

<b>Code</b>	304004
<b>Subject</b>	Jeff Ramsey
<b>Date</b>	1/26/2006
<b>Interviewer</b>	jason heil
<b>Special Notes</b>	

**minutes:**

introductions. Background information. Family, from Italy. Moved to Cleveland in  
0 1890s.  
Family settled in ethnic neighborhood. Grandparents married in 1937. Lived on W  
67th street. Second story of two family house. 1940, purchased a house on Clinton  
1 Ave. second Italian family to do so.  
Grandparents and Great grand parents and other family memebers all lived on same  
property. Parents lived around the corner when he(jeff) grew up. Going to his  
2 gradnparetns house was like going to Disneyland when he was little.  
describes grandparents. Lived in public housing when he was young, but everything  
was still provided for. Made him realize how important housing was. Describes  
3 Lakeview Terrace.  
Parents could watch their children and make dinner at the same time. Was designed  
well. Ohio City, Detroit Shoreway, names that came from the 70s. Closely-nit  
4 neighborhoods.  
Good story about Judge Pianca, Jeff's aunt called the police on him for delviering the  
paper too early. Talks about growing up on the West side. Talked about living in the  
5 suburbs as he got older. Parma Hts., etc.  
Came back after college and moved back to Westside in 1987. Bought house in Detroit  
shoreway in 1988. Loves living in Detroit shoreway; very diverse neighborhood.  
6 Embrace tolerance.  
Good sized lesbian and gay community, makes him feel comfortable, but its no big deal  
to be gay. Also, neighborhood had first Mexican-American Club in Ohio in the  
7 neighborhood.  
Still have strong Irish and Italian communities. Part of keeping the neighborhood  
diverse is keeping the housing afordable. Detroit shoreway has strong housing market  
8 in the region.  
But the bad part, is that it drives up the prices and hurts low income families. Want to  
be able to offer choice of lowincome families to live there if they want to. Diverstiy has  
9 benefits for the neighborhood.  
Different ethnic restaurants. Large Romanian population, left a rich legacy of  
10 architexture. St. Helena's was built 1906-7, St. Mary's another earlier church.  
More on Romanian legacy in the neighborhood. There has been another wave of  
11 Romanians now that the iron curtain has been lifted.  
Middle income, working families with children now moving in. Great to see families with  
12 children moving in . Being near downtown is a big attraction.  
Has advantages over suburbs, more exciting, more character, west side market. You  
13 can walk to the lake. Historical interests.  
Father played in a baseball league at Edgewater park. Fireworks in the summer at  
edgewater. A great resource for people that live there. Talks about getting a career  
14 around 30ys old.  
15 Talks about getting into Detroit Shoreway, urban real estate. Worked with Progressive.  
Houses at that time sold for 10,000-20,000 dollars, working people and singles could  
move in. Talks about banks, problems with them. "Redlining"-banks wouldn't lend for  
16 urban houses.

City of Cleveland tried to change this, Jeff testified at hearings for this, and met Judge  
17 Pianka, who got him into Detroit Shoreway Devel. Co.

Really into the job. Became project manager in 1990. Detoit Shoreway's realestate  
program is one of the more sucessful in Cleveland. Use real estate as an intervention  
18 tool.

They are a community organization, real estate is a tool for creating change in the  
19 community. Talks about various projects.

Franklin Green-project. Talks about needing the right type of housing in the city.  
20 Tillman park. Projects have been gaining in value.

Talks about "the bluffs", hillside by Detroit Avenue, study showed it was one of the top  
places that could be developed around Cleveland. Non-profit housing has been great at  
21 getting things started.

Now, the private sector builds houses, they have done their job. Now, they focus on  
22 affordable housing. Also, they rehab some areas.

other ammenities. Ex. Bike tunnel, let people get to Lake Erie. Lakefront plan, into  
23 Jane Campbell's ideas about it.

Converting the shoreway back to a boulevard is returining it to what it was designed for,  
it used to be a way to get from the city to Edgewater park. Building environmentally  
24 friendly-Eco Villiage.

Teaching developers a new way to do development. Educate architects and developers  
25 how to incorporate "green buildings", Cleveland is high in the country on this point.

Getting RTA to build the station in the neighborhood. RTA put together a safe,  
26 comfortable space, and people started to come and use public transportation.

Try to use public transit to improve areas. Also, pubilc recreation is imoportant, Micheal  
27 J. Zone rec. center. Putting in imporvements, help neighborhoods.

28 Want rec. center to compete with suburbs.

29 Arts districts. City is walkable, it is pedestrian friendly.

Gordon Square theatre. Oldest standing theatre in the city of Cleveland. Long history.  
30 Talks about Capital Theatre, Capital Theatre being rehabilitated.

Economic devel., physical devel., quality of life; all important. "Steps to a healthy  
31 Cleveland"- Detoit Shoreway is aprt of it, try to help people have better quality of life.  
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1960s Detroit Shoreway, Everyready, Otis Elevator, American Greatings, etc. All of  
these businesses employed people in the nieghborhod. Everyone walked to work  
33 because this was the time without automobiles.

Factoires left because they were functionally obsolete, too verticle. Got Detroit  
34 Shoreway name from street.

Service area today is the shoreway to 90. 2 sq mile, 17,000 people. Historic  
35 preservation is important. Try to rehab historical buildings when possible.

At the same time, many people want to live in newer houses, some old houses weren't  
well constructed. Also, many houses were built out of wood, these houses couldn't be  
36 rehabed.

Most new construction has been built on factory or vacant land. Media still focuses on  
suburban developemnt instead of urban developemnt. People need to be aware of their  
37 options.

this neighborhood is "the real deal", so it won't be like Corker Park or Legacy Villiage. It  
38 is restoring the neighborhood to what it was.

::inaudiable connection::: begin discussing churches. St. Mary's, very committed to  
39 neighborhood.

40 Newer Romanian families attend St. Mary's, but still live in the neighborhood.

Cleveland Edition, precursor to the Free Times. Alternative publications are great  
41 vehicle to reach young people to move into the area.

Gay People's chronicle is in the neighborhood. Started in 60s, really picked up steam in  
the 70s. Grandmother worked at Union Carbon during WWII, but Grandfather had made  
42 her quit when he got back from the war.

The neighborhood is changing, but now its good change. Now its coming back to life.

Involving residents, business, industries, so every stakeholder in the neighborhood has  
43 a say in wher eits going.

DSDC, board elected by members, so it is responsive to community. Helped start block  
44 clubs, community/residents involvement is back bone of community organizations.

Church is less important today, now need block clubs, etc. to keep people together.  
45 Havn't had the problems of other places.

Political leaders always embraced diversity. Summer picnics, food really gets people  
46 together. People knowing each other makes a neighborhood safer.

Language can be a challenge. Have outreach to hispanic families, so they have many  
on their staff that are bi-lingual. Want to help people feel comfortable. Liberian  
47 refugees, DSDC helps with housing.

48 Immigrant communities depend on their skill sets.

49 Many of the small businesses are from immigrant populations.

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