

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Interviewer (Q): Unknown female

Interviewer (Q1): Unknown female

Interviewee (A): S

Interviewee (A1): H

Q1 So you're going to be the main talker, I guess.

Q So today is the 27th of June and we are sitting here with H and S and talking about Fairview. So I guess a good place to start is how long have you lived in Fairview, worked in the neighborhood, those kinds of things and just some just general sharing about the neighborhood itself.

A Okay, yeah.

Q And (indiscernible).

A This is S (indiscernible). I moved into Fairview in August of 2003 when I moved up to Alaska and it was quite accidental. I looked at a few apartments, I saw one that I really liked, signed a lease on it, whatever, it's a month to month thing and then, when I came into the officer here, you know, working as a professor at UAA, set up on the great apartment in Fairview and people said oh my God, you should have talked to us first. Never, ever live in a neighborhood with Fairview in the name. So it was interesting that

1 -- you know, as I kept driving by Fairview, as I was
2 getting familiar with Anchorage, I saw the nice
3 landscaping on 15th Avenue, now the little houses, I
4 said this must be an exclusive gated community. I
5 could never live there because it was just so nice.
6 You know, it was the summertime, I -- Alaska's
7 beautiful in the summer.

8 And then, you know, I was with my sister, she had
9 driven up with me from Canada, and as we were leaving
10 the apartment, I was all excited, I just -- you know,
11 and I said you know how you can tell this is a good
12 neighborhood and you know what would tell you that it
13 was a bad neighborhood would be things like if you saw
14 a check cashing place or a pawn shop or a liquor store.
15 And then we got to Gambell Street and saw in a span of
16 a block a liquor store, a pawn shop and a check cashing
17 place. So I was like oh, so -- but I don't regret
18 living there even though, in the first -- for the first
19 month, you know, there was like somebody got pulled
20 over at gunpoint -- or pulled over by the police at
21 gunpoint in the middle of the night and I'm looking out
22 my window going oh.

23 You know, and then there like some -- a drive-by
24 shooting at a -- that just shot up a building down the
25 street and that kind of -- and then the guy that got

1 beaten up while he was walking his dog and the meth
2 house down the street. And I'm a criminologist, so
3 these things don't bother me because I realize that I'm
4 a pretty low risk person because of my lifestyle.

5 So I'm kind of getting off a tangent here, but
6 yeah, so lived there 11 years. When I wanted to move
7 out of the apartment and get a house, I told my real
8 estate agent just show me things in Fairview. I don't
9 want -- because it -- by that time, I'd gotten
10 involved with the community council, made a good group
11 of friends and I think that's very valuable to -- you
12 know, it's actually quite easy to make friends in
13 Fairview.

14 We're in Alaska, you know, Anchorage in general, I
15 think, because there's so many people who are -- you
16 know, come from a ways that you just sort of -- it's
17 easy to form relationships with people. And I didn't
18 want to sever those and move to another neighborhood.

19 And the real estate agent, she said you know,
20 you're the first white lady who's told me she wants to
21 live in Fairview and she was initially resistant, she
22 did not want to show me any places in Fairview. She
23 said this is not a neighborhood for you. I said well,
24 no, it is, I don't want any other neighborhood. And
25 that was a bit of a struggle for a while, she kept

1 wanting to show me other things. I said I'm not going
2 to buy them, don't waste your time. How about you,
3 Harry?

4 A1 Well, geez, I've been in Alaska seven years, so I've
5 probably been in Fairview for five. Does that sound
6 right?

7 A Yeah, I think so.

8 A1 Five years. I can't believe it's been that long
9 already, but the -- when we moved to Fairview was
10 because my wife and I had jobs in the downtown Umed
11 (ph) area and we had previously lived on 7th and A and
12 we really enjoyed the downtown lifestyle. We like
13 riding our bikes to the restaurants, to shows of -- you
14 know, see lots of friends and so we wanted to live in
15 99501, but we didn't have, you know, over \$300,000, so
16 you know, your options are limited.

17 So you know, for under \$300,000 in 99501, there's
18 really -- you know, it's Fairview. And so we had
19 actually given up looking for a place and we had looked
20 at all sorts -- we'd actually put full price offers on
21 three houses, it's just a really hard market for
22 affordable housing in this town, and lost it and we
23 gave up looking.

24 And one night, I -- you know, just to kind of --
25 my routine is to look at craigslist and I saw this

1 house that was open and the next morning, I go and I
2 check it out. We walked in the door and I called my
3 realtor from the front stoop, you know, one step into
4 the door and said that I needed -- we need to buy a
5 house.

6 It's a simple little house, but we love it and so
7 then the neighborhood started to grow on me, so I -- we
8 met S C lives down the block, I met S,
9 lives two blocks away and realized that it's an up and
10 coming neighborhood. AS far as from our perspective,
11 downtown can only grow in one direction. You know, you
12 got ocean on one side, you got a river on the other and
13 you've got, you know, all the priced houses on the
14 third, so the fourth side is Fairview. And so
15 downtown's only going to go in one direction, so we're
16 looking at that as -- you know, we're looking at the
17 investment potential of Fairview, but then the
18 neighborhood started to grow on me. I started to meet
19 the neighbors. There was children playing outside when
20 we were moving over, I saw a cop car parked diagonally
21 in the intersection, I said oh (indiscernible).

22 And what I realized is he was throwing a football
23 with the children. You know, and it reminded me of the
24 neighborhood I grew up in where all the kids always
25 played in the streets, I grew up in upstate New York.

1 And it occurred to me that there's no other
2 neighborhoods that are built like Fairview where front
3 doors faces front doors, where garages are on the
4 alleys. So that, you know, you're forced to interact
5 with your neighbors. People are on the sidewalk, we're
6 using the streets. And you know, there's not a pile of
7 trash in -- you know, at the end of the driveway. It's
8 -- you know, you're encouraged to be interacting with
9 your neighbors and it's just a different feel than any
10 other neighbor in Anchorage.

11 And the diversity, I love the diversity. You
12 know, we live in a very diverse state and to have
13 affordable housing means that you have, you know, more
14 access of different people who can live in that space
15 and so, you know, there's a Hmong family across the
16 street, I have Sudanese family on the other side of me.
17 You know, there's -- and so it's just -- I think
18 that's, you know, adds to the richness of the
19 neighborhood and it makes it an attractive place to be
20 and I think to be for a long period of time.

21 Q What are -- do you have any like fun or quirky stories
22 from Fairview, like about neighbors or things that
23 happened since you've lived there, anything like that?

24 A Well, I mean, there was some characters. You've met
25 some of them like to me, one of the biggest characters

1 is R. I had a house warming party when I bought
2 my house on Nelchina Street and invited -- there was --
3 invited, you know, my University colleagues and many of
4 whom live in south Anchorage and have never interacted
5 with people who are not like them, you know, like upper
6 middle class or -- and so they came to my house and

7 there were all these Fairview people there and R,
8 so you've met -- have you both met her? She's kind of
9 an interesting character, a little interesting
10 background.

11 And -- but she -- my toilet's kind of finicky, you
12 have to hold the lever down, but anyway, so she went in
13 there and used it and didn't flush it properly. So
14 then one of my colleagues, he's like a full professor
15 and very, you know, distinguished. I -- he's like
16 beckoning me into the hallway, I'm like what, he's like
17 beckoning me further and further into the bathroom.
18 And he said I think your toilet's broken, he was like
19 mortified that this woman had -- anyway, it was an easy
20 fix. It was an easy fix, but I mean, it just -- it was
21 just sort of the clash -- or not the clash, but the
22 coming together of these two worlds of people who a lot
23 of people in the -- in Fairview had never met
24 University professors. I actually don't go around
25 saying I'm a University professor because -- and when

1 you do community work and I wasn't even starting in it
2 as a -- there was no research project, I was a person
3 who lived in the neighborhood and I wanted to get
4 involved, so I didn't come in saying I'm here from the
5 University, I'm here to fix your problem.

6 But there -- you know, years later, people were
7 like you're a professor, but you're so normal, you
8 know? You're not pompous. So that was -- I mean,
9 that's an interesting story.

10 You know, some other things are -- I worked with
11 L R on the community patrol for many years. It's
12 kind of a -- community patrol, when it was -- it was
13 found -- I don't know if A K talked to
14 you about that at all, but he was one of the original
15 founding members and a guy named G W whose since
16 died, but they -- they were out there when it was
17 really dangerous.

18 The approach of the Fairview Community Patrol has
19 always been -- other community patrols in the city have
20 like cars that looks sort of like cop cars, they've got
21 the light bars, they've got the uniforms, but we never
22 did that. We always had a very -- you know, just the
23 plain old van or pickup truck and we'd do surveillance
24 on suspected drug houses and sort of put together
25 enough evidence for the police to say look, you've got

1 activity suggestive of drug activity and then that
2 would lead them sometimes to put resources on the
3 property. But so that's the kind of thing that we did
4 for many years.

5 So I mean, they're not exactly funny stories,
6 they're sad stories of people who, you know, I
7 recognize as having been on the streets of Fairview now
8 for over a decade. They're, you know, mentally ill
9 people. One woman who's a Alaska native, her name is
10 L something and she's just -- she's always out
11 there looking half stoned out of her mind and she's a
12 prostitute. And you know, there's the guy who
13 prostitutes his wife or his girlfriend and beats her up
14 regularly and they just walk around the streets.

15 There's a guy named R D who I actually
16 really like. He's got a bit of a drinking problem, but
17 one time, he went away to jail, and when he came back,
18 he was sobered up, he'd put on some weight, he -- you
19 know, and he had a nice suit of clothes, he looked
20 really nice and it was nice interacting with him. Then
21 he got back on the whole (indiscernible) and so just
22 sad to see him as one of the -- he's -- you know, on
23 the street, you have people who are like predators and
24 then you have the people who are just barely making it
25 and they're sort of the victims of the predators.

1 So the street population preys on itself, they
2 hardly ever prey on people who are not part of that
3 population. For me, you know, that -- it was very eye
4 opening to observe all this because you can read all
5 about this in books and so on, you could actually
6 observe over the course of years these social
7 interactions, just really cool.

8 So I'm sorry that's not a fun story for you, but
9 I'm having fun in the interview, but it's not.....

10 Q No, those stories are just as valuable.

11 Q1 Yeah.

12 A Yeah, I mean, because I think that's the side of a lot
13 of the neighborhoods that you're doing and it -- it's
14 not just the people who have lived there in houses for
15 years, there's also people who have, you know, lived
16 there, but in a different way and also for years and
17 there as much a part of the community although there
18 are days when I wish they would all go away because
19 they make it hard for the neighborhood to sort of
20 transform into the vision that a lot of us have for it.
21 It's much more economically vital and -- but they are
22 part of the diversity, you know, socio economic
23 diversity, it's (indiscernible) diversity, it's also
24 behavioral diversity.

25 Q1 And we won't get an opportunity to hear their stories

1 necessarily.

2 A No, probably not.

3 Q1 It's good that someone knows them.

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A Yeah.

6 A1 Yeah, you know, if we -- probably has a good grasp of

7 these stories is I think that the owner of the Crazy

8 Horse was one of the first women to buy outside of kind

9 of the designated Black neighborhoods in Anchorage.

10 A Yeah.

11 A1 I think that that's the connection. She

12 (indiscernible) Green Acres or something like that I

13 think is ths story. But -- is that -- no?

14 A I don't know what you're talking about.

15 A1 Okay. Well, the.....

16 A You mean, the S? No, not the S. Yeah,

17 anyway.

18 A1 Anyways, the -- there's -- you know, so this

19 neighborhood was created as -- you know, as -- at

20 first, it was kind of a neighborhood of choice, but

21 then it quickly became kind of the -- you know, one of

22 the established Black neighborhoods in town and when it

23 wasn't acceptable for Black people to be living in

24 white neighborhoods and vice versa.

25 A Uh-huh.

1 A1 And so what you had was, right from the beginning, you
2 had absentee ownership, you had landlords that didn't
3 live in the neighborhood that were profiting off of
4 having, you know, designated -- you know, a ghetto for
5 lack of a better term, but -- and so that -- I mean,
6 but that legacy is persistent where you have tons of
7 property in Fairview that isn't owned by the people
8 that really have any vested interest in seeing
9 improvement in that neighborhood.

10 You know, there's folks that would love to keep
11 their -- you know, their duplex, their quad plex, their
12 12-plex filled with -- you know, with folks that are
13 all on social services and paying minimum rent and
14 doing no maintenance to the property, and you know --
15 and so.....

16 A Uh-huh.

17 A1 So, but all that's tied to this legacy of a white fight
18 and a designated neighborhood. And I think that it's
19 -- that's starting to slowly erode, but the legacy of
20 that is still there, so you have these stories of these
21 trodden folks that are, you know, just barely making
22 it. Well, where do you just barely make it? You
23 barely make it where the rent is the cheapest, right?
24 I mean, you don't barely make it in south Anchorage.

25 A Uh-huh.

1 A1 You know, you barely make it where, you know, you can
2 couch surf on somebody's -- you know, in somebody's
3 livingroom that's paying \$300 a month in rent.

4 And so you -- so you know, some of it, I think, is
5 -- you know, it's an issue of planning, it's an issue
6 of real estate. You know, there's -- that planning
7 legacy has persisted where, you know, currently, you
8 know, there's -- there is an inverse condemnation of
9 the planning and zoning -- or not planning and zoning,
10 but of AMATS and you know, with the postponement of the
11 highway-to-highway project where, you know, I don't
12 know if it's -- if it's not intentional, then it's
13 really lucky because what they're essentially doing is
14 driving down property value so that they can buy it for
15 pennies on the dollar later.

16 And you know, by postponing any sort of planning,
17 they've created uncertainty in the area that needs the
18 most certainty, needs the most planning in the
19 Ingra/Gambell corridor. The -- and so that's just
20 perpetuating a lot of things.

21 I mean, you know, you have that
22 Hyder/Ingra/Gambell area that's just -- I mean, it's a
23 different world. It's -- you know, the hookers and the
24 drugs and the alcoholics, they're all congregating to
25 this place, but nobody cares because it's intentional

1 that nobody should care about that because it will
2 drive the property value down so that H2H can buy this
3 -- or AMATS can buy this for pennies on the dollar
4 someday.

5 A Uh-huh.

6 A1 And it's frustrating because there's so much other
7 momentum in the neighborhood, there's so many people
8 that care about that area that want to invest in it and
9 but for adequate planning from the State, they would
10 invest in it and it would become, you know, more
11 vibrant than midtown. It would be -- you know, the
12 walking main street of Anchorage with store front
13 properties all along Gambell and mixed used housing,
14 and you know, people riding their bicycles to downtown
15 and back, and you know, that's the vision of Fairview.

16 You know, parks, and you know, kids playing in the
17 streets, and you know, all the other activities that we
18 already have. It's just a matter of removing the
19 blight. But you know, speaking of blight, so here's a
20 funny story. I was in a triathlon training group with
21 Sharon for a period of time.

22 A Yeah, earning mornings we.....

23 A1 Early mornings.....

24 Awould leave the house at like quarter after 4:00.

25 A1 And we used -- quarter after 4:00, we'd leave the house

1 so we could get over to West High and do laps in the
2 pool at some ungodly hour. And so I remember I think
3 it was the dumbest thing I've ever done, but.....

4 A Yeah, I know.

5 A1I was -- anyways, I'm out one morning and I got my
6 running shorts on over my -- you know, over my bathing
7 suit and I'm dusting off the car, and you know, I got
8 my extra tops and I'm sure I looked ridiculous, a
9 hoodie, sweatshirt, the hood's pulled up and I'm
10 dusting off my car with the brush and I'm drinking an
11 espresso out of my left hand. And I looked over my
12 shoulder and I see this guy standing under the street
13 lamp whose got, you know, one pant leg up kind of
14 indicating that he's holding and.....

15 A Yeah.

16 A1looking to sell some drugs. And we had this
17 moment where he's kind of looking at me like what the
18 hell is that guy doing up? And I'm looking at him like
19 what the hell is that guy doing up right now? And we
20 kind of acknowledged that this was ridiculous, that you
21 know, neither of us needed to be in this scenario at
22 all, but that there's other options in this world to be
23 up at 4:00 in the morning doing anything at all.

24 A Yeah.

25 A1 But gave each other a yeah, what's up, man, and then it

1 was kind went back to our business, too tired to really
2 do anything about anything.

3 But that -- I think that's the sort of -- I
4 guarantee that does not happen at any other
5 neighborhood in Anchorage where some, you know, some
6 yuppy is dusting off his Audi while drinking an
7 espresso, you know?

8 A Yeah.

9 A1 While a guy's doing drugs under the street lamp.

10 A Yeah.

11 A1 So that's Fairview in a nutshell. That drug house, by
12 the way, is gone because of a concerted effort of
13 concerned neighbors all on that same block who exerted
14 pressure over a course of years to let those folks know
15 that they were no longer welcome.

16 And since then, the property next door, which was
17 a vacant lot has been developed by Cook Inlet Housing.
18 The new tenants in that property are responsible folks,
19 it's got a facelift. I mean, you know, it's -- so it's
20 like, you know, one block at a time, these things are
21 shifting and we're like now, we have a block, there's
22 no drugs on our block, right? Maybe across the street
23 there is, but you know, you can only do so much in a
24 given time.

25 And so, you know, you can see it shifting. You

1 know, within my five years, I've seen that empty lot
2 turn into a single family home, I've seen the drug
3 house empty out, new tenants come in, facelift on that
4 property, you know, it's happening. I like to think
5 it's happening.

6 A Yeah, I think, you know, Harry's point just made me
7 think of something that I think is important and it's
8 how our neighborhoods interact with the police. And
9 I've done a lot of work with the community action
10 policing team, which is like a problem solving unit of
11 the Anchorage Police Department. And they -- they've
12 said repeatedly that they love working with Fairview
13 because at Fairview, we come to the table with stuff we
14 don't say oh, police, we have a problem, you need to
15 fix it because it's -- it's above, you know, truly
16 community policing where we're not just demanding that
17 the police change the conditions that you've
18 (indiscernible) or the neighborhood itself is changing
19 it.

20 And we only ask the police for help when there are
21 things that we can't do. We can't arrest people, we
22 can't -- you know, but that's -- and they've talked
23 about other neighborhoods where they go in and people
24 will say oh, there's -- you know, there's a drug house
25 next to me and the police will say okay, well, can you

1 keep a log of what you see, you know, vehicles, people,
2 document sort of drug activity. And then the people
3 will say well, no, I'm not going to do that, you're the
4 police, you need to do that. And not realizing, of
5 course, the police just can't do everything.

6 I want to pick up on another Harry said about the
7 -- some of the historical aspects of the neighborhood.
8 There is a part of Fairview, of east Fairview that's
9 south of the bluff down by where East Chester
10 development is. And apparently, according to the old
11 timey folks in the neighborhood, that was like a --
12 there was a number of -- you used the term ghetto, and
13 you mean like an area of concentrated ethnicity, right?

14 A1 Yes.

15 A And social.....

16 A1 Yeah, yeah, yeah, not -- not -- yeah.

17 A Yeah.

18 A1 It's not run down necessarily, it's just.....

19 A Right. Yeah, and so you know, they were basically
20 three of them in the neighborhood. There was the S&S
21 Apartments, which are up where Fairview Lions Park is
22 now and there was also an area, I believe, south of the
23 cemetery, of the Memorial Park Cemetery. Now that's
24 the part that doesn't have any tombstones, it's all
25 just the grassy area. I think that also had kind of

1 public housing or low income housing concentration.

2 But then also the area that was called the East
3 Chester Flats and then there was urban renewal and
4 urban renewal was all about, you know, like in many
5 cities around the world, get -- or around the country,
6 get rid of these ghettos, they're unseemly, they're --
7 but the fact they had really tight social connections.
8 That's why it's too bad George Harrison won't talk to
9 you because he used to live in the S&S Apartments.

10 A1 I didn't know that.

11 A Yeah. And he talked about how he used to go the
12 neighbors to get a haircut and like how he knew all
13 these people, coke high that Harry referenced before.
14 He has some memories that, even though he's a young
15 guy, I think he experienced that as a kid.

16 But a lot of that housing at (indiscernible) and
17 then people moved up into -- particularly like Clara
18 Siren (ph), she's told me how the part when east
19 Fairview that Harry and I and SJ and others live in
20 used to be like middle class, working class, mostly
21 kind of white people. But then the neighborhood
22 changed with urban renewal and other folks got, you
23 know, really pushed out of their communities into this
24 area and then you couple that with the re-zoning of the
25 neighborhood to higher density. The construction of

1 all of these four plexes in the 80s and so on, it was
2 like a picture perfect way of how do you destroy a
3 neighborhood.

4 And I mean, that's subjective, that's coming from
5 a white person's eyes and I don't want to imply that I
6 think Black people moving into a neighborhood destroys
7 it, that's -- because it kind of sounded that way when
8 I said it, but what I mean is, you know, the absentee
9 landlord is -- that's.....

10 A1 Yeah.

11 Athe real issue. It's not even low income people,
12 it's not even high density, it's landlords who don't
13 give a crap, don't screen their tenants. Because you
14 know, people don't have to behave badly. They could
15 largely control their behavior, but unless there are
16 sanctions for that, they won't and -- and Fairview,
17 unfortunately, is a place where a lot of people think
18 they can go and kind of live an unruly lifestyle. It's
19 been a kind of challenge to say hey, you know, you
20 can't deal your drugs here. We're not saying you have
21 to stop dealing drugs, but yeah, we really want you to,
22 but -- and so that's a different thing than saying
23 well, you can't be poor here or you can't be, you know,
24 a dark skinned person here, which I don't think anyone
25 -- well, I can't say that (indiscernible) you know? In

1 every group, there are people who want it to be mostly
2 like a middle class, white neighborhood, but the
3 reality is, it's not every going to be that way and I
4 don't think that's a bad thing.

5 I mean, I've always lived in urban areas and the
6 idea of living in a suburb with just with -- and a
7 bunch of other white people like would drive me up a
8 wall. I do like the diversity, although, sometimes
9 it's -- I feel like I could use a little less diversity
10 when I see like the drug dealers and the aimless drug
11 addicted prostitutes wandering around. You know,
12 because it gets to be -- it feels so sad, like you
13 can't really do anything about them.

14 And I think, you know, that's one of the biggest
15 challenges that Fairview has is that sort of itinerant
16 street population and how do we deal with that? It's
17 the housing stock, it's the things that Harry mentioned,
18 it's also the concentration of social services in the
19 neighborhood. I'm sure people have talked to you about
20 this ad nauseum.

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A I mean, it's a big concern.

23 A1 Which is also a function of the property value, right?

24 A Yeah.

25 A1 I mean, if you're in a social service and your job is to

1 provide programming, then on the cost side of your
2 budget, you have rent or mortgage payment.

3 A Yeah.

4 A1 Well, your mission is to provide the most program as
5 possible so you're mission would be to buy the cheapest
6 rent.

7 A Right.

8 A1 And so you're going to find that you're going to do that
9 in Fairview because that's where the cheapest square
10 foot property is available right now.

11 And so I mean, that kind of contributes, in my
12 mind, to a sort of a downward spiral in the sense that
13 then that attracts more clients to those social service
14 agencies and then the property values drop. And I mean,
15 you look down at the Beans Café, you know, it's -- it
16 might as well be a war zone down there. I mean, it's
17 hideous how people are being treated and affected.

18 Q Uh-huh.

19 A1 And truly ghetto-ized.

20 A Yeah.

21 A1 I mean, that's like a concentration camp, just overflow
22 of just trodden humanity. It's really -- it's really
23 terrible.

24 A Yeah.

25 A1 Because all the social service agencies fall, their job

1 is to provide the service, they just do it in the
2 cheapest location.

3 A Uh-huh.

4 A1 And now that piece of property in the whole municipality
5 is the cheapest square foot you can get, you know, and
6 they've created that, you know?

7 A Yeah.

8 A1 Which is -- it's just unfortunate and that's -- but at
9 the same time, it's -- I think that that's something
10 that could be turned around. I mean, the -- putting a
11 nicer face on these things and getting individuals who
12 are content with, you know, coming off the fishing boat
13 with thousands of dollars and staying at the shelter
14 instead of, you know, going to the hotel.

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A1 You know, it's getting those folks involved in the
17 community, showing them that they have (indiscernible)
18 that the neighbors care. You know, I think that there's
19 -- there used to be kind of a nimby [sic] sort of
20 attitude in Fairview and it was very clear that that was
21 how we were (indiscernible) and I think that that is
22 eroding, I think that, you know, we have representatives
23 of -- we have representative of Collick [sic] Manor on
24 our executive board and community council right now. I
25 mean, it's -- and regular routine communications with

1 Catholic Social Services, it's -- you know, we've
2 accepted that that is -- that these are our neighbors
3 whether we like it or not.

4 And so it's -- you know, it's better to work with
5 them than -- and you know, that's -- I think that is --
6 that's another big shift in the neighborhood recently
7 than I think -- I think we'll have benefits, I think the
8 -- when folks look at us as collaborative players as
9 opposed to, you know, nimby [sic] obstruction, that's --
10 then you know, we end up with better results.

11 A You know, I think ultimately, the solution is problems
12 -- it's outside of Fairview, it's a broader -- it's an
13 Alaska problem, it's creation of these early troubled
14 individuals and villages, and you know, and families
15 like -- and then they show up on the -- in Fairview and,
16 in many cases, there's not much that can be done with
17 it. I've got kind of a pessimistic view. I mean, I
18 think what we really mean would be, you know, more
19 Karluk Manors, but you know, spread more around the city
20 and.....

21 A1 And the sleep off centers there and the jail's there, so
22 if you do anything bad anywhere in the municipality, and
23 for that matter, anywhere in the State, there's a good
24 chance you'll end up in Fairview. And you'll get a one-
25 way ticket to Anchorage (indiscernible).

1 And you know, if you get drunk anywhere in the
2 city, anywhere in the municipality, you get a one way
3 ticket to Fairview at the sleep off center. They don't
4 take you out of Fairview, they take you into it.

5 And you know, and so that's -- so we're also -- I
6 mean, Fairview has a neighborhood of providing a service
7 to the rest of the municipality in the sense that we're
8 the home for all these things that every other
9 neighborhood doesn't want to have.

10 A Yeah, and then we get blamed.

11 A1 And then we get blamed.

12 A It's like -- it's just natural that it should be in
13 Fairview.

14 A1 Right.

15 A Fairview's so, you know, fucked up. Yeah.

16 A1 Yeah. But I mean, still -- so I think so then -- I
17 mean, so put a more positive spin on this is that, you
18 know, is that we have the first neighborhood driven,
19 community driven neighborhood plan that's just been
20 passed by our planning and zoning. I mean, south
21 Anchorage can pull that off, south addition hasn't
22 pulled that off, Rogers Park hasn't pulled that off.

23 You know, with all the PhDs around the hillside,
24 they haven't pulled that off. You know, we just
25 delivered our neighborhood plans that pass planning and

1 zoning unanimously. And so -- I mean, so we really are
2 at a tipping point right now and we've cast a vision
3 that everybody has agreed is an appropriate vision of
4 where this neighborhood can go and there's a ton of
5 energy behind it.

6 And you know, largely due to the leadership of
7 Sharon and SJ and Chris, you know, we're -- if -- and
8 then many others. Allan was the driving force behind
9 this for decades.

10 A Yeah.

11 A1 There's, you know, this is where -- we really are at a
12 tipping point where, you know, if we're going to make a
13 substantial the first -- the first thing we need to do
14 is agree on what that change needs to be and we've just
15 done that.

16 And so, you know, we're kind of at the execution
17 stage, and so we can start picking off chunks of this
18 plan and say hey, you know what, we're going to direct a
19 ton of attention to Gambell Street in re-development.
20 Or we're going to look at, you know, healthy
21 neighborhoods or we're going to look at, you know, the
22 look of Fairview from the outside.

23 A Uh-huh.

24 A1 You know, we can start doing that bit by bit by bit, and
25 you know, this is how change occurs. And so we're at a

1 really cool time in the neighborhood, I think. And you
2 know, I'm motivated by impact, I'm motivated by change,
3 and you know, I couldn't have this level of involvement
4 or impact in any other neighborhood. I don't think I
5 could. Maybe I could, I don't know.

6 A Oh, and I think that's -- for me, when I was talking
7 about how I moved to Fairview and by landlord, at the
8 time, was involved in a community council and said well,
9 you really should go to the community council and I kind
10 of thought he required it of his tenants the way he
11 worded it and I'm a very rule abiding person, so I went
12 to a community council meeting, through it was really,
13 really interesting. I came back a couple more times and
14 so in March, after I'd been in the neighborhood just a
15 few months, I went away to a conference, unfortunately,
16 at the same time as the elections of the community
17 council. I came back and found out I had been elected
18 secretary although I didn't really want to be.

19 And so since then, I've been an officer, whether
20 Secretary, Vice President, President, Treasurer now. I
21 have to absolutely agree with Harry, like it's -- you
22 can have a huge amount of impact and it's tremendous to
23 me. Like you've probably heard our kind of slogan is
24 Fairview: Where People Make The Difference. But it
25 really is -- for me, been a very gratifying experience

1 to work with a whole variety of people with a variety of
2 skill sets, like you know, Harry's -- we're here, he's
3 got an MPA, so he's got a particular skill set. SJ,
4 small business experience. Christopher, he seems to
5 know a lot about everything. I mean, he's like -- you
6 know, we've got people like Dan whose like a doer. So
7 he gets out and does stuff, people like Regina
8 (indiscernible) she has her own special power I guess,
9 so -- I don't want to (indiscernible) at all, I mean, I
10 like Regina, she just seems a little -- but.....

11 A1 You can end with that.

12 A Yeah, but -- no, so it's been really great. Actually
13 Jessie's wife, Karen is a graphic artist, she's the
14 (indiscernible) for us with the block parties, so it's
15 great to see all of these people contributing their best
16 skills collectively and doing it all for free, just for
17 the -- and not even directly. Like when I do things,
18 it's not really for the better of the neighborhood
19 directly, it's because I enjoy it and I like being
20 around people.

21 A1 Yeah.

22 A And making these connections, these friendships, so it's
23 really, really good.

24 (Loud noise in the background)

25 A What other questions do you have?

1 Q Kind of jumping off of what you both were just talking
2 about, what do you think it is about Fairview that makes
3 it more easy to get involved and get stuff done, then in
4 some of the other neighborhoods throughout town?

5 A Well, I think we've particularly seen this happen at our
6 community council the past couple years and this is what
7 other people like, you know, Dennis McMillan of the
8 (indiscernible) he's talked about this sort of
9 generational shift that's happening now and we've seen
10 this happen at Girby (ph) and we had the people who --
11 well, the people like Darrel Claris (ph), Allan to some
12 extent who are, you know, in their 60s and older who
13 were where we were 30 years ago, 20 years ago that
14 really doing a lot of great work in the council and I
15 think it wasn't until they kind of stepped aside and
16 sometimes unwillingly and feeling kind of unhappy about
17 it.

18 But that -- I mean, you have to let the newer
19 generation, who may have more energy or whatnot, get
20 involved. But I think, you know, Fairview fairly has a
21 number of demographic things going for it. Like we have
22 -- we have a lot of gay people, okay? How does this
23 relate to the community council folks who generally have
24 more money? I think there's something to be said about
25 not raising children in terms of the ability to be

1 involved in community activities, at least for that
2 type. When I had kids at home, there's no way that I
3 could do stuff. If Harry had kids, I mean, you know,
4 when you're.....

5 A1 Generational shifting.

6 A(indiscernible) people have -- who have
7 professional jobs, then if you have kids at home -- so I
8 think the fact that we have a lot of single people and
9 people who don't have kids, I think that makes a big
10 difference.

11 Whereas, in a community that's more like -- you
12 know, it's families. Who do you have involved in the
13 community activities in those places, people with kids
14 have left the house or retired, so you have these like
15 seven-year-olds who are running the joint and they don't
16 want to let any of the new people in.

17 We didn't -- but that has not been an issue in
18 Fairview other than the generational shift.

19 A1 But you know, adding to that, I haven't thought about
20 that all, but adding to that, I think that everybody
21 likes an underdog, right?

22 A Yeah.

23 A1 I mean, so it's like you kind of feel like you're going
24 to have impact, you know, it's going to be a good story.
25 Anything that folks want to do, I mean, there's a way to

1 plug in anybody in our neighborhood.

2 A Yeah.

3 A1 But then also, I think that people like to join a
4 winning team too and they're seeing like, you know,
5 we're an underdog who is starting to grow momentum,
6 we're starting to check off a few wins at a time and
7 we're growing. We have a reputation of a council that
8 are doers and not talkers.

9 And so, from my perspective, you know, I feel like
10 it's a welcoming environment that somebody could walk in
11 with an idea of -- it could be totally crazy, but you
12 know, if they want to accomplish that in our
13 neighborhood, then you know, there's folks and resources
14 available for them to be able to do that

15 Q Uh-huh..

16 A1 And I -- you know, I think that that -- it's accessible
17 in that sense also, so but I think those are some other
18 contributing factors.

19 The generational shift, I think, is notable in that
20 there's a group of, you know, millennials and younger,
21 they want to join a movement, right? They want to, you
22 know, get together with people and see something
23 accomplished and that's happening. And so I think that,
24 you know, we're attractive in that sense.

25 A Uh-huh. Yeah. And I think Fairview also has

1 significant meaningful issues to be addressed. Other
2 parts of the city, they just don't have those. They
3 don't have the social issues, not just -- at least
4 overtly, as overtly as we do in Fairview. They may not
5 have the major infrastructure of concerns, like hey, we
6 want to build an eight-lane freeway through the middle
7 of your community and well, we're going to do it maybe
8 or maybe not.

9 A1 Yeah.

10 A But we're not going to make any decisions.

11 A1 In 35 years, we'll know.

12 A Yeah. You know, there's Gambell and Ingra corridor, I
13 mean, when that was, you know, a concerted decision was
14 made in the 60s to build the abyss couplet with the
15 understanding or at least the belief that Fairview was
16 screwed up anyway, so you know, it doesn't matter if we
17 screw it up more by putting this in there.

18 I mean, that was a very conscious decision to do
19 that and to, you know, maybe spare the better off
20 people, the south addition. I mean, you know, when you
21 look at.....

22 A1 Yeah, when A and C and Cordova.....

23 A Yeah.

24 A1would be much more reasonable places to put those
25 streets.

1 A Sure.

2 A1 Because they went right to our neighborhood.

3 A Yeah, exactly.

4 A1 Yeah.

5 A I know, I mean, when you look at like urban development
6 around the country, where do these major infrastructure
7 things, these transportation facilities, they're
8 generally in lower income neighborhoods that lack the
9 political power to provide.

10 A1 Right, plus it's cheaper for them to condemn.....

11 A Yeah.

12 A1the land.

13 A Yeah. Yeah, so I think what we're seeing in Fairview,
14 and Harry was exactly right, is we've always had this
15 small amount of social capital and political capital in
16 the community council. And I think when people get
17 involved and they see that, you know, I can use these
18 other resources of my neighbors to help me do things,
19 it's really, really powerful and particularly if it's
20 something that will have a big impact.

21 And I mean, I've been feeling, you know, extremely
22 empowered since being involved in community council,
23 it's -- I came from Newark, I went to graduate school in
24 Newark, New Jersey for eight years. That was a city of
25 the same population as Anchorage, but you can never talk

1 to the Mayor, the police chief, they walked around with
2 body guards, you know? You need to make appointments
3 with gatekeepers to see that, but -- so this is what
4 astonished me here in Anchorage is how accessible all of
5 these public people are and how willing they are,
6 generally, to work with community members are willing to
7 contribute themselves. And I've said this before, and
8 not just bring a problem and expect others to solve it
9 for them.

10 Q I do have one question I'm curious about. Do you have
11 any sort of urban legends or urban myths associated with
12 Fairview or maybe with like some -- like landmarks in
13 Fairview, physical places?

14 A1 You know, I think that -- I mean, there's -- yeah, so
15 there's like the Gambell Carrs, right? I've had
16 people.....

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 A1tell me oh my God, just don't ever go to the
19 Gambell Carrs. That's -- I've never had a problem
20 there. I mean, there might be somebody drunk outside,
21 but you know, whatever. You know, it's -- I think that,
22 if you go in, it's just like any other city. I mean, if
23 you walk around looking like a (indiscernible) chances
24 are you're going to become a victim, but you know, if
25 you walked in and head held high, acknowledge people

1 that are around you, I think that's -- it's -- I've
2 never had an issue there. It's my local liquor store, I
3 go there for my six-packs every Friday.

4 And so, you know, it's -- I think that, you know,
5 the ghetto Carrs, right? You know, you've heard that?
6 I used to call it the people's Carrs because there's a
7 lot of activity. It occurred to me like it was like
8 shopping in like communist Russia or something. Like
9 rows of vodka.

10 Q Is that the only likening?

11 A1 And so it's fine. And you know, like there's some
12 blight on those -- on the corners there, but I've never
13 had an issue with that. The other place is the
14 Crossroads, I know people are like deadly afraid to go
15 to that bar, that's right next to the Gambell Carrs.
16 That's like one of the nicest bars in town.

17 A Yeah.

18 A1 It's an all female wait staff that like totally takes
19 care of their patrons and.....

20 A And it takes free soup and hot dogs and....

21 A1kicks out anybody -- free soup and hot dogs. It's
22 like -- I mean, it's like in a friendly environment.
23 It's like you walk in an everybody's like Norm, you
24 know? And so it's like -- it's a great little bar. You
25 know, but it looks -- people are just like -- have this

1 brand of Fairview like it's dangerous and it's seedy and
2 I mean, somehow, that brand.....

3 A Yeah.

4 A1like infiltrates their evaluation of every other
5 establishment in that area.

6 A Uh-huh.

7 A1 But that's not accurate at all.

8 A Yeah. (Indiscernible) cards, I have to confess, I -- I
9 started shopping more and more at the Fred Meyers just
10 because they have more stuff there, but every time I go,
11 I feel guilty because I do believe in supporting local
12 businesses and I do like the store, I mean, I like the
13 fact that they've got the same people working there for
14 years and years.

15 A1 Yeah.

16 A I love the little guy whose a fruit and vegetable guy,
17 Rolando, because he.....

18 A1 The Guatemalan?

19 A Yeah, yeah, because he'll often come up, and you know,
20 he'll cut you.....

21 A1 He's good, I didn't know his name.

22 Aa fruit and give you a piece, you know? And he
23 always says hello and the store -- I just notice they
24 did some great landscaping, I was pretty impressed.

25 A1 Very good.

1 A Yeah, it looks nice. But they -- I mean, that's -- but
2 it is a place to where when you go, you're going to see
3 people who are, you know, down and out in life and that
4 can be -- and you're not used to that.

5 I went to the Fred Meyer, I think, down in south
6 Anchorage, I had a meeting and I had a break in between.
7 I went and I was like oh, I feel like I'm on vacation.
8 I mean, because everything was so brightly lit, it was
9 fancy, I was like okay, this is what it's like to be a
10 rich person going shopping, which I don't feel like when
11 I go to the Carrs Gambell.

12 A1 Yeah.

13 A But what it does is that it functions as like a third
14 place. You know, this concept of third place where
15 you've got your home, your work and then there's a place
16 where you go out and you meet people. Like it may be a
17 coffee shop, which Fairview does not really have, right?
18 But.....

19 A1 Yeah.

20 Ayou know, just about every time I go to Carrs
21 Gambell, I'm going to meet somebody. So last night, I
22 saw Harry Duber (ph), we had a little chat. I run into
23 a whole bunch of people there and that's what I like
24 about it. It's a really powerful way of, you know,
25 reenforcing those social ties that people have. So I do

1 hope that, when they renovate, if they ever renovate,
2 maybe have a little coffee shop, but I'm not -- I'm
3 doubtful that they will ever do that because.....

4 A1 (Indiscernible).

5 Athey'll have to keep managing it and pushing the
6 inebrates out unfortunately.

7 Q Uh-huh. Well, renovation they did for the Fred Meyer on
8 Northern Lights.....

9 A Yeah.

10 Qthey put that whole coffee shop on the second
11 floor.

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q That was something incredible, it makes sad I moved out
14 of Spenard.

15 A Oh, yeah. Yeah, and Spenard's another interesting
16 neighborhood. I'm kind of jealous of Spenard because
17 I.....

18 Q Everyone's jealous of Spenard.

19 A Spenard has -- you know, Fairview.....

20 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

21 Ais really lacking in terms -- yeah.
22 ((Crosstalk))

23 A But I love Spenard because it's got all these little
24 restaurants and little shops, yeah. I'm like how come
25 Fairview can't have this? Why can't we have little

1 cafes, why can't we -- you know.....

2 A1 Because there's uncertainty in Fairview.

3 A Yeah.

4 A1 There's certainty -- I mean, the plan for Spenard, or at
5 least the transportation plans for Spenard.....

6 A Uh-huh.

7 A1I think is more secure. I think.....

8 A Yeah, nobody thinks they're going to put a freeway
9 through there, exactly.

10 A1 Yeah. (Indiscernible - voice lowered).

11 A I don't know, I mean, I can't really think of any.
12 Yeah. (Indiscernible) but we like to say in Fairview
13 that we have stable (indiscernible), which -- but this
14 is an important thing because a lot of houses in
15 Fairview survived the earthquake.

16 A1 Yeah.

17 A With minimal damage and.....

18 A1 Yeah.

19 Aso it's funny that the land that is the least
20 values, in fact, the best lands seismically.

21 A1 Right, although the biggest, most rich houses are
22 (indiscernible).

23 A Yeah, they'll just be liquified, slide into the -- yeah.
24 I don't know, I mean, that's obviously some old
25 structures. I guess I could talk about Clara Siren's

1 (ph) house, it's not a myth per se, but so you know,
2 when she -- this is the house on 13th and Karluk, it's
3 an old log house. She's lived in there her whole life,
4 not her whole life, but since she moved up here. She
5 raised a family of like five kids or something in there.
6 Her husband and brother and his brother, when they moved
7 up to Anchorage and she was a new bride, you know, the
8 husband. They apparently hauled in logs from like
9 Palmer or Wasilla and built this log home. I mean, it's
10 great and so I always show people. Whenever I have
11 visitors, we go by this, I say this house was built by
12 people who hauled in logs, and you know, the same lady's
13 lived in the house for years and she maintains it. Like
14 she's like in her 80s, she still gets out and gardens.

15 We did a planting project a few years ago on the
16 corner of 13th and Ingra. There's a kind of rundown log
17 cabin there, but we were doing planting of shrubs and
18 bushes on both sides -- of the west side of the street
19 at both corners. And I mean, so she weighs like, I
20 don't know, 80 pounds soaking wet, really tiny woman,
21 but she was digging those holes, those tree holes and I
22 couldn't keep up with her. I was like man, I'm like 35,
23 she's twice my age, she's kicking my butt, you know?
24 Yeah, no, she's great.

25 You know, and there are a lot of other people like

1 that who have lived in the neighborhood for years and
2 years who are kind of stabilizing and I think there's
3 concern of -- I feel what's going to happen when those
4 old time people -- they've already started dying off,
5 and you know, like Grady Ward, a great community leader
6 and he died a few years ago and Vince Casey. I don't
7 know if he's dead yet, but he's close to that, he's half
8 blind now. I don't know, (indiscernible) eventually
9 and.....

10 A1 And Eldridge, the blind guy that does the kids.....

11 A Oh Elgin.

12 A1 Elgin, okay.

13 A Elgin Jones, yeah. Yeah.

14 A1 Yeah.

15 A I mean, I'm sure there's another generation waiting to
16 come behind them, but I don't know. I haven't really
17 seen them come up yet, so yeah, it's not like there's a
18 bunch of 60 year olds waiting in the wing to serve as
19 the elders of the community. We'll become elders
20 eventually, Harry, we'll be the elders of Nelchina
21 Street.

22 A1 Yeah. We (indiscernible) the kids to (indiscernible).

23 A Yeah. I don't know, I mean, I don't think there are any
24 ghost stories, I've never heard anything like that.

25 A1 Yeah, I'm not aware of any. That's -- so that's the

1 really good thing about Fairview, we don't have ghosts.
2 A Thanks goodness for that.
3 A1 Thanks goodness for that.
4 A But I think some of the people that have lived her a lot
5 longer would maybe know, but I've never heard them.
6 Q I don't think we've got a single ghost story out of
7 Fairview except from Dennis.
8 Q1 We did.....
9 Q Yeah.
10 Q1actually. From (indiscernible).
11 A Okay. They've been here forever.
12 A1 Yeah, they're over by the cemetery though, that's.....
13 Q1 Yeah. It was one that they weren't really buying into
14 though.
15 Q We get the ghost stories from people on the east side a
16 lot.
17 Q1 Yep.
18 Q And then we get the stories about the brothels from
19 everyone in Spenard.
20 A Uh-huh.
21 Q And then Fairview's the story about the homeless people.
22 Q1 And the crack houses.
23 Q And the crack houses, yeah. There's a pattern.
24 A Yeah. Well, I think one thing I think about was there,
25 you know, when my brother visited. I took him on -- I

1 drove him around the neighborhood, and at the end of it,
2 he said this is like the death tour. I said what you do
3 mean, because everywhere we went, I said, so this is
4 where this lady augured her plane into the ground and
5 died here and then this is where this lady got stabbed
6 by her husband and she bled out here and then this is
7 where this lady ran her car into a telephone pole and
8 died and so I kind of knew where all the people had died
9 in the neighborhood. And he thought -- he said this is
10 the weirdest tour I've ever had.

11 Q What lady flew her plane into the ground, that sounds
12 interesting, how'd that happen?

13 A Oh, this was years ago, but she probably -- I --
14 probably (indiscernible) she probably was taking off and
15 stalled the plane out and then crashed it.

16 A1 Was that the one right over by the car lot or was that a
17 different one?

18 A No, that's a new one.

19 A1 That's a new one?

20 A Yeah, this one happened maybe 15 years ago, this was
21 maybe like on.....

22 A1 (Indiscernible) worried about planes crashing into the
23 neighborhood.

24 A Yeah.

25 A1 Because we got that.

1 A I think it was like around Juneau and 11th or something
2 like that. But yeah, no, that is, we've had several
3 plane crashes, some of them fatal. I live -- I probably
4 don't have to worry so much where I live at 9th and
5 Nelchina, but it's -- it could happen. A plane could --
6 they try to leave the pattern early and then they don't
7 have enough power, they -- it could happen. But I don't
8 think about it too much.

9 A1 The other thing about getting a plane and then I could
10 have walking access to (indiscernible) and then I could
11 advertise my house as having (indiscernible).

12 A Yeah.

13 A1 It's like oh, perfect, a pilot's dream, you know? It's
14 like walk to....

15 A Yeah.

16 A1the airstrip.

17 A It's true, you could get in at the end of
18 (indiscernible).

19 A1 Or on Orca.

20 A Yep.

21 A1 Pilot's dream and walk to the airstrip.

22 A Yep.

23 A1 Walk to your plane every morning. Live in Fairview
24 instead of Lake Hood or whatever.

25 A Yeah. Yeah, I mean, I think -- I like having Merrill

1 Field, although there are times when the noise is a
2 little bit troublesome, but on the whole, I personally
3 think it's an asset. I know there are people like Allan
4 Kempfen (ph) who don't think that so much, but I think
5 it makes Fairview interesting.

6 A1 Exactly. (Indiscernible) pilots.

7 A Oh yeah. Yes.

8 A1 (Indiscernible).

9 A Those give you a different perspective for sure. Yeah.

10 Q Do you fly a lot out of Merrill Field?

11 A No, it's where I would -- that's the only place I've
12 flown out of, but I don't have easy access to a plane,
13 so I don't fly that much. It's expensive. It's like
14 \$160, \$170 an hour to fly, so you kind of have to --
15 it's a rich man's hobby.

16 A1 We should buy a plane.

17 A Oh, we should.

18 A1 Let's do it.

19 A Yeah, okay. We got one of those (indiscernible)
20 ownerships.

21 A1 Yeah.

22 Q (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech). Where would you
23 guys fly if you had a plane?

24 A Geez, I don't know, I mean, there's so many places.
25 Yeah, what I would love to do is fly to Nova Scotia. I

1 would love to, yeah.

2 A1 Not in my plane.

3 A No, one thing I've always wanted to do is they've got
4 this group of female aviators, I think they're called
5 the 99s or something like that and every year, they have
6 like a -- I think it's called a rally where they have
7 multiple legs, and so like every day, you fly from this
8 point to this point and it goes on for like two weeks
9 and it can only be women pilots, co-pilots. And I
10 thought wow, that would be really awesome to do that,
11 you know? But it's in the lower 48, so you'd have to
12 get your plane down there. I mean, I'm a fairly new
13 pilot, I don't have a lot of hours and I would be -- for
14 me, I'm reluctant to fly out of areas that I'm familiar
15 with or areas that are kind of built up, so -- because
16 if you crash in the woods, you know, you're going to
17 die. You just have to accept that. They'll find you,
18 you'll be eaten by wolves and -- I mean, even if you had
19 a good landing, it's.....

20 A1 (Indiscernible).

21 A Yeah, a tree (indiscernible). A tree plant -- yeah,
22 it's -- or you crash in the water and they never find
23 you. It's -- Alaska's dangerous, you know?

24 Q You're really selling this whole hobby of flying.

25 A Well, I mean, it is danger -- there is a danger to it,

1 you have to be aware of it, and for me, that's one of
2 the reasons I don't fly (indiscernible) I think about
3 it, I get anxious and I think, you know, this could be
4 -- well, I'm fairly good pilot I think, I don't take
5 chances, but not taking chances kind of limits you here
6 because of weather or where you're going to fly, do you
7 want to fly to McCarthy where there's a huge area of in
8 between there where nothing is. You could just be
9 swallowed up by the wilderness. But I always take a
10 survival kit with me on the plane. Maybe I should get a
11 SAT phone too, that would probably help me. I'd feel
12 better.

13 A1 (Indiscernible).

14 A Yeah. But yeah, we should get a plane, Harry.

15 A1 Yeah, let's build something.

16 A Yeah.

17 A1 (Indiscernible - voice lowered) but I don't know, I just
18 want to fly somewhere where I can go fishing.....

19 A Yeah.

20 A1 and not have to be beating off the cods. I want to
21 fly -- this is the dream, fly somewhere, land on the
22 side of a river, put the tent up under the wing.....

23 A Uh-huh.

24 A1 go fishing, put my fish in a cooler, load up the
25 plane, fly out.

1 A Yeah.

2 A1 That's the dream.

3 A Yeah that would be fun.

4 A1 Okay. (Indiscernible). I'm working on my Associates
5 Degree in professional piloting.

6 A Are you really?

7 A1 Yeah.

8 A Oh, right on.

9 A1 That's my next goal.

10 A You and Mark Fitch.

11 A1 Oh really?

12 A Yeah.

13 A1 Cool. Well, do you gave a taste if the neighborhood?

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 A1 More or less?

16 Q We've seen the sights a little bit.

17 A1 Yeah? You've driven around?

18 Q Yeah. A lot.

19 A1 Yeah.

20 Q We got lost a couple times.

21 A1 Driven to the rec center?

22 Q Not yet.

23 Q1 We haven't been in it, no.

24 A1 You should go in the rec center sometime, because I
25 would be willing to wager that our rec center has more

1 use than any other rec center in the municipality.

2 I.....

3 Q More than the Mountain View one?

4 A1 I -- I -- I don't know, maybe. I -- you know, I just
5 feel like it's always teeming with activity and that,
6 you know, it's a walking neighborhood and it's square in
7 the middle, it's right where it ought to be, especially
8 in the summer. There's all sorts of camps and kids
9 and.....

10 A Uh-huh.

11 A1you know, it just kind of feels like -- you know,
12 it feels like the right sort of -- it feels like a
13 recreation center, it feels like a neighborhood.

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 A1 And when's the block party, it's July.....

16 A July 26th.

17 A126th.

18 Q1 Could you describe the block party because nobody --
19 everybody's talked about it, but like what kind of
20 things happen?

21 A Oh, well, historically, the block party used to be over
22 at Fairview Lions Park. It was free hot dogs, it was a
23 DJ, it was maybe a clown, it was a small affair,
24 everything was free, so we got, you know, lots of people
25 with, you know, a bunch of kids who up. We got -- one

1 of the big problems over there was the homeless people
2 would show up and they would basically demand free food
3 to leave. It wasn't like here's your hot dog, it was
4 like no, I want to fill up my backpack with chips and
5 pop or else we're all going to sit here and take up all
6 the tables, you know?

7 So that was a bit of a problem, so like I guess
8 four or five years ago when Christopher got involved in
9 the council, he had this vision for a very different
10 type of block party. And so then we moved from having
11 that smaller affair to this much larger one, which is --
12 covers a whole city block by the rec -- or in front of
13 the elementary school. It's got live musical acts, it's
14 got a whole bunch of booths of various kinds. One thing
15 we did away with was the free food, except for kids, but
16 they have to get a little ticket or something.

17 So -- oh, and the other thing we do, we added a
18 beer garden and that was quite controversial because we
19 have -- they've kind of stopped coming to the council,
20 but there were a few people who were very Christian and
21 I don't know if that's part of it, but -- and tee
22 totalers [sic]. Not just tea totaller, but like anti
23 alcohol, alcohol's the devil, hypothetical. And they were
24 very resistant and some of them just -- they were so
25 unhappy with that decision, they just left the council.

1 Yeah, like Bonita, she left.

2 But I think it's been a tremendous success
3 actually. I was kind of reluctant to have the change
4 because I'd sort of been coordinating the whole block
5 party for years and then this upstart comes in and says
6 oh, (indiscernible) vision. I'm like screw you, buddy.
7 But so much better. I think one of the things that I've
8 learned and I think largely working with council is, you
9 know, to not be such a control freak, to let others take
10 charge, to have a more collaborative style of
11 leadership.

12 I think one thing that characterizes our council,
13 which is really fabulous, is in the past, that there
14 were past Presidents and I was maybe one of them. We
15 kind of want to do everything themselves and
16 (indiscernible) everyone else. And I think now, that
17 leadership style has changed, it's really positive.
18 Yeah, so it's a much better event. We draw in a lot
19 more people, so it's not just like a picnic for the
20 downtrodden, come and get your free food. I mean, it's
21 a -- you know it does attract a different demographic
22 and some people have criticized that.

23 Like I say, when I go to the block party, I don't
24 see the face of Fairview, what I see is the face of
25 hipsters from Spenard and south addition and stuff. And

1 that's one vision for the future of the neighborhood is
2 to bring more yuppies, millennials in and people like
3 Harry who buy these houses, and you know? I'm not
4 technically millennial, but I'm sort of around the cusp
5 of it, generation Y, X or whatever.

6 A1 Yeah, I'm X.

7 A X, yeah.

8 A1 (Indiscernible).

9 A Yeah.

10 Q It was 1980 that (indiscernible)?

11 A1 Yeah.

12 Q Yeah.

13 A1 (Indiscernible - voice lowered).

14 A Yeah. We got -- but you know, so the council was
15 actually -- or the block party's become a money maker
16 now with council. One thing Christopher is excellent at
17 is raising money. I mean, he's just great. He's got a
18 lot of skills and I think that's one of his best ones so
19 with that extra money, we were able to get, you know,
20 musical groups in, like good names who really entertain
21 and like -- like one person we've had for the past few
22 years is Allison Working (ph), so I don't know, do you
23 know her? An Inupiat story teller person. She
24 entertains the kids, and I mean, she's for the -- I
25 think it's important for our neighborhood to not just

1 have white entertainers. We want all the kids to see
2 that hey, here's someone who looks like me whose doing
3 this great thing and it kind of gives them a vision for
4 themselves.

5 A1 They pass out the awards at that, you know, it's -- I
6 think is an important opportunity to acknowledge people
7 of contributing in the neighborhood and (indiscernible)
8 say thank you.

9 A Yeah.

10 A1 You know, I think that's a critical part of -- the
11 function of that is to publicly recognize all the
12 efforts that have been put in over the year and then
13 also take the opportunity just to kick back and -- so we
14 block off the street over right by the elementary school
15 there, I suppose over in the park, we (indiscernible)
16 put a big stage and one on the street. You know,
17 (indiscernible - voice lowered) and it's a good time.

18 A Yeah. Sell beer, sell tee-shirts, so.

19 A1 Coming now?

20 Q Yeah.

21 A 2:00 to 7:00.

22 Q Thank you so much for your time.

23 A Yeah.

24 (Off tape)

25