

**Oral History Interview of
Juan Chadis**

**Interviewed by: Daniel Sanchez
November 20, 2017
Lubbock, Texas**

**Part of the:
*Hispanic Oral History Project***

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The Hispanic Oral History Project documents the diverse perspectives of the Hispanic people of Lubbock and the South Plains. These interviews and accompanying manuscript materials cover a myriad of topics including; early Lubbock, discrimination, politics, education, music, art, cultural celebrations, the May 11th 1970 tornado, commerce, and sport.

Transcript Overview:

This interview features Juan Chadis as he discusses his childhood growing up in Lubbock, and his appointment as a city councilman after his return to Lubbock.

Length of Interview: 00:45:42

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Keywords

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Daniel Sanchez (DS):

My name is Daniel Urbina Sanchez. Today's date is November 20, 2017. I'm at Lubbock City Hall interviewing Juan A. Chadis. Juan, first of all, thank you for letting me sit down and interview you today.

Juan Chadis (JC):

Thank you, Daniel. I'm honored that you would even make the reach out to me, a little—humble little Mexican boy from the *barrio* [neighborhood].

DS:

Yeah, a little bit more than that today, right? But you just know your beginnings. Speaking of which, state your date of birth please.

JC:

That would be March 27, 1949. And born here in Lubbock, actually born on the property that I currently live on.

DS:

And I just read your card for the name but could you state your complete legal name for the record.

JC:

Juan Alfonso Chadis. The A is for Alfonso, named after my uncle.

DS:

Okay. You're kind of leading in the next direction: state your parent's names and where they were born.

JC:

My father is Marcelino Chadis. He was born in Taylor, which is east Texas. My mother is—was Eva Hurtado. She was born here in Lubbock. Again, the Hurtado property dates back to 1920 in the *barrio* Guadalupe. The house—not the house because it got blown away by the tornado—I believe this is the third home built on this property. I was fortunate enough when we were retiring, the property came up for sale. We purchased it. This property has been in the family, like I said, since 1920, and in the family. So, when we heard that it was going up for sale, the wife and I decided to purchase the property and make it our retirement home and return back to Lubbock right after retirement; we came back home.

DS:

And you mentioned that was the house your dad had bought—I mean, your grandfather had bought?

JC:

My grandfather bought—early 1920s. One of the first *Mexicanos* [Mexicans] to own property. I believe it was either the Hurtado's or the Flores' were some of the first people to own property in Guadalupe.

DS:

Did they ever share any stories about what it was like back then?

JC:

It was tough. My grandfather, they called him *Chiveros*. He would shear the sheep and sell the wool to make a living. It was some rough times. There were no social programs back then. You worked to feed the family and you worked at whatever job you could find. Those were the words my grandfather said. At one time he was working the pipeline back in Midland, Snyder, New Mexico. Wherever the work went, they followed the work. He would tell me stories that whenever they worked—of course, they're moving from one job site to the other. "It's time to stop at a restaurant to go eat." They couldn't go in through the front door. They had to go eat in the kitchen or they would serve them their plates or whatever they could put the food in then they would have to go eat it outside. They weren't permitted to go sit with people out in the front. So, it was some hard times.

DS:

You said—you mentioned you grew up there in the *barrio* but it was called—what was it called?

JC:

Back before it annexed—which was—and I apologize, I don't know what year it was annexed—but my stories from grandpa was it was called Monterrey then it was annexed into Lubbock. What year, I—again, I apologize. I don't know what year it happened but I remember my childhood playing the caliche streets, playing baseball with my cousins. It was just innocence. We all dressed alike. It was a poor neighborhood. We were poor people but you don't know how poor you are because everybody dresses the same, we all attend the same schools. You're within your little click so we all looked the same. Grew up speaking Spanish. I remember having to go to school and not understanding one word that they were talking about. So, it was—[clears throat] excuse me. I've got a story. I always called it my innocence robbed story. My cousin Joe and my cousin—and I say cousins because I'm a—I don't have any siblings. I grew up by myself, no brothers or sisters—and we'd go to church on a Sunday and then we would go to the movies. You know, go to church, eat lunch, walk to the movies. So, we're walking from the

barrio, my cousins and I, and we're walking down the railroad track because that's just what we would do. And we decided we'd stop at this drug store and the drug store had a soda bar in the back. So, my cousins and I sat at the soda bar and we're swiveling back and forth on the little—the benches that they had, their little swivel seats that they had. And the guy dressed in all white, the soda—the guy who worked as a soda jerk—I think that's what they were called back then—he was working back and forth and he looked at us and he's just kind of like ignoring us. He kept walking back and forth and we kept looking at each other. We didn't know what was going on. I'd say, "Well, he's busy. He'll get to us in a bit." Finally he'd walked over to us and said, "What do you boys want?" I said, "I want a Coke." He looked at all three of us and said, "We don't serve Mexicans here. You need to leave." I looked at my cousins—they were two, three years older than I am—and my cousins said, "*Vamos* [let's go]." I said, "What?" "*Vamos*." So we walked out. We're standing in front of the window at the drug store and I asked him, "What's a Mexican?" He said, "What?" I said, "What's a Mexican?" He said, "You are, *pendejo* [idiot]." I said, "What?" He said, "You're a Mexican." I said, "I don't want to be a Mexican." He said, "Why not?" I said, "Because then I can't drink a Coke." So that's my innocence robbed story. I never knew I was a Mexican. I forgot to say, we were pre-teens. I'd say eight, nine, ten years old. And again, like I said, you grow up with a bunch of *Mexicanos*, *Chicanos* in the neighborhood. You don't think about people calling you derogatory names but that was my first initiation, I guess, of, "You're a Mexican." And again, I didn't know whether to feel bad, feel embarrassed or what. I'm young. I'm innocent. So, I said, "Well"—so we went onto the movies, didn't even think about it. But that story never went away. When I was elected to city council, the first thing that came to mind was, I wish I could find this man that called me a Mexican so I could go knock on his door and say, "Hey, remember the little boy that you ran out of the drug store fifty years ago? Look at me now. Look at the little Mexican boy you ran away. He's your City Councilman now." I just wish I—he's probably long and gone. But those are the stories you don't forget or you're not supposed to forget because it molds—that molded me into what I am today. Bitter, no. Did I forgive him? I forgave him, but I didn't forget. To me, again, that's very crucial. You don't forget where you were, where you are, and every step in between because, again, that's who—that's what sculpted—that's what made me who I am today. It built that character, so I'm very proud of it; hurt but proud.

DS:

During that time you mentioned eight to ten years old. What school system were you in? You were in the Lubbock school system but what school?

JC:

I went to Guadalupe Elementary, the original Guadalupe Elementary, which was on Avenue N. Went to—I'm sorry, went to Sanders Elementary. The building still sits there behind Flying J, I think it is. It's still back there. Went there. From there, we went to Jackson Elementary. Went to Thompson. Went to Lubbock High. Went to Texas Tech and I—regretfully I didn't graduate

from Tech. I always want to make that clear. I take credit. I wish I had graduated. I wish—didn't. Family life got in the way. Had to support a wife and a son—and no regrets other than not having graduated. But life has been real good. The wife and I have been very blessed. We've held on some really good jobs along the way. I give credit to a lot of people that paved the road for us to get to where we were. For example, my TV career.

DS:

I was going to ask about that.

JC:

I was in TV, I think, just a few months before Abner did. He and I were the—I don't like to use the word pioneer because—but we were the first ones to get hired in TV, the *Mexicanos* here in Lubbock. Life was good. You know, somebody paved the road or spoke up or said, "Hey, let's give them a chance." And that's what a lot of people want. "Just give me the chance. If it doesn't work out, fire me. It's simple. I can't do the job—but give me the chance. Let me prove that I can, and if I can't, I accept the fact I couldn't cut the mustard. Get rid of him." But that launched my TV career at Channel 13 here in Lubbock. From there—it's been a long time. I want to say it was about five years. And TV, I called it a transient job. You're always working at TV and you're always looking for a step up, a bigger market, bigger pay, more opportunity. From Channel 13 I went to work at the KTXT back then at the university station. So I worked there about another three or four years then I received a call from Corpus Christi that they were looking for someone with my experience. We packed up our bags and moved to Corpus. Worked in TV there in Corpus, production and directing—producing, directing, which I did at Channel 5 also, producer, director. Went to Channel 6 in Corpus Christi, NBC affiliate. I became the Assistant Operations Manager. I think it—again, that was another three, four years and an opportunity came to become the Operations Manager, which was a big increase in pay, better opportunity. Everything was really good. The job was posted and I applied for it. And again, life throws lemons at you, you make lemonade out of it. After I applied for the job—I put in my bid for the job—the qualifications—they removed the bid then they reposted the bid with more qualifications, which I did not have. The initial posting was "experience," which I had the experience; didn't have the degree in communications. So, when I applied for it, they removed the bid and reposted it. Now it called for a college degree and I'm thinking, That's cold. I've got the experience in the field. I've got the communication—sorry, the community context in Corpus and now I'm still going to be the Assistant City—I'm sorry, the Assistant Operations Manager to a person that doesn't have the ties in the community and that person will be using my context, my knowledge to help themselves. I said, "I can't be a part of that," so I went and spoke to the Operations Manager and I told him, "I'm turning in my resignation." He asked me, "Why? You've got every"—I said, "Because the qualifications for Operations Manager has been changed. It's been tailored for a particular person." He said, "You think so?" I said, "I definitely think so." It so happens that the person it was being tailored for was the station owner's

daughter. It doesn't matter what kind of experience I have, you can't compete with blood. So I'm talking to my next door neighbor about the story and he said, "Well, have you thought about working at a refinery?" I said, "I'm in TV. Zero experience in refining." Again, life works out. He asked me, "What kind of experience did you have when you started in TV?" I said, "None." He said, "You seem to be a pretty sharp person. Give it a chance." Interviewed. HR [**Human Resources**] director happened to have his brother working at a TV station so he knew the dilemma—the pickle I was in because I told him the story and he said, "Hey, TV is like that. It's a transient job." He said, "We'll hire you." So I got hired at the—working at the laboratory. I worked at the laboratory for twenty years at the refinery doing analytical work, fingerprinting oil, environmental studies. Again, like I said, life's been good to us. The dear lord has blessed us. Retired. From there I went to work for the city of Corpus Christi as their risk management at one of the mental health retardation centers in Corpus; ten years. I say ten, a little short of ten years. By then the wife and I were getting close to retirement age. The question I threw at the wife was, "What are we going to do?", "I want to retire. I don't want to continue working. I'm still young, I'm healthy, reasonably healthy." She said, "What do you want to do," and I said, "Well, I'm retiring at sixty-two but we have to have a plan. What are we doing?" She said, "Have you thought about going back to Lubbock?" I said, "No. I haven't even thought of it. Never entertained the idea." Well, a few weeks—months later, a cousin of mine from Lubbock goes to visit us in Corpus Christi and I tell her, "You know, Tonya"—and I grew up with her. She was like my sister. She's since passed, God rest her soul. I said, "Tonya, I want to go back to Lubbock. Me and Sandra, my wife, we want to go back to Lubbock but I want to go back to the *barrio*. She says, "Juan, there are no houses for sale in the *barrio*. The family inherits. Nobody's selling. Property's nonexistent there for sale. I said, "Well, if you find out let me know." So, I got on the phone and I called Richard Lopez. I don't know if you've heard of him. I called him up. I said, "Richard, this is Juan Chadis." He said, "Hey, *que paso* [what's happening], Juan?" We started talking and said, "Richard, you've got some property there on the corner of Avenue N. Would you consider selling it to me. I want to retire but I want to move back the *barrio*." He said, "No, that property's not for sale." He said, "I've got other properties that I can work with." I said, "No, I want Avenue N because my grandparent's house was on Avenue N." So, we couldn't agree on—so the story goes on and a few months later, my cousin, Tonya, calls me up and she says, "Are you still interesting in buying property in the *barrio*?" I said, "Of course. What's going on?" She said, "Grandpa's house is coming up for sale." I said, "Grandpa's house?" She said, "Yeah." And that property has been owned by the Hurtado family since 19—early 1920s. They're the—the Flores family were the first people to own property in Lubbock—*Mexicanos*. I said, "Yeah, let me find out what's going on." So, we bought the property—purchased the property, rented the property to a cousin of mine. He said, "I'll work on the house. We'll fix it up for you." I said, "I'll be there in a couple of years. By then I'll be retired at sixty-two." So, I owe him a debt of gratitude. He and my *tia* [aunt]—he worked on the house, made it really nice. Sixty-two—March twenty-seven I was sixty-two. April 1 we're opening up the door to move in here in Lubbock. And I was now—now it's been a little over six years that we've

been here in Lubbock. Great move. Love the fact that we're back to Lubbock but even more so in the neighborhood, in the house where I grew up. My uncle, Federico—they called him Rico in the *barrio*—he's the one that told me that I was born on the property. He said, "You weren't born in a hospital. You were born on this property." So, sentimental value, oh man, big time. I love it. I'd come back and it's a family reunion with all my friends. Came back to the neighborhood. People I grew up with were a lot older, a lot chunkier, grey-headed, some don't have hair, but we sit there and we're talking about growing up in the neighborhood, the things we experienced, the guys we used to hang out with, the guys that have passed on. [phone rings 00:17:44] I'm sorry.

[Pause in recording]

JC:

I thought I turned it off. Sorry about that.

DS:

That's all right. You were talking about your friends in the *barrio*.

JC:

Oh, it's amazing. Some of my friends had moved on to Houston, Dallas, Austin, but when they come back—especially around the 4th of July—if you've never been to the *barrio* on the 4th of July. It's an experience. It's a neighborhood party. You walk up and down the streets, people are barbecuing, they're having drinks, all sorts of drinks. You walk up to the house at the front yard and you're home, whether you grew up there or not. People invite you. "Sit down. You want a plate of—you want some ribs," or whatever they're barbecuing. They're sharing it with you. It's an experience. So a lot of my friends that have moved out of town, they make a special—they make a special effort to get to Lubbock for the 4th of July. It's great. I invite you for the 4th of July coming up. You need to go check it out.

DS:

I need to.

JC:

It's an experience.

DS:

And unless you know about it, you're not going to—

JC:

No. You've got to—you hear it from somebody in the neighborhood because it's not a known

fact. But the entire city—I'm sorry, not the city, the neighborhood—there'd be a water slide, they'll be some water rides for the children in the neighborhood that the neighbors on that one block, they'll pitch in together and it's for the children. It's for the kids in the neighborhood. It's open to anybody that comes in, of course.

DS:

We're talking about the *barrio*, coming back. You'd been gone for how many years?

JC:

I was gone for about thirty-four, thirty-five years.

DS:

And, you know, when you first went out to Corpus, what'd you—how would you compare Corpus when you first got there to Lubbock, the Lubbock you had left at that time?

JC:

I would say Corpus was very progressive. When we moved there—and I loved the fact that City Council, teachers, businessmen, brown faces everywhere. Corpus population back then was probably 52, 53 percent Hispanic, *Chicanos*, back then. I loved the fact. You're talking to attorneys, the medical field. Everywhere you walked in were brown faces. Very cultural city. Very cultural. But then again, we're talking, what, 675, 76. Lubbock was still a little bit far—a little bit behind back then, which big strides have been made. But I really enjoyed the move to Corpus. I was having trouble with some racial epithets that were being screened or some of the racial remarks that we were putting up with. And I told the wife that we needed to move the first opportunity there was to give the children a better environment to grow up in. That's really the reason we wanted to move out. We moved to Corpus. Again, very—I call—once you reach—I don't know if you've heard this—once you reach San Antonio, it's an entirely different country. I mean, the food, the culture, the people, it's completely different. It was a good change for us. It was a welcomed change for us like it was also when we came back, when we returned to Lubbock, it was a good change. Lubbock had changed—oh, incredible changes and it still continues to change, and they're good changes. Improvements, of course. You've got to be improving. You've got to. You've got to.

DS:

And you were at the radio station—TV stations. So were you involved with like the music scenes? I was going to ask because the music scene in Corpus is really strong. I mean, that's where a lot of national artists come out of.

JC:

Very much so. I'm glad you brought that up because if you hadn't—I'd forgotten about it. I was

producing/directing the Johnny Canales show. We started it at Channel 6 then later it became syndicated. But by then, by the time it became syndicated, I was already not working in TV anymore. But we did the first—the initial show at Channel 6 in Corpus Christi. You know, I got to meet—Johnny Canales and I used to hang out. Roberto Pulido, all of the big names—I mean, south Texas, they're always looking for a reason to celebrate. *Una Celebración* [the celebration] forever. We were always being invited to hang out with these big names: Little Joe, **Raymond Ramos** [0:22:54] that would go and record the show, the program, and later in that afternoon or that evening, there'd be a dance at one of the dance lands or one of the premier places. They said, "Just come on in, you and your wife. Just tell them you're with our group." We'd go in there and hangout behind stage, dance—it was just great. And you're right about the music scene. It's breaking grounds. If you want to make it big in the *Chicano-Tejano* industry—in Alice, Texas, there's a little dance hall called La Villita. Anytime you play at La Villita, you have arrived, my friend. You have made it. That is the stamp of approval. To *Tejano* industry, La Villita, it would be like Motown invited you to go play at the—I forget the name of the place that's in Chicago, I think it was. And once you play at that one venue, you've arrived. You've made it.

DS:

The Apollo.

JC:

The Apollo. There you go. The Apollo.

DS:

I was racking my brain to—

JC:

Yeah. I've got to thinking. Yeah, once you play at The Apollo, you've arrived. You have made it. La Villita to me is The Apollo to the *Tejano* industry. A lot of people that aren't in the industry never heard of La Villita. But when La Villita calls you, you don't say, "No."

DS:

Who operated that?

JC:

It's been so long. I don't recall the name of the family but I believe they're still there. They're still there. There's so much—we're a very proud people; our history. We've done so much. We need to continue educating the youth about the accomplishments: what our ancestors did. World War II, what did our ancestors do? My father was in Normandy. He came back from Normandy, he couldn't get a job because of the color of his skin. They called him a Mexican. "We don't hire Mexicans." My dad said, "I told them I'm not a Mexican. I was born in east Texas." Couldn't get

a job.” He goes to fight for the country but yet when he comes back to the same country he defended, he wasn’t good enough to be hired. And he was a proud man. He didn’t—again, there was no public assistance back in the forties. You worked or you starved. I never missed a meal. He worked the pipeline. He became a foreman on the pipeline. Did real well for himself. Later on he kept on moving to different jobs. Never missed a meal. Always had a clean, new pair of shoes. Not a closet full but he always supplied—and again, maybe because I was the only child in the family. I don’t know. But again, you never know you’re poor. Everybody dresses alike in the same neighborhood that we grew up in. Little repetitive but history tends to repeat itself.

DS:

Yes it does. And, you know, one thing that we talked—or you mentioned—was education. You said you had gone to Tech. What was year was it you went to Tech?

JC:

It’d have to be—I graduated in ’68 so it’d have to be ’68, early ’69. When I worked at the TV station, I took a couple of classes during that time also. So, it was a brief stint.

DS:

I was going to ask: what was it like when you first—from Lubbock High School to Tech?

JC:

A big cultural shock. I mean, I was going—I don’t even remember how many people graduated. Maybe a couple of hundred and then jump across the street to, I don’t know, twenty-thousand maybe back then. It was a cultural shock. I walked into a math class that I still remember that one. It was at the auditorium there on University—at the football stadium next door. It was one of the auditoriums there. It must’ve been at least three-hundred people sitting at that math class. The instructions were, “This is your assigned seat. If you don’t want to be counted absent, make sure you sit on the same seat every time you come to class.” Total shock. And again, I regret not having graduated but again, I’ve been very blessed. My daughter graduated, not from Tech, from A&M Kingsville. Again, very *Chicano* university in Kingsville.

DS:

Well, it’s just down the street from where y’all were living, right?

JC:

Yeah. It was a good thirty, forty-minute drive but it was right there at Kingsville, the King Ranch. A lot of history in that area. A lot of history. Very proud of that.

DS:

You mentioned that you finally—when you came back you went to the *barrio*. One thing y’all

did almost immediately, you became involved with the community. How did that happen?

JC:

Choices. Choices. When we were retiring, I kept telling the wife, "I don't want to just retire. I want to do something. I want to be involved somehow," and her question was, "How? When?" I said, "I don't know." I really didn't know where retirement was taking me. I told her I want to learn to play golf. I want to become involved in church, and not in that order. Church and then golf. When we retired, I got involved in church on the financial community, parent's council, started playing a lot of golf. I'm retired. I'm playing golf three, four times a week. I spoke to one of the greens keeper. I asked him what I need to do to get a job here. He said, "Come by Monday, we'll do an interview." I got hired. So, my benefits there was I get to play golf for free three, four times a week. It was a good three, four-hundred dollar savings. And when you're retired, you're on a fixed income. I can't afford to spent three-hundred dollars a week. So, I'd play golf for free. I got real good at. My handicap was pretty low. Then some friends along the way, "Have you thought about running for politics?" I said, "No. It's not what I want to do. That's not part of my package, my retirement package." They said, "You should be thinking about it." We started—oh, I skipped a spot there. When we arrived to Lubbock, we started going around the city, to the neighborhoods, and I have this vivid picture as to what it looked like thirty-four years ago. And I'm driving around and I said, "What in the world happened? How did we leave and the deterioration is—it's beyond"—for lack of words, I couldn't believe the conditions some of the houses were in when it was a really nice neighborhood back in the seven—late seventies, early seventies. My wife being the outspoken person that she is, she said, "Well, what are you going to do about it?" I said, "I don't know." She said, "Well, if you don't like it, change it. You don't like it, fix it." So, she kind of put the challenge on me. "Put up or shut up," basically is what she was saying. And the discussion every once in a while, "Have you thought about running for office?" And again, the answer was, "No." And then—and I don't recall. We were at a party one time and, again, the conversation was brought up and my wife says, "You can't clean house if you don't walk in the front door." I said, "Man, that's profound," and my friends again said, "Have you thought about it?" They said, "Because Victor"—my predecessor, had announced for mayoral office. They said, "Victor's leaving and there's a two-year vacancy. Have you thought about it?" I said, "You know what, let's meet tomorrow," and tomorrow would be Sunday. I said, "Let's meet at the house and let's discuss this." And here we are having this interview a year, almost two years, later. It's been a great experience. No regrets. I've met some very good people along the way. Again, a lot of people have helped me to get here and have this conversation with you. I've got to give them credit but there are so many. How do you begin mentioning names without insulting somebody I leave out. So, anytime I have any gatherings, I'm forever thankful and I will be forever thankful because, again, I didn't do this on my own. There were a lot of people helping me out and still continue. They continue to make the phone calls to talk with me. We sit down periodically. We'll sit down over a coffee or at the

house, "We're doing a barbeque. I'll invite some people over. Let's sit down. Let's talk. Let's figure out where we're going with this. What are we going to do?"

DS:

Well, let's talk about that, you know. You kind of said you noticed some stuff that you didn't like the conditions of. What was it you did your first day in office? What was on your personal agenda to accomplish that day?

JC:

Meet the staff, the city staff. For example, the Codes Department. I had already met him during my campaign but I wanted now to sit down one on one. I pulled out a piece of paper and said, "These are some of the addresses I'm concerned about. What are we doing? What are we going to do? How it got here, I don't want to go there. I want to know a plan of action. Houses are rundown. Are they rental properties? Are they privately owned? Are there monies available for rehab, community development? What kind of part are they playing in this? We need to fix or begin fixing, repairing. What can we do?" So, we started—unfortunately, some of these houses have got to be sited. You'll get a notice that, "You need to repair your home," or, "You need to cut your yard," "You need to mow the weeds." And it gets done but if it doesn't get done within the allotted amount of time, they'll get a notice and then after that the city will eventually go in there and cut the yard. But that's—somebody's got to pay for it. So eventually, a lien gets put on the house if it doesn't get taken care of. So, we started having meetings in the community center letting people know what we're doing. "If you need help, if you need assistance, these are the numbers you call. Don't let it become an issue, an unmanageable issue. So, that was my cleaning up the neighborhoods. We started having the roll off dumpsters in neighborhoods. We notified the neighborhood, "We'll be there on this Saturday. Bring all your trash. Clean up your house. Bring it. It's cost free. Not a penny's going to be charged. Let's clean up the streets, the alleys. Let's clean them up." And it's been happening but this is something that's got to be done periodically, because I'm notorious—I got something that needs to go to the trash can. It'll sit in my little shed in the backyard for weeks. Finally it makes it to the dumpster in the backyard. But we need to continue educating the people. So that was one of my first projects. And again, these projects are non-ending, non-ending. Rehabbing homes. If there's the [inaudible] [0:36:10], [inaudible] out there—and not necessarily the age but if you're disabled, I need to know about it and that's what I was telling people, "Give me a phone call. You need help rehabbing your home?" There's some criteria that needs to be met. I mean, the city doesn't have an endless amount of money out there but there's monies out there. So, we're educating the people in the process also. In the *barrio*, without mentioning names—in the *barrio* Guadalupe alone, there's been about three houses in the year and a half I've been in office that were rehabbed—a new roof, AC unit, fences, windows, doors—in order to save the people some money on their utilities bills. I mean, most of these houses in the *barrio* were built after the tornado and back then they weren't built with efficiency in mind. So, that's what we're doing now and continued to do.

There's some programs out there, we just need to reach out to the public and let them know. "Don't settle. Let's work on it."

DS:

And beyond that, what are other stuff that are out there that you as a City Council person can play a role in?

JC:

Paving streets. The north side of Lubbock and the east side of Lubbock have the most unpaved streets of Lubbock. The east side, where my friend Sheila Patterson Harris—they have the most unpaved streets. When I find out that—as a matter of fact, today I'll be having a meeting with Community Development on monies that are available and where the paving is going. Right now we're looking at North Loop 289, around Avenue P on the north side of the Loop. Those are some areas that need to be paved. The surveyors have already gone by and staked everything out. And those areas will be paved I would probably say in the warmer months, probably after February. No one should be living on dirt roads, not in the city of Lubbock. Why? I don't know. Again, I don't care why. Let's fix it. Blame, I don't want to cast blame on anyone. Let's fix it. That's what I'm about. Who did it? I don't care who did it. Why did they do it? I don't care. It doesn't matter. Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Smith down the street, they don't care. They want a blacktop. They don't care why it hasn't been done. They just want to have to done. That's my goal: improve the living conditions, safety, police presence in the neighborhoods. You got to have it. People need to feel safe in their neighborhoods. They need to feel safe when they go into—onto their patio in the afternoons to drink a soda or whatever they happen to be drinking. They need to feel safe—and police presence in the neighborhoods. That's what they keep asking me for and the police chief had been very receptive to that fact. And some of the people have already called me up and said, "Thank you.", "For what?" They said, "I've seen more police in my neighborhood." My message to them was, "Stop that police officer next time he drives by. Stop him, introduce yourself to him, tell him thank you. Get to know who these policeman are that are helping you live in a safe neighborhood. So, it's happening. At what scale, your guess is as good as mine. People are seeing it.

DS:

You mentioned the police presence and I want to—one issue that y'all are currently looking at right now is police substations.

JC:

Yes.

DS:

So basically it'll be one here then a couple in—

JC:

One on the east, one on the northwest and one on the south side.

DS:

So that'd be three?

JC:

Three at this point. And the north and the south—I say north—northwest and south, they will be a little bit further out—I want to say, if I remember correctly, around the Loop 289 area. The reason for that is, we're building for the future, because that's where the city's growing. It's growing northwest and it's growing southwest. Right now they're outside but the city's catching up with it. East side will be around the MLK—I believe MLK and 19th Street. The reason for that one is it's centrally located, again, plus the city owns that property. So, when you're talking five acres of property of land, a plant of five acres, that's a pretty good chunk of change and we own it.

DS:

Plus you've got to look at the access as far as, you know, crossing the interstate there.

JC:

Accessibility.

DS:

You've got 4th then you've got 19th then further on down.

JC:

And it's going to be—right now we're thinking the east substation will cover all the way up to University. It's not going to be just east side. That's where it's located but it'll—right now on the map, it'll go as far west as University. So, we're excited about it. It's something that's been needed. I've seen cities with substations. It's good. You get the—again, you get to meet the police officers.

DS:

And some of it comes with growth.

JC:

It does.

DS:

Because if it stays here, it sure takes, you know, for a long time to cross town.

JC:

It does. And right now, we're at two-hundred and fifty-four thousand, I believe—two-hundred and fifty-three, two-hundred and fifty-four thousand people. We're looking at three-hundred thousand probably by the year 2020, and that's just two, three years away. There's big things happening in Lubbock and I'm very proud to say I am a part of it. We need to let the people know what's going, educating the people. These substations, sixty-two, sixty-three million. To a regular household at a hundred and forty-thousand dollar home, your taxes are going to go up forty-three dollars in one year. If you don't live in a hundred and forty-thousand dollar home, you're going to pay a lot less than those forty dollars a year. So, it's something that we need; security, safety. People have got to feel safe and secure in their homes. To me, this is something good.

DS:

Plus it'll lead to what you're—the aspect you were mentioning about where the police officers know the people in the neighborhood.

JC:

You've got to develop that rapport, that friendship, the comradery. “Hey [inaudible] [0:43:12], Officer Trevino. I know him. The other day he got up and kicked a soccer ball around with us or he threw the football,” or baseball or whatever. We need to get rid of that—I call it a mentality, the distrust because of what's happened at other locations in this country or down the street at another neighborhood. The police officer, the chief and all the staff, they want a safe neighborhood. We want the safety in our neighborhoods. Let's make it a collaborative thing here that we can all do together. I tell people, “if you see something—illegal activity going on, make the phone call. Call.” And again, some people are a little apprehensive because they're not legal. They're not legal residents and I tell them, “The police officer or the lady at dispatch or the man on dispatch, they're not asking for your citizenship. They need to know where it's happening. They're not going to ask you for your name. If you want to give it, that's fine, but it's voluntary. But again, that's the message we need to send to the public: Be proactive. Don't tell me this drug house has open for six years. Day six you should've called. I get those phone calls and I say, “You call the police chief, call DEA [**Drug Enforcement Administration**] without giving too much detail because you're now dealing with a different element there. There could be some reprisals. So I try to tell people, “If you don't take ownership of your streets, somebody is.” It can be the neighborhood, the good people of the neighborhood, or the illegal activity in the neighborhood but somebody's going to take ownership. And believe me, once the city element—I know it doesn't sound right—but once the bad element gets in there and has a foothold, it's going to be really difficult to get them out. It can happen but it takes a lot more effort. [talking to someone else] Yes? Yes ma'am?

Woman:

Excuse me. Your next appointment's here waiting for you.

JC:

Okay. Thank you.

DS:

Well, do you want to stop there and then we can pick it up?

JC:

Yeah. Why don't we stop and pick it up next—

DS:

Pick it up sometime after the Thanksgiving break?

JC:

That sounds like a plan.

DS:

Okay. I'll call you then. Thank you.

JC:

Daniel, thank you.

DS:

Thank you, young man.

End of Recording

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