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TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

JUNE 24, 2014

P R O C E E D I N G S

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Interviewer (Q): Unknown female

Interviewer (Q1): Breanna

Interviewee (A): E

Interviewee (A1): K

Q So like B said, today's the 24th, we're sitting here with E and K in Fairview. I think a good place to start would be how'd you find yourselves in Fairview, how long have you been in Anchorage ,just some of those general kinds of things.

A1 Okay.

A Do you want to start with Fairview or with Anchorage in general?

Q Either or.

A Okay.

Q Whatever you guys want to go over.

A Oh sure. I grew up here, so that's how I ended up here.

Q Okay.

A1 Yeah, and I moved here, I guess it would be 15 years ago and I guess I lived firstly in kind of Turnagain area and then we lived in Government Hill and then we kind of got to the point we were looking at trying to buy like maybe a tri-plex or some kind of thing and we

1 started looking around and then we decided that we were
2 going to build and so we bought the land here and lived
3 in.....

4 A And (indiscernible) R was going through the
5 neighborhood for some reason or another and saw the
6 property that was for sale and he's like oh, you should
7 check it out, so yeah, we were living in Government
8 Hill at the time and came -- called the owner and
9 bought the property from him, so. And it was wetland
10 at the time.

11 A1 Yeah.

12 A (Indiscernible - voice lowered). But yeah, so we --
13 yeah, we basically built the house from the ground up,
14 lived on the property while we were building it and got
15 a little 16-foot Shasta trailer van (indiscernible -
16 voice lowered) and yeah.

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 A1 Yeah, so we did everything and.....

19 A Yeah.

20 A1you know, I worked full-time like during the day
21 as did (indiscernible) his full-time practice.

22 A Yeah, I was doing construction at the time, so yeah,
23 built it up.

24 Q And so you're both born and raised in Alaska?

25 A Oh yeah.

1 A1 Yeah. Yeah, I moved her 15 years ago.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Yeah, and I moved here in -- yeah, 40 something years
4 ago.

5 Q What are some things that -- like just talk about the
6 neighborhood some. Some of the things you like, maybe
7 some of the things you don't like, that kind of stuff.

8 A Well, I guess when we were building the neighborhood
9 out -- or building our house out, we lived in this
10 little trailer with paper thin walls and really got to
11 know everybody within a three block radius and see
12 everything that was going on, like all hours of the day
13 and night. And I mean, it's -- and you know, I kind of
14 just fell in love with the neighborhood.

15 And you know, I mean, I think maybe someone else
16 might have had a different experience, but yeah,
17 whether it's, you know, just curious neighbors or
18 drunks or crack heads or, you know, kind of just really
19 good people or the kids that run around on the streets
20 or whatever. That's -- yeah, I mean, it's all -- you
21 know, it's the whole package I guess.

22 A1 Yeah, I mean, it's kind of always changing I guess, and
23 I guess that's a good thing and a bad thing. Just from
24 when we moved here, we had a significant drug house
25 three doors down, so.....

1 A And another one across the street.

2 A1 Yeah. But the activity in our alley and our street was
3 like dramatically -- I mean, there was traffic all the
4 time and lots of activity and lots of deals coming --
5 going down in front of our house, watching it all. And
6 then, you know, it like -- anyway, for a lot of
7 different reasons, that house kind of went away.

8 And yeah, then it became more quieter and a lot --
9 yeah, so it's like, in that sense, it's like oh, it's a
10 lot -- you're like wow, it's a lot quieter now, we
11 don't have so much traffic and I guess the sad -- one
12 thing about the changing thing is sometimes it's like
13 there'll be really cool kids in the neighborhood that
14 you love seeing and coming -- and they'll come over,
15 especially with the dogs like stopping by, want to pet
16 the dogs, but then you know, about two years later, you
17 won't see them again, you know, because -- you know, I
18 mean, a lot of -- I mean, most of the people that are
19 living here don't live here for long periods of time.

20 And so I guess that's a little bit of the sad
21 part. I mean, it gets.....

22 A Yeah, it's a very transient community.

23 A1 Yeah.

24 A In terms of large percentage of population is
25 transient.

1 A1 Yeah, and because there's so many rentals, you know,
2 it's -- I think there's a lot of hard -- it's hard to
3 get people invested in the community and engaged and
4 involved, and you know, and even just finding like kids
5 to play with Mark and -- so that's the hard part, you
6 know?

7 And it's like I mean, I understand why it is, but
8 you know, it's just kind of -- it's a little bit sad
9 because, I mean, the neighbors that we do have, we
10 really dig and when we were building our place, I mean,
11 we were building all winter, it was -- and our trailer
12 was unheated, but like our neighbor that we didn't even
13 know, she wanted us -- she asked us to house sit and
14 we're like yes, you know? And like you know -- I mean,
15 just like I think everyone -- because of the lack of
16 garages in our neighborhood, you really know everybody
17 around you a lot, so -- and I think that's the good
18 thing, yeah. But.....

19 Q Are there a lot of community events and things like
20 that that you guys are involved in or is it more to
21 be.....

22 A You know, I mean, there's a lot of civic engagement I
23 guess, like the -- Karen got on the community council,
24 she started showing up to community council meetings
25 and they asked her to join the board and there was a

1 vacancy.

2 A1 Uh-huh.

3 A And then I started coming around to meetings and
4 getting involved as well and then she got off because,
5 you know, we only need one person going to those, but.
6 Yeah, you know, I guess there's not -- it's not --
7 there's a lot of neighbor to neighbor interaction, not
8 a lot of -- not a whole lot of community wide stuff.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A I mean, there's -- you know, there are places where a
11 lot of stuff is happening. I mean, the playground, we
12 got a new playground in -- at Fairview Lions Park just
13 last summer and it's like -- I mean, it's like it's kid
14 central. It's like you see everybody that's got kids
15 hanging out there.

16 We have a block party that the community council
17 puts on that gets everybody out and really builds kind
18 of a sense of neighborhood and a sense of place, but
19 yeah, I wouldn't say there's that many community events
20 or things like that that really get everyone together.
21 A lot more just kind of, you know, you call people, you
22 know, in the neighborhood and have them over for dinner
23 or hang out in the sun or burn something or.....

24 A1 Yeah, our neighborhoods are real lock-in community, so
25 it's.....

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A1 I think it's a lot different than a lot of other
3 communities than -- you know, I mean, if you would take
4 statistics on who has a vehicle here or -- I mean,
5 because it's so close to downtown, so many people are
6 bicycling and like this is a major little thoroughfare
7 coming out that (indiscernible). You go straight and
8 then following it on 9th, and so -- I bring M to
9 school if he -- he goes to school at Denali Elementary,
10 so we walk to school every day and back and you know, I
11 mean, it's just like -- I think it's a lot different
12 than a lot of other neighborhoods in that sense because
13 everyone's like, you know, walking somewhere. And so
14 it's kind of -- I mean, you can get to know other
15 people a little bit more better, but.....

16 Q Do all of the kids in the neighborhood go to Denali
17 or.....

18 A No, there's two schools.....

19 Q Okay.

20 Ain the neighborhood. There's Denali, which is
21 actually on the other side of Ingra and Gambell and
22 that's -- the feeder area for that school is -- it's
23 actually on that side, so if you don't live there, you
24 have to lottery in and the other's Fairview Elementary,
25 which is just.....

1 Q Okay.

2 A We're about equal distance between the two here.

3 Q Okay.

4 A1 We're a little closer.

5 A Yeah, I mean, Fairview is our feeder school, but we --

6 after talking to the principal, we didn't think it was

7 a good fit for M, so -- our son. Yeah.

8 Q1 Any strong memories like in the neighborhood like --

9 that both of you like have, just really strong like

10 fond memory of it?

11 Q Or not so fond maybe.

12 A I know there's lots of -- I know there's lots of

13 stories.

14 A1 Yeah.

15 A I mean, a lot of them have to do with -- I mean, it's

16 sort of like -- I mean, the real memorable stories are

17 -- a lot of them are, you know, kind of like a crazy

18 weird stuff that happens and.....

19 Q Oh, that's great. We like to hear (indiscernible).

20 A You know.....

21 A1 Like there used to be a -- like a crazy -- remember the

22 guy at the end of the street.....

23 A Oh yeah.

24 A1he'd just like.....

25 ((Crosstalk))

1 A He was a former teacher, he was retired or, you know,
2 he ended up not being a teacher anymore because of
3 mental health issues or something like that and like --
4 yeah, he just had this -- I don't know, I mean,
5 sometime in the day, every day, he'd just get out there
6 in his underwear and shorts, didn't matter what the
7 weather was and just start screaming out at the top of
8 his lungs, like just (indiscernible - simultaneous
9 speech).

10 A1 And doing like these like kind of squats and like -- it
11 was like -- it was unreal, like I mean, we tell people
12 about like the screaming guy and they'd be like what?

13 A Yeah.

14 A1 And then friends would come over and they're like what
15 is that?

16 A That's the screaming guy.

17 A1 You know, and then we walk by -- you know, we're
18 walking our dog and we're like oh, do we go by them?
19 And one time, we were walking, you know, over like -- I
20 guess.....

21 A He'd just stop screaming and say hi and then go back to
22 screaming. Yeah. And we'd just go oh yeah, it's just
23 the screaming guy.

24 A1 But like everyone was like -- I mean, at first, I was
25 like what on earth is that and then everyone's like --

1 like all the kids are like oh, that's that guy who just
2 does that all the time, you know?

3 A Uh-huh.

4 A1 And I mean, I think in a lot of neighborhoods, it would
5 be so unacceptable, but like in our neighborhood, like
6 everyone's.....

7 A Yeah.

8 A1 like oh yeah, that's the screaming guy, you know?
9 And he was having (indiscernible).

10 A Yeah.

11 A1 But yeah -- I mean, we have a lot of stories from when
12 we were building our place.....

13 A Lots of stories, yeah.

14 A1 because we were outside, but.....

15 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

16 A1 Continuously, you know, and so yeah, from -- yeah.

17 A Like when -- yeah, one night, in the middle in the
18 night, K's like E, wake up, there's
19 somebody in our house. You know, we framed part of the
20 house up like, you know, it was basically one session
21 with an upstairs thing and a ladder going up there, we
22 hadn't had stairs in yet, and so I'm like oh, I grabbed
23 Hops, our other dog who has since died and kind of go
24 out there and Hops starts barking, and you know, I put
25 on my mean voice and like what are you doing up there,

1 you know, dah, dah, dah and the guy.....

2 A1 Because they had to climb up a ladder to get up to
3 this.....

4 A They had to climb up a ladder to get up there and I
5 looked and it's kind of dark.....

6 A1 It's winter.

7 A It's dark and it's winter and he's like -- this guy's
8 like oh, hey, yeah, no, it's just me, I'm -- I forgot
9 what he said his name was, but you know, he's like I'm
10 J, that's okay, I'm just the local crack head,
11 everybody knows me (indiscernible) the police. You
12 know, whatever, like some girl that -- you know, and
13 some girl was up there with him and they were kind of
14 looking at the view and like you guys got to go. He's
15 like yeah, that's cool, okay, yeah and -- you know, and
16 then they're talking about how they've been drinking
17 vodka and like oh my God, you're up on this loft on a
18 ladder getting down.

19 You know, it's just -- you know, I mean, it's just
20 -- it's probably because like, I mean, we were building
21 this thing. I -- I've been there in construction for
22 seven years and almost every -- every job site that I'd
23 been on, whether it was in millionaire's alley up by
24 (indiscernible) Park, you know, Turnagain area or on
25 the hillside or, you know, south Anchorage or east

1 side. Any place where I've done construction, I've
2 gotten stuff stolen from the job site. We never had
3 anything stolen from us here.

4 You know, I mean, people watch out for each other
5 and yeah, you know, despite the problems that exist,
6 yeah, it's kind of -- I kind of describe it as people
7 don't really eat, you know, it's like -- yeah, when
8 there's like people who are up to no good, you know,
9 they're actually decent neighbors.

10 I mean, actually none -- the crack head -- crack
11 dealer across the street from us whose not there
12 anymore, but yeah, this islander guy -- like these guys
13 -- the guys over there were one of the African American
14 market and then these guys over here were kind of more
15 islanders. And so you know, this (indiscernible) guy
16 came over one day, he -- you know, kind of a lead crack
17 dealer at that house and he comes over here and I'm
18 like (indiscernible) are kind of up a little bit and
19 he's like hey, you know, I've been seeing you building
20 this house, you know where to run from when someone's
21 building house, you know, we all lend a hand, so if you
22 ever need anything, just let me know, you know, I'd be
23 happy to help. I'm like that was so nice, you know?
24 It's like yeah, I never took him up on it, but.....

25 There's more stories if you want stories.

1 Q Oh yeah.

2 A Sure.

3 Q Keep going.

4 A Want to talk about the tire punctures?

5 A1 I know, the -- I think it's funny the other guy that --
6 you remember that guy when you're building around the
7 corner?

8 A Oh, that one?

9 A1 Yeah, that's pretty funny.

10 A Yeah, so there's this guy who is our next door neighbor
11 a couple doors down would hire to -- she'd hire him to
12 just be -- like helping her with yard work and stuff
13 like that and so he's around the neighborhood all the
14 time. And we always see him and wave to him and say
15 hi. And he -- you know, he'd kind of -- I don't know
16 how he recreated, but it wasn't -- you know, it wasn't
17 necessarily good.

18 But you know, nice enough guy in the neighborhood
19 and he lived a few doors over that way and I was
20 walking the dogs one day when we were there by his
21 house and I kind of -- he's out in his yard doing some
22 stuff. And I'm walking by and I'm walking the dogs and
23 he's like hey, how's it going? There's a house going
24 up right next door to him, a new house and I'm like
25 wow, they're really putting this thing up quick and

1 he's like yeah, you should see this one around the
2 corner, it's really something. These guys are living
3 in a trailer and building it themselves and I'm like oh
4 yeah, that's me and he's like yeah and they got these
5 two dogs. I'm like yeah, yeah, that's me, those are my
6 dogs. He's like yeah, those guys are something, it's
7 really impressive. I'm just thinking yeah, he doesn't
8 recognize me, right? Oh yeah, I'll have to go check it
9 out. It's like, that's me. Yeah. (Indiscernible) but
10 yeah.

11 Yeah, want another story?

12 Q Oh sure.

13 A Okay.

14 Q Keep going.

15 A Yeah, so like this -- there was this rush of tire
16 puncturings in the neighborhood. Basically, some punk,
17 little teenagers or whatever, 20-year-olds were going
18 around at night puncturing people's tires, like knives
19 to tires. We had two tires punctures, a couple
20 neighbors did too and like it was pretty bad knowing
21 where it was, cops, you know, wouldn't do anything
22 about it.

23 And you know, one day, it kind of stopped and kind
24 of the crack dealer across the street, he kind of
25 vanished for a while and like when he showed back up,

1 our next door neighbors over here kind of like --
2 they're like hey, where you been? He's like oh, yeah,
3 you know that guy who was puncturing tires and we're
4 like yeah, yeah. And he's like yeah, he punctured my
5 mom's tires and he's like -- and they're like huh, and
6 so you know, he says so I found out where he lived and
7 I went and knocked on his door, and you know, the guy
8 answers the door and he's like -- and you know, I'm
9 like you punctured my mom's tires and the kid's like
10 yeah, what are you going to do about it? So he beat
11 him up and threw him in the garbage can and he ended up
12 spending three days in, you know, in jail for assault.
13 But after that, there were never any tires punctured in
14 the neighborhood anymore, so yeah, that's kind of.....

15 Q Wow.

16 A Yeah, I mean, it's -- you know, it's every -- every
17 downtown has its neighborhood vet, kind of has been
18 neglected and you know, at some point, it's like right
19 for renewal and let this pressure between -- you know,
20 kind of like people discovering it and the city needing
21 it for something else besides being like the rug to
22 sweep problems under kind of. That all happens and
23 yeah, I mean, it's -- Fairview's kind of at that point,
24 which is -- so it's been a really fun and interesting
25 living here and being a part of that process because we

1 get to help shape it too.

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A Which is cool, definitely. Oh, is that for me? Thank
4 you. You didn't like it?

5 ? I did (indiscernible) half.

6 A Oh, I appreciate you sharing.

7 Q So along those lines, what kinds of changes have you
8 seen in the neighborhood from when you guys first
9 started building to today?

10 A1 I mean, the drug houses in our neighborhood have
11 decreased.

12 A Yeah, not just in our little section, but actually --
13 ever accepting the area between.....

14 A1 The corridor.

15 A Yeah, between Ingra and Gambell, that (indiscernible)
16 corridor. That's still -- you know, for a number of
17 reasons, that's still just a hell hole, you know?

18 A1 But yeah, I mean, it's just significantly quieter and
19 -- which is great I think and.....

20 A It's kind of -- you get more people moving in who know
21 to keep an eye out and know what to do when they see
22 problems, you know? That they're able to be able to
23 kind of stop the problems from getting too out of
24 control. Yeah, I mean, you know, it's -- I don't know,
25 like you hear the word (indiscernible) and I'm like

1 there really doesn't seem like what's going on here.

2 You know, I mean, it's because it's like we still
3 have -- I mean, our elementary school still has 50
4 percent, 45 percent transiency, you know? There's
5 still 30 percent of people that live here that don't
6 have cars, you know. I mean, I want to say we have the
7 highest rate of section 18A housing, subsidized housing
8 in the city in this neighborhood.

9 So you know, I mean, I don't really see the
10 (indiscernible) so much as the people who are buying
11 and owning and moving in here, are caring more about
12 the place, so I think that's a good thing, but yeah.
13 What do you think?

14 A1 Yeah, I mean, it'd be nice to see like -- I mean, I
15 think when you hear like the story on like by the
16 airport and like how like the woman and her family was,
17 you know, paying \$800 a month when they didn't have
18 heat. You know, you're like this is like so messed up,
19 you know? \$800 and not having heat in your place,
20 that's a ridiculous amount. I mean, there's got to be
21 -- I think there's got to be more of a plan of entry on
22 like having some mixed housing that you have like kind
23 of a condo association where it's just like basic, you
24 know, like a small amount of money to get involved in
25 and then rentals. And you know, I mean, just more of

1 an opportunity for a lot of these people to have
2 something that they care about, that I cared about
3 it and live, you know? And then have less people
4 moving around, you know, and that's more successful for
5 the schools with kids not moving around to different
6 schools and yeah, I mean, I think -- I mean, I would
7 love to see that kind of change in our neighborhood and
8 I think when you talk to most people here, compared to
9 a lot of other, you know, they're not opposed to higher
10 density, you know?

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A1 And so it's just like -- I mean, I think you just have
13 to start doing it smart. Like there's some roads you
14 go here, it's like -- you know, it's kind of nasty
15 (indiscernible) next after next, you know, I mean, it's
16 like, you know, maximum occupancy, no one cares about
17 anything, you know, and it's -- and I mean, a lot of
18 these are absentee landlords that, you know -- I mean,
19 yeah, it's -- I don't know, yeah.

20 A There you go.

21 A1 They're young, but -- yeah, I mean, like here, you
22 know, like our -- the place across the street, you
23 know, we know the home -- we know the owner and.....

24 A The owner.

25 A1you know, something that's going on there, we call

1 her, you know what I mean?

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A1 It's like and that -- I mean, I think that's what.....

4 A She's responsive and.....

5 A1 Yeah.

6 AI mean, it's like (indiscernible - voice lowered).

7 A1 Yeah.

8 A Like a responsible property owner.

9 A1 Uh-huh. But I mean, unfortunately, I think most of

10 these places, it'd be interesting to know like where a

11 lot of these people live and how they maintain things

12 because it's (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

13 A So you know, and there's a long history of people

14 moving into Fairview is like their first place where

15 they lived, you know? I mean, lots of people sort of

16 like wouldn't tell them in Fairview, it's like oh yeah,

17 first place I ever lived was down on Nelchina or, you

18 know, like just blocks from us or whatever.

19 A1 Yeah.

20 A Or -- and I mean, that's been the case for -- I mean,

21 for decades. Like this group I was trying to turn you

22 on to, the Fairview old/new school group, that's the

23 George (indiscernible). I call these people a large

24 part of the African American community in Anchorage,

25 started off living in Fairview most of -- in

1 (indiscernible) which is where Fairview Lions Park is
2 now, and from there, kind of, you know, like when they
3 were able to get out, they bought homes elsewhere, you
4 know, running elsewhere or whatever.

5 And I mean, that's -- and that's most of the Black
6 leadership in Anchorage, at one point or another, has
7 lived in Fairview, you know? It's, you know, demo --
8 it's just a nature of demographics partly, but I mean,
9 it's also kind of -- that's a role that this
10 neighborhood has played for a really long time. I
11 mean, for that matter, Mayor Sullivan's first three
12 (indiscernible) video were in Fairview, you know?

13 I mean -- you know, just kind of -- it's one of
14 those things that he was all proud of and we sat down
15 and met with him about the Fairview issues and yeah,
16 it's -- so yeah, I mean, it's transient community, most
17 people use that as a way of kind of like getting their
18 feet under them and then kind of moving on, which you
19 know, I mean, the fact of -- the fact of the
20 neighborhood is it's very -- you know, it's very
21 transient, there's also -- it's very socio economically
22 mixed. You know, we don't have garages, so you really
23 -- you interact with everybody.

24 And I mean, it's -- yeah, I mean, it's one of the
25 coolest things about this neighborhood that makes it

1 really unique compared to other places. I know it's
2 the first place I've lived where I felt like I'm in a
3 real neighborhood. And I've lived -- yeah, I've lived
4 in a lot of places in town.

5 Q One of the -- we did an interview at Government Hill
6 and one of the things they talked about was like just
7 geography and how traffic patterns can really affect
8 the community.

9 A1 Uh-huh.

10 A Oh yeah.

11 Q And Fairview's really cut through with.....

12 A Yes.

13 QGambell and Ingra. Is that something that you
14 kind of see sort of deficient?

15 A1 Oh yeah.

16 A We've never lived here before Ingra and Gambell
17 happened.....

18 Q Uh-huh.

19 Abut I mean, it -- you know, it's -- you know, you
20 can't -- like if you're six, you're not walking
21 across.....

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 Athe federal interstate to go visit your friends,
24 you know? It's -- yeah, definitely, I mean, it cuts
25 through the neighborhood and even more than that,

1 there's a whole planning side of it that -- you know, I
2 mean, federal highways have setbacks where you're not
3 allowed to build, and you know, they've claimed -- the
4 State DOT has claimed Hyder for a possible alignment
5 for like a highway-to-highway connection where they
6 wouldn't have any stop lights. And so they basically
7 -- they haven't started acquiring lots of properties
8 along Hyder, but because they've said Hyder is going to
9 be this federal -- this new federal interstate, you're
10 not allowed to build 100 feet from the center line,
11 which means if you own property on Hyder, you're not
12 going to invest in it, you're not going to do anything
13 with it.

14 A1 So if you drive down that whole corridor, every --
15 almost every building is up for sale in there. And
16 it's like a dead zone, and you know, DOT -- how many
17 years of planning are there, like forever, you know?

18 A Yeah.

19 A1 You know, so it's like here's like -- and it's right
20 smack in the middle of Fairview, so it's like -- it's
21 like -- it's a dead zone.

22 A Yeah, the heart of our neighborhood is, you know,
23 (indiscernible).

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A Or whatever, you know, (indiscernible) it's like -- so

1 I mean, there's -- you know, there's -- yeah, I mean,
2 it's so significant. I mean, we lived in Government
3 Hill as well and I mean, kind of, you know, being
4 across the bridge, you know, there's that
5 isolation.....

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 Awhich you know, kind of makes it more like living
8 in -- on an island. You know, I know it was -- I mean,
9 it took some effort to get off the island so-to-speak,
10 and you know, we knew some people in the neighborhood,
11 but it's not like all the people we hung out with were
12 in the neighborhood.

13 Like I mean, here, it seems like we hang out with
14 a lot more of our neighbors. Yeah, the proximity here
15 really breeds kind of a camaraderie, so -- but yeah, as
16 far as the highway goes. But yeah, I mean -- and I
17 mean, it's -- you know, it's well documented, you know,
18 whether you're talking about (indiscernible) or you
19 know, Boston's north end or.....

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 Ayou know, or Mountain View, which used to be the
22 up and coming (indiscernible) in Anchorage, you know?

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 A I mean, there's a reason why Sadlers and all these car
25 dealerships, and you know, Brewsters and all these

1 other stores were in Mountain View is because that was
2 like -- that was going to be the new thriving place and
3 then they cut a highway through that, so yeah, and the
4 second happened here. But I mean, my (indiscernible)
5 was, you know, I mean, it was back when they first
6 incorporated the municipality, so.

7 Q Do you guys do most of your shopping kind of close to
8 the neighborhood or do you travel to other parts of
9 town and stuff like that too?

10 A1 Well, we go to Costco, so.....

11 A Yeah.

12 Q I mean, it's close.

13 A1 Yeah, we go.....

14 ((Crosstalk))

15 A I mean, you know, quite frankly, our closest grocery
16 store, Carrs. I mean, we don't go to because they
17 haven't invested in it. It's just not nice.

18 A1 There's no bulk section, there's no.....

19 A Yeah.

20 A1 You know?

21 A There's not the stuff that we would use. I mean, the
22 -- you know, the visual, you know, of like the drunks
23 at 13th and Gambell and all that, I mean, that's not
24 really a -- that wouldn't keep us from going there.

25 Q Uh-huh.

1 A You know, it's more the.....

2 A1 I mean, we walk there to pick up milk or.....

3 A Yeah, I mean, we walk there all the -- you know, yeah

4 -- well, if there's something we need, we'll get in the

5 car and drive, we go there, but yeah, most of our

6 grocery shopping we do out of the neighborhood. And

7 yeah, it's completely because they -- you know, they

8 haven't invested in the store.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A You know, when they invest in the store and make it

11 nice, we'll start shopping there.

12 A1 I mean, you can even see that happen on the Fred Meyer

13 on Northern Lights.

14 Q Oh, on Northern Lights?

15 A Uh-huh (affirmative).

16 A1 You know, I mean, now, that place is packed all the

17 time and it never was.

18 Q Oh, it's (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

19 A1 I mean, the parking lot.....

20 ((Crosstalk))

21 A Yeah.

22 A1 You know, it's like wow. I mean, and we always shop

23 there because it's the closest place, but you know.....

24 A Uh-huh.

25 A1we're like wow. I mean, they just invested a

1 little bit more in the store and we had this many more
2 people coming, you know, and it's just like that's the
3 same thing with Carrs too. I imagine if it was -- I
4 mean, it's convenient for a lot of people going out of
5 town, you know.....

6 Q Yeah.

7 A1but I mean, they don't have half the stuff.....

8 A Yeah.

9 A1that we normally would buy.

10 A So it's not just the -- you know, I mean, yeah, part of
11 it is people -- you know, a lot of people lock the
12 doors when they go through 13th and Gambell, but you
13 know, I mean, people also just don't know
14 (indiscernible) doors to go in -- for -- to not be able
15 to find what they're looking for.

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A So yeah, I really think -- I think the issue there is
18 (indiscernible). Yeah, I'm not -- I don't.....

19 Q It has more to do with the store itself and not so
20 much.....

21 A Yeah.

22 A1 That's our opinion.

23 A Yeah.

24 Q (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

25 A Yeah, that's our opinion. I mean, the 13th and Gambell

1 thing is really just a visual, you know?

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A And I mean, it's a serious detriment to the people who
4 have businesses immediately around there. I mean, if
5 you talk to P K who owns Envision
6 Architects, you know, he bought that building thinking
7 that he was going to reinvigorate the neighborhood by
8 showing that you could have a professional business in
9 the heart of the mess and he didn't really know what he
10 was getting himself into. You know, they want to
11 invest in security or, you know, and he's lost most of
12 his tenants to the -- to just like -- to secure -- you
13 know, to people being afraid. His tenants can go to
14 their cars and get solicited and threatened and -- you
15 know, I mean, it's real, but you know, and Carrs has
16 security staff that might take.....

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 A You know, the people who are hanging out there know
19 better than to mess with their patrons, you know? So
20 yeah, I mean, it's really -- yeah, the experience isn't
21 bad at all and honestly, I mean, I've never invited
22 interaction with anybody, like hang around 13th and
23 Gambell, you know? I mean, it's a bunch of people that
24 are in a bad place, but they're not bad people.

25 Q Uh-huh. Do you folks do any like gardening?

1 A1 Uh-huh.

2 A Yeah, although our lot is very -- it -- we have all
3 these south facing trees.

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A The trees were a real plus when we bought the lot and
6 we built -- we designed the house to be able to save
7 the trees, but yeah, it's 10 degrees colder on our lot
8 than it is off the lot and we don't get any sunshine,
9 so it's like very little grows. We grow -- if it's a
10 good summer, we'll grow like kale and broccoli and
11 brussel sprouts pretty much and rhubarb, we have lots
12 of rhubarb going. Yeah.

13 A1 Our rhubarb likes the shade.

14 Q Yeah.

15 A Yeah, if you need rhubarb.....

16 Q Yeah, I'm kind of like -- yeah, we've been struggling
17 with our yard and we've kind of doing some changes in
18 that.

19 A Yeah. We do like gardening. I have a greenhouse on
20 the roof, but yeah.

21 Q And taking advantage of the community garden.

22 A Actually, we.....

23 Q Have you guys thought about that?

24 A Yeah, we actually -- we were kind of care taking for
25 the traffic diverted right here and so it took out all

1 the rose bushes that the city had planted in the middle
2 of it and I planted edibles all in there, so yeah,
3 that's.....

4 A1 And that's for his job. He's -- he does hydroponic
5 sprouts and micro greens, so it's -- now he's kind of
6 doing that.....

7 A Yeah.

8 A1it's like oh well, I don't have to really.....

9 A Yeah.

10 A1 I don't have to grow greens anymore and all the slimy
11 stuff, but yeah, we definitely -- like every -- the
12 beginning, I tried really hard on a garden and then,
13 you know, even a good summer, I'm -- it's like how can
14 -- you know.....

15 A Uh-huh.

16 A1 I was kind of like okay, I'm going to rethink the whole
17 -- kind of the stuff because -- yeah.

18 Q If nothing else, throw potatoes in because you can
19 leave them and forget about them and.....

20 A Yeah.

21 Qget something.

22 A Yeah.

23 Q1 I got strawberries and raspberries one summer and then
24 (indiscernible - voice lowered).

25 A Yeah.

1 A1 A raspberry.....

2 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech) raspberry bushes,

3 wow.

4 Q1 He did, he didn't care.

5 A We did get raspberries.

6 A1 Raspberries are -- yeah.

7 A Yeah.

8 A1 And we have currants all on this side of the house, so

9 it's like.....

10 A Yeah, that'd be great.

11 A1 Yeah.

12 A And.....

13 A1 But then like okay, well, let's just transform our yard

14 into a raspberry patch, you know, because you know, I

15 mean, it's like.....

16 A And actually, it's like love, you know, walking -- you

17 know, especially walking around the neighborhood,

18 everyone's got raspberries, you know, on the alleys,

19 the -- you know, so it's like the -- we call them alley

20 berries. It's.....

21 A1 It's for (indiscernible).

22 A Yeah, and if it's on the public side of the fence,

23 yeah, first come, first serve, so.....

24 A1 Yeah, we have a little circuit we walk around in the

25 neighborhood.

1 A Yeah, and we're not the only ones.

2 A1 Yeah.

3 A I mean (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

4 A1 I mean, people come and do that to ours, so that's

5 like.....

6 A Yeah.

7 A1yeah, that's just the way you do, you know? If

8 they're on that side, help yourself.....

9 A Yeah.

10 A1you know? So.....

11 A You know, as L B will tell you, you don't

12 mess with somebody's yard to get to berries.

13 A1 Well, you don't go.....

14 A I know. He had this lady who like -- she would go

15 inside his yard and he -- because he's got this

16 beautiful (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

17 A1 Well, if you're -- we're not going in somebody's yard

18 of course.

19 A No, of course not, but I'm just saying.

20 A1 Yeah.

21 A You don't do that.

22 A1 Yeah, I know, and he was very nice (indiscernible).

23 Q What happened in his yard?

24 A Oh well, he got very upset at her, yeah.

25 A1 Well, she walked in his yard and.....

1 A She went into his yard to pick his raspberries. It's
2 like, you know, it's -- there's a difference between
3 like outside the fence and inside the fence. Yeah,
4 outside the fence is free game. But yeah, he -- it's
5 fenced in, he must -- you know, you got to leave it,
6 definitely.

7 Yeah, there's some other rules too, like you don't
8 pick some -- you don't pick a plant that's, you know,
9 just because it's on the other side of the fence either
10 unless you ask. I don't know.....

11 A1 (Indiscernible).

12 A Like you know.....

13 Q Oh, inside of the fence?

14 A No, no, like you know, if you have raspberries growing
15 -- you know, like we've got raspberries growing all up
16 there and it's like, you know, if someone asked us if
17 they could have a plant, I'm going to say yeah,
18 but.....

19 A1 Oh, you mean dig up?

20 A Yeah, but if somebody dug up a plant (indiscernible).

21 A1 Yeah, who does that?

22 A Well, yeah. But still. I'm just saying, it's the
23 rule.

24 A1 That's a lot of effort.

25 A It's the rules, you know?

1 A1 Yeah.

2 A Uh-huh.

3 Q What kind of stuff do you guys do for fun around here?

4 A Well.....

5 Q Besides picking raspberries.

6 Awhen you have a kid, there's always the park and

7 we like to eat. There's good -- we've got a few decent

8 restaurants you can walk to.

9 A1 Yeah.

10 Q Like what?

11 A Oh, (indiscernible) oh, it's awesome sushi and it's --

12 you know, it's in some crappy hotel right down here,

13 but they do a great job in the restaurant.

14 A1 Yeah.

15 A You know, and (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

16 A1 And like.....

17 A Part of the neighborhood, slow in the winter.

18 A1 Uh-huh. Lucky Wishbone.

19 A Yeah, Lucky Wishbone, walk there. Yep. And yeah, what

20 else do we do beside shop and play?

21 A1 Walk to school, bike.

22 A Yeah, walking to school.

23 A1 We bike a lot.

24 A Yeah, what do we do for fun? Oh, we do a lot of

25 hiking, which you know, doesn't have to.....

1 A1 Get in the car.

2 A Not any mountains in Fairview, so.....

3 A1 I love -- I go to a trail by Ship Creek to the Chester
4 Creek Trail that would come through here, that would be
5 my little -- you know, you could do this whole loop
6 around downtown and go down the coastal trail and.....

7 A Yeah, it'd be pretty amazing.

8 A1 I think that would be -- and like the Ship Creek
9 trails, definitely under utilized and just kind of goes
10 (indiscernible).

11 A (Indiscernible - voice lowered).

12 A1 Yeah. But I mean, it's nice to do a circuit, you know?

13 A Yeah.

14 A1 And like I think it's that connection because it's like
15 we have to point out M's going to Camp Fire or camp
16 at APU, so we can drop down, go to Medfra, drop down
17 the hill and then come down to the Chester Creek. But
18 it's just like oh, it'd just be so nice if that -- like
19 there was a thoroughfare (indiscernible - plane noise).

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A1 That would be.....

22 A Yeah, that's what we do for fun. We hang out with
23 friends in the neighborhood, yeah.

24 A1 Friends.

25 A A lot of burning stuff, you know, fire pits and

1 barbecues and -- yeah, a lot of that.

2 Q Do you get much wildlife in the neighborhood?

3 A Sometimes. Moose for sure.

4 A1 That's about it.

5 A Yeah, we've seen some -- I thought we'd seen some lynx

6 in the neighborhood. Or fox -- no, we saw fox before.

7 Yeah. Yeah, that's about it.

8 A1 We have two dogs, so we don't see much.

9 A The dogs scare most stuff off. For some reason, the

10 moose don't care this time of year.

11 A1 They would chase them, so yeah.

12 Q Do moose try to raid your berry (indiscernible)?

13 A Oh yeah. Yeah.....

14 A1 Yeah.

15 A we've had moose in here before.

16 A1 Not very often though.

17 A No. The dogs keep them out mostly.

18 A1 Yeah. I think I actually (indiscernible - voice

19 lowered).

20 A Yeah.

21 A1 Yeah.

22 A Not lately.

23 A1 Yeah, there's not that many. I mean, they're down in

24 like Chester Creek, but I don't think they really go up

25 the hill.

1 A It takes some effort, you know? If you're a moose -- I
2 mean, every year -- I'd say every winter, we get moose
3 through here because it's like all those ripe delicious
4 trees to eat.

5 A1 A little bit, but.....

6 A Yeah.

7 A1yeah, not so much.

8 Q So what was I going to say? Is there any like famous
9 or infamous spots or houses or anything around here
10 that are known for something?

11 A Famous or infamous?

12 Q Like urban legends or something like that?

13 Q1 Or it could be a park or a -- you know, some kind of
14 story or.....

15 Q Location.

16 A You know, it's funny, like I mean, some of the coolest
17 stuff, like we get -- just being torn down. Like there
18 was some old historic cabin on a three-acre lot right
19 at 15th and Juneau.

20 A1 Juneau.

21 A And that was like, you know, around these huge trees
22 that were, you know, 60, 70 feet tall. And you know, I
23 mean, the lady who lived there died and the family sold
24 it to a developer and took out all these trees and it's
25 just like oh, it was a shame.

1 A1 And they spend money on landscaping and you're
2 like.....
3 A Yeah.
4 A1really?
5 A Yeah. Well, they need a parking lot.
6 A1 Yeah. I don't know.
7 A (Indiscernible) the infamous buildings.
8 A1 Yeah.
9 A I don't think we've been here long enough.
10 A1 Yeah.
11 A You know?
12 A1 I mean, there must be, but.....
13 A Yeah. All I know are crack houses. I can give you the
14 crack house story of the neighborhood.
15 Q Well, Spenard people always said (indiscernible) were.
16 A Oh yeah. Those were fun.
17 A1 Yeah.
18 A Yeah. Yeah, it's weird, it's like there's not -- yeah
19 -- let's see, what's the best way to describe? There's
20 not as much illicit kind of legitimate business, which
21 I think that sounds totally messed up, but yeah,
22 there's much less -- yeah, there's much less -- you
23 know, like there weren't any of those speakeasies, you
24 know, there were a couple establishments that are since
25 gone, I mean, where the -- where some -- there's some

1 club called the -- I forget the name, I'll have to look
2 it up, but at -- right across from the Carrs at
3 Gambell, 13th and Gambell where the Landrover
4 dealership was until they moved out. You know, there
5 was some speakeasy there that -- it wasn't a speakeasy,
6 it was just a crappy bar, but I know a bunch of
7 neighbors 20 years ago worked really hard to get rid of
8 it.

9 But yeah, nothing really kind of fun and exciting
10 like they got in Spenard. You know.....

11 A1 Yeah. Yeah.

12 A Yeah, we don't have that kind of -- I mean, we're just
13 kind of really -- this is a quiet family neighborhood,
14 you know, with a federal interstate running through it.

15 Q What do you think about having the rec center so close?

16 A Oh, it's awesome.

17 Q In your neighborhood, but also close to where you guys
18 are.

19 A Yeah. We love it, yeah.

20 A1 (Indiscernible).

21 A Yeah, there's kids there all the time, you know,
22 playing and having fun.

23 A1 Yeah. And that -- probably -- I don't think as much as
24 it should be, but.....

25 A They don't -- yeah, they -- and I don't know whether

1 it's kind of the kids don't know about it or, you know,
2 I mean, they just recently started a lot more programs
3 and really stepped up their game, so -- and there's a
4 lot more kids involved there now than there had
5 been.....

6 A1 Yeah.

7 A in the past.

8 A1 I mean, compared to the Mountain View, which is run by
9 the Boys and Girls Club, I mean, that place is like --
10 there is something going on there all the time and the
11 Spenard Rec Center is like -- I mean, it's kind of like
12 a health club there.

13 A (Indiscernible).

14 A1 You know, I mean, like -- you know, it's a whole
15 different scene than the -- I mean, the Fairview Rec
16 Center is completely under utilized, you know? I guess
17 by community people and.....

18 A Yeah, I mean, there's a lot of kids there, but.....

19 A1 Yeah, but -- yeah, it's a very -- you know, and half
20 the building is not really that useable and I mean, I
21 think actually it could be -- I mean, it would be
22 really cool to have it more of a -- be a real center
23 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

24 A You know, we were (indiscernible) this place, you know,
25 and we didn't have a shower, so I tried using the

1 shower there once and it was like whoa, this feels like
2 high school 30 years ago, you know, 40 years ago.

3 A1 Yeah.

4 A Like, you know -- yeah.

5 A1 And then the health center used to be right here too,
6 so that was a lot of.....

7 A And then they.....

8 A1 That was a lot of -- you know, but no one accesses
9 there -- I mean, they're doing a really good job at
10 maintaining the place and really did a great job on the
11 remodel and so that's -- that's good.

12 A Uh-huh.

13 A1 I mean, we got a lot more people coming into our
14 neighborhood for the health center when it was here, so
15 -- but I mean, almost every time you walk around, it's
16 like where -- how do I get to the health center?

17 A Uh-huh.

18 A1 But -- yeah. And we didn't live here when the
19 diverters were put in, but you know, I mean, I think
20 they -- they -- I mean, it's kind of like if you don't
21 live here, they're very confusing, but they've.....

22 A As you've discovered.

23 A1 You know, but they're -- they cut down so much on cut
24 through traffic, especially at rush hour and all this
25 kind of stuff.

1 A Yeah, it was a huge problem where, you know, I mean,
2 people would be like zipping through the neighborhood
3 if the Glenn was backed up or whatever and stuff.
4 Yeah, it's really -- it's -- it improved that
5 significantly.

6 A1 Yeah. And I used to not like them, but now, I'm like
7 oh (indiscernible - voice lowered).

8 A Yeah, you get used to them.

9 A1 Yeah.

10 A It's like yeah, that's great, so. I -- well, you know,
11 I'm guilty of it, you know. Minnesota's backed up, I
12 cut through Spenard, I cut through the neighborhood.

13 A1 Yeah.

14 A It's like I'd be like I'm going here and here and here
15 and that would stop me from cutting through. I have to
16 wait in line like everybody else.

17 A1 Yeah.

18 A You know?

19 A1 Yeah.

20 Q I'm trying to think what we should -- we've been
21 collecting a lot of ghost stories if you have any of
22 those.

23 A Ghost stories?

24 Q But if you don't, that's okay.

25 A I don't think I have any ghost stories.

1 A1 No.

2 Q It's one of those things where you either have them or
3 you don't.

4 A Uh-huh. Yeah. I don't have any ghost stories, do you?

5 A1 Unh-unh (negative).

6 Q That's okay.

7 A1 I know -- like what (indiscernible) the cemetery?

8 A That's at the cemetery (indiscernible - voice lowered).

9 A1 Is that O?

10 A Yeah.

11 A1 Yeah, I've always wanted to go to that.

12 A Yeah, they do that all -- actually, they do it all
13 summer too.

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 A1 Yeah, that'd be fun to go to.

16 Q What do they do down there?

17 A Oh, they do a -- like a ghost story too where basically
18 a historical tour of the cemetery and I guess once a
19 week, they have -- or maybe it's very first Friday or
20 something like that, they have actors actually they're
21 pretending to be the individuals that are buried
22 underneath them.

23 A1 Which is pretty (indiscernible).

24 A Which is awesome.

25 Q Oh.

1 A Yeah. We'll claim that as our neighborhood.
2 A1 It is.
3 A Yeah.
4 Q Well, we did have another person talk about that too,
5 so.....
6 A Uh-huh.
7 Qshe obviously said that's part of your
8 neighborhood too.
9 A Uh-huh. Yeah. (Indiscernible - plane noise) any ghost
10 stories.
11 A1 Uh-huh. I wish I did, but.....
12 A Yeah.
13 Q That's okay.
14 A We like ghost stories, that's (indiscernible - voice
15 lowered).
16 Q That's okay. (Indiscernible) interesting neighbor
17 stories are just as good.
18 A1 Yes.
19 A Oh yeah. Definitely.
20 Q Feel free to jump in if there's any more as you think
21 of them.
22 A Well, I mean, we do have a Sheriff, individuals who
23 have, you know, who have stirred the pot up and have
24 had impact one way or the other as well, you know? A
25 long history of that, which I think -- being in the

1 urban neighborhood, you get ton of -- like you don't
2 live here if you don't -- you know, if you don't like
3 the idea of having neighbors.

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A You know, I mean, it's just sort of like people
6 (indiscernible) in this neighborhood who kind of are
7 more community minded and stuff, so I don't know if you
8 know anything about R M?

9 Q Unh-unh (negative).

10 A She was an activist in the -- she was a resident and an
11 activist in the mid 60s, 70s, 80s and she died in the
12 early -- mid 90s I think. Actually, Darrel
13 (indiscernible) would have a lot more to tell you about
14 R, but yeah, she's just -- I mean, she's like --
15 yeah, she was a thorn in the side of everyone and
16 everybody and for the better of a lot of things too.
17 It's -- I don't know, it's interesting, my father used
18 to -- he used to manage the opening kegs, the liquor
19 stores that are associated with Carrs. And when he
20 did, he -- I just remember when I was like in my 20s or
21 in high school, I remember him complaining about this
22 neighborhood and where, you know, it's sort of like
23 he's having to deal with this woman, R M,
24 you know? And you know, wants to shut the store down,
25 and you know, kind of like coming up -- sitting down

1 with her and coming up with a plan to try and improve
2 the situation in the neighborhood and stuff like that.
3 And you know, on the other side and getting to kind of
4 live here and understand, you know, kind of like the
5 (indiscernible) and where she came from and it's been
6 -- it's a been a real treat, I guess, especially having
7 -- you know, having known or seen kind of the other
8 side of it a little bit.

9 So yeah, that's one of them, one of the
10 (indiscernible) course who has Grub Stake Auction right
11 next door to Brother Francis Shelter. He lived on the
12 property for 30, 40 years, something like that. And
13 you know, I don't know what he was like 30, 40 years
14 ago, but I know that, you know, he's -- being next door
15 to Brother Francis definitely broke him, you know, to
16 where he's kind of -- I mean, he's -- yeah, I mean, I
17 think it's safe to say he's tweaked from it, you know?
18 Just kind of the.....

19 A1 The battle.

20 A Yeah, the -- you know, we call them offside impacts,
21 the whole -- you know, what Brother Francis does is a
22 necessary function for the city and they do a good job
23 within their doors. But at 7:00 p.m., there's -- you
24 know, there's so many thousands of homeless people in
25 this town and there's a number who don't fit the rules

1 to get in their doors, you know, because they're drunk
2 or they've had behavioral issues or you know, or
3 they've been in for 30 days already and they're -- you
4 know, they're still homeless.

5 And so, you know, all these people at 7:00 p.m. or
6 11:00 p.m., you know, basically get turned away from
7 Brother Francis in our neighborhood. And you know, for
8 that matter, Anchorage Jail and the sleep off center,
9 you know, when people get out of jail or when they
10 sober -- when they blow .08 and are considered no
11 longer a harm to themselves or a danger to themselves,
12 they get let out the front door right there, you know,
13 as well.

14 So it's kind of -- there's that -- you know, I
15 mean, it's -- that's a whole other mess down there and
16 (indiscernible - plane noise) where -- and you know,
17 and Ron's been fighting that for a long time. To
18 anyone -- any opportunity he gets to kind of have his
19 say about it, he (indiscernible).

20 But I mean, at the same time, it's like it's just
21 (indiscernible) really legitimate and -- you know, and
22 I got involved in the community council through kind of
23 a similar fight I guess. You know, and they kind of
24 realized that (indiscernible) was coming out, you know?

25 Q Uh-huh.

1 A It's just sort of that -- yeah, but you know, he's an
2 interesting character. Yeah, we get a lot of them here
3 for sure and a lot of really just good people too,
4 so.....

5 A1 Uh-huh.

6 Q Coming off of what you were just talking about and.....

7 A Uh-huh.

8 Qobviously, you guys have talked a little bit about
9 this throughout, but with all of the transient
10 population as well as dealing with drunk people and
11 people coming into the crack houses and things like
12 that.....

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Qand on top of that with this being such a
15 (indiscernible) friendly neighborhood, is there a
16 certain point in the day where you just no longer go
17 out and walk around or.....

18 A1 No.

19 Qdo you pretty much feel safe regardless of what
20 time it is or.....

21 A Yeah, I feel safe. I mean, it's kind of like going
22 hiking, you know, in bear country, you know? I mean,
23 it's sort of you know there are bears out there and you
24 know to be aware -- bear aware. But you know, I mean,
25 here, it's like I mean, I've never found myself --

1 well, okay, I can't say I've never found myself in a
2 situation where things could have gone badly, but I
3 don't know, I mean, it's like people who are doing bad
4 things, you know, kind of like they operate under the
5 -- they operate under kind of the protection of
6 anonymity and not being seen.

7 Q Uh-huh.

8 A And so you know, I mean, when there's bad stuff
9 happening, if you let them know that you see them and
10 are afraid, it seems to make problems vanish. And you
11 know, I mean -- yeah, I mean, they act like -- I've
12 never felt unsafe. How about you, as a woman?

13 A1 I remember one time when I was walking home, like you
14 know, (indiscernible) there was like (indiscernible)
15 but it was Ingra, so.....

16 A Yeah.

17 A1it's like.....

18 Q So not really any different than just being aware of
19 any.....

20 A1 I mean, it could be in Spenard or.....

21 Q (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

22 A1 Yeah.

23 A Yeah.

24 A1 Well now, I mean, I think it's -- you know -- yeah,
25 it's -- you know when all the drug deals were going on

1 around our house (indiscernible).

2 A I mean, they really -- you know, it's like they were
3 doing what they could to not get caught, you know?

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A I mean, it's like say if you're trying not to get
6 caught, you're not going to make a big mess, especially
7 with the people who live right next door to you, you
8 know? And then the drunks mostly -- you know, most of
9 the chronic, public inebriates or the chronic
10 inebriates in our neighborhood are -- you know, they're
11 really, you know.....

12 A1 They're all pretty harmless.

13 A Yeah, I mean, they're in their own little -- they're in
14 their world, you know? I mean, the interactions with
15 people passing by, most -- at worst, is soliciting, you
16 know? And at best, it's just kind of like they want to
17 pet our dogs and tell us about their dogs in their
18 village or, you know, whatever.

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 A It's like yeah, it's been -- I mean, yeah, it's --
21 yeah, I mean, I've really never felt threatened.

22 Q You were saying some sort of what cause (indiscernible)
23 on the community council?

24 A Oh yeah, the current manor, which is a housing first
25 project at -- it's Karluk, between 5th and 6th. You

1 know, and I don't have any problem with housing first,
2 but you know, it's sort of that -- their reason for
3 being there is because that's where the problem is, you
4 know? And kind of the whole idea of housing first is
5 you give people a safe place where, you know, they can
6 kind of get away from the mess that they're
7 (indiscernible) and can -- you know, can theoretically
8 or potentially better themselves and better their
9 lives.

10 And so I mean, it just didn't make any sense to me
11 at all to stick, you know, a housing first project in
12 the middle of what is, in our view, of really the
13 worst, you know, six, eight blocks of the neighborhood
14 -- or of the city for something like that for
15 somebody's whose trying to get on.....

16 A1 Get on a different path.

17 A Yeah, get on.....

18 A1 (Indiscernible) by the same path.

19 A Yeah. And so I came to -- like there was a public
20 hearing basically on Karluk Manor and I got up and I
21 spoke to that. And after that, I remember leaders in
22 the community came up to me and asked me if I would
23 kind of lead the fight against Karluk Manor. And so
24 yeah, that's where -- that's kind of where that all
25 came from.

1 Anyway, I think -- you know, I think our
2 opposition to it made it a better project and I still
3 think it's a horrible location for it. You know, I
4 mean, it's -- I mean, if all of this is hospice, then
5 yeah, it doesn't really matter where it is, but I mean,
6 if you really want people to get better, which you
7 know, I believe in people I guess. I mean, it strikes
8 me as really -- yeah, it strikes me as inhuman to
9 basically give -- to create a warehouse in the middle
10 of a place where people are killing themselves and
11 letting them continue to do so. I just think it's
12 horrible, so yeah.

13 Q Has that kind of been -- that's sort of the opinion of
14 kind of how you guys pushed against that project in the
15 first place? Was it -- it wasn't so much we don't want
16 it in our neighborhood, but.....

17 A No.

18 A1 Well, we (indiscernible - simultaneous speech)
19 ((Crosstalk))

20 Q Because of what's going on in our neighborhood,
21 it's.....

22 A Yeah.

23 Q not the best thing.

24 A Yeah.

25 A1 Right.

1 ((Crosstalk))
2 A Go ahead.
3 A1 I mean, if they would do small impact places
4 around.....
5 A Which they do, yeah.
6 A1the whole community, but it's like okay, here,
7 let's put another.....
8 A Right.
9 A1thing and they're like well, because all their
10 services are there. Well, you're not -- it's like
11 well, then is this going to be a megalopolis area for
12 that?
13 A Yeah, I mean, basically what's.....
14 A1 You know?
15 A Anchorage's answer to it is what's called to sweep it
16 into a corner and.....
17 Q Uh-huh.
18 Ayou know, and it's made it so that -- I mean,
19 there's a number of non profits that, you know, they
20 get -- they do -- you know, they get grants to serve a
21 population that's really concentrated on one area and
22 it makes it real easy for them where they have to spend
23 their time and effort, but I mean, it's to the
24 detriment both of the people who live around there and
25 also the people who are kind of stuck in that area as

1 well. And then people who (indiscernible - plane
2 noise) kind of stuck in a place in their lives where,
3 you know, I mean, if you're trying to get out and
4 you're surrounded by, you know.....

5 A1 All the (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

6 A Yeah, you're surrounded by all the -- yeah, you're
7 surrounded by all the people and the places and the
8 things that, you know, kind of got me to where you are.
9 It's, you know, being in the middle of that isn't --
10 you know, I mean, getting out of -- it's just -- I
11 mean, it just makes sense.

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A Anyway, so -- and I mean, there's research backing it
14 up. I mean, you know, the -- heroin's incredibly
15 addictive in the United States, it's got something like
16 97 percent recidivism rate. They did a study on heroin
17 addicts who came back from Vietnam and it was something
18 like eight percent recidivism rate and the difference
19 that they found was that it was a change of
20 environment.

21 You know, I mean, it's like oh, they got that here
22 from being there, and you know, going through the same
23 treatment that people who lived here when they were
24 addicted would be -- you know, they had much more
25 success being in a different environment. And yeah, I

1 mean, it's just -- there's -- it's -- you know, I mean,
2 it's really kind of -- it's an economic (indiscernible)
3 down there. It's -- there's like a refugee camp
4 basically every night at 11:00 o'clock. You know, and
5 just the mess and the filth and -- you know, yeah, it's
6 really bad. I mean, it's horrible.

7 A1 I mean, where do all these people go to the bathroom,
8 you know?

9 A Yeah. And we -- you know, and there's.....

10 A1 There's no public -- there's not -- I mean, there's no
11 public restrooms anywhere on that block, you know, or
12 anywhere -- you know what I mean, it's just like okay,
13 that's the impact (indiscernible - simultaneous
14 speech).

15 A And it's kind of one of those too where it's like okay,
16 and so, you know, Brother Francis thought that they
17 were doing something good for their clients by offering
18 free toilet paper. But guess what happens? You know,
19 now there's, you know, piles with toilet paper on them
20 all over the -- you know, it's just -- yeah, it's.....

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A Yeah, so I mean, there -- as that goes, yeah, it's not
23 (indiscernible) it's more that we, as neighbors, are a
24 stakeholder in the success of anything that's going to
25 be here because, if it doesn't succeed, we pay for it.

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A You know, as much as anybody. So you know, and I think
3 you'll find, you know, in a neighborhood like this, a
4 lot more people who care about their neighbors and care
5 about other people and helping -- giving a helping
6 hand. Yeah, a lot more than, you know, a lot of
7 neighborhoods.

8 But yeah, it is one of those things where it's
9 like -- you know, especially people that -- the people
10 that are claiming to serve the population of, you know,
11 at the bottom, often don't live here and think that
12 there's no (indiscernible) be important work and that
13 we are just, you know, an annoyance and a nuisance that
14 they have to deal with, which we're not. I mean, we --
15 you know, it's like they deal with the population eight
16 hours a day, we deal with them 24 hours a day. So you
17 know, and I'd say that most of us are incredibly humane
18 and compassionate and empathetic, so yeah. So that's
19 -- yeah, that's about all I need to say about that.
20 That's an ear full.

21 Q So we're getting close to the end of the hour.....

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Qand I want to leave this with a question about
24 what are your hopes for the community in the future and
25 some of the things that you would like to see for

1 yourselves as well as obviously raising a kid in this
2 neighborhood as well. I mean, it sounds like you guys
3 aren't planning to go anywhere anytime soon, so what do
4 you have -- what's your vision for Fairview? And it
5 could be very personal too, but.....

6 A I mean, it's -- I mean, this neighborhood has so many
7 strengths that I think we need to keep and hold on to
8 and protect, you know? And I don't know, they include
9 things that a lot of people wouldn't see as strengths,
10 you know, or there's the fact there aren't garages and
11 you know, us alleys for trash collection and people
12 walking everywhere.

13 And you know, I mean, it's incredibly diverse
14 ethnically and socio economically. I mean, those are
15 all things that like, you know, and at the same time,
16 you want to see more ownership, more people kind of
17 like feeling like this is their home and they want to
18 take care of it and watch out for their neighbors, and
19 you know, a lot more of that.

20 A1 Yeah. I mean, it's more families living here thinking
21 (indiscernible) because it's like they are, you know?

22 A Uh-huh. Yeah.

23 A1 Yeah.

24 A And more parks (indiscernible) space, more place
25 (indiscernible).

1 ((Crosstalk))
2 A1 More connection trail.
3 A Yeah.
4 (Indiscernible - train noise).
5 A But yeah, I mean, you know, I'd love Fairview
6 Elementary to be -- I've love that school to be as good
7 as that school in the neighborhood. You know, that
8 one's a lottery school, it's a choice school, you know,
9 30 percent of the kids at Denali are neighborhood kids
10 and (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).
11 Q Uh-huh.
12 A1 And that every -- just because it's a higher performing
13 school, that those kids and the other part of Fairview
14 are like -- I mean, they're kind of a little bit
15 different kids than some of the kids.....
16 A Yeah, they're performing at the same -- like the kids
17 on that side of the tracks are performing at the level
18 of the kids at that school and the kids on this side of
19 the tracks are -- you know, I mean, they're not and you
20 know, I mean, it's a culture of the school thing. I'd
21 really love to see -- you got the culture of Fairview
22 Elementary change and I've love to be able to feel like
23 -- I'd love to feel like that was, you know, that was a
24 good option for us to send our kid.
25 Q Uh-huh.

1 A Although, you know, each kid's individual and.....

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 Awe chose -- you know, we chose Denali because it
4 was the right choice for M, but you know? I think a
5 lot more kid -- I think a lot more families would
6 consider living in this neighborhood because it's just
7 a great spot, you know, and homes are affordable and
8 it's quiet, and you know, I mean, neighbors know each
9 other.

10 I mean, I think a lot more people with kids would
11 consider living here if their neighborhood school was
12 better. So and again, I mean, it's -- you know, we sat
13 down with the principal, B, and he's like look,
14 you know, 50 percent of my kids are BSL, 67 percent are
15 on school lunch program. And it's like by sixth grade,
16 every one of my kids will be able to read, write and
17 have basic math skills.

18 And you know, when we went to M's kindergarten
19 orientation, his kindergarten teacher said, by the end
20 of kindergarten, all my kids will be able to read,
21 write and have basic math skills. I'm just like oh
22 man, you know? I guess -- part of it is demographics,
23 who's living there, here determines what the school's
24 focus is and the problems that they're dealing with,
25 you know? So it's a little chicken and the egg, you

1 know?

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A But I mean, if we could get more people moving in
4 without (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

5 A1 I think it's the -- you know, a lot of these kids are
6 moving around a lot too and.....

7 A Yeah.

8 A1there -- that's why we (indiscernible) a different
9 school too.

10 A Yeah, so transient (indiscernible - simultaneous
11 speech).

12 A1 So I mean, it's like -- I mean, I think that investment
13 in the community and the neighborhood and families that
14 are going here. I mean, it's all in our.....

15 A And support for the parents that are here.

16 A1 Yeah.

17 A I mean, there's a lot of parents that don't know how to
18 parent, you know, for one reason or another. Yeah --
19 but yeah, I mean, there's also this big wash of
20 interest in investment and you know, just energy that,
21 you know, kind of started to our time has been moving
22 east for decades now, so I mean, it's kind of
23 inevitable that we'll -- you know, we'll get there.

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A So it's just I want it to happen now.

1 Q All right. Thank you so much for your time.

2 A1 Yeah.

3 A You bet.

4 Q That was awesome.

5 (Off tape)

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