**File Label:** 130616\_004

**File Length:** 16 minutes 51 seconds

**File Notes:** Interview with a liberal, middle aged man who married and homeowner in the neighborhood.

**Transcription**

**AES:** “If you want to talk about anybody you can use first names; we’re happy to…”

*(indistinguishable talking)*

**SM:** “We’re not going to write them down or anything like that.”

**RSP:** “ Ok…Yeah Ok.” *(RSP somewhat talking over AES)*

**AES:** “We can even change, change any first names…”

**SM:** “Yeah, we’re not going to be able to figure it out.”

*(indistinguishable talking)*

**AES:** “So---um---yeah. Uh”

**RSP:** “Ok.”

**AES:** “But yeah, umm, and after we talk a little bit, um, we’ll give you one of these gift cards.”

**RSP:** “Ok, yeah, cool.” *(AES and RSP conversation overlap)*

**AES:** “…So thank you for your time.” *(AES and RSP conversation overlap)*

**AES:** Alright, so, um, I’ve got a, a little check list we’ve..., um, how long have you, you lived here?

**RSP:** “Umm…7 years.”

**AES:** “Ok.”

**RSP:** “Yeah.”

**AES:** “Ok.” *(Slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP:** “I think we bought, yeah, we bought the house in 2011, so seven years.”

**AES:** “Ok, Cool. Um, where did you come from before that?”

**RSP:** “Umm, so we, we’ve been living in like a condo over there for a year or so and then before that were briefly in Georgia…”

**AES:** “Ok.” *(Slighty talking over RSP)*

**RSP:** “…and that was just right after we got out of college…”

**AES:** “I gotcha ya.” *(Slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP:** “…and college was in Virginia.”

**AES:** “Oh, ok, cool. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I’m a transplant, we’ve lived out here about, about a decade. So…”

**RSP:** Yeah... *(slightly talking over RSP).*

**AES:** “Um, so what do you consider to be your neighborhood?” ***(1:00 minute)***

**RSP:** “Umm….*(slight pause).*  It’s slightly more this street than ---you know--- um, uh, than sort ---you know--- of surrounding houses on, on different streets. Uhhh, ahh, I think just the way this neighborhood is designed is, uh, with these fences facing us…”

**AES:** “Right it acts as a…” *(Slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP: “**…it is a little harder to feel like they are our neighbors when---you know---there is that much of a barrier between us. I think…”

**AES:** “So it’s more of this area right?” *(Slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP:** “Yeah, this street and to a lesser extent….”

**AES:** “Right, a couple blocks.” *(Slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP:** “…neighboring streets.”

**AES:** “Ok.”

**RSP:** “Yeah, yeah, like there are people we wave to who are like umm, you know, like a block that way but like…”

**AES:** “Sure.” (*Slightly talking over RSP)*

**SM:** “So all with in just a couple blocks basically?”

**RSP:** “Yeah, yeah.”

**SM:** “Ok. that make sense.”

**RSP:** “Neighborhood, yeah.”

**AES:** “So how would you characterize this place in terms of politics? If you have thought about it at all?” ***(1 min 51 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Umm, *(slight pause)*,ahhh, I, *(slight pause)*, like my general impression… I haven’t talked about politics to a lot of specific people in the neighborhood…”

**AES:** “Gotcha.”

**RSP:** “Umm, uh, my, the general impression I have is the, that it is a fairly left leaning area, uh, I know that, for instance, like I ran into one of my neighbors at the Democratic Caucus in 2016. Umm, but, um. And I know that there were some folks down at the other end of the street who were also involved in, uh, um, the, uh, sort of primary, um, that year. Um but I don’t, part…”

**AES:** “This is the Clinton/Bernie year you’re talking about…” *(slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP:** “Yeah, 2016…”

**SM/AES:** “…just wanted to clarify”

**RSP:** “Yeah we were, we were, we caucused for Bernie and I think the people down at the end of the street did too and our neighbor caucused for Clinton. But then, I don’t know… umm, when---ya know--- Clinton ended up winning the primary, I did some volunteering for her with the, um, the, uh, the, the party office which is over the other side of 287, and…”

**AES:** “Right…” *(Slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP:** “…I have walked through a few neighborhoods in this, the town but not like, not anywhere the close enough were I would feel like I was knocking on my neighbor’s door.”

**AES:** “I get that, sure.”

**RSP:** “Yeah.”

**SM:** “Do you talk to your neighbor’s much about politics?” ***(3 minutes 30 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Uhhm, *(sigh),* not really, umm, yeah even the neighbors who we, um, lets---you know--- for separate reasons our neighbor next door we don’t talk to much these days, but, um, we don’t talk about politics too much, um--you know---we talk about it a fair bit with---you know--- our family, at least with my folks, who live down in Westminster…”

**AES: “**Ok.”

**RSP:** “But, umm, not too much with our neighbors. Most of our communication with our neighbors is like about the---you know--- houses and yards and families and, umm, I don’t know if it is just that---you know---we, we don’t want to bring it up because we’re, we’re reluctant to find something we violently disagree on…”

**AES:** “Yeah…” *(laughs a bit)*

**RSP:** “…umm, but, uh, it ah, you know, you know, for instance our neighbors right over there uh we get along with quite well and never talked about politics with them.”

**AES:** “Sure, gotcha.”

**RSP:** “Uhh, yeah.”

**AES:** “Are there any of your neighbors, maybe you kind of alluded to these just now, who the first thing you think about are their politics when you, when you are driving past their place or you think of them?” ***(4 minutes 40 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Umm…”

**AES:** “Or maybe people you avoid, like---you know--or something like that?”

**RSP:** “Yeah, like there, there are---you know--- there is one house that in the neighbor that I can’t remember if they had a, um, a Trump sign up or if it was just something like that but---ya know *(pause)* you know--- I don’t have a lot of opportunity to talk to them necessarily but I am not sure if I would based on that.”

**AES:** “Ok, so that is interesting. You, know, do you notice the campaign yard signs.” ***(5 minutes 20 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Umm…”

**AES:** “When you are in, during campaign season?”

**RSP:** “I notice them certainly during campaign season. Um yeah, you know, I think our house and the house at the opposite end were the two that had them up.”

**AES:** “Why did you put them up?” ***(5 minutes 33 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Umm, I just felt, I felt like it was a really important election and umm, ah---you know---I’m not sure how much of a difference they make but, umm---you know--- in terms of like convincing people, but I feel like there is still sort of psychological impact in terms of reminding people that---you know--there are actual people who are willing to say in public---you know---I support this person.”

**AES:** “Right.”

**RSP:** “So…”

*(AES and RSP both have attempts to start conversation)*

**RSP:** “Go ahead.”

**AES:** “I was going to say like, do you think there is a certain type of person, may-maybe, sounds like you are one, of those people who puts up a yard sign? Is the uh…” ***(6 minutes 5 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Yeah, um, I think so, I think it uh, you know it has to be somebody who---you know--who feel like---you know---- the outcome of the election is going to be an important thing and somebody who, um, wants to feel like they are making a difference one way or another, um, which I know that uh, because I did some volunteering back in 2008 too and, uh, Obama talks about, like because Obama did not produce a lot of yard signs and stuff, because his, one of his things that he talked about like he didn’t want people to do the sort of very superficial thing like “Oh, yep, I stuck a yard sign out, I am done.” Like he wanted to encourage people to like---you know---call people or knock on doors or like do things like that. And so, I don’t know, like I think at the, at the root of that putting up signs like that is like wanting to feel like you are making a difference. And uh, I don’t…, I, I sort of try to remind myself, you know, with volunteering and stuff, like that, that’s a more important difference than putting up a sign. But you know, it still feels good to put up the sign, regardless.”

**SM:** “Do you take into context, the, uh, or do you take into account that like neighbors are putting up signs and stuff? Does that factor into it, like is there like a sign environment that you have taken sort of note of? Like if no signs were out anywhere, would that effect you or…”***(7 minutes 35 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Uhhm *(pause)*…that’s a good question. I think, um, that part of it is that my commute along 287, um, there is a place of it where, uh, I don’t know if they have land or like a friendly business or what…”

*(AES and SM laugh/make vocalizations of agreement while RSP is talking)*

**RSP:**“…but there’s a, but the Republican party puts up several signs, like one big, prominent one at least….”

**SM:** “Right.” *(slightly talking over RSP)*

**AES:** “Yeah.” *(slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP:**“…right at election season. So, it’s like, it’s hard for me to miss at least some people putting up signs….”

**AES:** “Yeah.” *(slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP:** “…uh, so, I don’t know, you see more or less in different years I think…”

**SM:** “Sure.” *(slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP:** “…for different reasons. But, um, I don’t know. I feel like that sort of, like the, the sort of the psychological impact of---you know---, cause,---you know---if people agreeing with you, it’s like if they see more of those signs then they are going to feel more like “ok---you know---there are people out there who agree with me I am not alone on this.””

**SM/AES:** Did you feel that way? ***(8 minutes 55 seconds)***

**RSP**: “Ah (*pause)*, I did like it helped. Like it was, it was good that I saw it. Like, even in our neighborhood, people um,---you know--- with political leanings alongside our own, um, and—you know—at, at the time ---you know--- like I said we don’t, we don’t talk quite so much to our neighbor next door these days but, like, at the time it was at the time even though we, we disagreed on---you know--which of the Democratic candidates would be better, we felt like, I felt like it, uhh, was good knowing that they were in the same sort of neighborhood…*(sounds of agreement from AES/SM)…*as me politically.”

*(Laughing by RSP and AES)*

**AES:** “Did you feel anyway when you passed a sign you disagreed with; I guess it would be a Trump sign from what you told us. So, did---you know--- you feel anything when you went, would go pass the Trump sign in the neighborhood?” ***(9 minutes 37 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Um *(pause)*… yeah just, you know, you know, at that time, you just start wondering what people were thinking mostly.”

**SM:** “Yeah, uh.”

**RSP:** “Umm…but yeah….umm…and….uhh, the, um I, I did notice, cause like, in the, in the last election cycle, the Republican party signs, that’s,---you know--- they, they had all of their candidate signs kind of smaller and their big sign was this thing saying, uhm, “freedom is the only tent big enough for everyone”, and I, I would drive past that and sort of wonder how that sort of big statement was supposed to lead anyone to thinking that, you know, Trump as president would be a good idea.”

*(Slight laughs from SM/AES while respondent was speaking)*

**SM:** “Did it make you think anything about your neighbors?’

**RSP:** “Umm, like I said I am not sure if I saw anybody like within our neighborhood…”

**SM:** “Not even like your…like your… oh sorry, I interrupted you.”

**RSP:** “Umm…yeah, cause that sign is far enough away that like I---you know---I, I wondered about the sort of people who were putting it up like that wasn’t, like, exactly, like, in my neighborhood.”

**SM:** “Sure…”

**RSP:** “So…”

**SM:** “Yeah…Where did you get your sign?” ***(11 minutes 5 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Umm…I was volunteering at the, the Democratic party….’

**AES:** “Right, yeah, yeah.”

**SM:** “Ok, they gave you one.”

**AES:** “You know, you said, you thought, you feel like it was kind of an important thing for people to kind of know this is going on, put your, put your preferences out there…”***(11 minutes 12 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Mmmhmm.”

**AES:** “Umm, you know, it sounds like you got your sign but is there an amount of money, like you’d be willing to pay to get a sign and things like that if you said that kind of like expression was important to you.” ***(11 minutes 20 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Umm *(pause)*….I don’t know, that’s a good question. Umm, I, *(sigh)*, I would probably be inclined to do that only if, um, I had been previously inclined to give the candidate money anyway…”

**AES:** “Gotcha. Yeah, sure.”

**SM:** “Right, like a bonus.”

**RSP**: “Right…because me personally I would feel like…”

**SM:** “Like an NPR tote bag sort of thing…”

**RSP**: “Yeah…”

*(Assorted “yeahs” and Laughs)*

**RSP:** “Because, uhh,---ya,you know---you know my, my inclination, because I, I am sort of leaning more strongly towards volunteering as a, as a means of helping drive political outcomes that I want and---you know---a candidate that’s more con-, that would be more concerned with the money they are receiving than the volunteers they are getting, I would feel like they are already going in a bad direction and that wouldn’t be something I’d want to encourage.”

**SM:** “Fair enough.”

**AES:** “Yeah.”

**AES:** “Umm, so, I, I think you said you lived here since from around 2011; did I get that right?” ***(12 minutes 30 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Yeah, yeah.”

**AES:** “Thanks…”

**SM:** “We won’t keep you too much longer….”

**AES:** “Yeah…”

**RSP:** “No worries, no worries!” *(Slightly talking over AES)*

**AES:** “We really appreciate your time. So, do you feel like, do you feel like the neighborhood has changed?” ***(12 minutes 40 seconds)***

**RSP**: “Umm *(sigh)….*I think…. I want to say there were a couple of houses that used to be owned by the people who live in them and are now rentals. But, um, it hasn-, I don’t think it has changed a lot since, um, since 2011. Ya know---it’s still a lot of the same people living here, and, uh,---you know--- when new people have moved in, they are people, you know, who are sticking around and who are friendly in, in much the same way, umm,---you know--the people who had moved out. So, umm, I don’t feel like the neighborhood has changed a whole lot. Like, the essential, the essential character of it, as much as you can talk about a neighborhood having one, is mostly the same.”

**AES:** Ok, does the neighborhood feel like a different place during elections?” ***(13 minutes 30 seconds)***

**RSP:** “Umm…*(pause)* that’s a good question *(pause)…*Umm, I don’t know if I would go so far as to say it feels like a different place. Umm, it’s--you know--- it’s, it’s sort of like… ya know---much like how people’s conversations are more and more drawn to politics when an election season is going on, that similarly, like---you know--- if people are putting up signs and talking about it, that sort---you know—that sort of---you know--- same heightened interest in that subject---you know---goes along with---you know---the way the neighborhood feels. What with--you know---signs and occasionally people talking about it, perhaps. But, umm, yeah---I don’t---I don’t know if it’s, it’s a different place so much as just---you know---it’s the place mirroring the interest of the people at the time.”

**AES:** “Gotcha.”

**SM:** “If you saw like a lot a---I don’t know---in this next election, ne-, next presidential election, or something…”

**RSP:** “Uh huh.” *(RSP slightly talking over SM)*

**SM:** “If you saw a whole bunch of Trump signs in this next go up would that affect how you thought about your decision to put a sign up, do you think?” ***(14 minutes 40 seconds)***

RSP: “Ummm…*(pause)*…*(sigh)*…(*pause)…”*

**SM: “**Would you, would it make you more anxious?”

**RSP: “**Probably. Yeah, um….and ---you know--- I, uh, probably would feel differently about putting up a sign. Like I think I still would, but, yeah. I…I…I would, I would be worrying about ---you know--- what kind of impact I am having on ---you know--- relations with my neighbors.”

**AES: “**Right…”*(slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP: “**Its kind of like ---you know--- its kind of like family in that ---you know--- you didn’t exactly pick your neighbors but you are obligated to live near them…”

**AES: “**Yeah, yeah.” *(slightly talking over RSP)*

**SM:** “You’ve got to keep the peace…”

**RSP:** “Yeah, to a certain extent you do….”

**AES:** “That’s right, that’s right…”

**RSP:** “You know its kind of like ---you know--- my wife’s, um, parents, we, we strictly do not talk politics with them these days because ---you know--- we had---you know---she had a very angry conversation with them about poli-, or with her dad about politics in the last election cycle, and ---you know--- they were not speaking to each other for a while. And so now, it is just like, ok, we don’t talk about it. It’s just…ummm”

**SM:** “You wouldn’t want the same thing to happen in the neighborhood…”

**RSP:** “I, I wouldn’t want…---yeah, you know--- it’s like, we already have---ya know--- one neighbor who at this point we don’t get along with for reasons completely unrelated to politics, and like, knowing how that feels, its like…”

*(AES laughs)*

**RSP:** “I don’t want…I certainly don’t want that to happen with other neighbors. Umm…but you know…you know…I,I don’t think it would be enough to keep me quiet on the issue…”

**SM:** “Ok.” *(Slightly talking over RSP)*

**RSP:** “But… *(sigh)* it would, uh, I, I don’t know….”

**SM:** “You would have to think about it.”

**RSP:** “Yeah, it’s like, *(sigh) (group laughs)* if, if that would be enough to make people want to burn bridges with us then I would…I would regret that the bridge was burnt but I wouldn’t put it out, if that makes sense.”

**SM/AES:** “Yeah, no it does, yeah.”

**AES:** “Well that’s really great. Hey, thank you so much for your time.”

**RSP:** “Yeah, sure.” *(Slightly talking over AES)*