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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

city, montrose, government, economic development, economy, question, jobs, houston, talk, community, businesses, aids, library, year, fm, issue, proud, program, create, deborah

SPEAKERS

Bruce Reeves, Buddy Johnston, Deborah Bell

 Bruce Reeves 00:00

All right, yeah. Do you want to tag one?

 Deborah Bell 00:06

Check? Check, check. Check to Hi. Oh, ready to go? We could do a dialogue. Dalek, we're go. Okay. We have to keep buddy our friend you know, because he has all kinds of things on tape. Hi, I'm Deborah bell.

 Bruce Reeves 00:30

And I'm Bruce Reeves.

 Deborah Bell 00:31

I'm a dyke and I'm a faggot. And we're the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 1988. Pride Week is June 17 to the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud.

 Bruce Reeves 00:47

The parade will be Sunday June 26 3pm and will run from Westheimer. At Woodhead to Montrose. Gay Fest will last from noon until dark and the quick copy parking lot across from Kroger.

 Deborah Bell 00:59

Pride Week is much more than a group of individuals parading down the street plan by an elitist few.

B Bruce Reeves 01:05

It is an opportunity to get involved and show the world that we are a happy loving people that we are united in our fight for civil rights.

D Deborah Bell 01:13

We are thankfully unique and rightfully proud to be a gay and lesbian people. For more information about Pride Week, call 9612905 come

B Bruce Reeves 01:25

out of your closet come out into the street and show the world that you are rightfully proud in 1988.

D Deborah Bell 01:32

And I forgot that it's like that part. Yeah, this is a different script, isn't it? Yes. He ran it off different. It's just in the proper border. Okay, a lot though. I think we need to say the quick car copy parking lot on Montrose.

B Bruce Reeves 01:53

Okay. Is that sufficient, maybe instead of

D Deborah Bell 01:57

across our across, across from the disco Kroger. But it's still like, Hi, I'm Deborah Bell.

B Bruce Reeves 02:07

And I'm Bruce Reeves.

D Deborah Bell 02:08

I'm a die and I'm a faggot. And we're the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 1988. Pride Week is June 17. To the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud.

B Bruce Reeves 02:23

The parade will be Sunday June 26 3pm and will run from Westheimer it would head to Montrose. Gay Fest will run from noon till dark in the

D Deborah Bell 02:35

ad on tape. Hi, I'm

B Bruce Reeves 02:37

Deborah bell. And I'm Bruce Reeves.

D Deborah Bell 02:40

I'm a die and I'm a faggot. And we're the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 1988 Pride Week is June 17. To the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud.

B Bruce Reeves 02:54

The parade will be June 26 3pm and will run from Westheimer it would head to Montrose. Gay Fest will last from noon until dark in the parking lot and the 3300 block of Montrose

D Deborah Bell 03:06

Pride Week is much more than a group of individuals parading down the street planned by an elitist few. It is an

B Bruce Reeves 03:13

opportunity to get involved and show the world that we are a happy loving people that we are united in our right for civil rights. Shit. Wonderful technology. Hi, I'm Deborah bell. And I'm Bruce Reeves.

D Deborah Bell 03:29

I'm a die and I'm a faggot. And we're the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1988 Pride Week is June 17 to the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud.

B Bruce Reeves 03:44

The parade will be Sunday the 26th at 3pm and we'll run from Westheimer at Woodhead to Montrose gay Festival last from noon until dark in the parking lot in the 3300 block of Montrose. Pride Week is

D Deborah Bell 03:57

much more than a group of individuals parading down the street planned by an elitist few.

B Bruce Reeves 04:03

It is an opportunity to get involved and show the world that we are a happy loving people that we are united in our fight for civil rights.

D Deborah Bell 04:12

We are thankfully unique and rightfully proud to be a gay and lesbian people. For more information about Pride Week, call 961 2905

B Bruce Reeves 04:23

come out of your closets come out into the streets and show the world you

D Deborah Bell 04:27

are rightfully proud in 1988. Know this this project is much more than a group of individuals prorating plan by an elitist fee has always been awkward for me. I felt like I know I feel like it should have another word like something planned by in the latest few or

B Bruce Reeves 04:57

okay throw it in but Hi, I'm Deborah Bell and I'm Bruce Reeves.

D Deborah Bell 05:07

I'm a die and I'm a faggot. And we're the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1988. Pride Week is June 17 to the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud.

B

Bruce Reeves 05:22

The parade will be Sunday the 26th at 3pm and we'll run from Westheimer. At Woodhead to Montrose. Gay Fest will last from noon until dark in the parking lot in the 3300 block of Montrose

D

Deborah Bell 05:35

Pride Week is much more than a group of individuals just parading down the street, something planned by an elitist few.

B

Bruce Reeves 05:43

It is an opportunity to get involved and show the world that we are a happy loving people that we are united in our fight for civil rights.

D

Deborah Bell 05:51

We are thankfully unique and rightfully proud to be a gay and lesbian people. For more information about Pride Week, call 961 2905 come out of your closets come out into the streets and show the world you are rightfully proud in 1988. I tried to add to that, that time both

♂

06:14

add that we did this

♂

06:24

okay. Let me making the making.

B

Bruce Reeves 06:30

Okay, are we ready? We're both gonna say that this time.

D

Deborah Bell 06:36

Not unless I write it in here. disappeared. I don't know where it went out here. This

B

Buddy Johnston 06:41

never finishes saying who never says Pride Week is encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud. You say That's right.

D Deborah Bell 06:49

That's good. I think we're, yeah, yeah, I think that's right. That's right. Okay. All right.

B Bruce Reeves 07:01

Give me that pen. So I put that in here.

D Deborah Bell 07:04

All right. Pocket Indian. Hi, I'm Debra Bell. Making I'll have to tell you a real funny story later about someone making a real awful remark and someone you just don't expect to do these things. Okay, someone

∅ 07:30

over this way towards you?

D Deborah Bell 07:33

Yeah, I'm used to it being more like that. Hi, I'm Debra Bell. I'm sorry. Hi, I'm Deborah bell.

B Bruce Reeves 07:50

And I'm Bruce raves. I'm a die and I'm a faggot. And we're the

D Deborah Bell 07:55

co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 1988. Pride Week is June 17, to the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud. That's

B Bruce Reeves 08:07

right. The parade will be June 26 3pm. And we'll run and I didn't say Sunday. Well. Hi, I'm Debra bell. And I'm Bruce raves.

D Deborah Bell 08:20

I'm a die and I'm a faggot. And we're the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 1988. Pride Week is June 17 to the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out

...

and be rightfully proud. That's right.

B Bruce Reeves 08:35

The parade will be Sunday the 26th at 3pm and will run from Westheimer. At Woodhead to Montrose. Gay Fest will last from noon until dark in the parking lot in the 3300 block of Montrose. Pride Week

D Deborah Bell 08:48

is much more than a group of individuals parading down the street, something planned by an elitist view.

B Bruce Reeves 08:55

It is an opportunity for you to get involved and show the world that we are all a Happy loving people, that we are all united in our fight for civil rights.

D Deborah Bell 09:04

We are thankfully unique and rightfully proud to be a gay and lesbian people. For more information about Pride Week, call 961 2905

B Bruce Reeves 09:16

Come out of the streets

D Deborah Bell 09:27

Well, we have to laugh Okay, ready Hi, I'm Deborah bell.

B Bruce Reeves 09:45

And I'm Bruce raves.

D Deborah Bell 09:47

I'm a die and I'm a faggot. And we're the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 1988. Pride Week is June 17 to the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud.

 Bruce Reeves 10:02

That's right. The parade will be Sunday the 26th at 3pm and will run from Westheimer. It would head to Montrose. Gay Fest will last from noon until dark in the parking lot at the 300 block of Montrose.

 Deborah Bell 10:16

3300. So I said, No, you said 300. Hi, I'm Deborah bell. And I'm Bruce raves. I'm a dyke and I'm a faggot. And we're the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1988. Pride Week is June 17, to the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud. That's right,

 Bruce Reeves 10:40

or next.

 10:45

Don't do this tomorrow. For more time.

 Deborah Bell 10:49

He can do it, he can do it. Hi, I'm Deborah bell.

 Bruce Reeves 10:55

And I'm Bruce Reeves.

 Deborah Bell 10:56

I'm a die and I'm a faggot. And we're the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 1988. Pride Week is June 17. To the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud.

 Bruce Reeves 11:10

That's right. The parade will be Sunday the 26th at 3pm and will run from Westheimer. It would head to Montrose. Gay Fest will last from noon until dark in the parking lot in the 3300 block of Montrose. Pride Week is

D Deborah Bell 11:24

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B Bruce Reeves 11:30

it is an opportunity to get involved and show the world that we are a happy loving people that we are united in our fight for civil rights.

D Deborah Bell 11:38

We are thankfully unique and rightfully proud to be a gay and lesbian people. For more information about Pride Week, call 961 2905 come out of your closets come out into the streets and show the world that you are rightfully proud in 1988. It's a take

∅ 12:12

so we can test and see whether this really works. And I can learn learn to talk slowly. Yes, this is radio edits. more sparse. Well, everybody keeps talking about becoming lean and mean in a difficulty economy. So here we are. Hey,

B Bruce Reeves 12:34

buddy. Y'all know how you're planning on producing. If you want to get just put this

∅ 12:39

on hold try this to see how the volumes are and to see how the whole thing sounds.

∅ 12:45

Everything sounds good. Is it okay?

∅ 12:52

That could be part of our problem.

∅ 12:55

Okay, anything you do looks good to me. I haven't had the foggiest idea. How

B

Buddy Johnston 12:59

do we get more money out of the city now? Just kidding. Does that look okay? Does that sound good?

o

13:05

Sounds good to me. i If it can't if it's coming across all right on the on the tape.

B

Buddy Johnston 13:09

The only thing I'd like to ask is it right get ready to close up. If you'll just try to remember to say and you're listening to after hours on KPFT are so okay like that so that you know whatever we say at the end of clothes will be the same thing. Wire Yes. But we'll just say this is the first one and then we'll do the second one. What is that emergency technician get in here and

o

13:46

I long learned a long time ago not fooling. Yeah, well, no, I can hear that. It's very, very faint. That sounds fine to me. Sounds real clear. Okay, why don't we do a little ID and then I'll give like five seconds and then go into the end of the talk? Because that sounds great. Because we can do that battle but sure. I'm playing racquetball my back is like the best shape. I guess we could even Promo The damn fundraising drive. But that's what I'll still be going. They're going into September the 15th. Or recall, right?

B

Buddy Johnston 14:35

We just can't we can say something's happening, but we can't mention typically \$10

o

14:40

Oh, I didn't mean that. I meant didn't mean to Samantha KPFT. Oh, sure. Do While we're on the air. What's the \$10 thing?

B

Buddy Johnston 14:45

No, we don't want to mention the marathon. Okay, we'll do that. Alright, okay. There'll be a second here. And

o

14:53

I think the people that do it got to be sick of it before it's all over. All right, you ready? Anytime

you're ready. Okay. So HI, this is tape number one. This is George Grinia, city council member for district C, which includes the Montrose and KPFT. Over the next couple of weeks, I'm going to be taking a little bit of time each Saturday night, just to talk a little bit, nothing structured, nothing formal about the city, and what we're doing about the concerns of the Montrose area and the city at large. And I hope that you will take the opportunity to let us know here at KPFT. The subjects are the questions you would like to have me deal with, when I take this time each Saturday night to visit with you a little bit. I think it's very important, as a member of city council, that I make sure that citizens of this community, all the citizens of this community, have every opportunity they possibly can to visit with their elected officials. And to understand a little bit of the various problems and challenges and programs that we are trying and testing and undertaking at city government. These are not terribly easy times for the city. These are not terribly easy times for the gay community. But I honestly believe that if we work together, the various challenges that we confront today can be looked upon 10 years from now, as something that we overcame, and bested together. Among the issues that I would like to talk with you about during the month of September is the question of AIDS. And the very serious debate that we are having about whether or not the city has a larger role to play in that deadly disease. My personal belief is that city government has failed to meet its responsibilities in this area, that despite the resources that have been allocated to date, much more remains to be done. And much of that work must be the role and the burden of city government and the closing of the Institute for immunological disorders, which will be coming sometime during the next 12 months. And the talk by Dr. Peter Mann Sal, who heads up that Institute as to the needs in this community created by the AIDS crisis, make it all the more imperative that we in city government face up to our responsibilities on this issue, and begin to undertake the programs that will enable us to tell the rest of the country that Houston, the fourth largest city in the United States, has faced up to the AIDS question, and is doing as much as any city in this country to deal with it. And in fact, that we are doing more. I also want to talk during the next three or four weeks about this whole issue that we have called economic development, what it is, and what it isn't, how we go about it, how we're doing, how we could do better. Some of you may know that, about three weeks ago, two of my colleagues and I proposed that the city create a Department of Commerce, much like the Federal Government's Department of Commerce, and much like the state's recently formed Department of Commerce. The goal of that department is to focus and bring together all of the city's current activities in the area of creating new jobs and retaining old ones. Even more important, there are a number of activities which city government does not undertake, activities, which we desperately need to bring about if the city is to revive a diversify and broaden its economy. I also want to give some specific examples of things we've done right here in the Montrose area, to show how city government working in a creative, innovative and an energetic way can help spur economic growth and economic stability in our city's neighborhoods. Finally, I want to talk to this month a little bit about that ever present subject of city finances, just as each of us have to worry about our household budgets. So to city government, during these difficult times, has been finding a challenge to balance between its revenues and its expenditures. This year, the city council has taken some rather unusual steps to bring our revenues into line with our expenditures. And some of those steps will have very real implications in terms of levels of service for all areas of the city. Wherever you live, you'll need to know some of the things that will be happening over the next 12 months as the city works to keep cost down during these very difficult times economically. Most important, I hope you will take me up on my offer of letting us know here at KPFT. And after hours, the topics that you would like discussed. I very much want to address the concerns that are on your mind to answer the questions that you might have about city government and to hear your views on the steps that we need to be taking in a wide variety of areas to make our city government as responsive and responsible to all of our citizens as we possibly can. Recently, I finished up five and a half years on the city council. And I must say that

one of the things that has given me the most pleasure, and the most pride has been the very real responsiveness of all the citizens of my district district see, and their willingness to work with me and my office, other members of council, and our city government to make our city a better place. If there's one thing I've learned during those five and a half years, it's that an elected official, however good, however, dedicated, however, well intentioned, has very little chance to get anything significant accomplished, without the help, and the support, and the real involvement of those he represents, to each of you who have helped. Thanks very much to each of you who have thought about helping, but never quite got around to it, I urge you to take the opportunity now to start thinking about ways in which you can help the city by being involved through your elected officials and through your city government. And to those of you who would like to come forward, but a little hesitant. Don't worry. We're all human beings. We're all just trying to get a job done. And we all need each other, if we're going to make the city all that it can be. Again, if you have an idea for a program, or a question you'd like me to answer, or a situation or proposal you'd like us to consider. I hope that you'll feel free to call KPFT and give us a ring, because we need to hear from you in order to make this program the best possible. Finally, let me thank buddy and everyone who's put together after hours for giving me this opportunity to spend a few minutes with you at this very early hour on a Saturday morning. And I hope that over the next few weeks, we will be able to build a closer bond as we talk about various issues that face us, not as a city government, but as a community of folks who want to live together and prosper together. Thanks very much. Have a good evening. This is KPFT FM 90.1 after hours.



22:02

It was great. I knew it wouldn't be how long? I really wasn't watching.



22:07

I was listening. I was watching I saw the counselor. This is tape number two for George graininess.



22:18

I think there's no doubt that there's more any health correlate started good. I'm sorry. Okay, we'll try it again. Remember to take tape number two, take number two. I think among those who have, oh, shit, I can create a new intro. Hang on, we'll get this going. I did too. Well, on the first one. This is take number three of number two,



22:41

you're out takes it on black. That's right. That's right.



22:44

We're gonna try this again in about five minutes, five seconds.



22:53

This is tape number two takes three. Good morning. Good morning. This is George grania. City council member for district C. I want to thank buddy and all the folks that after hours for giving me this opportunity to visit with you a little bit here on KPFT FM 90.1 on various issues that confront us and city government, and the challenge us as a community. I think that among all the health issues that I've known since the time I was a child, none has been more serious, more devastating, and just more pulling at our hearts than the whole question of AIDS. I am well aware that over the last three years, there's been a growing controversy about the role of the city, or more honestly, the lack of role of the city in the whole issue of AIDS, its prevention, and the care of those who have become patients of the disease. Seems to me that we in city government do have responsibilities in this area. And that's the subject I'd like to talk with you about for a little while tonight. Traditionally, city government has not been in the role of a health care provider many years ago, apparently back in the 1930s, the city and the county made a decision that they would split between them health care functions. The city would take those health care functions that had to do with prevention. And the county would take over hospital care through the hospital district. And that is essentially the model that has been followed since that time. In addition, we have and I think rather unfortunately, a tradition in which Houston city government is not terribly involved with the issue of social services. And this lack of a program or lack of a commitment has carried over to the question of AIDS. I say that by way of background because sometimes when we assumed that the indifference to AIDS is strictly a political question, we need to remember that part of it is cultural and parched. Part of it is historical, in changing city government's attitudes towards this issue, and in getting the city government to meet its responsibilities in dealing with the AIDS crisis. We have to understand that we have not only political problems and social problems to deal with, we also have some very real historical precedents that we have to overcome. That said, I honestly believe that we in city government have a far larger role to play on this question than we have to date made had been my hope, to be honest with you, that the administration would have taken a vigorous and high profile position on this question several years ago. And when the mayor's aids task force was formed, I had the hope that that unit, because of the quality of the people involved, would be able to establish our city as a leader on this question. For a variety of reasons, none of which I think do us much good to discuss at this point, that did not happen. And earlier this year, after reviewing the city's efforts, and believing that the city needed to do more, I made several basic and simple proposals to get the city moving on the subject of AIDS. The first was that we begin to do that part of the job in health care that everybody acknowledges belongs to the city of Houston. And that's education. On the issue of AIDS education is critically important. Because right now, all of the scientists, including those who are most deeply involved in the search for a vaccine, and a search for a cure for PW A's agree that the most effective action we can undertake, is to educate ourselves and our friends in our community, about the way to avoid the further spread of this disease. And education is clearly the responsibility of the city of Houston. And for that reason, I proposed a several step plan for making sure that every citizen of Houston understands what AIDS is, what it is not, and how to prevent it spread. The first major step was to insert in our water bills, about 340,000, of which we send out every month, a brief, clear, concise explanation about the disease, about what it is about what it is not. And again, most importantly, how to avoid it spread. Those water bill inserts finally went out starting in early August. Now, please understand that one time insert of water bill information is not enough. We need to put that information into the water bills again about six months ago on that from now. Because just as somebody runs an advertisement several times to make sure it's understood. So to you need to send out healthcare information

several times before everybody's really had a chance to see what it says. In addition, we need now to talk to our utility companies and Tech's Houston lighting and power. And ask them to do the same thing that we have done, show the same commitment to educating the public on this disease by inserting in their bills, the same kind of educational information. This is extremely important. Since the electric company, the gas company and the phone company, reach a lot of people that the city of Houston does not because not everybody gets a water bill. In addition to that major step forward on education, I proposed that we put together a task force of all levels and units of government to start working together in an inter governmental way to deal with all aspects of this question. If the city of Houston is not involved with health care through the hospital system, we at least need to be working with the county and with the hospital district to make sure that those units of government that do have that responsibility, are doing the job as effectively as possible. Although it's taken, I think, far too long to put that intergovernmental taskforce together. It is being named this month. And I'm especially pleased the County Judge John Lindsay, and the County Commissioners Court have become very vigorous advocates for this inter governmental Task Force. And then in fact, County Judge John Lindsay, and one of the commissioners will be serving along with me as members of that task force. I mentioned these steps, not to suggest that we are doing everything that we can because we are not. But to let you know that there are some of us in city government who do believe that AIDS is perhaps the most significant health crisis we have ever faced, that the city does have a responsibility to deal with this issue that the city cannot say that feels care and compassion for its citizens, unless we worry about and deal with and address this question. And I also believe that the city government, even where their particular responsibility or issue is not it's to deal with has a responsibility that goes beyond any individual turf question. We in city government need to show leadership on this issue. We owe it to our citizens. We owe it to ourselves. We owe it to our responsibilities as elected officials for this community. There is no more important health question. No more difficult health crisis than the AIDS problem that we face today. But I honestly believe There are things that we can do to slow and stop it spread. And having done that, we can move on to the issue of finding a cure for this terrible disease. And for those who are afflicted by it, this is George Granny's city council member for districts see speaking on after hours, this very early Sunday morning. I want to thank KPFT, FM 90.1, and buddy for giving me the opportunity to visit with you. And I'll be talking with you again, next Sunday night. Thank you.



30:32

Anytime you're ready, you



30:32

want to stop and take a break. Now we'll just go we'll go ahead. I'm running a little long apologize for now try to come back. We'll get the Sunday morning business. We're just we're here anytime within a day or night the hardest? Well, you know, I just thing is I think of Saturday night. Okay, this is tip number three. Tip number one. This is George grinning a city council member for district C speaking on after hours, this very early Sunday morning on KPFT FM 90.1. I want to thank buddy and all the folks who have put together the after hours program for two things. First of all, for volunteering the time that it has taken to make sure this program is on the air. So that those of you who are wending your way homes in the early morning hours of Sunday, have someone to hear from and to get a little spot of community news. I think it's

very important the time they're putting into this and the energy. And I think we all have high hopes for the success of this program. I also want to thank them for the chance they've given me to visit with you each Sunday, Sunday morning for a few minutes about various issues that confront us here in city government. Among the questions we've discussed so far, those of AIDS and some of the overview problems of economic development, and it's that ladder question of economic development that I want to focus on tonight. What is economic development, it's becoming a little bit like mom home and apple pie. Anytime you want to justify something you say it's good for economic development. And every time you oppose something, well use the same argument on its head, which is it's bad for economic development, but we never quite get around to what it is. Well, it's really not that complex. Economic development is a very simple job. In certain respects. It is simple, because the goal is simple. And that goal is to keep the jobs that we have here in the city to create new jobs, because that is the way that you build your employment base and the economic health of your city. Why is economic development important? Why is it critical that we in city government, and you who are not elected officials, but who have a responsibility to this community? Why is it important that we need to work together to keep the jobs we have, and to create as many new jobs as we possibly can, both starting here at home. And by bringing businesses in from outside our city. It's important because our quality of life, things we're able to do with make this place a good place to live is directly tied to how well our economy does when our economy is poor, than the city government has less money to work with. And we are faced with serious choices about asking those citizens who are here for more money, or cutting back on critical city services. cutting back on critical city services is not the way to build a quality of life, we can all be proud of and asking for more money is never an easy thing. We have to stop I'm sorry, my throat is getting.

33:43

Council member for district See, I'm speaking on after hours KPFT FM 90 Point ones early Sunday morning show. And I want to welcome you to this whole evening of music, news, Collins dedications and a few other things. And I want to thank those folks, including buddy who have taken a lot of time to put this program together for all of you in the community. I also want to take this chance to talk with you about a city issue which is on everybody's lips, but which we really don't know very much about we're really learning about it. And that's the whole question of economic development. You know, it's become pretty popular to use those two words in almost any context. You can imagine. If you're for a proposal, you say it's good for economic development. And if you're against a particular idea, well, then you simply say it's bad for economic development. The problem is, what is economic development? What is this goal that we're all searching after? Well, it's really not that complicated. In fact, it's a very simple proposition. Economic development, in its simplest form, is simply the maintenance of the jobs we already have job retention, and the creation of new jobs through two means, one by getting the businesses we already have here to grow and all So by bringing new businesses into the community, now I say that you can state the goal of economic development simply. But to be honest with you, it's a more complicated job than it might sound once you've boiled it down to its essentials. But before you get into that job, you need to ask yourself, why is it important? Is it important because it's become a hot political issue, or because right now we're having some problems in our oil industry. It's really important, because in it is the economy and the health of our economy. That is the basis for the quality of life in our community. You know, we're pretty proud of our ballet, and our opera in our Symphony of the many fine arts organizations we have throughout the community. We're proud of the Museum of Fine Arts and the Contemporary Arts Museum. And we're especially proud here in the Montrose area of the Menil Collection was just

opened a few weeks ago. But the fact is, all of those arts organizations, and all of the other things that make a community worth living in our parks, our libraries, the quality of our streets, and our roads, all of that depends on our ability to generate revenue from a healthy economy. And when the economy is healthy, we can do a lot to make this a more pleasant place to live a more attractive community for all of us, when the economy is on the ropes, when people are out of work, it is not only tough on the individuals involved, it is tough on the community, because our resources to make this a good place to live, and to keep it that way, become fewer and harder to find. And that is why it is so important for us to do everything we can to employ every means that we can to make sure that we create as many new jobs as possible, and retain we keep every job we possibly can. Several weeks ago, two of my colleagues and I made a proposal that we think will help the city government take up its share of responsibility for this whole business of economic development, the whole task of creating new jobs, and retaining the ones we've already got. This idea that we cooked up is nothing terribly original. In fact, we wanted to do something that we knew would work. So what we did, was to go to several of the cities around the country that are having great success with their economies, and have developed a reputation for being leaders in the whole field of creating jobs and retaining jobs. We went to Boston, which has one of the booming economies in the United States right now. We went to Philadelphia, one of the great cities of this country. And we went to Atlanta. And I won't say too much about Atlanta, we've heard quite enough about them over the last 12 months here in Houston, especially after the Democratic convention. And we talked to them. And we asked them, What do you as city governments do, to make sure that you meet your share of the responsibilities, along with the work done by the private sector and the academic community to put together an economy that's thriving and growing and sustains that growth over a long period of time. And one of the things we found is that they are organized more efficiently and more effective ly than we are, they have essentially a team, they have put together in each of their city governments to take primary responsibility for helping the private sector and helping the academic community create new jobs, and to retain the ones we already have. And that is why about three weeks ago, two of my colleagues and I proposed that we create in city government, a Department of Commerce, not to create a new bureaucracy, because this would be a very small department not to spend more money because this would not require any new funds, but to organize and focus the city's functions in this area of job creation, and job retention. We think this step would be a major move forward for the city, it would first of all bring together our many disparate economic development tasks that we're currently performing in a variety of departments. It would make it easier for the private sector to work with the city because they know there was one place they needed to go to get cooperation from city government. And those of you who have tried to work from city with city government, from time to time know how difficult it can be sometimes to see some coordination and some unified assistance. And finally, it would allow the city to be much more aggressive in putting together programs, such as the acquiring of federal funds, that will be key elements for any revival of our economy, if we're serious about the business of economic development. I also think that in addition to this step, this creation of the Department of Commerce and getting the city's act together on economic development, there are a number of things we're already doing right in this area to prove that city government and citizens working together can enhance the quality of life in the community, through improvements in the local economy. And the next time we get together I want to give you a few examples from right here in our neighborhood, the area right around KPFT of things we're doing to enhance the economy of Houston. By the wise you Use of city resources, and a responsible partnership between city government and all of our citizens. In the meantime, I want to wish you a good week. And I want to thank buddy again for giving me the time to speak on the program. And I want to welcome you all to after hours follow up and ask you to stay for the rest of the program here on KPFT FM 90.1. And wish you a very good Sunday morning, and a very good Sunday. Thank you.



40:36

This is tape number four. Take number one. This is George grinning a city council member for district See, wishing you a very good very early Sunday morning here on after hours on KPFT FM 90.1. I want to thank buddy and all the folks who have taken so much time and put so much of their energy into bringing together the after hours program for giving me the chance to visit with you for a few minutes each week about various issues affecting us as a community and the things we're trying to deal with in city government. I also want to remind you of something I mentioned several programs that go and that is that I would look forward very much to hearing from each of you on your ideas for future programs about questions you'd like me to answer about issues you'd like me to address, or about suggestions that you might have on how city government should function that you'd like me to comment on. If you want to do that, please get in touch with KPFT FM 90.1 here on Lovett Boulevard and let them know, they'll be in touch with me and we'll be in touch with you. Because we'd very much like to hear from you, all of us who are helping on the after hours project. Tonight, I want to continue something that we talked about last week, and then has to do with the business of economic development, this whole business of creating new jobs and retaining the ones we already have. I think that here in the Montrose area, in neighborhoods not too far from the Lovett street address of the KPFT offices. We have been showing over the last two and three years. What city government if it's enlightened in the way it does business, and the private community can do when they work together to improve the economy of an area. You know, it has not been an easy time for any neighborhood in the city of Houston over the last three or four years. The difficult economy, the high rate of foreclosures, the failure of businesses that we all know and loved and patronize have been difficult for all of us. But perhaps the Montrose offers a model for other neighborhoods around the city about how to maintain stability in times of trial and crisis. Some of the ways in which that has been done, have been through good partnerships with city government. And two that I am proudest of I want to just describe briefly tonight as examples of how we can work together. As you know, for many years, the Montrose has been promised its own branch library. And for many years, that didn't happen. Then three years ago, we started working on the project in my office, and we quickly got the rest of the city to be serious about this question. The problem was, as with so many situations in city government today, there was a potential shortage of money to build the building. At the same time, we've been working very hard to improve Montrose Boulevard to bring it up to the quality that we know it is potentially capable of. Now here we have, on the one hand, a problem of the city trying to build a library with potentially not enough money to get the job done. On the other hand, we had developers on Montrose Boulevard, who were looking for opportunities to improve the quality of life through new projects. What would make more sense than bringing together one of those developers and the city and have them work together to the mutual benefit of both parties. And that's what is exactly what happened. And that's why today, just one block north of Montrose at Richmond, you will see going in to the Old Central Church of Christ building the new Montrose branch library. It is going in the sanctuary of what was formerly that church, which has since moved out to another part of our district, and is part of a project owned by a fellow named John Hanson called the Camp and Neely and what Mr. Hansen did was to give the sanctuary of that church building to the city of Houston for a library. Now, what does Mr. Hanson get out of this? Because I know you're asking that question. What he gets is a very stable tenant in his building, with about 600 folks a day coming in and out of the library, some of whom may stop by the flower shop that is now there, or the ice cream parlor, or the St. Thomas bookstore or the Black Labrador restaurant. Each of those businesses employ people who might not otherwise have a job. If the city through the library we're not generating the foot traffic that makes each of those

businesses more viable than it would be otherwise. That is a good partnership. The city gets a library for about half the normal cost in a better, bigger building, we get to restore and maintain a structure which is very important to the overall look of our community. And we have created jobs above and beyond those of the librarians who will staff the library in those four businesses, which might not exist if it had not been for the partnership between the city and the private sector. That's a way to create new jobs by doing our traditional jobs such as providing libraries in a very untraditional way. The other project is Richmond Avenue. Many of you have heard me talk about it. I'm very proud of that project because it is the first time that city government has undertaken to plant trees and put a better grade of sidewalk in