know,  
18 people from a lot of different backgrounds, so it adds  
19 interest in terms of the character of the neighborhood.  
20 Sometimes there's -- one can think that there's too  
21 much diversity with some of the interests, people of  
22 interest, but (indiscernible). We're trying to make a  
23 difference in terms of addressing their issues, so. Go  
24 ahead.

25 A1 Of course, I was going to talk about the tram system

1 and other things because that's a thing that's really  
2 important to me. One thing I'd say about the community  
3 and its people, its diversity is a big piece of that,  
4 but I also think it's a group of people who are very  
5 passionate about their own community. And I think  
6 that's important to recognize, I think, you know,  
7 probably many people in our city who may not even  
8 associate that they're part of a neighborhood. They  
9 may identify themselves as an Anchorage resident, they  
10 may not even know what community council represents the  
11 area in which they live.

12 And I think people in this community are not only  
13 very passionate, but they're people who are very active  
14 and want to see and permit not only in their own  
15 neighborhood, but in the community and the state.

16 Q And when did you move to Fairview?

17 A I've been -- I've lived in Fairview since about 1989 I  
18 think.

19 Q And you haven't been in Fairview as long?

20 A1 No, just 2 1/2 years.

21 Q Where did you live before then?

22 A1 In South Anchorage.

23 Q Okay. What was your perspective of Fairview before you  
24 moved her?

25 A1 Well, I guess before I moved here, we were still dating

1 for four years prior to, so I had probably spent quite  
2 a bit of time coming here. If you were to ask me that  
3 question like before I met A and even spent time in  
4 Fairview, I might have said something a little bit  
5 different just because I didn't know it and I probably  
6 only drove through it. But I think the one thing  
7 that's always stood out is some of the visuals of  
8 things that I've seen added over the years to really  
9 create a better sense of connection for the community  
10 itself, so I remember watching it change a lot and  
11 that's just totally from an outside perspective.

12 Q How have you seen Fairview from an inside perspective?

13 A Well, it's changed quite a bit and I've been -- you  
14 know, have been involved in a lot of those changes,  
15 so.....

16 Q Like how?

17 A The diagonal (indiscernible), the decretion [sic] of  
18 defensible space.

19 A1 He's a community planner.

20 A Well, community planner and.....

21 A1 Right, I know, I'm explaining some language that you  
22 may use.

23 A Yeah. It's -- and a long-time, you know, participant  
24 in council and past community council President, Vice  
25 President and elected representative in the State

1           Legislature for the area and current member of the  
2           executive board chairman member of committees for the  
3           council.

4       A1     And.....

5       A     And coordinator of the community patrol.

6       A1     .....first (indiscernible) community patrol.

7       A     And so I've been here when, you know, the -- Fairview  
8           was experiencing a lot of crime, a lot of bad things  
9           were happening in the neighborhood and getting involved  
10          and participating and developing solutions resulted in  
11          the -- you know, being able to find some money, working  
12          with those -- some of them, at that time, would have  
13          been CW (ph) to get funding for a  
14          transportation study that showed that there was too  
15          much cut through traffic and it resulted in the design  
16          for cutting off the streets on the north side and  
17          making Karluk into a chicane and putting -- installing  
18          diagonal diverters, so that's made a huge difference.

19                15th Avenue was heavily involved in that project  
20                and (indiscernible) citizens advisory committee for it  
21                and opposing it initially because DOT wanted to make it  
22                a -- you know, a -- like Muldoon. Five lane -- four  
23                lanes that -- suicide lane. And I adamantly opposed  
24                that. They came in and said well, okay, we'll go  
25                couplet, we'll do a 14th, 15th couplet and we adamantly

1           opposed that. And we finally got -- we were able to  
2           get -- work with Mayor Mystrom and were able to -- have  
3           the Municipality take over that project.

4           But from the State, we got what you see out there  
5           now because the complete streets type of design that  
6           accommodates pedestrians and bicyclists and transit and  
7           landscaping and trails and while also moving  
8           (indiscernible) vehicles.

9           All that's made a big difference, we had the -- we  
10          had to -- I think it really -- in the minds of the  
11          general public, that redefined Fairview in terms of its  
12          character because it shows that the community, at  
13          large, was willing to invest in making this part of  
14          town a better place. And it set -- helped to set the  
15          tone for a new vision for Fairview.

16          And in terms of -- we put -- advocated strongly  
17          for a gateway element that they installed, which is  
18          what you see over here, that's the anchor. It's one of  
19          the first neighborhood gateways in town and  
20          (indiscernible) define the neighborhood as a  
21          neighborhood, taking pride in who we were as a distinct  
22          part of the Anchorage community.

23          So we've done -- we've made a lot of improvements  
24          in Fairview that was -- that were mentioned, you know,  
25          by Laura as -- for somebody whose on the outside

1 looking in. And we continue to work towards further  
2 improvements. We've got a number of initiatives under  
3 way now to keep momentum moving forward.

4 And you know, one of the great things about the  
5 Fairview neighborhood I think is that, you know, as a  
6 place that -- you know, where people -- where an  
7 individual can make a difference. A lot of times when  
8 you go to a part of the neighborhood, it's kind of --  
9 you know, you don't know anybody, nobody really is  
10 connected, you don't know.....

11 A1 Uh-huh.

12 A .....you know, how to get involved or the problems or  
13 the challenges seem -- nobody really has an idea of to  
14 solve them. But the nice thing about Fairview is that  
15 it's got a good mix of people that have the knowledge  
16 to say, okay, we've -- these are the problems, this is  
17 how you can sold them and this is how, you know, each  
18 of us can make a difference. And (indiscernible -  
19 voice lowered).

20 Q I've heard a lot of talk actually. We were talking to  
21 some folks in Government Hill about how traffic  
22 patterns can really influence a neighborhood.

23 A Totally. Absolutely. It makes a big -- a huge  
24 detriment to Fairview because before we cut off the  
25 streets and made those changes, you had a lot of cut



1 through traffic and when you have a lot of cut through  
2 traffic, it -- people -- they don't want to let their  
3 kids out to play, that you see all these strange  
4 vehicles, do you don't -- you lose the intimacy with  
5 the neighborhood, with the block, with your neighbors.  
6 And that's what -- too much -- that's that traffic does  
7 because all it is, is just machines going through fast.  
8 It's not like a unit (indiscernible) that vehicle.

9 So -- and the people inside, the pods, you know  
10 they don't give -- they don't care, so.....

11 Q What are some like -- are there any like community  
12 urban legends or fun stories or myths that you remember  
13 around Fairview, maybe stories that you heard over in  
14 South Anchorage?

15 A1 No.

16 Q No?

17 A What do you mean?

18 Q I don't know, we talked to people and like either  
19 they'll have like a ghost story or they'll say oh, this  
20 guy had a basement that he dug out underneath the  
21 street. I mean, just quirky stories like that.

22 Q1 Or like quirky neighbors, we get a lot of those stories  
23 too or something big happened in this part of the  
24 neighborhood.

25 Q Uh-huh.

1 A Well, you know, this part south of the bluff down  
2 here.....

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A .....you know, it was Anchorage's sort of like first  
5 red light district, it was -- you know, the Chester  
6 flats -- it's called the flats.....

7 Q Uh-huh.

8 A .....and that's where a lot of the speakeasies were and  
9 it's -- actually, it's where a lot of the African  
10 Americans were and when the community had, you know, a  
11 lot of red lining in terms of housing, that was the  
12 place where they could live.

13 And then when urban renewal came along in the  
14 1960s, they rebuilt that and -- that part, HUD did and  
15 then a lot of the folks who lived down there, they  
16 moved up, you know, into the upper part of Fairview.  
17 And that's where you see -- and that's one of the  
18 reasons why I think you see -- in Fairview, you've got  
19 -- we've got a pretty strong sort of African American,  
20 you know, heritage, you know, in Fairview you don't see  
21 in other parts of town.

22 So -- and.....

23 Q And was this how -- was this originally built for the  
24 Arch Dieses or they use this as their office?

25 A No, this was the -- this house was the -- you know, for

1 the Archbishop of the Catholic Dieses. I mean, this is  
2 where he originally lived.

3 A1 Okay, yeah, I didn't know if it was built or they  
4 bought it.

5 A No, I.....

6 ((Crosstalk))

7 A Yeah, it was built.

8 A1 Yeah.

9 A I mean, the place that's sort of his study or.....

10 Q Yeah.

11 A .....I don't know what name you give it, special place  
12 where he goes to pray and everything.

13 Q Yeah.

14 A Especially made up.....

15 Q Yeah.

16 A .....you know, for.....

17 A1 (Indiscernible - voice lowered).

18 A Correct?

19 Q Okay.

20 A So -- but yeah. But -- and not necessarily ghost  
21 stories, so -- but.....

22 Q Well, that's cool that the Archbishop lived here.

23 A1 Uh-huh.

24 Q (Indiscernible - voice lowered) house.

25 A Yeah, well, actually yeah, I mean, this is a great

1 little neighborhood and the Carrs over here at 13th and  
2 Gambell is the very first Carrs store that was  
3 established by founder of the Carrs grocery chain in  
4 the State of Alaska.

5 So -- but that's -- you know, Wally Hickel who was  
6 former Governor and former Secretary of the Department  
7 of Interior and he was -- some of the first houses that  
8 he built. You know, when he came to Alaska, our houses  
9 in Fairview, you know, up there on Medfra Street in  
10 between 12th and 13th, so Fairview -- the -- it --  
11 Fairview had to be -- this used to be -- you had the  
12 city of Anchorage and then you had the borough, the  
13 greater Anchorage borough, then Fairview was a utility  
14 district, it was an independent utility district.

15 And it -- the city wanted to axe this part of  
16 town, but the people in this area didn't want to become  
17 part of the city and so they fought it and they fought  
18 it, I think, all the way up through the courts and it  
19 actually took an act of the legislature to force the  
20 Fairview utility district, the public -- Fairview  
21 public utility district into, you know, the city of  
22 Anchorage.

23 So that -- just kind of giving you a sense that --  
24 of understanding that there's always been.....

25 A1 A sense of independence.

1 A .....a sense of independence amongst the long-time  
2 residents of -- you know, of Fairview and -- which I  
3 think is -- I mean, it shows up in terms of you -- when  
4 you go talk with long-time Fairview residents.

5 It was -- one of the biggest challenges was when  
6 the original pipeline was built and they had to create  
7 a lot of housing for people. They put it in a lot of  
8 -- they decided to zone. They re-zoned a lot of  
9 Fairview to accommodate high density and what that did  
10 was they put in a lot of rentals and that's -- it  
11 really had negative impact on the neighborhood. There  
12 was a big negative, so there's -- because you have a  
13 lot of transients coming in, people in and out, in and  
14 out, and when you overload neighborhood where too  
15 many, you know, rentals and you don't have a good sense  
16 of place, it's just -- it's a breeding ground for bad  
17 things, so.

18 But it's -- we've -- I think we've fixed a lot of  
19 that too. Yeah, but you know, since then, so. I don't  
20 know if it was (indiscernible) close to us or anything,  
21 but it's -- you know, a little bit of the history, you  
22 know, of the Fairview area, so.

23 The other nice thing about it is that, you know,  
24 these places are places where you can walk. I mean,  
25 you can walk to Carrs grocery, you can walk to the post

1 office, you can walk to the senior center and below the  
2 bluff.

3 A1 Uh-huh.

4 A You can walk to the Sullivan Arena. I mean, you can  
5 walk -- if you want, it's a 20-minute walk and you're  
6 at the PAC downtown. So given.....

7 A1 Or five minutes, you're on the coastal trail.

8 A Yeah. And your only five minutes with the bike and  
9 you're there on the coastal trail and you can anywhere.  
10 Yeah. This is a -- yeah, I think, you know, into their  
11 little amenities and proximity and location. If you  
12 like urban living, this is totally a cool place.

13 A1 Yeah. Or (indiscernible) living down Spenard, just the  
14 location to everything was perfect.

15 A Uh-huh.

16 A1 For the midtown anyways, but it's.....

17 Q Yeah.

18 A1 .....a bit of a bike downtown, but yeah.

19 A Well, it's not -- that's the nice thing, I mean, you go  
20 to -- what really makes a good neighborhood a good  
21 neighborhood is that you got so many things available  
22 for you within close distance.

23 A1 Uh-huh.

24 A You don't have to get into a vehicle and drive half an  
25 hour to get to someplace.

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A1 Yeah.

3 A I mean, so -- which is, I think it's -- you know, it's  
4 cool, so.

5 Q Uh-huh.

6 A1 Definitely. I guess not just Anchorage in general, a  
7 little bit.

8 Q Uh-huh. How -- because I'm assuming that you've lived  
9 in Anchorage a long time too?

10 A1 Oh, 28 years or more, something like that.

11 Q How did you folks end up in Anchorage?

12 A1 Let's see, I actually moved from Ohio to actually  
13 Fairbanks for college and I -- so -- and I only flew  
14 through Anchorage, I don't think I even got off the  
15 plane. And my first spring break from Fairbanks, I  
16 came down here and realized wow, the mountains are  
17 actually here versus way in the distance. And then I  
18 -- that summer, came down to work for Exxon on the oil  
19 spill doing archaeology, grant work as a college  
20 student, so -- and then I never went back. I finished  
21 at UAA and went back for my Master's at UAA, so made a  
22 life here. I'm sure my family out east thought I would  
23 eventually come home, but that never happened.

24 A And for me, I graduated at the University of Delaware  
25 and I was intending to settle down in (indiscernible).

1 I was driving with a friend of mine across country and  
2 then I lived in Montana and I had a hankering. I said,  
3 well, I think I'm going to go see Alaska before I, you  
4 know, start setting down roots in the (indiscernible)  
5 area, so could you let me off across the border?

6 And so they did and I wound up hitchhiking up  
7 through Alaska, Fairbanks and then down to Anchorage  
8 and saw the Chugach Mountains and I said I really like  
9 this place.

10 Q Uh-huh.

11 A1 It's the mountains that'll do it to you every day.

12 A Well, I -- the -- I've always been drawn towards the  
13 mountains and so the mountains -- this place is a great  
14 place, I get up, every day I get to look at them  
15 and.....

16 A1 That's why I said mountains also.

17 A Yeah. So which is.....

18 A1 We get to have -- look out here and see the mountains  
19 every day, which is very nice.

20 A Well -- yeah, it's very nice. Uh-huh.

21 Q It's an awesome view.

22 A1 Uh-huh, it is.

23 A Yeah. It's.....

24 A1 Especially when you have a few trees bloomed a couple  
25 years ago. We have one more view in there.



1 A Yeah. So I mean, just like -- in here next to the  
2 park, that's green space over there, is never going to  
3 be developed and here you in a (indiscernible) in the  
4 core of the city and.....

5 A1 I guess.....

6 A And you've got a pretty nice place.

7 Q Uh-huh.

8 A So anyway, that's what brought me to Alaska.

9 Q So it was the view that made you settle down in  
10 Fairview, not the neighborhood?

11 A Well, actually it was -- what made me decide to settle  
12 down in Fairview was the fact that we're looking to buy  
13 a house and we found a cute -- really cute little  
14 starter home over in -- at 1402 LaTouche Street and it  
15 was just great, it was very -- so affordable housing,  
16 that really kind of -- good quality affordable housing.

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 A That initially brought us to Fairview, so.....

19 Q What were some of your initial perceptions, both coming  
20 from outside of Alaska, of Alaskans in -- I mean, I  
21 guess you spent some time in Fairbanks, but really,  
22 Alaskans in Anchorage. Like what kind of perception  
23 did you guys have of the people when you first came  
24 here?

25 A1 Well, before we got here or after being here just a

1 little bit?

2 Q Well, like right when you got here.

3 A1 Right when I got here. I think people seemed to be  
4 just really friendly. I guess I came from an area that  
5 maybe moved at a little faster pace, it wasn't like New  
6 York City or anything, but it felt that you could stop  
7 and smell the roses while still having all the  
8 conveniences and the things that people are -- enjoy  
9 comforts of urban living, but also being really almost  
10 surrounded by nature. And in five minutes, you can be  
11 in the heart of it and not, you know, be away from all  
12 the people. So -- and despite it being a big city, it  
13 still felt a little bit like a -- not so much of a big  
14 city. I don't mean like a small hometown, you know,  
15 either, but somewhere in the middle.

16 Q He's done shedding on me.

17 A1 Oh yeah, I'm sure. I'm sure you'll take some remnants  
18 along with you.

19 A My impression of people, when I got here, they were  
20 very open and -- yeah, so I thought it was a good -- it  
21 was a good sized community and not too small, not too  
22 big. It was -- you know, things were happening at the  
23 time and there was opportunity, you know, for people  
24 and so -- and you know, people were open and if you  
25 had, you know, an interest in getting involved in

1 something, they say well come on, let's get involved.  
2 And I think that's one of the things that really makes  
3 this town different is that there's really a lot of  
4 opportunities for ind -- for a person to be involved in  
5 making a difference in this town.

6 A1 Uh-huh.

7 A And you know, whether it's in the non profits, as  
8 volunteering or, you know, the community councils or  
9 whether the advisory, you know, committees that are set  
10 up. I mean, this is really a great little town. If  
11 you really want to experience democracy.....

12 A1 Uh-huh.

13 A .....Anchorage is where you can really experience  
14 democracy. I mean.....

15 A1 You don't have to also be part of a little fish in a  
16 huge sea or somewhere.

17 A Yeah.

18 A1 Yeah. You can -- and people, I think, quickly see  
19 that, as you were saying earlier that you cannot only  
20 -- there's a sea of opportunities, but you can also see  
21 the benefit that you make, and therefore, it drives  
22 people to do even more and be very thirsty for  
23 community involvement.

24 A Yeah, I think there's a lot of opportunities for people  
25 who find.....

1 A1 You don't have to work hard at finding things.  
2 A Yeah, findings things, but also finding -- you can get  
3 -- if you're not motivated by making a lot of money,  
4 but if you're motivated by just the enjoyment of doing  
5 something and making a difference, you can -- the --  
6 here's the place to do it. This town is the place to  
7 do it.  
8 A1 Uh-huh.  
9 A So you can make a difference and both of you guys can  
10 make a difference, believe it or not.  
11 A1 And I'd say, in addition to.....  
12 A And you'd have fun doing it too.  
13 A1 In addition.....  
14 A I'm (indiscernible) won't let you forget, I include  
15 that word.  
16 Q Yes.  
17 A1 In addition to people being open, I think it was  
18 welcoming too, you know, because I've lived in lots of  
19 difference neighborhoods in town and I think every  
20 place I've been, people, you know, have come over and  
21 greeted, and you know, introduced themselves and you  
22 know, it doesn't mean that every place, you know,  
23 people connected all the time. More so in some  
24 neighborhoods than others, but people were always.....  
25 A As long as you stayed away from South Anchorage, I

1 mean.....

2 A1 Yeah. You know, I think people did really -- and  
3 always have been just welcoming and wanting to, you  
4 know, inviting new people in. There's some places that  
5 new people are not always welcomed.

6 Q Yeah, my family moved to the.....

7 A Yeah, and so we're.....

8 Q My family moved to the Big Island in Hawaii.

9 A Yeah, we're not a gated community that you have down in  
10 certain parts of, you know, town, so.....

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A1 Well, you see all those bumper stickers that say  
13 Welcome to Alaska, now leave. So it's that big  
14 attitude that we don't like people coming in, so we  
15 don't encounter that a lot.

16 Q Yeah.

17 A1 (Indiscernible - voice lowered) the neighborhoods.  
18 I haven't seen that bumper sticker. I'm going to see  
19 if I got it.

20 Q I haven't either, yeah.

21 A1 But I would say one thing -- the only thing about my  
22 thought about Alaskans that definitely surprised me  
23 after living here, you know, I always thought people  
24 from the Last Frontier, they want to succeed from the  
25 union, they're independent, oh, the most conservative

1 group of people I -- you know, everything I vote for,  
2 nothing passes, and you know, it's -- that part was  
3 kind of eye opening and I did not realize that when I  
4 came here. Not that I would do it differently,  
5 but.....

6 A Well, actually, that used to -- Alaska used to be  
7 different.

8 A1 Yeah.

9 A Or Alaska used to be.....

10 A1 But when I moved here even, it was already way past  
11 trending in that area and I was still surprised, but  
12 somehow, this mentality of the Last Frontier, you know,  
13 you think it's people really want to think outside the  
14 box and do things differently and.....

15 A Well, before the -- when there was still the sense of a  
16 recognition that we were part of a community. You  
17 know, Alaska reflected that because people really had  
18 a.....

19 A1 I was just sharing my experience of.....

20 A Yeah, yeah.

21 A1 .....what I thought, so just clarifying.

22 A But there was a greater sense of -- you know, within  
23 Alaskans, that they were bounded to get there by a  
24 common cause and that they -- and that's referring to  
25 the (indiscernible) Alaska State Constitution. Our

1 Alaska State Constitution is one of the most  
2 progressive documents of all the State constitutions  
3 and it really speaks to the common good and.....  
4 A1 We just have -- lots of people have forgotten that.  
5 A Well, I think that's one of the challenges that's  
6 happened is that, you know, certainly since the -- I  
7 think the 80s and 90s, we've had a lot of people coming  
8 in that, in migration, that -- you know, they were  
9 here, they came in with a different set of values and  
10 those values didn't -- they didn't try to learn the  
11 values of Alaska, they just cared about the -- how to  
12 make a place their own.  
13 A1 And some are good values (indiscernible - voice  
14 lowered).  
15 A Huh? So.....  
16 Q Have you folks ever lived outside of Alaska aside from  
17 after you just moved up here I'm guessing?  
18 A1 Oh, after moving here?  
19 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).  
20 A1 Never left.  
21 A Oh no, I.....  
22 A1 Vacation.  
23 A I'd go on vacation and it's always a good reason why.  
24 Okay, now I know why I don't want to leave, so -- but  
25 the lower 48.....

1 A1 Uh-huh.

2 A .....and there's too much.....

3 A1 There is Hawaii though, so I wouldn't rule it out.

4 Part of me.

5 A I think the other -- yeah, the lower 48, a lot of the

6 communities out there, they're just -- you know, they

7 develop -- they've grown badly and the people have --

8 reflect that. I mean, they've grown badly too and it

9 translates into either their personalities and it sort

10 of permeates through the -- although there are some

11 pockets in the lower 48 that are good. I love Alaska.

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A1 Uh-huh.

14 Q So then do you think Anchorage is on track, that it's

15 growing not badly? Would you (indiscernible) and say

16 that or do you just think it's different?

17 A Well, I think that -- could Anchorage grow better?

18 Yes, it definitely could grow better. The.....

19 A1 Or it could go worse too.

20 A It could be worse. And certainly in terms of looking

21 at it in terms of hope for, you know, for Anchorage, I

22 think there's hope for Anchorage. I mean, I was -- at

23 one time, I was very active in the winter, so I just

24 (indiscernible) and I think that -- and the city,

25 everyone kind of -- you know, in place, that concept



1 and they put in a place with things that -- you know,  
2 recognize the fact that six months of the year we're  
3 winter environment, and you know, trying to make a  
4 (indiscernible) was a little more enjoyable. We still  
5 got, you know, a ways to go, but we got Title 21, the  
6 land use code that was done and it's not -- it could  
7 have been better, but it does move the community  
8 forward in terms of, you know, as growth occurs, it's  
9 going to be done, I think better than what was done in  
10 the past. It fixes some of the mistakes that we've had  
11 in the past.

12 I think that -- and a specific example is the  
13 ability for neighborhoods to create their own vision.  
14 They allowed for -- in the municipal ordinance, they  
15 allowed for neighborhood plans to be created and they  
16 allowed for -- they didn't have to be sponsored by the  
17 municipality. A community council could sponsor a  
18 neighborhood plan and once that ordinance was passed,  
19 Fairview was the first community -- first neighborhood  
20 that stepped up and said we want to take advantage of  
21 this ordinance and we want to develop a neighborhood  
22 plan and it was just a couple weeks ago, it was  
23 approved unanimously by the Planning and Zoning  
24 Commission.

25 And it was, for the most part, most of its been

1 done by volunteers, and you know, citizens, residents  
2 of the neighborhood. You know, putting their -- you  
3 know, energy into articulating a common vision for this  
4 part of town. So making it a -- so that there's a  
5 future, will be better than the past.

6 And I think that's -- that could be done, not just  
7 for Fairview, but for the -- all parts of Anchorage.

8 A1 I was just trying to.....

9 A Yeah.

10 A1 .....get a word in there.

11 A Sorry.

12 A1 No, that's all right. I just -- I'm thinking about  
13 Alaska, whether we're on track or where we could be. I  
14 think I have to, at least, speak about the culture and  
15 value of education in the State. I think we have --  
16 we've made some new commitments in the last couple  
17 years about the investment in education with the State  
18 Scholarship Program. So we are beginning to kind of  
19 level the playing a little bit with our States in terms  
20 of the investment in post secondary education by  
21 residents, but I do think that we still have a State  
22 that really does not truly value higher education as  
23 you might find in any other states and I think that's  
24 just an area that we could make some significant  
25 improvement in and I think our state could do a better

1 job leveraging the ideas in research that comes out  
2 from students within our University systems. Many  
3 communities that are thriving, really there's, you  
4 know, huge business spinoffs from student ideas and  
5 concepts that come out in research and are taken into  
6 the local economy. And I think we've got a long ways  
7 to go, and you know, those are some areas that I think  
8 we could make some big improvements. Not that we're  
9 doing terrible, but we could do better and those are  
10 important.

11 A Well.....

12 A1 But those are areas that yes, I would be active in to  
13 be working towards those areas.

14 A But there is some good connection there. I mean, even  
15 the University is -- they've certainly made a  
16 difference, I think, in Fairview, so -- in the past in  
17 terms of, you know, providing support for our community  
18 initiatives and efforts. And the most recent one, I  
19 think, is a good example is the UAA engineering and  
20 that single class, and you know, working to, you know,  
21 provide little pro bono work with those snow melt  
22 system project and you got, you know, money to do --  
23 snow melt (indiscernible) and it was generally for  
24 construction and we needed to have design done. And  
25 you know, UAA engineering, I think made that

1 connection. I think that's.....

2 Q That's a good first step.

3 A I think that's a very concrete example of how, you  
4 know, the University and the higher education that the  
5 -- in partnership with -- in local neighborhoods and  
6 local communities and I mean, it's -- it can be very  
7 productive and it can make a difference.

8 A1 Uh-huh. And I think the University, by size, and you  
9 know, a whole host of things, not just the  
10 (indiscernible) but the diversity of its programs.  
11 There's such potential that has yet to be scratched on  
12 the surface in terms of the University efforts whether  
13 it's faculty and student projects that really will meet  
14 community need. But there's -- you know, there has to  
15 be more than the center for community engagement and  
16 learning who are advocating and helping make those  
17 bridges and that connection happen and I think there's  
18 still just great potential there that could really make  
19 even more of a difference, so.

20 A Well, and both of us are alumni at UAA. We have the --  
21 you know, degree in public administration and planning  
22 from UAA and those are, you know, going through degrees  
23 and -- either from UAA, so the connection -- the  
24 University can make a difference and the graduates of  
25 UAA can make a difference out there.

1 A1 Uh-huh.

2 A You guys could make a difference.

3 A1 But there should be more business spinoffs because

4 there are lots of ideas and things that happen, and you

5 know, I think there's room for growth there. And

6 whether it's concerns about intellectual prop -- you

7 know, I don't know what some of the constraints really

8 are, but I -- I've seen so many wonderful ideas from

9 students just in my classes, so I, you know, know

10 there's some -- lots of potential out there.

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A1 So finding a way to cultivate that and grow that would

13 be great.

14 Q So what are some of your favorite activities just

15 around the neighborhood or.....

16 A Oh, throwing snowballs.

17 A1 Oh, we're right up the hill from the park.....

18 Q Yeah?

19 A1 .....so we can go down and sledding, we can -- on the

20 track (indiscernible), I don't swim, but I can run in

21 just a matter of a couple seconds to be a trail without

22 cars. There are lots of places in town where you can't

23 do that. If you really want to ride, you got to put

24 your bike on -- in the car or something and drive

25 somewhere and that makes a big difference.

1 A Yeah, so that's -- yeah, that's nice -- I think that's  
2 -- we have a nice little loop that we do around the  
3 hill to Sitka Park and to, you know, East Chester. And  
4 they have a connection over to the coast -- to the  
5 Chester Creek Trail and then we come down. And then go  
6 back up.....

7 A1 The Senior Center and.....

8 A Go back up to the Senior Center, then back up here and  
9 about 45 minutes and it's a nice walk, and you know,  
10 most of it's in the trees, and you know, very pleasant.  
11 Another loop and so that's just -- that's -- you know,  
12 that's a nice walk and you feel almost as though  
13 you're, you know, out in the forest, you know, when  
14 you're in the -- on the trail system.

15 Q Yeah.

16 A So that's a really nice thing. I mean, I enjoy doing  
17 that, and of course, we -- you know, we biked a lot and  
18 it's nice to be able to get on the bike trail.....

19 A1 Uh-huh.

20 A .....you know, real quickly and the nice thing  
21 (indiscernible) it's one of my goals hopefully. I  
22 think this makes so much sense as to how, you know, an  
23 urban trail beltway around the core. I mean, we've got  
24 Chester Creek on the south, we've got Tony Knowles  
25 Coastal on the west, we've got Ship Creek on the north

1 and we just need that eastern connection through  
2 Fairview and you can have a -- you know, a trail that  
3 encircles the downtown core, you know, of the city and  
4 I think that would be so cool.

5 Q I'd ride it.

6 A1 Well, and then you have to connect the rest of the  
7 coastal trail out to Bird so that when you ride to  
8 Girdwood, you don't have to drive out.....

9 Q Yeah.

10 A1 .....to Bird.

11 Q That's the real end game.

12 A1 The ultimate end game.

13 A Yeah.

14 A1 Yes. That would be nice.

15 A Yeah, so -- but I like it, I mean, yeah. Well, I mean,  
16 the like the little adventures. I mean, I like --  
17 every year, I usually participate (indiscernible).

18 A1 Thank you, yes. We.

19 A We participate in the -- there's the snow sculpture  
20 contest with Fur Rondy Vue, so.....

21 Q With you guys carving or.....

22 A Yeah.

23 Q Wow, that's neat.

24 Q1 What are some of the sculptures you've done?

25 A1 This last one was -- it was a lot of detail work, a

1 piece on climate change. We always do something that's  
2 supposed to, you know, be meaningful, not.....

3 A Well, (indiscernible) we've done a lot of.....

4 A1 Things for the community.

5 A For community. I mean, we did the -- a snow sculpture  
6 of the gateway element out here.

7 Q Uh-huh.

8 A We did that one year, so we've done, you know,  
9 different things kind of representing Fairview.

10 Q Okay.

11 A And so we've done things.....

12 A1 That's because you always signed up under Fairview and  
13 then it's the two of us doing it, but yes.

14 A Well, not -- usually it's a Fairview family, so.

15 A1 Yeah.

16 A Right. A family is a -- you know, it could be standard  
17 family or it could be certain (indiscernible -  
18 simultaneous speech).

19 A1 Bigger or smaller.

20 A It's a small family.

21 A1 Uh-huh. I mean, it -- it's nice to -- for sledding,  
22 and you know during the wintertime, we're biking during  
23 the summertime, so.

24 A1 Uh-huh.

25 Q Do you two garden very much?



1 A Unh-unh (negative).

2 A1 Unh-unh (negative).

3 Q And do you know of gardens around here?

4 A We do have a community gardens installed up here at  
5 Fairview Lions Park.

6 Q Oh, really?

7 A Yeah. On -- up there between 7th and 8th and Karluk  
8 and Medfra. If you, you know, go up there to the park,  
9 you'll see them and they had those installed like three  
10 or four years ago. Maybe a little bit longer.

11 A1 I know there's several people that do do gardening up  
12 here, I just -- I like to, just never had the time.

13 Q Uh-huh.

14 A1 We've talked about having a little greenhouse thing or  
15 whatever, but only so many hours in the day.

16 Q Understand.

17 A1 You know?

18 A But certainly, another council was instrumental in  
19 getting the community gardens installed and so that was  
20 -- that's something that -- you know, we've been -- as  
21 a community, as a neighborhood, you know, I think we've  
22 been responsive to those type of things.

23 Q What are the gardens used for? Just -- yeah, are they  
24 more for show or do people grow vegetables in them?

25 A No, no, no, it -- no, it's -- they're actual real

1 gardens, I mean, there is an individual -- you know,  
2 you go and you can sign up for a raised bed and then  
3 that raised bed is yours and you can grow your  
4 vegetables. You can grow carrots or cabbage or we have  
5 potatoes and whatever. And if you (indiscernible) you  
6 know they grow crops (indiscernible) crops.

7 Q That's great.

8 A So get your hands dirty and working your green thumbs.  
9 They're not quite green thumbs.

10 Q If I had a yard, I would garden.

11 A Uh-huh.

12 A1 Yeah.

13 Q I had a very small garden one year, it was like two  
14 feet wide. There were strawberries in it.

15 A Yeah. Well, see, even though we're here, this  
16 neighborhood is an urban neighborhood, there's still  
17 opportunity for you, even though you might be a  
18 (indiscernible) for example.....

19 Q Yeah.

20 A .....you still could take advantage.....

21 A1 There are people who have chickens (indiscernible -  
22 voice lowered).

23 A Well, the thing of it is.....

24 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

25 A I think the nice thing about it is.....

1 A1 In Anchorage, it's surprising, there's a huge volume of  
2 people who have their -- grown their own or do their  
3 own eggs and all of that.

4 Q Do people keep chickens in Fairview regularly?

5 A I think we do have some.

6 A1 I think there's several. I was shocked, one of my  
7 students did a project in one of my civic engagement  
8 courses on the issues around having your own chicken  
9 coop and what the laws and when the laws changed here  
10 in Anchorage and how the volume of people that actually  
11 do that. I was shocked, I had no idea.

12 A I wanted to put a chicken coop, but she wouldn't let  
13 me. What a great idea, you know? Eggs, and every once  
14 in a while, we'll go out there and wring its neck,  
15 bring it in, pluck it. Oh, doesn't that sound great?

16 A1 Yeah, tasty.

17 A Back to the land.

18 Q Don't want to cook it after you've gotten to know it.

19 A1 No, I grew up in Ohio that way. My grandmother had the  
20 things labeled in the freezer by the name of the cow.

21 Q Oh.

22 A1 Like that's Rosie and.....

23 Q Oh.

24 A1 Yeah, so no, I'm good without that.

25 Q Oh no.

1 A1 Yeah. Don't do (indiscernible).

2 A I will.

3 Q Does the Fairview neighborhood do a lot of community  
4 events just to get together and do stuff and what kinds  
5 of stuff do they do?

6 A1 Oh, quite a few things. Not only we have -- the  
7 community council is probably a big foundation to help  
8 support those activities. There's annual block party,  
9 there's a number of different times where the community  
10 comes together for different issues, whether it's  
11 the.....

12 A We had a spring cleanup.

13 A1 .....cleanup, we have a group that does a lot of the  
14 beautification and the planting all of those kinds of  
15 things. It just depends on the -- sometimes the ideas  
16 or issues that surface, it's not just always what's  
17 wrong, let's fix it, but.....

18 Q Uh-huh.

19 A1 .....it's also hey, did anybody know this and you know,  
20 let's all contribute and so -- but there are things you  
21 can always count on. The neighborhood cleanup, the  
22 block party. I'm trying to think, where's.....

23 A (Indiscernible).

24 A1 Yeah.

25 A (Indiscernible - voice lowered).

1 A1 You know, those are some things, but there are lots of  
2 other things throughout the year depending on the  
3 current thing that are going on, important issues.

4 A Well, and then I stated that there are things that --  
5 you know, different, you know, homeowners associations  
6 that, you know, they put on and the parks and there are  
7 all different organizations that -- you know, that  
8 participate in creating a sense of community.

9 A1 And we have a rec center, of course, and so there are  
10 facilities here and many times they're -- whether it's  
11 a Fairview initiated or maybe it's even initiated  
12 (indiscernible) but maybe it's hosted here in Fairview,  
13 so there are lots of opportunities for other  
14 activities.

15 A Yeah. I mean, even -- a lot of people, you know, they  
16 get involved and I mean, you know, Fairview residents  
17 or -- yeah. But (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

18 A1 The largest.....

19 A Organize a basketball league and -- up at the rec  
20 center, so.

21 A1 .....youth after school youth nutrition program is Kids  
22 Kitchen, which takes place at Fairview Rec Center. So  
23 there are lots of different things that are going on  
24 and a lot of cultural groups that have sub cultural  
25 activities throughout the year too.

1 A Well, I think there's a lot of things going on and if  
2 you kind of look at, you know, the other parts of town,  
3 I mean, for example, if you look -- for example, let's  
4 say take south addition. South addition is very  
5 (indiscernible) upper end, upper scale, but you don't  
6 see a lot of community stuff going on over in the south  
7 addition. I mean, you see things happening in the park  
8 strip, but that's -- you know, people coming.....

9 A1 That's all of Anchorage.

10 A All of Anchorage coming to the park strip to do  
11 something. But the south addition, as a community,  
12 they don't -- there's not -- I don't think are as  
13 strong and dynamic sense of connectedness and  
14 community, you know, as it is in Fairview, so -- and  
15 yeha, I just think that, you know, Fairview is -- yeah,  
16 it's a good community, it's got good people in it.

17 A1 Uh-huh.

18 Q How do you find out about those events? Is it like  
19 fliers, is there -- do you guys get on Facebook, like  
20 how do you guys communicate what's going on besides  
21 like the community council meetings?

22 A Well, it depends. I mean, a lot of times, it's put  
23 posters at the rec center, at the senior center, at the  
24 co office. And when you have an event, it'll go up on  
25 the bulletin board that, you know, one of those type of

1 things and then if -- you know, really, one of the  
2 things -- your best thing to do is just to get -- every  
3 once in a while, come to the community council meeting  
4 because there's -- an there's a lot of things that are  
5 talked about at community council and get your name,  
6 you know, on the district (indiscernible) list, you  
7 know, the list serve so that when stuff is happening,  
8 either you get notified of what's happening.

9 So if you're -- if you have an interest in being  
10 informed.....

11 A1 There's lots of avenues.

12 A .....there are a lot of avenues to be informed, so I  
13 mean, they're not going to, you know, cram the  
14 information down your throat, but it's a two-way  
15 street. You have to have an interest.....

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A .....you know, in wanting to know.

18 A1 Uh-huh.

19 A But there are a lot of ways. It's -- we try to do as  
20 much as possible, make it easy to know what's going on.

21 Q Are there any interesting like annual traditions that  
22 you guys developed in Fairview?

23 A Annual traditions?

24 Q Yeah. Like I know I grew up in Flagstaff, Arizona and  
25 we would drop a pine cone on New Years that turned into

1 a big metal one that would lower like the.....

2 A1 Oh, okay, like the ball in.....

3 Q .....ball, yeah. But there, it was just dropping a

4 pine cone sort of thing. I don't know if you have any

5 quirky stuff like that.

6 A Oh, we don't have any quirky stuff, so.....

7 Q No?

8 A No. We just -- annual block party, we typically have

9 -- we just give out awards for sort of civic awards for

10 people.

11 Q Oh, that's great.

12 A We have a -- kind of like a citizen of the year award

13 that we give out, you know, to people (indiscernible)

14 community council, somebody whose really done, you

15 know, a lot of extra on behalf of the greater good.

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A So we kind of recognize that and then we have people

18 that -- you know, we usually get, you know, the typical

19 awards from businesses and they -- you know, every year

20 as part of the -- it's part of the block party and

21 (indiscernible - voice lowered). But any sort of

22 quirky type of thing.....

23 Q Like, not necessarily quirky, just interesting, like

24 definitively Fairview.

25 A Definitively Fairview.....



1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A Well, not definitively, so.....

3 Q Yeah, that's okay.

4 A But if there's one thing that would make probably --

5 you know, definitively Fairview would be that we're

6 kind of rascals. We have -- we do have a pretty -- we

7 have a reputation as being a pretty active community

8 council, and you know, we can be kind of ornery

9 sometimes, so I don't know if orneriness [sic] is.....

10 Q The Government Hill folks are saying that they got you

11 beat on that.

12 A Say what?

13 Q The Government Hill folks are saying they got you beat

14 on that.

15 A I won't take long. Who's the ornery in the

16 neighborhood hill.

17 Q They were saying that both the Fairview and Government

18 Hill community councils were very aggressive at going

19 for what they need.

20 A1 Yeah.

21 A I would agree with that statement.

22 A1 Uh-huh.

23 A Although I would say that, you know, Fairview's a

24 little bit in front (indiscernible). Nothing to say

25 about, you know, Government Hill, of course, but you

1 know, facts are facts. Government Hill's a good place,  
2 it -- they're good people over in Government Hill.

3 A1 Uh-huh.

4 A A lot, I know a lot of them. A lot of people on the  
5 council and stuff and so they get a lot of -- even  
6 housing, there are tough challenges with what they're  
7 dealing with.

8 A1 Uh-huh.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A So and they're working hard to try and keep them at  
11 bay, I hope successful.

12 A1 Uh-huh, yeah.

13 A I wish them the best of luck.

14 Q Yeah. So I suppose we can close out the interview by  
15 sort of talking about the direction you see Fairview  
16 taking. We've talked about like where it's come from,  
17 where do you see it going?

18 A1 Uh-huh.

19 Q And what are your hopes for where it would go?

20 A1 Especially since whatever, the community plan just got  
21 approved or whatever, like what -- where do you think  
22 that's going to take you.

23 A Oh, I think it's a big deal. I was a chair of the  
24 neighborhood plan for many years and.....

25 A1 So what's the ultimate goal or key thing that you want

1 to see happen, not the whole plan.

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A1 Just.....

4 A To see neighborhood of choice is what we're interested  
5 in. That's the vision.

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A (Indiscernible) city neighborhood choice. And yeah, I  
8 think that if we're able to achieve, you know, 75  
9 percent of the things we've identified in the  
10 neighborhood plan, we'll get there.

11 A1 Uh-huh.

12 A So when the future (indiscernible) I think there's  
13 great opportunity to, you know, make this a really  
14 wonderful urban, you know, neighborhood that is  
15 enjoyable all year round. And -- yeah, so I think  
16 we've got great ideas for fixing the problems on  
17 Gambell and Ingra and we've got the Gambell Street  
18 initiative under way or (indiscernible) plan talks  
19 about we're narrowing down, you know, Gambell, widening  
20 up the sidewalks, we're going to have a more -- a  
21 pedestrian scale. Main Street, we want to convert that  
22 back to the original Main Street that used to be and  
23 that means weighing the footprint of the buildings up  
24 to the back of the -- right next to the right-of-way so  
25 you have more of the -- some of the downtown feel as

1 development occurs.

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A And I'd like to be able to, you know, see that. We  
4 feel it'd be our part of downtown, you know, in terms  
5 of we show the same grid pattern with alleys, small  
6 blocks and that, you know, as the city has grown and  
7 expanded to the entire Anchorage bowl, that the ideal  
8 of what constitutes downtown means to expand. To  
9 include, you know, the Fairview area and so yeah, I  
10 think that the future is very bright for Fairview. I  
11 think we've got us some great ideas, but -- be able to  
12 identify neighborhood residents through our public  
13 process and they're outlined in the neighborhood plan  
14 and we've got some good, actionable items there and I  
15 think, if we're able to, you know, advance those, that  
16 -- as -- I think this will be the best part, this will  
17 be the best neighborhood in Anchorage and probably the  
18 best (indiscernible) neighborhood in the State of  
19 Alaska. That's what I think. I've invested  
20 (indiscernible) in Fairview.

21 Q Cool.

22 A I'm up for it, how about you?

23 A1 Sure.

24 Q All right, thank you so much for your time.

25 (Off tape)