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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Speaker 3, Ray Hill

J

Jimmy Carper 00:06

That was for Ann southwest Houston. Little Melissa Etheridge coming up at about 230. We've got an interview with Ray Hill, which was done on lesbian and gay voices Thursday night, and it's about the zero tolerance that's going on in the Houston area right now with the police. And at the end of it, Ray. Ray has a surprising announcement to make. So I know you want to hear that. But right now, I want to hear some more. Melissa, and it's something that we don't normally get to hear it's, it's her doing a version of a Rod Stewart tune. That sounds a whole lot better. Coming from a woman-. You're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. Now that interview with Ray Hill that we promised, this was heard on lesbian and gay voices last Thursday night, lesbian and gay voices can be heard on KPFT. Every Thursday from 8am until 10. Let's go to it.

R

Ray Hill 01:27

Ray Hill, wonderful. Ray Hill is with us here again this week. Well, yeah, two weeks in a run. That's that's pretty frightening. What happened to me this way? I mean, what did you do in your week you were away, is following the show Thursday. I went home and there was a message on my machine from Charles Armstrong, who is the owner of several businesses on Pacific Street and Charles advised me that the police had been ticketing his employees as they crossed the street. It was going from one bar to another now, when you own three bars at the end of a stadium Street. During the day your employees do a lot of street crossing. And it's not legal to crossing the street is no crosswalk. And actually it is illegal to cross the street number one, it's not a thoroughfare. Pacific street dead ends there. And the hitchhiking law applies to third I mean the jaywalking on plans to thoroughfares and it also applies to places where there are crosswalks indicated. So that you know what is in fact a crosswalk has to be painted in there no painted crosswalks on the thoroughfare as matter of fact, there's an interesting situation down next to City Hall across the street from tranquility Park is a large pedestrian crosswalk that is not at an intersection. So the city makes exception for those things. But what's going on is they're happy zero tolerance, which means any indication at all that people are in violating. So I thought well, what I'll do, I waited until Friday and I left here I talked several times with Charles during the course of Friday and we talked to some other people who

had a couple of women had been stopped while jogging on Hyde Park Street. I park has just notoriously bad sidewalks. And so they were jogging as they have done for the many years that they live in Montrose. The police pulled them over ticket to them for walking in the street for sidewalks are provided. And so I went Friday evening before my show over to the police substation and said I wanted to talk to the sergeant and they seem very, very strange and uptight. As matter of fact, I walked in and which I do frequently. I'm not a stranger at the substation manufacturers as well as most folks in Montrose, I contributed to the cause to build it did obviously I used to sit in the dunking tank during the festival and oh, I wish I'd known that. Right cops came in for miles and miles, we got to dunk great hill and some of those suckers got pretty good. Amen. So I spent a lot of time underwater. And so that was that was interesting and all that. But they were very strange, very distant. They all came around front and gathered around like me as if I was, you know, the Mad Bomber or something. I thought that was weird. And they didn't know who the sergeant was. And they didn't know how it could be read sensible. Give me the Captain's Office number because, well, the captain is on vacation. Well, that's fine. There'll be a lieutenant there. Sure. And so I walked out the front door, there was Lee Harrington, walking down the sidewalk and other activists for those of you don't know late, and Lee said, Have you heard about the zero tolerance and said No, I said I was just trying to find some information about it, and returns there on the Crocker street next to the little police substation, and we walked down past Avondale and cross the street to go to where his apartments located. And as we crossed the street a squad car screeched you turn turn on their lights and rushed back. And the first words out of the officer's mouth was let me see your driver's license. And I told him something about his mother and the horse they wrote in. Because you don't have to doctors, right, you're right. You don't you need a driver's license to drive a vehicle. All right, any kind of vehicle motorcycle or, or something you need a driver's license rather vehicle. Well, I he said, Well, you don't understand if you don't show me your driver's license. I'm taking you to jail. I said, Well, that's been done before.

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Speaker 3 05:42

Didn't they actually take some of those joggers and Hyde Park?

R

Ray Hill 05:45

Well, I'm gonna get that that's what's happening now. And so I said, No, I said, As matter of fact, I went to federal court over this issue, and I want and other people and Billy Harrington volunteered his driver's license, they wrote him a citation, and told him get out of there. And he left and went out and told Charles Armstrong what was going on. But they told him to get out of it basically, in front of his house, right? Get out of the neighborhood, get out of the wagon move, got on her end, he did that. And I said, you know, other people can do that if they want to. But since I Ray Hill, sued the city over that issue, and I won the case. And you paid me for the inconvenience of going to jail. For me to volunteer my driver's license up on your demand would mean that I would be giving up rights that I had a hard fought one. And I'm not willing to do that. Because if I surrender those rights, then they're available to nobody. And I said, Why don't you get your sergeant. So he got on the horn. And about 30 minutes later, two sergeants, and the lieutenant the commanding officer, that night came, and he talked to them for a while. And the lieutenant, the man who makes the decision as sole representative of the city, for the entire area came up and said, Mr. Hill, all of these people knew me, including the officer that said, let me see your driver's license. All of those folks knew me my identity was not in

question. Right. Right. Both officers in the car knew that I was raised. They're just being officious. Right, right. And the issue was control. And so the lieutenant said, you're going to have showed this officer, your driver's license, and we're taking you to jail. And I said, that's fine. You can take me to jail. I'm not afraid of jail. Let's go. Let us get out of that condition down there. And I don't mind going And about this time, Charles Armstrong come up on foot, and he's screaming doubt arrest of the governor, please don't take Greyhound you don't really know this is not a good idea, and yada yada yada. And so, you know, burger masters have a way with police officers. And so they decided that they would ask me one more time show my driver's license, I refuse to do that. I said, Do you have a driver's license? Of course, you're gonna driver's license, where is it? It's in my pocket. We'll come on out and they were going to search me and take it away from us. You don't have probable cause to go so my wife and I we've got a bunch of witnesses here because the lady that runs a real estate office across the street, Lee Harrington was back there were several people wanted us to hug me for my driver's license. I told you, you could not see my driver's license, you know I am. So finally they took my residential information off of their computer. I'm no stranger to their computer either. And so they took that information and wrote me a citation incited let me go. What was the citation for walking in the street where sidewalks are provided it was muddy that night we'd had a shower and Wednesday and I walked around some mud and we got over in the street and crossing the street. Also an important point is those sidewalks are not safe at night. Well, it wasn't it and it was about this time of the day. Okay. It was it was about eight o'clock and all that it's not really dark out there. But they are muddy. And it no longer requires me to get my my dainty high heels. I was wearing sequins deals that night, you know, and I didn't want mud, you know. And so the next morning at before nine o'clock stone soups, biggest day stone soup is the AIDS pantry wrapped on Westheimer. It's an important institution to community. People with AIDS who are also in forms of disability depend on it for part of the groceries. So in the morning, at about nine o'clock or before nine o'clock, they align had formed of sick people. With brown paper sacks waiting to go in to get their groceries there were three women and eight or nine men. I don't know whether you live under 12 people but there were that many people out there for squad cars was to Office officers in each swarm from two different directions up on the sidewalk. They don't have anything better to do, dumped out demanded identification from everybody that where three people went down in one car. Four people were put in the back of the car. I don't know whether they were subsequently let loose or whether they carried them somewhere else or I don't know why but the women were all run off. They run all the women off from the line. And they arrested three people for Anshan outstanding warrants. And then the other four, I don't know what happened to them that that unclear. So I spent all of Saturday evening and Sunday getting one of them out of jail. I'd take it in Houston, many years old cars and driven in years, sick man, and you had a ticket in Stafford and I paid that with my rent money they sent to pay me back most of it and they will pay me back the rest of the wonderful people. But the officer would never have known that. If he hadn't violated the law by demanding identification from the man. Now, there's no probable cause for people standing in line with brown paper sacks to get their groceries. You might as well make a raid on Wall drive Baptist Church this coming Sunday and people in the parking lot and throw them across their cars and demand to see their identification and see how many warrants you can find. Now the police department are telling the media that this is all about drugs and prostitution. No, this is not this is about people, sick people with AIDS. And this is about the police abusing their authority by demanding identification. When it is not required by law. I know that because I did the case and I won the case. Now they told me at the police station, we did a news conference Tuesday, and from the police station, about 50 people came, many of them had been hassled in one form or another. The police were all there. Some gay people in the neighborhood. Ed Gonzalez came by to encourage the police to keep on doing whether there are many people that that think that stone soup kitchen feeds homeless people and that's one of our homeless

people in Montrose. I mean, they're really insensitive kind of people to the kinds of things that the rest of us are very sensitive about. However, there's some hope. A lot of this falls under the American Disability Act. You just can't push disabled people around like you can just treat corner punks and people with AIDS are disabled. And since we have it on videotape from Jack Kaito, spokesperson for the police department, and we have it on audio tape from the lieutenant representing the command staff in the area that the raid on stone soup was at the request of members of Avondale Association. We may be able to get into court, those people are homeowners and they have got homeowners liability. And there's enough money in that for lawyers. So we can get better lawyers and sit with the evidence we have on tape. We can go after them individually and as an organization and stop this crap once and for all. But as of this morning, a woman was jogging on Avondale itself. She was stopped by the police. They demanded identification she said and didn't bring it with me. I live right around the corner and they carried her to jail for not having identification. Even though you won the court decision that says he doesn't have to carry out question about carrying damage, just absolute question. At one point, that lieutenant said, Well, Mr. Hill, you see, we have to have your identification in order to write you a citation. And so no. Asked me my name, my address, I'll tell you truthfully, what money you're going to even if you get my identification gonna ask me is this correct? And I'm going to answer that. So you're gonna take my word for it, whether you have identification or not. So ask me where I live? And I'll tell you and fill out your damn ticket. If that's what if that? If that? No, we you have got to document your identity. No, you don't.

 Speaker 3 14:24

What is the average costs of these citations?

 Ray Hill 14:27

Oh, I don't know I did these citations are not worth the paper they're written on. But I can assure you the one of the wonderful things about being right here is I can get lawyers capable of trying capital cases, to go down to municipal court and fight chicken stuff. You know, and so my case is going to be to hell the way I'm sure I can get some representation for Lee Harrington. But he will and the people with AIDS in jail. And he's Parker and I cooperated with the intake system to be sensitive to people who are on medications. Because people with AIDS have to take medication, sometimes every four hours, they have to maintain medication levels in their system to fight the virus. And so they all got inducted into the jail. They saw the medical personnel and Asian woman formally of Martha Wong staff. And and she asked them, are you sick? Yes. Are you on medication? Yes. And then just jump to the sale, without any preparations indication for their medication, thanks to a wonderful logger hosted Jose Roho, who is this is 78 or 80 year old Hispanic lawyer, friend of mine, who just happened to be down there. We wrote a handwritten order and gave it to the judge. And the judge called the medical person over to the bench and said, Here's this man's medicine, you will give this man his medicine. And when that happened, she went back and she called the rest of them down and started providing their medications as well. But you have to what that system is not automatic. You, you know, you get it set up with the right kind of people and all that you think you've got it wired. And then you find out that somebody just don't care. But fortunately, that judge that was on that morning, would take it. And I've had some discussions with Judge Sam Alfonso and judge Sylvia Garcia, who is the presiding judge about some of the things I saw in the courtroom. And I think those issues will be resolved too. So in the meantime, my my advice to

you this is continuing if you socialize or come to Montrose, bring picture ID which if you're asked by the officer display it, do some unless you're willing to go to jail if you're willing to go to jail. My telephone number is 5236969. It's a hard number to forget. And I accept collect calls from jail. We have to know what's going on. What does this mean for Q patrol? Well, I was just thinking about that. It's going to be very interesting on Q patrol on Friday night. Because we have a policy that we walk in the street because our our main modus operandi visible last Thursday, last Friday night, I said I'm gonna be on the air from nine to 11 and I will be back on the streets. While I got off the prison program at Levinson my staff home and I went to Pacific street. There was not a squad car to be found on Pacific street between 11 o'clock and two o'clock in the morning. And I was just you know, excuse the expression fagged out and had to go to bed but during that time frame where I actually went home about 130 but during from 11 o'clock to 130 there was not a police car patrol and a what we call Pacific Street area that night keep patrol was out and they were going about their business Jimmy was driving around the car and and other folks were pedestrians issues you will guess you have to use the sidewalks in Montrose you know, I remember we were having some demonstration over some gay bashing thing and and we were chatting and marching and chanting and marching and what was sidewalk margin somebody started to march what do we want and somebody said sidewalks and when do we want them now? They're they're not reliable in Montrose and they are dangerous a lot of them are over covered with the with shrubbery and make ideal places for people to hide and, and I've advised people for years, don't get next to the bushes stay out where you can see what's coming. And besides which of the police are taking that attitude and if they see you next to a bush, they're going to assume that you've been in the bushes and arrest you for that. So well it's awkward situation. It's it's a quarrel between neighborhood organizations specifically Avondale Association. They're upset about embark embark the new you know, that bombed out looks like downtown Beirut down here on the corner right across the street from the police substation used to be Cantina. Yeah, was art RINs. Before that, is that really that building one of the history that's my gay people are in Montrose is we brought the restaurant after bar restaurant business to art rent in the 50s. And so they they have people are looking to develop that into another community bar. That's right. I remember hearing hands. So Avondale Association started screaming and yelling, but they couldn't block the permits, the permits had been granted. And so they're mad about that. But in a larger degree, there was one member of Avondale Association and I'm sorry this is a quote from a person who would prefer to remain not a business person the area was telling them what this would be a nice neighborhood it weren't for the fagot So what we would like for you and your business friends to do is to go down to the warehouse district north and east of downtown and build a fag veal bear, because we want you out of Avondale Association, because this is going to restore to the wonderful neighborhood that it was in the 20s and 30s. Whoa, that is a pipe dream. That ain't gonna happen. We're mixed development. We've always been mixed development, when we did a referendum on zoning in 1993, precinct 34, which encompasses all of avenues Association. Zoning failed to to one. As matter of fact, zoning only carried one precinct in all of the precincts claimed by near town association with strong near term support, and strong Avondale sport and strong. Other support from the Civic clubs, Nayar, the only precinct that carried zoning was cherry Hurst, and then by less than 50 votes. So there's a vacancy on city council, and I am going to run for it. I don't hold up any illusions that I'm going to get elected, and I don't want my friends to squander their money. But my god, somebody has got to tell city council that Houstonians have already expressed their opinion about government control of our lives. We did that zoning referendum. And we said no, in the vast majority, but there is no one currently sitting at city hall table that understands that. They're always trying to figure out where we're going to come in through the backdoor into neighborhood zoning, or we're going to do this and the queers need to be left alone, and people who have want to have options. Listen. There's an attempt right now for Martha Wong to decide

on how adults can spend their adult entertainment dollars. You know, and I've already seen Mary Poppins, I don't want to see it again. I've already seen childhood fantasies, I don't want to say I'm an adult, I want to make some decisions. They're anti gay and lesbian businesses and bars. They're anti gay, makes development which a small community needs for cohesion. It's not just us. It's the Vietnamese community next to it. It's all over the place. Mix development is an idea. Go to New York, go to the Irish ghetto. Go to the Jewish ghetto. Go to the Italian ghettos plural. Go to Chicago. See where the Polish people live. It's in mixed development areas. There are houses and shops next door to each other. Those communities are politically cohesive, because of the geography. And best thing you can do is disperse people so that there's no longer a Montrose and again lesbian community concentrated in Montrose. And there is no longer a Vietnamese community contrary, and so you take people with a minority voice, and you disperse them, so they have absolutely no power, no future at all. I think there are a lot of people in Houston that understand that message. And so I may not where I'm not going to win, let's be fair, but I am going to run for city council and I am going to talk about individual freedoms and liberties as the process and I appreciate your encouragement.

S

Speaker 3 23:43

Well, we hope you don't can't say you're not going to win because everybody said you don Bernie wasn't gonna win either. And look where he's sitting down. Right?

R

Ray Hill 23:50

That's right and bless his heart did on Bernie is scared to death, because the logical thing for a politician to have done, he got elected with gay and black support, lodges that cool thing for him to do but go get the Civic clubs support shore up where he didn't get votes. And so I've got him pulling his color and sweating, but he's willing to help. All right, if you don't win at city that you just have to go to state. Again. I love you folks at but please, if you socialize and spend your love money in Montrose, you're as good among pro citizen as anybody else on the planet. All right. Just be careful. If you wind up getting in trouble. Get real, real man. All right. Don't fight back. But get real, real mad and tell all your friends how to vote in the upcoming city like special election and also in the state and county elections in the fall.

J

Jimmy Carper 24:43

Ray Hill on lesbian and gay voices last Thursday with his announcement that he's running for city council. That was pretty amazing to me. We'll see how it goes. While we're let's say I don't want to have the show and without talking about Montrose? 7706 not just a zip code it's a lifestyle on access Houston cable TV, you've got two more chances to see Montrose 7706 with host Mad Dog, Matt Lockeland Julie Cisco, Ray Hill who is going to be on every episode. And Gloria the young, if you have Warner, it's channel 17 TCI 41 photo scope 72 op tale set seven and it's sponsored by River Oaks sports and imports. Heavenly autos that down to earth prices. How's that Edward? And I need your assistance, Inc. Home health like a hospital without walls. That's now it's this morning Sunday, August the fourth at 8:30am. And tomorrow, Monday, August the fifth at 1:30am. Coming up at three o'clock will be the BBC News followed by the return of the sons of musical chairs with Billy Gilbert and Randy and Elmo, and you've been listening to After Hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station

and I want to go out with a brand new song by a group called Z crazy. Okay, Z razy new queer group. Actually, they've been around a while I just don't have much from them. But this is a great song called come out, everybody. See you next week.