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Interviewee: Clayton, Xernona

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RONALD BAYOR: -- four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. And

mainly I wanted to find out first of all about [SWAP?].

Your position, I think, was secretary of the organization?

XERMONA CLAYTON: Yes mm-hmm.

BAYOR: Who was head of it?

CLAYTON: Well, I really was.

BAYOR: Oh.

CLAYTON: I took on the title of secretary, because what we were

doing at time was trying to project the leadership to

somebody else. I really kind of led the thing, but we had

a split chair. A guy named [Omar Buckwalter?] --

[Buckalter?] (inaudible) --and Jim [Costan?]. One was

black, and one was white. So they carried the title of co-

chairs, but I kind of directed everything.

BAYOR: And those are all people living in Cascade Heights?

CLAYTON: Right, uh-huh.

BAYOR: How long (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Oh, for a good three to four years.

BAYOR: Sixty-seven (inaudible), '71?

CLAYTON: Yeah, maybe (inaudible) [01:00] You know, I'm not sure about dates.

BAYOR: OK, but it was around late '60s?

CLAYTON: Oh yeah.

BAYOR: I was mainly curious about your relationship with the city government, Mayor Allen. Did the city actually support a biracial, integrated community forming in Cascade Heights.

CLAYTON: No, not initially.

BAYOR: That's what I wanted [to hear?]. (laughs)

CLAYTON: And, it was very interesting because, I knew that -- I had read something about stabilization, what you would expect if you -- in order to have a successful role, and I think Washington, DC, (inaudible) their, (inaudible) gotten together, and I would have to talk to them to see, plenty of folks who have in order to have an ideal format. And of course, everybody says, (inaudible) for the government. And I figured that was the case. So I decided to go. I've always had a theory, you don't start with the underlings; go to the top. So I went to the mayor, and it's Ivan Allen [02:00] at the time. And Ivan Allen who, you know, I just really liked him as a person. You know, I had a kind of rapport with some other things we were doing, so it was not hard to get to him. But he laughed at me, and he said,

"Oh, Xernona" -- he really had a kind of guffaw laugh --  
"Ho, ho, ho, Xernona, you're really, you know, energetic,  
and" -- I come from Los Angeles -- he said, "Oh, and I know  
you came from California; you don't understand how we do  
things in the South," he said. "But I appreciate [your  
stuff?], but this is one thing I think you will really find  
would not work. I mean, we just have made all kinds of  
efforts." And I said, "Be specific," and [what he said?]  
naming things specifically, [going to?] be done, except it  
was specifically defined and described like the Peyton  
barricade where they put, you know, (inaudible). And so he  
just said (inaudible) the world of people that they were  
willing to stay if blacks come in. And I said, "But that's  
not a work towards retaining the neighborhood makeup."  
[00:00] And he said, "Oh," and he laughed. And after we'd  
had our little visit, as I was leaving, he said, "Xernona,  
I hate to kill a spirit as (inaudible) as yours, and I --  
[really nice to see you?] and as progressive as you are,  
but, you know, I just have to give it you, you know,  
straight, and I hope I'm haven't discouraged you." I said,  
"Mayor Allen, you've probably given me more encouragement  
than anybody could ever do, because when you tell me it  
won't work, that's my motivation. I'll prove to you that

you're going to come back and say, 'I support you because [it's going to work?].'"

BAYOR: So (inaudible), the group generally supported maintaining integrated neighborhoods (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Yes. Well, you know, that wasn't really what we found was their motivation. We found that the education process was so lacking, that people didn't understand what happens with neighbors, you know, that they don't look like them. You know, so the education was the thing that was the most stimulating, [04:00] as far (inaudible) and kind of staying [there?] for a while. Because people openly discussed all the fears of "what if," and so, you know. That could possibly happen to us if we had a black neighbor. So we had our greatest success on getting people to explain and describe what they feared would be, in cases it ended up being a majority black, or some black.

BAYOR: So the whites were willing to really sit down and talk about it?

CLAYTON: Oh, they did that.

BAYOR: Yes, but the (inaudible).

CLAYTON: Oh yes, uh-huh. And of course, their fears -- so we found, that was such a great learning process, because we found out what could -- if we'd had time to slow the steps of migration, either in or out, we'd have probably had more

luck in people staying -- because we don't have a majority white now. And not we're trying to get a majority white, but we could have had a lot of white people stay. But what chased them away, ultimately is, their fears [05:00] were -- one of them was that the neighborhood -- I mean, the school gets to be less than perfect, that heightens those fears. We found we had to deal with the schools and while we were, you know, getting that fear taken care of, we had a superintendent who did not share our thinking at all. Letson was the school superintendent. And we said to him, "Give us the same thing that Northside High School had." That was still the best school in the place. And we'd say, "Well, give us," the southwest, "the same thing the north (inaudible) had." And then, you know, these people's fears can be allayed, because you know, some of it we understood.

BAYOR: [He?] wanted integrating schooling [in the area?].

CLAYTON: Oh yes. And in order for it to be integrated, they've got to have -- white people have to have the same things, and black people have to have the same things. These (inaudible) people we were talking about. So these people who could afford to go where their needs could be met, they could afford to move, and so asking [06:00] and getting what they wanted, you know, we felt was a separate thing, but you know, (inaudible).

BAYOR: Well let me ask two things related to that. First of all, I have heard the Board of Education allowed schools to deteriorate in Cascade Heights (inaudible) to encourage whites to move --

CLAYTON: Well, I hate to be -- [blasted?], not to say that's a lie because, but I'd say if it happened, you know, every time we confronted the state superintendent of schools, he gave us another reason. So I cannot -- you know, I don't know what [stuck in people's minds?], so I would not want to go [on record?].

BAYOR: Another reason why, the schools [could not be updated?]?

CLAYTON: Well, he just said, "Well, you know, we want this, and it costs too much, like those kids at Northside High School and I think it's Lakeside High, another good school, had a swimming pool. And, you know, to parents, you know, they want their children to swim, and dance programs in the [07:00] creative arts. They like their children to be exposed to that kind of cultural development. And so I've forgotten all of the things we asked for, what we found out what they were doing at the school, then he says, "This costs money." So he always gave us a cost factor, you know, that would prohibit (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible) racially motivated?

CLAYTON: He never said that.

BAYOR: I guess what I'm saying is that there would have been a well-functioning integrated school in Cascade Heights if the Board of Education put some money into --

CLAYTON: Yeah.

BAYOR: -- and convinced the whites to stay, and ultimately, (inaudible).

CLAYTON: They left, uh-huh.

BAYOR: The other thing I found out from somebody else, I was curious about whether you agree with it, that the city actually just gave lip service to the whole concept of integrated communities --

CLAYTON: No, they didn't. OK. Mr. Allen said what I disclosed to you initially. But after that, I took the city council on a tour of the neighborhood, and [08:00] both the city council and the Fulton County Commissioners to see for themselves the kind of neighborhood that was out there that I feared they didn't know. And then also to show them what would happen if we had a deterioration of city services, how, you know, you got to pick up the trash because this is a nice, clean neighborhood, and it won't be clean very long long, if what happens here, will happen -- I mean, it happens here, what had happened say in Lower Cascade. You know, that neighborhood went down completely. And, so they

were sympathetic to our cause, and did in fact, you know, they did more than (inaudible); they saw to it that the streets did not deteriorate [in services?].

BAYOR: Well, (inaudible) of maintain a bracket (inaudible).

CLAYTON: Well no, they did give us the things we asked them that they could provide. I'm not sure they ever said, "We want to stay integrated," or "We don't want the whites to run." They never told us. They just said [09:00] that they really supported the project, and what we could give them, they would -- I mean, what they could give us, they would.

BAYOR: The project being (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Yes, this was, you know, (inaudible).

BAYOR: This is what I heard from somebody else who was, I guess one of the major black leaders back in that period. He said an agreement had been reached between black and white leaders after the Peyton Road wall incident in '62, that blacks would take over all the southwest area, including Cascade Heights, and the whites (inaudible) had been made, and that the area would shift, (inaudible), they weren't going to stop. They weren't going to support integration; they weren't going to stop the whites moving out at all.



CLAYTON: Well, I'll tell you, I wasn't here in '62. So I don't know that. No one ever shared that with me. And so, I was -- so I don't want to (inaudible) dispute it, because it might have happened. But I do know this, that once, if that had been the case, then we wouldn't have had the support we did [10:00] with developers in (inaudible) family units. So if that's the case, I doubt it, because everyone wants [multi-?] family units. And we fought them -- [tape skip] -- and I can tell you for a fact that we had city councilpersons who were very supportive of our fight against multi-family units, and I can name them. You know, Mr. [Summers?] (inaudible) city council, he lived in the area. You know, but most of them did. You know, and I had very good support from them. What they were giving was psychological support, but I think when the vote came down, it's clear that they must have been with us.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

CLAYTON: I doubt that, because I think if we had not had -- I think the only reason why (inaudible) changed, well, (inaudible) didn't change, the neighborhood changed, is that the schools were the major force. [11:00]

BAYOR: (inaudible) [weren't supporting you?].

CLAYTON: OK, so if you remember -- where do you live?

BAYOR: Not far (inaudible) [Hill?].

CLAYTON: OK. Dr. Letson was -- I considered, an individual who had great strength, that was unknown where (inaudible) came from. So maybe that might be it. But I don't know of anybody who ever just said -- (inaudible) Dr. Letson (inaudible) supportive, it just seemed like me he was an administrator who knew how to get what he wanted, and he had some backup [of what he had?] like [most the times in his car?]. Well how can you fight a cost issue, when he says, "You know, we don't determine our funds, the city does. You know, we go [by?] the ballot."

BAYOR: But that's really the issue, of course.

CLAYTON: You know. And so, you know, it's hard to fight that. So I'm not really sure. He might have, but that's foreign to me, I don't know. [12:00]

BAYOR: OK, (inaudible), when I heard this (inaudible) city [wasn't going to push it?], and they weren't going to have (inaudible) integration, and everything had been pretty much decided (inaudible).

CLAYTON: Now, let me tell you what else happened happened.

Now, the reason I doubt that: the chamber of commerce used to be about [this kind of information?], a perspective citizen would come into the area. They would write the city council and say -- I mean, it was chamber of commerce, and say, "We're planning to move to Atlanta. Tell us where

your good schools are, and where your good neighborhoods are." And they used to give them Buckhead or (inaudible) and they would give them some white neighborhood schools. And he said, "Well, we don't want them anymore. You know, identify Southwest as a good neighborhood, and Southwest High School as a good high school, and the [West Manor?] as a good elementary school, and they did." I would test them. We'd [pay someone?] to write to them and send us [13:00] copies, and so, that [was backed up?], (inaudible) the chamber of commerce, now they did that. But it's silly to think. The reality is though, but I felt we had about as much success as anybody could have. There's something about America, not Atlanta, but something about America, where the guy in this, dumb person in the authoritative position in Utah, was it, just not long ago, just [about a week?], who said, "Oh, this is comparable to the kind of (inaudible) that happens if your neighbor ends up being black." This is 1986, and white people still make a dumb statement like that. So there's still thinkers like that around. So people still fear that a black neighbor is a bad neighbor, (inaudible) what his income is. So we'll always have migration, so white people will move out. So I just think that we haven't had [14:00] a blending of black

and white longer than any other community I've ever had  
(inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible)

CLAYTON: (inaudible)

BAYOR: (inaudible)

CLAYTON: Yeah.

BAYOR: And so --

CLAYTON: You know, there's still some still there.

BAYOR: You said maybe (inaudible) the schools. (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Well, I (inaudible). The schools were a reason to  
play upon people's fears who wondered about the schools,  
you know, changing over. Whereas the (inaudible)  
devaluation of those schools, and how that would work.  
Whether that's real or imagined, that's a fear. And so  
they divided (inaudible). That kind of gave them the  
reason to move out. If they say that, you know, this  
integration thing was, (inaudible), where (inaudible) you  
got a daughter, (inaudible) boy, well, you know, [the  
nightmare?], (inaudible) [15:00] (inaudible) [259?] when we  
started (inaudible) 22 people (inaudible) 201. And I asked  
them, how many people (inaudible) were [men?]? Well, the  
majority of the people of course were, majority black. And  
then I asked them how they made (inaudible) the [labors?]  
(inaudible). (inaudible) people (inaudible). But, their

fears that racial I don't want to say segregation, but a [surge?] of discrimination has played havoc with all of us. And so, white people are afraid something might happen that you couldn't even describe, and [our plan was is?], of the state, they figure, you know, he's right next door. You know, that just happens to us, (inaudible), you know.

BAYOR: (inaudible) types of people.

CLAYTON: So a lot of people after this, they gave us reasons.

The children moved; they don't [16:00] need the big houses anymore. You know, well (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible)

CLAYTON: Yeah, yes.

BAYOR: How about were black (inaudible) --

CLAYTON: But, I -- let me just say, because, you know there's [still so good?] about the project, that for a long time, they stay and brought the issue from delicate fears, and once they run out of fears, then of course, you know, they stayed. Those who, you know, fled anyway, and didn't have children in school, (inaudible) happened, they moved.

BAYOR: Yes. In other words, weren't they (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Yeah.

BAYOR: And school were (inaudible) a lot of mistakes.

CLAYTON: The thing, you know, that happened is, we had real estate (inaudible) another issue. Real estate people

chased a lot of them out. Well some people worried, [and they would tell us?] (inaudible) I'd just found, they'd been (inaudible) 40,000, and the (inaudible) "Look, I've got a client who will pay you [65?] for it." I'd [give them?] my house too. (laughter) So a lot it had -- we had a lot of things happen in the neighborhood. And so there were people willing to stay, but [17:00] (inaudible) black (inaudible) --

BAYOR: They were being city (inaudible)

CLAYTON: No, because it was hard to find. We found one guy -- we (inaudible) one guy, (inaudible) [out of business?], but he was (inaudible). But it did slow things down, because we had one guy, we just, almost (inaudible), you know, and made him find an example, and embarrass the city. See what we did, we embarrassed the city, when we'd find examples of, you know, there were some (inaudible).

BAYOR: Were they [finding that?]?

CLAYTON: Yeah, we were (inaudible) as many, they say, you know, you say to us if (inaudible) and yet this happens, you know. How do you allow the sewers over here to back up, and how you allow trash here has not been picked up for weeks, and we'd call them every time that happened.

BAYOR: Did they respond?

CLAYTON: Oh yes.

BAYOR: Now did they respond because blacks now were achieving political power, or did they respond because they cared about the neighborhood?

CLAYTON: Well, I think they responded because we embarrassed them (inaudible). You know, like they -- how can you say I'm for it, and then you don't do anything about it? So I'm not sure where their [18:00] heart was, but the trucks were out there [picking up the trash?].

BAYOR: (inaudible) where their heart was?

CLAYTON: Yeah, you know. OK, we don't know, because at that time it's majority white, we only had one black councilperson, back in those years. So, we don't know where it was up -- you know, all we do is go by what they act like they did and what they [said and?] did, so you know, that's all I can judge them by.

BAYOR: What about the black leaders in the city? Did they support (inaudible) integrated communities?

CLAYTON: Not particularly.

BAYOR: what was their (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Black attitude was I think probably, probably predictable. You know, we don't care; let them go, you know. And, some of the black people already had their homes (inaudible) of course they had (inaudible) homes. They didn't care whether they stayed or left. But black

people who could afford to buy those homes wanted in anyways so they could (inaudible). So they didn't really care. You know, white people -- black people have never been concerned either way whether whites go or stay; it doesn't matter. And that was the [19:00] thing we tried to tell them. Black people don't care what you do, you know.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

CLAYTON: Yeah. They want a nice house, and of course if your house is the nice house, they want them both, (inaudible) opens up the neighborhood. So, and the train [whistle?] is how they choose what they said, that, the train of thought there, is black people are already inching into those areas, rather than going to Buckhead, we'll just take one more block here, and one more block here. So the trend is there. That's the way we do, black people kind of follow the trend.

BAYOR: So the [commitment then?] was from people moving in the community. There was no real commitment coming to (inaudible) from black leaders, there was no -- making no real commitment from the city leaders?

CLAYTON: Yeah, (inaudible), they made -- we brought such pride to the city and the state for that project, and we were getting -- in fact, we were (inaudible) six months later, (inaudible) a year later. They had done very well. So



Boston thought we were doing a good [20:00] job, and they'd call us to Boston (inaudible), and say, "Oh, that's very nice." So we'd did that little citation and make Atlanta look good. And then we went to Pittsburgh -- or no, Philadelphia, they said, "Gee, we like this project. We want to see what you're doing, and we want to pattern after that." Another little award, little citation; that makes them look good. And then we had people coming in [newspaper people?] coming in who said, "Listen, we want to see this neighborhood you all talk about. That's wonderful that Atlanta's got a stabilization program." (inaudible) the chamber of commerce, a (inaudible) neighborhood. I was interviewed every third day by somebody who thought this was a wonderful project.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

CLAYTON: Yeah, so they liked it, so even if they didn't want to, they would kind of, (inaudible) encourage it (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah. How about the relationship with the Community Relation Commission? Were they involved in --

CLAYTON: Oh yes. It was formed -- we were there first and they formed the commission after that. We got the first award. I mean, the award (inaudible) got the first award that was given for community efforts, [21:00] we got (inaudible).

And, because we're involved (inaudible) Jewish community,  
because we got all the religious leaders together.

BAYOR: (inaudible) active in the area (inaudible)? Were they  
doing anything there, or...?

CLAYTON: No, they came in after we were (inaudible). So once  
we were -- once came into business, they called us down to  
describe how (inaudible) we were doing, and then they asked  
to come down and see what we were doing. And then they  
swallowed us, (inaudible). But they gave us the award,  
because they thought that what we had done was so  
significant that they gave us an award, but they didn't do  
a lot for us after that.

BAYOR: Was there any difference between you know, Allen  
(inaudible) and the southern (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Yeah, but you have to remember, Allen (inaudible)  
joined in by coming to -- we wanted to (inaudible) [22:00]  
(inaudible) so we needed more space. We couldn't get  
[Greenburn Facilities?], and Allen [would open up to it?]  
But he did little things like that for us. And then, the  
city (inaudible) because we didn't have [refreshments?] and  
we didn't have money, and so somebody from city council  
would buy donuts for us, or they may have said, [if you  
don't give me five dollars?] (inaudible), so you know,  
little things like that [made our meetings nice?].

BAYOR: How about Massell? Did he...?

CLAYTON: Oh yeah, uh-huh, Massell did.

BAYOR: (inaudible) black support.

CLAYTON: Oh yeah, uh-huh, oh yeah, they were very much -- so, by then, we'd gotten over our initial hurdles. I mean, everybody was [psychologically?] too. We didn't have any trouble (inaudible). Originally, we had trouble even getting speakers to come. They were like, "Oh, it doesn't sound like it's going to be much." But after that, we didn't have time to program anybody who wanted to be on the program. I mean, that was (inaudible) 22 people that first night to 350 (inaudible) [23:00] people.

BAYOR: Would the goal (inaudible) being (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Right.

BAYOR: But the whites [get to dribble out?] anyway.

CLAYTON: Right.

BAYOR: (inaudible) Westside (inaudible) Development Committee? Was that (inaudible?)

CLAYTON: I did not (inaudible).

BAYOR: How about other organizations? (inaudible)? Were there any others (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Yes, (inaudible) people like [Emory?] -- what was that (inaudible) there, [parole water?]? [There was a white woman?] out there who volunteered to help us move [black to

blacker?], and we did, we moved one family out there. They wanted to make this a neighborhood of Atlanta. And they said, well, you know, (inaudible) don't need of moving out here because we've got black people out here too. And I thought that was a wonderful [service?] So we had this [24:00] change.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

CLAYTON: So we planted a black family out there, one of those four that [are grouped on the hill?]. They moved, but they -- the people we were planting, were not (inaudible) so they rented the house (inaudible). So we (inaudible) they were there, as neighbors.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

CLAYTON: Yes, (inaudible).

BAYOR: OK, I guess, you know, my concern with whatever happened there is what I've heard sort of behind the scenes, that Allen was not really supportive, that the whites in the area were in a sense expendable because they weren't really supporting Allen in the elections anyway.

CLAYTON: Well, (inaudible) now, maybe somebody else [knew?] all the politics [of it?]. When you set up in a meeting, (inaudible) people, first on the line, we didn't talk about the policy. As a matter of fact, they wanted to keep policies out of it.

BAYOR: They talked about the homes.

CLAYTON: Uh-huh, they talked about their (inaudible). They talked about their schools. [25:00] They talked about their house. They talked about their street, you know, having trash out there, and talked about the devaluation of the property. That was all they complained about. And they had the -- what did they [eat?] next door, you know, will what they eat, [rub off?]. I was absolutely -- at that time, I really thought I knew everything, you know, about human nature. I learned so much, because I didn't know that prejudice ran in the direction it ran. (inaudible) the first night we went, (inaudible), people (inaudible) blacks and whites. You'd hope to have a balanced number (inaudible). And so my first night, I moved and I (inaudible) success (inaudible) because we have 22 people, 11 whites, 11 blacks, 11 male, 11 female. What they did though, the women (inaudible). So as [26:00] person came in, they formed sides, all the whites got over here, and all the blacks got over there. [Just?] clearly [designed?]. And so I asked some folks to serve coffee. And (inaudible), you know, the coffee cup, so she gave people a cup, [so?] one spoon. And they told me -- I didn't think anything about the spoon (inaudible). The end of the evening, one guy says, "This meeting has helped me

tremendously, because I can see now, my fears can be torn down. And they are not as prejudiced as I thought. I realized that (inaudible)." (inaudible). And, two other people shared that same thought with me, that, you know, they were a little apprehensive about using [the spoon?], and so that was their [level?] (inaudible), that they used a spoon that some black person had used. And everybody was scared. They didn't (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible)

CLAYTON: I don't know. But you'd be surprised what half of these people told me. [27:00] And some of those people still stand (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible)

CLAYTON: Yeah, oh, oh the (inaudible) phenomenal. That's why I don't care where they lived. You know, and they ultimately moved. But they stayed a long time and learned that, you know, these fears we have were unfounded. You know, a lot of them were unfounded. And then they learned to care about each other. I was single at the time. And, when I left home, I left the meeting, you know, we stayed about ten, eleven o'clock at night. And I got home at night, and this one lady told me that she knew I had an unlisted number, but she'd got my number from the records, because she was the secretary. And she said, "You know, I knew you

were alone, and I just wanted to know that you got home all right. I hope you don't mind if I (inaudible) call you." And then, so people started caring about each other. Well we really did. And to this day, to this day, I hear from people. I saw one lady who still lives there, I saw her in the shopping [28:00] center, during Christmas. And there are at least six people I know who are still there, who learned a lot. One lady's moved to Washington. She cares about us and still calls back and see how people are doing. And, one lady, and her neighbor, she stayed, and her neighbor had a baby. And, (inaudible) emergency one morning, and she just ran to the neighbor, the white neighbor, said, "Oh my gosh, I've got to run downtown, and, no babysitter, you know, would you babysit for my baby?" And so, she said, "sure," she said she would never [have thought to do that?]. And the woman was (inaudible) "Wait, wait wait, you know, what do I feed this kid?" She said, (inaudible), she could feed him the same -- my baby will eat the same thing that your baby will eat. And they laughed about it. But that kind of tells the story then, that's how we learn to just kind of laugh at a lot of these things that (inaudible). [29:00]

BAYOR: Well I guess you have to laugh (inaudible).

CLAYTON: Oh yeah yeah, you know, (inaudible).

BAYOR: You feel that you got any more commitment from the city in regard to schools, getting up to the (inaudible) real estate agents (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Some of them would have stayed, but I think because of what happened (inaudible) all the time that, the criminal, if your neighbor's black (inaudible) the criminal, you know, who's evasive around here, (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible) to be scared of him. (inaudible)

CLAYTON: No, no.

BAYOR: (inaudible) must be still (inaudible).

CLAYTON: Oh yeah. You know, that's [when?] I say I don't agree with some of those things about the city, but they increased patrols. We had, you know, schedule of policemen in the area. They let us know how they had increased it. The police chief came -- Herbert Jenkins was the chief -- he came to meet with us to tell us, you know, any time they got a problem. And some of the (inaudible) problems. Like one time, I had a [30:00] peeping tom. And you know (inaudible), I have the same fears of (inaudible) a criminal. You know, I don't (inaudible) as far as the criminals, you know, I don't want them in my area. And I don't -- (inaudible). And nobody does. So we had reasons to call the police, and various people did. And the response was just as anybody would want their response.



BAYOR: So I guess the feeling is that to maintain a good middle-class community by the (inaudible) in order to maintain, let's say, a good middle-class community, because whites who were (inaudible) to maintain a good black middle-class community.

CLAYTON: Yeah, because we found out too that -- and this is what came out of all of our discussions and all of the meetings is that we really -- all of us want the very same thing. Even the black parents who had children, you know, the same age as white parents, had the same concerns. They wanted dancing and cultural things and the swimming pool, as anybody [31:00] would.

BAYOR: (inaudible) the whites (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Yes, yes, oh yeah. And that's what made us stay, I think, a long time -- I think that's why our program lasted as long as it did, because a lot of things we found were really (inaudible). We really (inaudible) the same (inaudible), and we'd go down to city hall, we all went together. We had a whole section there, blacks and whites. You know, we all want [that little?] help in here, you know.

BAYOR: (inaudible) the projects (inaudible)?

CLAYTON: Yeah.

BAYOR: Any worry (inaudible) the neighborhood?

CLAYTON: No, no.

BAYOR: So really (inaudible) most of the projects  
(inaudible).

CLAYTON: Yeah, we (inaudible), you know, (inaudible) kind of  
neighborhood, you know, where the (inaudible) [wasn't as  
good as?] (inaudible) they were coming and going anyway.  
(inaudible). And, if I were a wrongdoer, and if I were not  
serious, I could have probably gotten rich under the table,  
because the developers came to me. And I mean, I actually  
saw money. I mean, it wasn't a promise of money, I [32:00]  
saw money. I had money just put on the table. I had money  
in envelopes, (inaudible) trying (inaudible), you know,  
just don't fight it. We were just that successful.

BAYOR: That's great. Well, OK. (laughter) I don't know how  
much I've got left on it, so let's --

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