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Vince Gavin
19 June 2014
University of Illinois at Chicago
Richard J. Daley Library Special Collections
Interviewed by Marie Scatena

Gavin: I was born in Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park on the south side at 95th and California, a great Irish community. I attended St. Killian's grammar school, Brother Rice High School, Loyola University and John Marshall Law School. When I was in my junior year at Loyola I joined the Chicago Police Department giving me the ability to fund my education. That was when Richard J. Daley appointed O. W. Wilson the police commissioner at that time. Wilson was good about extending courtesies. The superintendent recruited police candidates who wanted to go on the college and help with the tuition reimbursement to give the patrolmen hours that would work for them so that it wouldn't interfere with their schoolwork. I basically was a part of that program. I started the Officer Friendly Program in 1966. I was a part-time substitute teacher as well as a policeman on Monroe and Racine at the Skinner Elementary School. Art Shapiro who was the principal at the time and I said, 'We have to get a police image more involved in the neighborhoods.' Needless to say, the west side was pretty well in dire straits with the neighborhood violence, whether it was Madison Street which was Skid Row, Maxwell Street or whether it was Roosevelt Road where there were the projects on Racine, 1111 West Roosevelt to 1129-1139 South Racine, it was a very, very tough, challenging district in those days. Much greater if you compare by today's standards to what we see in Englewood and South Shore. It was a very poor community.

I saw buildings being burned down on West Madison Street during the 1968 West Side Riots. I saw Liberty Shopping Center at 13th and Racine burned down. Nate Raskin who was a pharmacist, had his drug store there. Nate built a shopping center just to service the people who lived in the project row houses along Racine and Roosevelt Road. He was as good as anybody could be to the community. They burned him down. And I look today and I see his son Kenny Raskin owns Manny's Deli[1] and has owned Manny's forever. But I'd go see Nate, and Nate would be in the drugstore helping people in the community. And the buildings were a shell after the riots, and this area of the city where the University is, when you look back at it and you see the changes that were spearheaded and driven by Richard J. Daley, it's probably one of the most incredible transformations of public land that I am aware of, and I spent many years in the real estate business and the commercial real estate business and development for Arthur Rubloff. [2]

Daley started his project to make the University of Illinois happen over at Harrison and Halsted to Taylor Street to the Eisenhower; Halsted over to Ashland was pretty much where all the old time Italians lived. As you went to the other side of Taylor Street to Roosevelt Road it was pretty much African-Americans who had migrated from the South, with hopes of better opportunities and jobs for their families. And the biggest challenge in those days was how to you deal with the influx and the population increases in housing and education, in things that are important to a family and are

[1] *Manny's* Cafeteria and Delicatessen opened in 1942 on Halsted at Van Buren Street near Maxwell Street. It is currently located at 1141 South Jefferson and in the Midway Airport Concourse, and is operated by a fourth generation of the Raskin family.
[2] Arthur Rubloff (1903-1986) was an influential real estate developer who is credited with coining, 'The Magnificent Mile' to describe North Michigan Avenue. His developments impacted Chicago's and other cities' skylines, and are considered among the most ambitious and successful in the United States.

important to a community. And the Mayor thought the high rise was a solution to that because it had vertical design. You didn't have a lot of land, and it was the CHA (Chicago Housing Authority) that really catapulted this community along Roosevelt Road, along on the south side we had The Stateway Gardens, we had The Icky Homes on 22nd and State Street, we had The Stateway Gardens that ran all the way out to 55th Street, and there were so many kids living in one high rise building each high rise had a school next to it. And there was nothing greater than education for the Mayor. It was just trying to sort a lot of things out—how do we address the issues? But the University of Illinois Project was the NIMBY philosophy which is 'not in my backyard.' And that is pretty much how the people around here felt about losing their homes, not that it was to any great extent because as you walked through the community hardly any of the homes were touched. I mean Miller Street, Polk Street, all those little Italian sandwich shops and Italian lemonade stores—they're still here. What the University did was it just energized this whole community to a new level. One that no one would ever, ever envision; the University, the residential and the retail component south of the University all the way down to 18th Street—with new homes being built.

I was a Chicago policeman assigned to Maxwell Street, on Sunday mornings and Saturdays, it was what we called a 'bucket of blood.' It was a tough neighborhood. People would get beaten up, robbed, and get shot. Because the kids that lived in the projects didn't have a lot to do during the day and on the weekends, and they didn't have very much money. So this was their way of subsidizing their income. And now today you have million dollar homes along Halsted where you had Jimmy's Hot Dog Stand and Buck's Hot Dog Stand over on Maxwell and Union, where you could get a good sandwich for a quarter. And the neighborhood just took off once the University

started. It extended itself all the way over to Rush Hospital on Ashland. And Rush extended itself all the way over to Damen and Western, so we're talking Halsted, an area which is 800 West to 2400 West, from the Eisenhower Expressway all the way south to 16th. That is quite a neighborhood. It is filled with educational institutions, medical facilities, retail, strong residential, great restaurants. And it was a dream that Richard J. Daley had, never envisioning that it would be this successful. I'm just sort of blown away by what I see today and how this whole community has transformed the west side into a Disney World. It was just an incredible undertaking. I wish he could take a peek and see what's down here today. It was not an easy development to take on. But it's worked and it's worked well. You've got baseball fields, you've got football fields, you've got twenty-seven thousand students using this, you've got great transportation right out the front door. And he thought about this fifty, sixty years ago—about all of the different things that come into play to make that urban area work. Good schools, good hospitals, good transportation system, make good communities. He was truly the family guy. It is as Rich his son said, 'Vince it's just a lot of common sense.' His father had a lot of common sense. He grew up in Bridgeport with the common people. He had an idea about helping people when he was in government. And that's what you did. Even if you're not in government and somebody's a good person you want to help them. If a guy needed a job, or his kid needed a job, he would reach out to others. He was very successful at building up a relationship and a very well recognized political organization. Whether you are a policeman or a fireman or you work for the Park District, or you work for the city, job opportunities were made available. He was the one who would sit with people and say, 'If you need some help, come out and see me.' He didn't want anything; he didn't need anything. He was a regular, simple basic human being. He and Mrs.

Daley, they had their nice bungalow and their family out there at 3536 South Lowe, and that's all. He had his friends, and they were mostly neighborhood friends. He'd come out the door every day with a smile. He loved what he did. He never did anything but reach out to people and try to make the city better.

The city in those days had many more challenges than today because you had civil disobedience groups, you had integration issues from migration from a lot of states coming from down South up here, you had educational issues with the school system. And nobody fought harder than Richard J. Daley for the schools. I mean he was not one to go down to Springfield. He usually let the legislators who were elected to work in Springfield, handle Springfield. But I can recall we flew into Springfield, young Bill Daley, myself and the Mayor. It was so important to get some funding for the Chicago Public School System in the early 1970's and the Mayor went on the floor of the House and Senate and probably gave one of the greatest speeches that I ever heard. Even Billy said, 'My dad was really worked up.' And all from the heart. His mentor was Stephen Douglas.[3] He loved Stephen Douglas the 'Little Giant.' That was the guy that Richard J. Daley--he really thought a lot of him. And I would see a lot of the Mayor's traits in a man like Douglas who was a fighter. Now we're going back to the Lincoln days with Stephen A. Douglas. But he knew an awful lot about him and I think that if there was anyone he really mentored in government it was Douglas. But going back to the floor of the House and the Senate, and making that plea and then finding out that night that we lost the votes—we didn't get it done. So he figured out other ways. He went to the federal

[3] Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861) was a U.S. Representative and State Senator from Illinois, and a Democratic Party nominee for president who lost to Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

government to get funds for it. He never ever stopped. And thank God he had the ability to pick up the phone and call people, whether it was Lyndon Johnson or Jack Kennedy.

The first time I escorted Mrs. Daley we went to Stop and Shop on Washington and Dearborn. Gordy Stern owned it. And we went in and shopped—it was like the Whole Foods in those days—and it was a nice store right between State and Dearborn. Channel 2 is there today. And we loaded up the car with groceries and she said, 'Wait a minute Vince, we have to get one more thing.' And she comes out with two big ice cream cones. And I was just thinking, 'Does it get any better?' I mean that's your treat. It's like your mother saying, 'Hey, you're a good boy today!' But we had just some great times.

In Florida we would go down to Key Largo and do some fishing. He really loved to fish. One time we were down with Mrs. Daley and the Mayor and Arthur Wirtz called. Arthur Wirtz owned the Chicago Black Hawks at that time, they played at the Stadium. Rocky, his grandson owns the Black Hawks now. Arthur Wirtz was a great, great guy. But he was a tough businessman. But the Mayor loved him. He was a confidante. Arthur Wirtz, Pat O'Malley, the head of Canteen Corporation, those were guys that he would look up to. And he would say, 'I love them because they did it on their own.' There was a guy named Bill Hartigan who opened up Hartigan Chevrolet. He was a good friend of the Mayor's. Bill had nothing and he made a very successful life for him and his family. When we were down in Key Largo, we got a call from Mr. Wirtz. I always screened the calls. He says, 'I've got President Johnson and Ladybird Johnson on the boat, on 'The Blackhawk,' that was his boat. The boat was about 170 feet. In those days, in the '70's he had two fishing skiffs on it, 'The Papoose' and 'The Squaw.' They were about 24 foot. And he said, 'I'm up at *The Jockey Club* in Miami. Do you think the Mayor would like to

come with us and we'll go fishing?' I said, 'You know Mr. Wirtz, he loves to fish. He'd love to join you.' He says, 'I'll bring the boat down tomorrow, to Key Largo.' I said, 'I'll tell the Mayor.' And so I went over to the Mayor's house and I said, 'Mr. Mayor, Arthur Wirtz would like to come up. He's got the boat in Miami at *The Jockey Club* and he'd like to take you fishing. He says, 'Oh yeah, that would be fine. When will he be here? And I said, 'Oh yes, he'll be here tomorrow morning.' So I got over at the harbormaster and I said, 'I'm expecting 'The Blackhawk' in sometime this morning. So would you let me know if I'm not here? I'll give you my number, call me?' And he says, 'The Blackhawk' isn't coming in.' I said, 'What do you mean 'The Blackhawk' isn't coming?' He says, 'Well the bridge on the 79th Street on the Inter-coastal is down and you can't get 'The Blackhawk' through there—it's too big of a boat. And if it goes out on the ocean the waves are eight to nine feet, and they'll wipe him out.' So I said, 'That's not good. 'So I left to think about what I should do—how I should tell the Mayor about it. I didn't want to run right over and tell him so I waited and hour or two, and I went back to check. And he said, 'I haven't heard anything.' So I never want to jump at anything. So I went back and told him. I said, 'Mr. Mayor the bridge is down on 79th Street in Fort Lauderdale. They can't get the boat through. The seas and waves on the ocean are just horrendous. They're telling me that there's no way 'The Blackhawk' is going to go out on the water. So he says, 'Well, fine, fine.' That's the way he was. He often said, 'Fine, fine.' I said, 'If there's a change I'll let you know.' So I went over to the harbormaster. And the harbormaster says, 'Here comes 'The Blackhawk' off the ocean and I don't believe it.' I said, 'You're kidding me!' Here comes the boat into the marina down there in Key Largo. So I said, 'The Mayor's just going to be overjoyed being able to see Arthur Wirtz.' He had a great deal of respect for Arthur and his wife, Queenie. I went back and got the Mayor

and I said, 'The boat's in.' He said, 'Fine, fine,' and laughed, 'Oh that's great!' And I said, 'Come on we'll go over and greet them.' And the boat pulls in and it had Donald Keough on it, who was the President of Coca-Cola, Tony DeSantis who was a Chicago businessman who owned The Martinque, Pat O'Malley the President of Canteen Corporation, Wirtz and a couple of Wirtz's buddies, and his daughter Betty. And I'll never forget it, when Wirtz walked off the gangplank, onto the dock and the Mayor and I were standing there—everybody was throwing up. They were all sick because the waves were tossing out on the ocean. They were taking Dramamine. It was a rough ride. And Wirtz got off the boat and walked the gangplank onto the pier at Key Largo and he looked at the Mayor and says, 'I told Dick Daley I'll be here, and I'm here!' And I'll tell you, that's what motivates people today. The determination, the tenacity of a guy like Wirtz to say, 'I'll never let him down.' That meant a lot. And they had a staff of twelve on the boat—he was just a super guy to me. He spent a day or two fishing and the Mayor loved it.

He just loved to go out fishing. If a guy like Wirtz didn't come down we'd get Slim, who was our fishing guide, and Slim would take us out and we'd bonefish. We'd bonefish for probably six, seven hours a day. And I didn't know a lot about bone fishing, but I learned, and it was interesting. We'd go sit in the shallow water off the ocean and Slim would bait us with shrimp. We'd cast out there. Bonefish was not good eating. It is all bones so you don't eat it. But as soon as that fish bit onto that shrimp you had the ride of your life. Bonefish travel at about seventy miles an hour and they would take that shrimp and run, you'd think they were in the Olympics. And the Mayor loved the challenge of fighting and catching them. And we'd take them and bring them back in and release them. And there were days we'd be out there and we'd be fishing for

grouper and mutton and yellow snapper and we'd have a good day. I mean, he really enjoyed it. And he wasn't much of a golfer. We did play golf. We'd play in Palm Springs and other places, but he enjoyed the peace of fishing, just sitting out there. We would get really baked in the sun (*Laugh*) and both of us being Irish, we looked like tomatoes. It was cool in those days, but now that I'm a little older I stay away from that (*Laugh*). But there were just some great times with him on the vacations where he could relax. He never liked to stay away a real long time because he'd say, 'Gotta keep an eye on the cupboards!' The cupboards were cabinets—in those days that's what the old-timers called them. I don't think he'd be gone more than seven or eight days at one time. I think Gene[4] may have gone out of the country with them. But he rarely did that. He was pretty homebound. He loved his home in Michigan. He loved his flowers. You know, he had a flagpole and he would get up every morning and he would raise the flag—the American flag. And around the flagpole was a big circle of tulips—read and yellow tulips that he'd plant. He'd save the bulbs. He was very frugal—he was just a common man. I would walk next to him—I used to love to go to the grocery store with him—he'd say, 'Here is five dollars.' He thought milk was still a quarter. I said, 'We're not going to make it. (*Laugh*). But he never shopped so he didn't know. He didn't go to the Jewel or the Dominic's or they had the Hi-Low in those days. He didn't relate to how the cost of food had risen. So we had some interesting times.

Everyday we'd get in that car at 35th and Lowe and we'd ride down Indiana Avenue to Michigan Avenue across the street from Grant Park where he and Sis every May first would plant a tree. Every Arbor Day they were there planting a tree. And I was a lot

[4] Gene Nolan was a Chicago Police Officer who served on Richard J. Daley's security detail during the 1960's. He accompanied the Mayor and the Daley family on a trip to Ireland. An interview with Gene Nolan is found in this collection.

younger then and I thought it was nice that they planted a tree in memory of Arbor Day never thinking that Millenium Park would be here today, which his son Rich developed. One of the most talked about tourist attractions in the world. And people pooh-poohed Rich, and did this and did that, and now people flock there—they love it! People from all over the world; international, local, from the neighborhoods have fun, take pictures, looking at the gardens, going to the music. I look at Millenium Park today—incredible! And when we go down Michigan Avenue to Madison and take a left on Madison going west, the first stop was *St. Peter's Church.* Every day we were at St. Peter's Church. He'd go in, go to Mass, he'd go to Communion, and then we'd either walk down Clark Street and he'd go to see his buddies and get his shoe's shined. He was snappy—he was always spit and polish. You'd never find a wrinkle in his suit or a wrinkle in his shirt. And then from there, we'd go over to *City Hall* and he'd do his business all day. I mean he wasn't a man that needed a lot of rest. He could sit in the back of the limo and close his eyes for five minutes and charge his battery. And we would say—the guys on the detail in those days—they'd say, 'There's got to be seven of him. A new Richard J. Daley has gotta come out every day. Nobody can have that energy.' But Rich his son is like that. Rich's love for the city is incredible. And his father was there when the wars were going on and all these different social issues and trying to get through them. He made them easier for young Rich because he started to see some of the solutions, Richard J. Daley. And when Rich finally took over after Harold Washington and Jane Byrne, Rich saw a vision for the city that today I don't think anybody would believe. And I know his father wouldn't believe that North Avenue and Damen, or Humboldt Park today are nice areas with retail and new homes. Or Brighton Park, or Bridgeport has $800,000 homes down there. I mean these were $10,000 homes that they built in the 50's and 60's and the 40's.

Joe Powers was a good friend of Mayor Daley's, and his law partner. He had two good neighborhood buddies, Joe Power and Bill Lynch. Bill was an attorney and a judge. Joe lived around 43rd and Wallace. And he had a new bungalow. I mean, you thought it was *The Four Seasons Hotel* in those days. It was probably eighteen hundred square feet. But he raised his family, and that's what they were about. They weren't hoighty-toighty people. They were all just good, hard-working common people who wanted to help people, and were very successful at it. And when they talk about building a new organization, I always thought the organization was good because what he did was good. When you had all the power that he had you could do a lot of damage. I mean he would go to a City Council meeting and he'd win the vote out of fifty aldermen, forty-seven to three. There would be Bill Singer and Leon Despres and maybe one other guy, but it was all things that were good. It's not like Washington today where you've got the Republicans and Obama fighting every time they're going to give a Medicare a new idea—the Affordable Care Act they fight about, they fight about Benghazi. We get nothing done in government. They lay off people for three months and then they bring them back. Washington is a mess. The idea of him having that control, if he was doing bad things the city would have been destroyed a long time ago. We would have been Detroit. But he needed the support of everybody and everybody believed in him. And they looked up to him. And you know, I would look at him—I was a young guy—and would say, man! We were walking one day from church and we were going up to meet President Nixon at O'Hare Field and he looked at me and he says, 'What time do we have to be up there?' And I said, 'Air Force One should be at O'Hare, at the hangar there at ten o'clock Mr. Mayor.' He said, 'Fine.' Then he said, 'You know Vince, people might not respect the man, but you have to always respect the office.' That says a lot. That's

when he had all the Watergate issues. That was probably one of the biggest scandal in those days of politics in Washington. So the Mayor says, 'He's the President of the United States and I'm going to say greet him. Other things aside, he didn't back off. He didn't say he's got problems. Everybody needs a friend when they have problems.

Whether it was Nixon, or Lyndon Johnson—Lyndon and Lady Bird were really close with the Mayor. Lady Bird came here to do a promo against billboards on the highway, to get rid of all these billboards and beautify America. And she was with John Swearington's wife Bonnie, who was a beautiful woman. John was the Chairman of the Board of Standard Oil. He built The Standard Oil building over on east Lake Shore Drive. And the Mayor says to me, 'Ladybird's coming to town, would you take care of her for three days? Those Secret Service guys, they don't know what to do socially.' So I say, 'Sure Mayor, whatever you want.' So Ladybird came in with Liz Carpenter who at that time was her press secretary, and her White House staff. We stayed at the Ambassador East—she was also promoting her book, *The White House Diary* and we went over to Ike Seul's Su Casa for the margaritas. They loved it! They had a ball for three days, she's got me on the phone—I'm a young guy and I'm talking with the President of the United States. I'm thinking, these are the people I read about in books—I'm not supposed to meet people like this! And so Ladybird calls me and she says, 'Vince, Vince, get Vince in here! I got Lyndon on the phone and I want you to talk to him. Lyndon, no one's ever taken care of me as good as Vincent. Whatever he needs!' She wanted me to come down to the library in Austin when they did it. So she wrote a note of thanks and gratitude to the Mayor and Mrs. Daley about the great time she had in Chicago. And you know what? I saw the Mayor the next morning after I put Mrs. Johnson back on Air Force One and he says, 'Thank you. You really, really made me feel good the way you

treated her.' I said, 'There's no other way. It worked out fine.' And he knew—it just worked out.

When you talk about meeting the people I met through him, between Richard J. Daley and Arthur Rubloff I probably spent thirty-five years with those two men. Arthur Rubloff was Richard's friend. There was Rubloff, and there was Pat O'Malley and Arthur Wirtz. You know Rubloff built Sandburg Village—it was vacant land before and it was pretty tacky. It was like the areas to the west of there around Chicago, Wells and Division which changed today; you can see the transformation of these communities with developers building Targets and Costcos in the city. My sons live near 13th and they go over to get their haircut there. I think, man, what a different world it is! But this University was the catalyst that jumpstarted this neighborhood. Without this, I can't see too many other things happening. It brought jobs, it brought confidence, it brought education. It brought people from throughout the state and throughout the surrounding states that attend this school. And its—the neighborhood it's just incredible. Because the neighborhood, when you walk through it, the streets within the campus are so much like the neighborhood you don't know if you're in the neighborhood or on the campus in some areas. He was a man of a great vision and willing to take the chance whether people criticized him or not. If he believed in something he was going to get it done. And he built up enough confidence in the relationships with people in Washington, and here, to do it. He was not shy. He'd take on something, and he'd say, 'You fight if you're right.' And that's basically the way we did it.

He asked me one day, 'Can you do me a favor?' 'Can I do him a favor?' He was good to me. He had a way of sending a message to you without even questioning it. Some

people are very good at saying things in a way that is brief and very effective. Kay Spear who was his secretary—Kay was General Douglas MacArthur's[5] secretary. Kay would smoke Camel cigarettes. I think if anybody had a *Camel* today they would probably be over at Rush Medical Center. And Kay would smoke those cigarettes. In those days nobody worried about second hand smoke (*Laugh*). I mean this is right in the Mayor's office. She didn't go outside to LaSalle Street—people smoked in their offices. The Mayor asked me one day, can you do this? And I said, 'Kay I don't know if I can get this done.' And she said, 'You never say no to the Mayor.' And you know what? I've lived my life that way.

He asked me one night—it was New Year's Eve and we were up in the country, which was Grand Beach, 'We've got to get some fireworks.' And I said, 'Fireworks, there are no fireworks up here.' So he said, 'Oh yeah, can we get some fireworks?' I said, 'Mr. Mayor, I'll try.' So I got in the tail car and went up into town. And it wasn't only a fireworks issue—it was 5:30 on New Year's Eve. Most places are closed and there are probably only two stores in downtown New Buffalo. And I went there, asked and they said, 'No, are you crazy?' So I was driving back and I saw this tavern and they were having a fireworks show, and so I say I wonder if I can go back and buy some from them. I don't want to just go back to the Mayor and tell him we couldn't get them. You know, can't say no. So I go in and I say, 'Listen, do you have any extra fireworks I can buy from you? I have a friend who would like to do some fireworks tonight for New Year's Eve. And I'd really appreciate it.' He says, 'No,' and I reply, 'Is there anywhere else you could find some?' 'Nah, nah.' And the guy says, 'Where are you from?' And I said, 'I'm from

[5] Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964) was a five-star general and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army during the 1930's. He received the Medal of Honor for service in The Philippines Campaign during World War II.

Chicago.' So he says, 'oh yeah.' And I say, 'It's the Mayor who wants the fireworks. Can you give me a couple?' 'The Mayor! You got 'em!' (*Laughter*) We found some. The guy had to cut his tavern exhibit that night a little. But he said, 'For Daley, whatever! I'd be glad to give you some. And I don't want any money for them.' I said, 'No you have to take some.'

Those were some of the little things. Another time he came to me and said, 'You know, can you do me a favor? Arthur Rubloff needs somebody to drive him on weekends.' And I said, 'I'll find a policeman or somebody.' He says, 'Okay, would you go over and tell him?' Arthur Rubloff's office was across the street in The Brunswick Building at 69 East Washington. And so I said, Yes, Mr. Rubloff I'll find somebody for you.' So I talked to a couple of policemen and most of them were pretty much occupied, and you certainly aren't going to quit a job in the middle of it. So two days went by and Rubloff called the Mayor, 'Did Vince find anybody yet?' And the Mayor called me and he said, 'Did you have any luck?' I said, 'I talked to a couple of guys, but they have second jobs and they are not inclined to quit them at this time, but I've got a couple other guys I'm talking to.' I said, 'Why don't I do this, Mayor. Why don't I go over and do it for Mr. Rubloff until I find someone?' He says,' Oh that would be fine, that would be great if you do that.' I said, 'I'll do it.' So I went to Mr. Rubloff and told him, 'I'll come in this weekend if you need me.' And he says, 'I'd love to have you.' You know he'd go out to look at real estate, go to some social events on Saturday nights or maybe Sunday. So I did it the first weekend, and on Monday morning Rubloff calls Daley and says, 'Dick, that kid's great! I love him!' So the Mayor calls me up, 'He likes you.' I said, 'I can't do this forever!' The Mayor says,' Well, you've got to talk to him.' So it was through that contact that determined my career. I left the Police Department in 1979 and joined Arthur Rubloff

and Company. I became the executor of his estate. Funded a lot of different educational and art projects—you know Arthur was awesome. I always said the Jewish people have been so good to this city as far as funding the arts. You look at the Art Institute, you look at the parks—Arthur and I had lunch one day with a friend named Bernie Mitchell in the old Park Hyatt over at Chicago and Michigan Avenue. It was a Saturday. That was what we did on Saturday. There was always somebody we'd take out to look at the shopping malls we owned. And there were three of us sitting in the hotel restaurant. Bernie was a real tough, good guy. And he was a financial guru who had just flipped a company called Jovan which was a musk fragrance that was very successful, Jovan Fragrances. And Bernie looked at Arthur and says, I just got a call from the President of the University of Chicago and they'd like to build a new hospital out there. And Bernie had about an eighty-five million dollar loss carry forward from the sale of Jovan, and we just sold a huge area down in north Kansas City previously owned by the Swift and Armor family, so we asked, 'How much do they need?' 'Oh about forty million.' Bernie Mitchell and Rubloff built The Bernard Mitchell Hospital and Arthur Rubloff Intensive Care. That was no different than you and I sitting right here that's how easy that was. I would tell development people, 'Don't ever give up.' The right people will show up.

The reason I bring that up is the neighborhood out there is where Richard J. Daley had issues with gangs. This is in the '70's. But in the '60's they had *The Blackstone Rangers* out there. You talk about gangs—we had the Blackstone Rangers, The Black Disciples, we had The Cobras. Julian Levy who was the president of the University at the time came in to see the Mayor. And he said, 'Mr. Mayor,' he's right on 63rd Street, 'These gangs are a problem. It's very difficult to get kids to come here when they read about these problems along 63rd Street and are in the neighborhood destroying it.' Julian's

brother was Edward Levy, the U.S. Attorney General at the time. So the Mayor called me in and said, 'What do you know about this? I said, 'I know these gangs are into all these federal programs, these breakfast programs that the federal government is funding and these guys are stealing the money and the kids aren't getting fed and they're buying food and its going into the garbage.' And I said, 'They're muscling these kids.' It took a while, but it got straightened out. The Mayor said, 'What do we do?' In those days we had the Chicago Police task force. He said, 'Call the Superintendent. Every night I want the task force on the street. And I want those corners cleared. I don't want any problems.' And the University of Chicago and Hyde Park—if you're familiar with Hyde Park—we owned the Hyde Park Co-op, Rubloff and a couple of partners in the old days. Hyde Park is the best kept secret in Chicago. You know why? Because there wasn't any retail, it was all residential, educational and medical. You didn't bring anybody in if they didn't live there. You didn't have shopping malls in Hyde Park. You didn't have a lot of major strip centers. It was all the University, hospitals and residences. But the Mayor taking that action, going to Washington saying, They're abusing those funds you're sending, they're using them for gang purposes, drugs and prostitution and he told the Superintendent to make the task force out there every night, clear out the streets, let's find out what these guys are up to—and they all went to jail. They disappeared. And it was him. He just took a position we're going to clean it up. Don't make excuses there's too many guns on the street, don't make excuses we need legislation. There were a lot of guns on the street then, maybe not as high-powered or powerful, but people were being injured. And the idea of just going in and taking some kind of fast action—and he probably wouldn't have known about it unless Levy came in to talk to him and say, 'It's getting to be a problem.' And I knew there were things going on out there. Mount

Carmel High School which was a great high school, they were having neighborhood gang issues and we were able to take down some of the abandoned buildings there. Rich's son Patrick went to Mount Carmel. We went in and cleaned up the buildings, and now it's like a small Notre Dame. Hyde Park—I just love the history of it. It's just so unique and so charming and when you look at the University of Chicago, the buildings, Rockefeller Chapel—it's just an incredible well-kept secret in Chicago.

One of the interesting things about Richard J. Daley is about six months before he died we had some issues on Rush Street in Old Town with strip joints and book stores. We had about forty adult book stores—it was really seedy. And strip joints like The Cabaret or The Candy Store, where a girl swinging on a swing outdoors in front at 876 North Rush was half naked. The Mayor said—and this was after I left the detail and was appointed by the Mayor as Liquor Commissioner—'I want you to go down there and clean up this stuff. You got to stop it.' I said, 'Whatever had to be done, I'll do it.' (*Refers to photographs from Gavin's personal collection*)

And he died six months later, but when you talk about child pornography and stuff like that, this is some of the information about closing down the strip joints. Here, we were on child pornography—what was the date on that? 1977?

Q: May 16, 1977

Gavin: We go back and started going after this in the 1970's. We started legislation. Alderman Burke worked with me on it. The interesting thing is we shut thirty-four book stores—there are a couple of them left (*Refers to newspaper article from Gavin's personal collection*). Two things happened here; we cleaned out the neighborhood, Rush Street, Division, Old Town. That was really getting to be sleazy. And today we've got the best restaurants, retail and hotels in the country. You've got Carmines, Hugo's Frog Bar, Gibson's. And Old Town which I never thought would come back strong. Steve Lombardo[6] said to me in the early '70's, 'We'd like to open up a Mr. Kelly's—this is where Gibson's is today. The Mayor had me as liquor commissioner at that time, so I said, 'Go ahead that's fine. Stay in touch with me.' So his partners were Bobby Marsico and Marty Gutilla who still is, and Doug Buffone from The Bears.[7] So they got together and they spent a ton of money on remodeling. They had a lease with a landlord in New York that had a "drop dead date." It said if you're not open by a certain date, we'll revoke the lease. Well they had tons of money invested in Mr. Kelly's. So they couldn't get the kitchen equipment ordered in time to get the place open because they needed food to get a liquor license. So they came in to see me and Richard J. Daley was the Mayor, and they said, 'We've got a problem. We have at least a three month back-order on the kitchen equipment and they have thirty days or the landlord will take the store back. And they probably had about $800,000 invested. And at present day value of that money, it's huge. And I say, 'Let me go see the Mayor.' And I say, 'Mr. Mayor, they bought Mr. Kelly's and want to change it, and they had a couple bars on Division Street, The BBC and another one. Here's the problem—they can't get the liquor without the food.' So he looked at me and said, 'So what should we do?' And I said, 'I'll tell you what

[6] Steve Lombardo owned Mr. Kelly's, and later Sweetwater and Gibson's.
[7] The Chicago Bears are a professional team.

we can do. They can buy a microwave and they can cook appetizers and they can get a limited food license. Once they get a limited food license and the bar is ready to go—we can give them the liquor license.' And that's how we did it. He said,' Go ahead and do it.' If I did that today they'd have me hanging from the 5th floor of City Hall. Here is what happened as a result of that. Steve Lombardo and his partners, we laugh about it today. Sweetwater was a good restaurant which replaced Mr. Kelly's, so they changed it to Gibson's. They brought Hugo's Frog Bar, which is theirs, and next to Gibson's. Then they had Carmine's come in. Then they built the Lunz bar across the street. They were just Renaissance men. Rich and I were up at *Gibson's* a couple of months ago for dinner, and we were talking with Marty Gutilla, one of the owners. This street today, you've got the finest hotels, you've got the finest restaurants, the finest retail on Oak Street and on Michigan Avenue. And it was him to make the call to say go ahead and do that—let them take a microwave and microwave the appetizers and we'll give them a limited food license, that way they'll qualify for a liquor license. And these guys put the street back on the map. There isn't any street in this country that's as nice as that street. Cafes, coffee shops and the restaurants just enhance the value of all the residences in the area. People love living there because they can walk out the door and go have dinner, the lake, great retail and residential. But those are the kinds of things—if he asked you to do something and you could get it done, he would support you. I would get pushback and he would say, 'Who from? You just keep going.' Nobody really wanted to take him on because they knew he was trying to do the right thing. And whether you're my friend or not when it comes to the city, I want to see good things happen, not bad. You look at the environment on Rush Street today and especially Old Town because Old Town was really disgusting, and it's turned out to be a real gem. And the people living

there, that whole area all the way west to the river with the development of the Montgomery Ward property, and the Huron-Erie area over near Orleans—were all factories in those days. No one ever thought you'd see beautiful town homes and condominiums like that. But it took a lot of vision. When you look at all the years the Daley's were involved in Chicago—you had Jane in there for a couple of years, and you had Harold in there for a couple of years—but the overwhelming majority of this development was under the Daley's for over forty years between Richard M. and Richard J. Daley. You can't develop a city in three or four years, you can't develop a neighborhood in three or four years, you can't build a school in three years. But when you look at the overall impact of what his father started, whether it was the University of Illinois or other areas in the city and see how that's transformed into a great city, there aren't too many bad neighborhoods in this city. We know there are areas on the west side and south side that have to be addressed, but the majority of neighborhoods today are just awesome. And they are so ethnic-oriented, the Lithuanian, Polish, Irish, Afro-American, Hispanics. You've got every nationality you'd want here, and everybody seems to live in peace and harmony. I think between Rich and his father they probably put in about forty-five years here. But you see the old stockyards where Richard J. Daley used to work and you see the industrial properties and the office buildings over there today. When I was a kid, I'd go to the International Ampitheatre.[8] It was a big treat. And you'd see cattle all fenced in. That's where they slaughtered them. I didn't know. I'd just go to the boat show or the car show at the *International Ampitheatre* when I was thirteen years old. I'd take the bus, and now you just see that whole area is revitalized.

[8] Built to host international Livestock Exhibitions, The International Ampitheatre was in operation from 1934-1999.

But he had challenges, and Rich's challenges were different. But they both loved to build.

When you see Millenium Park and the lakefront—Richard J. Daley and I were driving in one morning from Grand Beach about five o'clock because he liked to be in the office at by seven-seven-thirty, so by the time we got in from Grand Beach and he got home, put a suit on and we stopped at church—and he turned to me as we were driving along the lake, he said, 'That's the greatest asset we have.' And I was a young kid and I'm thinking, 'What's the big deal about the lake?' As I got older I said, 'He was right on target. That lakefront is without a doubt, special and spectacular. All thirty-two miles of it from Evanston all the way out to South Chicago. It's beautiful. It's neighborhoods. People living in South Shore go out their backyards and they have beautiful views of the lake all the way out to the old steels mills. He could see how important the lake was to the city. Most people thought the lake was somewhere to go swim.

Q: Speaking when you were back first meeting Mayor Daley. Could you tell the story of when you first met him?

Gavin: Do you want a classic story?

Q: Yes.

Gavin: I was a Chicago policeman assigned to Maxwell Street. The commander asked me one night, it was a Thursday night, 'Can you take me to St. Pius Catholic Church?' which was up on 19th and Ashland. And it was snowing out. And it was snowing pretty good. I worked in plain clothes so I had wash pants on and a baseball jacket. I said, 'Can I take Bill O'Malley?' Bill was my partner at the time. He was in law school and later became a judge. So O'Malley and I got in the car and the Commander got in the back seat. You know 14th and Morgan to 18th and Loomis is about a three minute walk from the Maxwell Street Police Station, so it's about a one minute ride. It took about an hour and a half to get to that corner because the snow was so bad and people were slipping and sliding all over in their cars and buses were stuck or stopped. So I got to the corner of 18th and Loomis and I look at O'Malley and said, 'Bill, I don't want the Commander to be late. Why don't you and the Commander walk over to *St. Pius?* It's faster because there's traffic all over the streets and I'll meet you there with the squad.' It was an unmarked car. The Commander says, 'Vince we'll walk it's not that bad.' So I'm sitting at the corner of 18th and Loomis and a well-dressed man walks up to me and says, 'Is this a squad?' And I say, 'Yes sir, it is.' He said, 'I've got the Mayor of Chicago over in the currency exchange and our cars have broken down in the snow, the big limo and the tail car. We've got to go to St. Pius. Can you take us there?' I said, 'Let me tell you something. I don't know you pal, but it just took me an hour and a half to go three blocks. If you've got the Mayor of Chicago over there I want to see him. Bring him here.' I figured the guy was a little ga-ga from the snow. (*Laugh*) Well he comes back and who comes with him? The Mayor of Chicago. This is the '67 snowstorm. So I thought, uh-oh, I better shut up. The fellow who originally made the contact with me gets the Mayor in the back seat. I said, 'Mr. Mayor it's going to be a bit of a ride out there.' He says, 'We'll

be fine, we'll get through.' It was a mess, people just got out of their vehicles and buses and left—it was brutal. So if you know Loomis, Blue Island is on an angle, so I took Blue Island. The supermercado was on fire at 18th and Loomis—the fire department was out there fighting that fire, so I got up 19th and Laflin. I said, 'Mayor, I can't get up 19th Street. St. Pius is about two blocks west. Why don't we walk?' So I go around the back to get him out of the car and he doesn't have his boots on so I gave him my boots. So the other fellow's name was Jack O'Neill. Jack was the head of the detail in those days. I didn't know him. I was just a policeman in those days, and this guy could have been the president of Pepsi-Cola, it wouldn't have made any difference. So I gave my boots to the Mayor and took him arm and arm, and I walked him down 19th Street and into St. Pius down in the basement they had this big community meeting. And the Commander looks and he says,' What is Gavin doing?' And the Mayor says,' Vince would you make sure you stay and take me home tonight?' And I say, 'Fine Mr. Mayor.' So I stayed with O'Malley and we had the squad and I drove him down Ashland to 35th and over, and the last parting words were, 'We'll see each other. I'll call you.' And he went into the house. 'Don't call me, I'll call you. Goodbye.' Anyway, I spent the next five days at Maxwell Street because you couldn't get home. I'd go back and forth downtown. The policemen couldn't get in to work. Nobody could really move because everything was virtually shut down in the '67 snow storm because we had thirty inches of snow. So I stayed—I had a friend who had security detail at the Palmer House so I'd take a bunch of guys over there, we'd get fed take a shower and lay down for a couple of hours and we'd go back. Months later I got a phone call the Mayor wanted to see me, and he asked me if I'd be interested in coming on the detail. And I said I'd have to check with

me wife. And he said, 'That's what I like!' Sis was the boss, too. So that's how it happened.

It's so ironic how things that have happened in my life that have been with something noteworthy with the city. When Jane Byrne came in I left. Arthur Rubloff said, 'If you work for her, I don't want to have anything to do with you.' They didn't get along at all. I had been with Arthur since the early '70's. So going back to what I said earlier, how Mayor Daley asked me to help Rubloff. It became a great relationship. I was his golfing partner on the weekends. He could play at any country club, and he didn't play golf. We'd go look at real estate. And he taught me the real estate business. And I took some courses down at the University of Georgia, and I went to Michigan State. He was really good to me, and it worked out. The irony of it is, it goes back to what Daley is all about is loyalty. When I was a young policeman in 1967, I was asked to go to work on the State's Attorney's police. And that was a real feather in your cap—at my age, I was a young guy. And there was a Police Sergeant named Dan Groth who was in charge when Ed Hanrahan was the State's Attorney. And there was a Commander at Maxwell Street Harold Enright who was really good to me. And Dan Groth said to me 'Hanrahan wants to start a gang unit, and I'd like you to be the first guy asked.' I said, 'Dan, as much as I'd love to, Enright has been great to me and I couldn't do it to him. Loyalty. So I stayed and I didn't take the job. And those police officers, Dan Groth and the state's attorney's office were involved with the Black Panther Raid, on the 2300 block of West Monroe where Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were slain. Every officer was sued and in court for the next 13 years. All were eventually acquitted. That was loyalty—to say no. And I learned the same lessons from the Mayor on loyalty. Rubloff said, 'Why don't you come to work for me?' And I said, 'I don't want Mayor Daley mad and you and me.' When

Bilandic became the Mayor after Richard J. Daley's death, I said, 'Let me hang in' And I stayed with Bilandic. Right after Bilandic lost I left government. I would never think of leaving somebody who was as good to me as Richard J. Daley was. When Jane became the Mayor I was out the door in twenty seconds. Rubloff called and said, 'I'm in New York, but I'll be in town this weekend.' And that was in 1979—my whole career changed because of my relationship with him and my loyalty. I would always step back when he would walk down the street because people would always come up to him. And I would look at him and think, 'He's just unbelievable!' Here is a man who is just a regular guy, doesn't need any fancy stuff. Doesn't need all the hoopla, he doesn't need TV shows, he's just a regular guy that wants and loves this city more than anything in the world, and wants to do the right thing. People say, 'Oh, he's tough. He's powerful.' But you know what? It was all good. It was all good. Look at what we have today. Between him and Rich, we got forty-fifty years. That's what it takes to build a city. Not a one-termer.

Q: That's a wonderful way to end, but if there's anything you'd like to add…

Gavin: Those are some of things people should know—the human side of him. You know how the media always paints people in politics, especially in Chicago and Illinois. But he'd go out to his ward meetings on Saturday mornings, he'd have two hundred precinct captains at 37th and Halsted at the 11th Ward. And we'd pull up on the corner there. And the precinct captains would come up and say 'Mr. Mayor, can you help Joe? His son needs a job.' And the Mayor would say, 'Have him call so and so. We'd be glad to help him out.' And he'd have all his precinct captains there. And he was like a god! He'd bring

guys in and call them after the election and he'd say, "Frank, your precinct was outstanding.' He never stopped thanking them—which meant even more. We'd go to wakes. We would go to five, six sometimes seven wakes a night, from Donnellan's up in Skokie all the way to Andy McGann's on 107th and Pulaski. He'd walk into a wake and every head would turn. He could do more good I always said, by showing up at wakes. People loved him. They said, 'The Mayor came to my dad's wake.' That was it. You could do anything for any of them but if the Mayor showed up for his father's, his mother's or his family member's wake. It was a special honor. He was such an accomplished guy and would say, 'Thanks for everything.' And it worked. And this city, in spite of what others may say, I think it's a pretty great city. I see sports figures say, 'I don't want to get traded out of Chicago! I love Chicago!' And when I see kids coming from all over and talking from different university's they all want to come to Chicago to work. They like the night life, they like the lakefront, they like the bicycle paths, the parks, the restaurants and the social life. It's just incredible and it's only getting better. I learned from the past and it wasn't any easy walk. There's a lot of criticism, but someone has to make a decision and one thing the Daley's do—they'll make the decision.

Q: Speaking of that, you kindly brought some documentation showing you were injured in 1968. And you were there.

Gavn: I was there every day, either in Grant Park at the band shell or in Lincoln Park in the evenings, or on Michigan Avenue at the Hilton Hotel. I was in college at the time. I was at Loyola and I can tell you it was scary. It was like a war on the streets because it wasn't

fifty or a hundred demonstrators—they could have been handled very easily. It was people throwing bottles, turning garbage cans over and throwing them through windows over on Michigan. We had a situation over at the Petrillo Band Shell in Grant Park where we were stationed—there were forty-two in my group, called the first platoon. Chicago Magazine[9] did stories on me. The first platoon was located right across from the Petrillo Band Shell. It was just a little band shell with wooden benches in those days. And we were stationed at the park district—the building is still there—right across the street, that green building by the tennis courts. So when they had a 10-1, when a policeman needs help at the band shell—we were the first ones to go in. They had about six thousand demonstrators. These guys were throwing stuff at us, and in those days we didn't have camouflage military uniforms. We had a blue helmet and a baton and that was it. There were forty-two of us in platoon one against five or six thousand demonstrators, hurling bandshell benches at us. And we were able to clear them out and a lot of people got injured including myself, and then later they tried to get over the bridges over the railroad tracks on Michigan Avenue and a lot of them did, because it's a big area to cover, and they started smoking marijuana and exposing themselves, and throwing things and trying to do damage. That was the way people reacted with their anger in those days. There's no justification for it. But that's what they did, because that's what they saw in riots in major cities, and I think the movement in those days against the war was, 'Dump Humphrey'[10] and get these guys out of here—they're war mongers!' And they were really committed to their cause and they had a large following. They had people coming from all over the United States to be here, and to be

[9] Monthly magazine published by the *Chicago Tribune Corporation* with a distribution of over 100,000.
[10] Hubert Humphrey (1911-1978) was the 38th Vice President of the United States under Lyndon Johnson, a Senator from Minnesota and a Democratic Party nominee for President in 1968.

a part of it. It was not a NATO demonstration—they might have had a couple of misguided kids from the Midwest who were lost, and go involved. When I saw McCarthy out there, I said, 'Boy—all the hoopla. They got some bad intelligence on this deal.' In my personal opinion, they should have had a better handle on it. In 1968 we had intelligence—we knew they were coming, we were told they were coming, and they told us plain out, 'We're going to burn down your city.' And you know what? They had enough people to do it, and they had thousands of people who were committed enough to try it. The war in those days was just so ugly, and I don't think there was anybody today who would tell you that the war was the right thing to do, but that's hindsight. This situation we have here in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq—we walk out of there and we lose people. We lost sixty three thousand kids in Vietnam. But you walk out of Iraq or Afghanistan and you turn it over to them, and these people are right back in power. So the issues were a lot different. People expressed themselves much, much more strongly and were much, much more violent in the '60's and the '70's. The racial riots, the war demonstrations, it was nothing to get one hundred thousand people to demonstrate against the war in those days. People today, they just don't get involved in it like then and the ones that do get involved are lost—there's always going to be a segment of society that has issues. I think that these are kids who get in their cars and they drive to a happening. It's a happening—let's go there! Situations in those days were a lot different than they are today. If you tried to put handcuffs on anybody there was a lot of resistance. And you didn't have any of the gear or equipment that they have today. You were basically in shirtsleeves, blue pants, a helmet and your baton. They threw bricks, bottles, balloons of urine—anything that they could find, they'd throw at you. It was probably as close as being in some form of combat for three or four days, than I'd ever

been in. And I'd been in the west side riots on Roosevelt Road—the ones on West Madison, the '68 convention, made the '67 and '79 snowstorms, so I've been around for most of the major happenings in the city. The day the plane crashed in May up at O'Hare when a couple hundred people died-that's the day I left, when I told Jane Byrne I'm out of here. About three hours later I heard that plane had crashed at O'Hare coming through. I think they lost two hundred thirty-nine people.

But when I look at the city today, it's just incredible how much has been done. And when you talk about debt, I don't think you can put a price on it. I look at Detroit and I'm sure that they wish they had spent money. And there are other cities that have a lot more problems that you don't hear about. Chicago has a great future. When you look at the near west side—when I was a policeman Maxwell Street was retail stores, Fulton Street was all meat markets. Madison Street was skid row. There were all flop houses. Transients would stay in a room no bigger than six by six feet with eight foot wide partitions with chicken wire over the top so you had to make sure you neighbor wouldn't crawl over and steal your stuff. The Mohawk Hotel, The Starr Hotel. When I was a policeman I just missed grabbing Speck,[11] he had gone over to The Starr Hotel on West Madison. I was working with a couple of police officers and we asked, 'Where could he get lost? He has to lose himself somewhere. He's too hot.' So he goes into that community of homeless people one Madison Street and he stayed at The Starr Hotel at 617 West Madison. And six hours later he left. He showed up and he was over at County Hospital which is where the Chicago Police grabbed him.

[11] Richard Speck (1941-1991) was a mass murder convicted of the torture, rape and murder of eight student nurses in Chicago in 1966. He served a life sentence in Statesville Correctional Center in Crest Hill, Illinois.

In those days you had nothing but alcoholics and homeless all over Madison Street. The smell. You'd see women, and they were definitely out-numbered so they were terribly abused—and it was just so hurtful. And I'd pick up guys who were dentists or doctors who had lost everything and wound up there. It was a great education for me. And now look at it today. You have beautiful buildings, parks—I mean that's a vision. Pete's groceries—Pete's is opening at Madison and Western. It was the worst area in town, you never went there. Now he's got this beautiful forty-eight thousand square foot grocery store at Madison and Western. People living all over the area. There are nice restaurants on Grand Avenue, Bucktown, Wicker Park, the Polish communities along north Milwaukee—the foundations were laid by the mayor's father who really took the brunt of the decisions to move the city forward. Because people just weren't accustomed to it—we don't want the change. And then Rich, having the vision to say we can do this, we can do that. And I always think about the crime issues today—but Rich would walk in the neighborhoods every Saturday with different groups. He'd go to Austin and walk with community groups, he'd go to South Shore and walk with the community groups—just an awareness to stop the violence. I can't imagine how bad it would be if we didn't have all those different programs and reminders. And he put himself in a dangerous position. I said, 'He's in harm's way out there. There are people out there—the gangs—someone is goofy enough to say, if I could hurt him, I'd be the real Stud McFud.' But the Daley's are committed without a doubt, and what they've done here is unbelievable. I would say, 'Rich, you have all these guys blowing in your ear about how great this city is. I am telling you, I hear it all the time from people coming from out of this country, people coming from other areas in this country, Chicago is beautiful. It's gorgeous. I never had any idea it was like this.'

Q: What kind of advice do you think Richard J. Daley would give us if he could speak to us directly today?

Gavin: You know what I think he would do? He definitely would be concerned about the public safety. The mayor is the Commander-in-Chief of the Police Department. So public safety is his issue. And I can tell you that he would leave no stone unturned to resolve the issues that we've been seeing lately. That would be number one because if people don't feel safe in a community, they're not going to lie there. The other thing is education. He tried time and time again and he fought harder than anybody for schools than anything because he knew the school was the nucleus of the community. Public safety and the schools can make this thing work. Times were tough in those days. You had a lot of children coming into the school system that weren't there when I was in high school. I went to a Catholic high school and the public schools then were great! Calumet, South Shore, Hyde Park—they were great schools. But as the demographic changed there's no question the safety factor was effected as was the academic factor. And you sit there saying, 'How do we get this right, to where it was?' Is it parenting? Is it funding? Is it curriculum? It's a whole new program. Vince Gavin's mom and dad used to sit and read with him each night—where do we get that family? We're still preaching for the family. It's gotten better, there's no question. Those were challenges in those days. And most of the kids in the schools, they didn't have a father figure. It was tough—and I taught at Skinner Elementary School so I knew. I'm not talking like an outsider. I'd see these kids living on Adams in the thirteen hundred block—you know that beautiful block where

the old vintage home are—they would ride the 'L' at night. I would say, 'Are you going to go home and do your homework?' And they would answer, 'Oh no, I'm going to ride the 'L' tonight.' They'd sneak on the 'L' and ride it rather than stay in the neighborhood. There was nobody there to check on them. If the mother was there, she didn't care or she was working. That's why they started all those special programs with the free lunches and then they started the free breakfast programs. But those kids wouldn't eat them. They would rather have a bag of chips or a soda pop. But when I saw how the kids were raised over on Adams and Jackson and Morgan and Ashland, it wasn't what I was exposed to. And I felt bad for them—it was in the late '60's and early '70s'—because what chance do they have? And those were the problems that government was dealing with in those days. How do we reach these kids when there's really no one there who is going to monitor, and discipline and work with them?

I think it is no question public safety was an issue with the Mayor. Bob Quinn was the Fire Commissioner and I was out in front of the house at 35th and Lowe in the Cadillac, in the limo and Quinn called the car and he said, 'We have an accident, a train accident at 29th and Lake Shore Drive over on the IC (Illinois Central) tracks over by Michael Reese.'[12] What had happened is that those were Metra trains made of aluminum, and one train just drove into the next just slicing people in half. And they were on their way downtown to work. He said, 'Vince would you tell the Mayor it's not a good scene. I said, 'Mr. Mayor I just talked to Bob Quinn and over at 26th and Lake Shore Drive behind Michael Reese and they have a lot of dead people. They were on their way downtown to work at seven-thirty in the morning.' He said, 'I'll be out in a minute. Let's

[12] Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center was located on South Lake Shore Drive. It was one of the oldest and largest hospitals in Chicago and a national research and teaching facility which opened in 1881 and closed in 2008.

go.' He went there. He stayed there until two o'clock—until everybody was out of there. He stayed and then, he and Quinn went to have lunch over at the Hilton Hotel and he just sat there. Stuff like that really had an effect on him. As the Commander-in-Chief of Police and Fire he took it very serious. His policeman—he was there for them all the time. He did whatever he could to help them. Re realized that those are the guys on the front lines—those are my first responders. Those are the guys that are the image of the city, and I want them to be my friends, and I want to be good to them. And he did everything he could to help the police and fire. They had their corruption issues, but we went through them and things got better. I really believe that the two things that he would say are the public safety issue and education.

Housing isn't as much of an issue today as it was then because you got rid of all the high-rises. People are better off living in townhomes and row houses as we call them. Twenty-four story high rises with the elevators being broken and people urinating in the hallways and you can't go in and out of them without a problem. But public housing—I think they've done a great job to get them to a point where people feel comfortable, that they feel safe, that they can live a comfortable life. I think that it's hard to live in a high rise when you've got so many problems and try to go to school. But I'm not so sure we have the violence today that we had in those high rises. Most of the crime now is coming out of what I always thought were good neighborhoods. South Shore is an outstanding area—a beautiful neighborhood. And I grew up a mile away from Father Phleger[13] at St. Sabina's at 79th and Racine—I was at 87th and Racine. And he's done some great things. But I think the ability to recognize the problem and to put everything

[13] Father Phleger is a Roman Catholic priest, civil rights and social activist who has been the pastor of *St. Sabina's* Parish since 1981. A 2009 film by Bob Hercules and a 2010 biography by Robert McClory document his life.

to the side to solve it—is the key thing. The one thing, the one word that always stays in my mind that he would use is compromise. We would have the Board of Education in one room so they wouldn't strike and he would be in another room, and we'd be there until one, two, three o'clock in the morning to make sure the deal was done. He'd send me out for coffee—there wasn't anything open! So I found a coffee shop on LaSalle and Grand. The Mayor said, 'Nobody goes home until this is resolved! There was no coming back next week. We're staying here and you're in there and we'll get it worked out.' So I got the coffee and I saw a MaryAnn Baking truck on the street. I said, 'Come here. Do you have a couple of boxes that you're not going to use? I've got the Mayor and The Board of Education down at City Hall. Maybe a nice donut would make this thing go away!' (Laughter) The guy says, 'Sure—whatever he wants!' So I brought them back and it was resolved in the early morning hours. But compromise—that's the one word. And even in my life sometimes you think you're so right on and you just back off and say, 'As long as it's reasonable and it can be compromised, don't be fighting and don't be dragging things out, get it over and get it done.' And both parties wind up with a smile. He really fought—those were interesting times, there was so much going on in this country. And he just kept on pushing and kept on believing it'll get better. And it did. And now look at it today. He was just so determined all the time to make the right decision.

He loved going to work. He loved his job. I think when he put his head on the pillow he was thinking about it. I don't know how he could keep it all together. We'd get a movement on a President with the Secret Service and they'd say,' I don't know why we're watching the President, Daley's the boss.' (*Laughter*) That's the way everybody viewed him throughout the country. He had that image that he was more powerful than

the President because he could pick up the phone and talk to the President whether it was Jack Kennedy, or Lyndon or Nixon. He didn't put a wall up between parties—he was a Republican at one time. He just wanted to do what was right, and he did whatever it took to make it right. Like I said before, what's going on in Washington with their different issues, and they're locking up votes and they're shutting down legislation, and the way it's affecting people—it's goofy. I can see why these Tea Party people are winning. People are fed up. Not in his case. He just had a hard job and he did it as good as anybody could. Those were tough days. And Rich took the role and the leadership and picked up the ball and ran with it. But the thing that Rich did that I think is incredible is to re-develop all of these neighborhoods. That's what makes this city is the neighborhoods. Whether it's Chinatown, Argyle Avenue or 18th and Ashland and the Hispanic community, or the Irish out in Beverly or Forest Glen, or the Polish over on Milwaukee—they're all there. You just couldn't find a better blend of ethnic, and of friendlier neighborhoods. I was just reading something the other night, if you go to some cities people don't say anything. If you go to Chicago, they not only say something to you, if you ask for directions they'll take you there! That's the kind of attitude that the Mayor had and the kind of attitude that Rich had. Rich was always like that—'Why don't they do something about that? Don't tell me you've got a problem. Solve it!'

It's just an unbelievably great city. I was proud to be identified with them. I know this city like I know my own home because I've been everywhere with them; with his father in the '60's and as I said when this land was made into a university, and I see what's happening now. It's just unbelievable from an urban standpoint to be able to develop something like this. And this catapulted everything to the north, everything to west, and everything to the south. His tenacity to build a University of Illinois here has taken eight

percent of the city land and made it into a valuable asset from Western south all the way out to 22nd, north past Grand Avenue over to the lakefront; none of that development was here. Rich focused more on the neighborhoods because that needed to be addressed, but his father was the builder of the Sears, The Standard Oil, and all the buildings downtown. He really believed that if you bring businesses into the city you'll have a strong city. He was right on target and everybody knows it. Because if a city isn't strong, the suburban ring will deteriorate. Half a million to six hundred thousand people come into the city every day to work. What would they do if they didn't have those companies that his father brought? Most of the downtown was developed under his dad. Most of the neighborhoods were developed under Rich. We're lucky to have the Daley's because I wouldn't want to be going through a new mayor every four years—things would never get done. They talk about term limits and as long as the person is good and is doing the right thing, I'm all for them. Because you get somebody who's in there—they're just learning the job in three years and they might be out in another year. You can see between Rich and his father the forty or forty-five years of love they put into the city—and it clearly shows. The lakefront is pristine, the schools are better, the neighborhoods are better, the downtown is thriving. It would be hard for somebody to accomplish that if they didn't have continuity and confidence. Because every time you get a new boss they have new ideas and they all want to have their John Hancock on this. And what they envisioned and what somebody else envisioned might not have worked out so well. And having the two of them here for such a long time, it was a great benefit. God bless them! And kids should know that. It's more than reading a textbook to see—these guys that write all these books are great, but they're filled with half-truths and assumptions. And many of them write because they all felt that they

were close to the Mayor. Mayor Daley was a very private person. His family, his city, his church, and his friends were really the nucleus of what made him tick. And you don't get that out of a book. You see pictures of him and you wonder, but he was just an incredible person. Never had an ego, didn't need any of the fancy stuff, just let me come in and do what I know how to do and meet the challenges and solve them. And the one thing I've learned is that after you see the tough times, there are better times. And there were better times.

I was involved in the '96 convention and the big emphasis was we don't want to see what happened in 1968 again. That shows you the difference in people. The '68 people had a violent mindset and we got labeled with that for years. In '96 we didn't have a problem—different people, a younger generation. They didn't want to get involved with that civil uproar. They don't even do it if the Blackhawks win the Stanley Cup! I had to laugh—I don't know if you saw the news about the Blackhawks when they won the Stanley Cup. The parade there were millions of people, and the Los Angeles Kings won it the other days and there were probably three people who came out. Chicago is neighborhoods. I was watching the '05 World Series and two million people showed up along the parade route to watch the White Sox go through all the neighborhoods. It's just like the Chicago Marathon when Executive Director Carey Pinkowski started that race—it's just incredible. It's like the movie business in Chicago. We're making more movies than in Hollywood. Why? Because it's beautiful here! And the other interesting thing is that the labor pool here is better than anywhere they can find in the country. It says a lot for—and it's only going to get better. It's a great tribute and a legacy to him and his son. When you hear people constantly say, 'Oh, it's so clean here! It's so pretty

here! And the lake, and all these beautiful buildings!' You drive northbound on I-55 from McCormick Place towards downtown and you see those buildings—god, it's awesome.

Q: Do you have a place in Chicago that you are particularly fond of or that you feel close to? Or maybe two or three places?

Gavin: I love the lakefront. I love Navy Pier, I was involved in Navy Pier. There was a guy named Sam Romano who took us Coho fishing in the lake in the old days—and Sam would take us out on the boat and the Mayor would say, 'Oh I love being out here. I don't have to worry about taking an airplane down to Florida and I can get right home. The best place to view the city is from the lake!' And he was so right because if you go out on the east end of Navy Pier and you look back I like sitting out there in the beer garden and have a brat or a glass of beer and just enjoy the views. The lakefront is gorgeous, the neighborhoods are special and Millenium Park now attracts over five million visitors a year. You know an area I really like is behind Soldier Field where the Police Memorial is—the museum campus, those buildings are unbelievable. There is nowhere where you get beautiful buildings with those views. Along the water, that underground walkway that connects the Museum Campus is spectacular and so is Burnham Marina. The landscaping—I don't think there's a prettier place from McCormick Place north to the museum campus. And those paths, even now they've extended the bike path and the running path all the down to South Shore. And it's so beautiful down south because you don't run into all the people you run into up in the Lincoln Park area. When the Mayor said to me one day driving in, 'That's our greatest asset,' he was right. That lake is just so

magnificent and that shoreline all the way up to Evanston. It's amazing what a piece of water can do for a city.' Just to drive along it from downtown and go to Jackson Park. I played golf as a kid there. And the park district keeps the parks nice. Meig's Field. Rich took a lot of heat for it. Now everybody's talking about what a beautiful, outdoor educational facility along the lakefront that will be for kids to come and learn about wetlands. And the Aquarium can work on fish environments—its will be spectacular! What the hell do we need an airport there for? For ten guys to fly in and out daily? And you know what—it really was not safe. During those days when there were terrorism threats at airports Meig's scared me. It was so close to downtown that anybody could fly in there and fly into a building downtown. You're a mile away from the Willis Tower, Hancock and Navy Pier. You wouldn't even be picked up on radar. So who needs an airport over there? Has anything dramatic happened there since the airport's been gone other than a lot of controversy? Those people either went up to Palwaukee or up to one of these other smaller airports. And now we've got this beautiful facility opened up on the lakefront. You've got Soldier Field, you've got the Police Memorial, and maybe you'll have George Lucas's museum there. That would be awesome! You've got McCormick Place and maybe DePaul will get their stadium if they get a winning basketball team—where are you going to find all this? You've got the Aquarium and the Museum of Natural History. You go down south you've got the Museum of Science and Industry. It is just exceptional, that lakefront. Lake Shore Drive, the waterfront, the beaches—and Chicago people sure use them. So it's a big part of the success of downtown. None of this would have happened without the strong foundation that Richard J. Daley laid down.

The Daley's had a great love that they learned from their mother and their father. And Mrs. Daley was so unassuming—she loved her friends and the neighborhood. He could go downtown, and he could be the boss but when he came home she was there and the kids were there and they were a family. And the end results of their love have given us a great city. And as I said, when you see all these different companies looking to have that image of having their headquarters here—that says a lot. I was with Rich when Boeing announced that Chicago would be their new headquarters. In my business if you got McDonald's in your shopping mall you didn't have to worry about anything else. Because if McDonald's came through you'd get the retail; the Targets, the Kohl's and other big boxes. But the more Fortune 500 companies that come here, the more that will want to be here. And it's happening. But the foundation was laid by Richard J. and Rich carried the torch. And he's done an amazing, amazing job. I would ask Richard J. Daley, 'Don't you get tired of being in the news every day?' He said, 'I don't read the newspapers.' He wanted to go home and put his head on the pillow and be with his seven kids. There was so much garbage—that's what sold newspapers. And if he was still alive, he'd still be running the city. (*Laugh*) I mean it! He would have kept everything together. That's the great thing about this city, people know what to do. People know what their job are and nothing is acceptable less than one hundred percent. And that's a loyal employee. I know guys that did cartwheels to get things done for him and for Rich. That's the way they were trained. And that's something he taught me. What do you really think is the right thing to do? How to make a decision. Mayor Richard J. Daley would always say,' Surround yourself with intelligent people.' When you are around somebody that long who had the authority to do that, you learn.

When Alderman Bill Singer played softball against the Mayor's Office, and the aldermen played softball in McGuane Park, Singer came sliding into second base. I was playing second, and said, 'Billy, you're going to get pancaked!' And the Mayor was laughing. Singer got up and smiled. Good times. The Mayor reached out to the clergy and to the Afro-American community. We'd be at churches on the south side. And he'd be out there on Sunday—I remember one time I thought, 'This is no different from a Catholic church! What have these Catholics been telling me?' These kids were dressed to the nines, singing. There was Ralph Metcalfe, Claude W.B. Holman and Congressman Bill Dawson. The Afro-American community had such a powerful clergy. That was their hope. And the Mayor would go out to the churches. He respected so many of them and so many of them were great athletes like Ralph Metcalfe. They started programs in the parks. He saw there was an awful lot of good there, and I saw it too. When I'd see these kids on Sunday morning singing at these churches over on the south side—they were all dressed and so proud when the Mayor came. And it was so touching because I knew it was the highlight of their week. And because it was probably really tough to go back and try to get to school every day, and to get to your music lessons. Look at some of the great singers who have come out of the south side. He reached out to everybody. He tried to bring everybody in the city together. It took a while, like anything else, but it's worked. We don't have the problems that we used to have. And I can't emphasize that enough, like I said that foundation was built. He laid the foundation and Rich put the bricks on. Everything is in place. Just continue to work on public safety and schools. If you don't have a strong image in both of those, people will leave the city. But the problem today is people move to the suburbs and they find out the problems are no

different there. (*Laughter*) In the old days, you go out to the suburbs and you were really a capitalist. Today the problems out there are probably worse.

Start of Track 2

Q: True. It's good to sit here with all these images surrounding us. (*Refers to photographs on walls of Richard J. Daley Library Conference room*)

Gavin: I look at them and they bring back so many memories. I know that look. He was just a very inspirational person. He fought for children, the family. From a family where he was the only child and able to accomplish what he did. Most of the time when you come from a big family you have your family out there helping you. He took it on himself. You'd get your brothers and sisters to start making phone calls. But he flew solo and he made things happen. This building is great tribute to him. I think that if he's looking down, he'd sit there and say, 'It love it.'

Q: Thank you. That sounds beautiful. It has been a pleasure to hear these stories—I learned a lot. I heard some new things I had not heard. So that's great when that happens.

Gavin: You know to know him is a lot different than to read about him. And that's the big difference is when you're with someone every day you get to know him. You read some of the stuff written and you might day he was not a very nice guy. Any man that can go to church every day has got to have a lot of good in him. That's all I can say. Every day he'd go to church. That alone motivated me. If he's the mayor and he can go to church, why can't I?

Q: (*Laugh*) He had tremendous discipline.

Gavin: His discipline was beyond belief. He was just spot on everything. He was just always—we used to say if the Mayor's house burned down he'd come out in a suit.

(*Laughter*)

Gavin: He was the sharpest dresser as you could find.

Q: He was ready.

Gavin: Yes, even when he had the operation for the carotid artery at Rush Hospital, we took him up to Grand Beach with Mrs. Daley. I'd drive back and forth from Chicago. I'd pick

up the mail in the morning downtown and then he'd go through it and I'd bring it back at night. When I saw him after came home from the hospital he didn't look good, but Mrs. Daley got him up and around real fast. By the end of the summer he was his old self. And I think he's sort of an alpha, he just had to keep busy. And he did what he loved to do. When he came back after that Labor Day to City Hall he'd go slow, but every day he'd do a little more. But Mrs. Daley said, 'Get home. We've got dinner on the table here! I don't; want you running around!' But he loved it. And Rich loved it too. And his love for the city clearly shows; their personal touches on every community. There isn't a community in the city his father and Rich didn't reach out to. And we're lucky—we really are—because I don't think there are a lot of cities in the world that can compare with ours. To have the ability to move forward, to continue to grow and be successful—and work.

Gavin: I was with him more than his family!

(*Laughter*)

Gavin: Because Rich and I are the same age. And Michael and I are the same. Billy and John are younger. But those kids were either in undergraduate school or law school. So we were all pretty much busy dating or at school. They weren't at home a lot because they were busy. And Johnny married a girl who lived right down the block from UIC. Mary Lou Briatta. Her father Louie used to cut my hair when I was a policeman.

(*Laughter*)

He had a little barbershop on the corner of Polk and Aberdeen. The he opened up a joint called Uncle Lou's Shop over on Roosevelt across from St. Ignatius. Uncle Lou's Discount—he was the Kmart of those days.

(*Laughter*)

She's (Mary Lou) as sweet as can be and Johnny's such a great guy with a great political sense. Johnny gets it done. Not a guy of a lot words, but very effective. His dad was like that. He didn't say a lot but what he did say, you got the message, 'Get it done and do it right.' You're right about that—it was just Mrs. Daley home most of the time at night, and Ellie was still at home. But I spent a lot of time with him. I tell everyone it was like going to Harvard. I couldn't have gotten a better education going to Harvard working with him. He sort of taught me how to move into different circles. He brought people to me that I never thought I'd meet, whether they were business people or political people--and how to present myself to them. When I went to work for Rubloff—I told Mr. Rubloff, 'Don't take this wrong, but I'm an Irish kid and this is a Jewish firm! I don't think I'm going to last—these guys are sharp!' I wound up running it because of him! Loyalty. If there's any word you can identify with him its loyalty because loyalty brings everything together. If you are loyal to someone, you're always going to do the right thing, and you're not going to lie to them. You're not going to tell them, 'Well maybe this or maybe that.' I was with a young man the other day—he's actually a cousin whose right under Greg Brown at Motorola, and he just got a major promotion and I told him, 'Do one thing—don't do what they did at GM. Don't cover that stuff up. If there's problems go tell Brown and get it corrected.' I think that's probably more critical to the success of young people or anybody today. You're going to want to do a good job if

you're loyal to someone and you're going to be truthful to them, that's the important thing. If there's one thing he taught me it's just, be loyal because it encompasses so many other virtues. And that's really what he did for me. He brought me into an arena of people—it was just incredible. I was with people who had headed major companies, who had major businesses and major interests in Chicago. And I was able to learn from them. And I think that was reflected by watching how he handled things. Because if I didn't have anybody to show me I probably wouldn't be sitting here with you.

(*Laughter*)

Q: So it sounds like he was a mentor.

Gavin: Yes, without a doubt. My father was awesome. He had five children. And he worked, and worked. And we didn't get a chance to do a lot of things. To go to a ballgame was a big treat. But with Richard J. Daley, there's nowhere you go in Chicago where if you mention his name that people don't say, 'Oh, really?' I see Jay Dougherty over at The City Club, and Jay was very close to Teddy Kennedy, and he's close to Chris.[14] Jay gets up at The City Club and he always wants to introduce people because Danny Rostenkowski[15] always said, 'Introduce a guy at The City Club and he'll join!' Well there are three hundred people at The City Club at every luncheon including heads of major corporations, and Jay would say, 'I want to introduce a historian of Richard J. Daley,' we

[14] Christopher G. Kennedy is a son of former U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy and was president of Merchandise Mart Properties until 2012, and was named to the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2009.
[15] Dan Rostenkowski(1928-2010) served in the U.S House of Representatives 1959-1995, was 32nd Ward Democratic Committeeman, often serving posts simultaneously.

would say, 'Love to hear some of the great memories.' I told Rocky Wirtz the story I told you about how his grandfather brought the boat into Key Largo, And Rocky just cracked up. I'll never forget Arthur Wirtz's words, 'I told my friend Dick Daley I'll be here and I'll be here!' And everybody was throwing up--and he was there. (Laughter) Arthur didn't care—he was there! So those are the kinds of friendships that if you catch on to the drift of things you can see what a good person he was. There's no question. Mentoring—without a doubt. He gave me opportunities which may not have existed. I may have stayed on the police department. I left in 1979, that's almost forty years ago. And I've been very fortunate and lucky that I started with him. That and working with Rubloff—you couldn't work for two more high-profile people in Chicago. Rubloff's name is on the Art Institute and Northwestern Law School. He built that building—they just taught me so much.

Q: I have a question about the bronzes in the Evergreen Park Plaza. I remember reading about them and seeing them as a young girl. Do you have a story about them? I read that he visited his statues.

Gavin: Every Saturday Rubloff and I would go to the Evergreen Park Plaza. He had them all encased in plexiglass—he had about thirty-eight of them. For a man who was up until the age of thirteen he lived up in the Mesabi Range area of Minnesota and he ran away from home at the age of thirteen. His father had a dry goods store up there and they were Jewish people who migrated to Chisholm, which is a small town in Minnesota. And he said, 'When I was thirteen I was working on the steamers on the lake, and I was so

small I worked in the laundry room and they put me on a milk cart. I'd have to stand there and throw laundry at them. He came to Chicago eventually when he was eighteen and he became a runner for a man named Robert White who had a real estate company. You talk about mentors? Arthur and White got along and White brought him into the real estate business. But the interesting thing about Arthur—here's a guy who is thirteen who never went to high school—and his love for the arts. It was bone china, it was bronzes and paintings. We went to see glass blowers out on the East Coast in Connecticut and they'd have these little studios attached to their homes. It was just unbelievable how without any formal education—he never took an art class—that he knew all this stuff. He spent millions and millions on art. It was his treasure and love. And he was so proud of it. I would look at him and think, 'How does he know about all this stuff?' His bronze collection, after his death in 1986, we sold and donated it about five years later.

Q: Well it connects with the sculptures all over the city.

Gavin: Well these faces that we're putting up—I think it's so cool. And The Bean[16] where people get their reflection—like I said before things are constantly being added to the city to make it better and better. And they're all done in good taste. Art is playing a major role in enhancing Chicago as an 'International City.'

[16] Also known by the name 'Cloud Gate,' this large polished stainless steel, bean-shaped sculpture by Anish Kapoor is located in Millenium Park.

Q: Well, I'm thinking about The Picasso,[17] which was so controversial. Were you working for the Mayor when the Picasso sculpture was installed in the Daley Plaza?

Gavin: I'll tell you a story. Bob Abboud[18] was the president of First National Bank—that's where Chase is now. So I told the Mayor we would have to go there because Picasso was coming to dinner that night. I got out of the car with the Mayor and we walked across the lobby. Bob Hope is getting on the elevator with us and the three of us are going to the Picasso dinner. Hope and the Mayor were just having a ball talking together—just really enjoying it. We get off on the same floor. Hope had a relationship with Picasso. So I got the Mayor seated, and whenever we were going to stay for dinner I would always ask the host if we can feed the detail. So I asked the host, 'What's on the menu?' He said, 'Squab,' and I said, 'What?' He said, 'Pigeon.' So I called down and said, 'Pidgeon on the menu for Picasso.' They said 'We'll pass—hot dogs are fine.' (*Laughter*) So that's what they had. Bob Abboud was a good friend of Hope's too. And it's interesting that you mention that because I never eat pigeon. (*Laughter)* But it's a delicacy. So Picasso, yes, I met him. He was very charming—a nice man. But with that kind of art—you're going to get controversy, but it's revered. People love it. It's sort of the focus of the Plaza. My cousin the manager of the Daley Center, Eddie Carek tells me people gravitate toward it. They do their musical concerts in the summertime and the Chriskindlmarkt in winter. Lois Weisberg the Director of Cultural Affairs, talked to Maggie about art and Rich got into it. Doing the cows in Michigan Avenue, or the pieces in Millenium Park

[17] Dedicated in 1967, this untitled fifty foot abstract sculpture by Spanish artist Pablo Picasso was gifted to the city by Picasso and stirred debate and controversy when it was first installed.
[18] Robert Abboud's interview can be found in this collection.

have been so topical and well-received. People love it. And if it's done in good taste—when I saw the figures in Millenium I thought, this is really interesting. And that's the thing the Daley's have brought more and more to the city—art. And we can always use more. The sculptures they put in front of *Navy Pier* that adds so much more to the city and *Navy Pier.* But Picasso—that's been a long time. Good old Bob Abboud and that squab. I had to pass on that too. (*Laughter*) Those were some great days.

Start of Track 3

Gavin: I was with President Clinton one night over at Navy Pier when he was having a dinner, one on one with a donor for his library in Little Rock and as he left afterwards he said, Vince, 'I want to look at the stained glass at Navy Pier.' I said, 'E.B. Smith donated that stained glass that is in Navy Pier along with The Driehaus Museum. There are about one hundred twenty three pieces.' Well Clinton had his White House aides and he had his Secret Service, and he spent on that Tuesday night an hour and a half going through it. He knew more about that stained glass museum than E.B. Smith whose family owns Northern Trust and Illinois Tool Works. I called E. B. and he said, 'You mean President Clinton was there?' I said, 'He's smarter about stained glass than you are!' And I think the uniqueness of this library is his involvement—never thinking that he'd have a building here named after him. Because he wasn't like that. Even Sis Daley when they wanted to name The Cultural Center after her said, 'No, no, I don't need my name on a building.' And he was just like that too. Everything that happened, happened after his death. The Daley Center being named after him—that was his second home after City

Hall. We'd go across the street to the Public Building Commission in The Daley Center and back to City Hall. A guy like Trump says, 'I want my name all over that building!'

(*Laughter*)

Q: The privacy.

Gavin: Yes, they were private. They were a family. They were always together and the grandkids were their loves. If somebody wanted to write a book on how to bring a family together and raise your family, he and Sis Daley were the perfect mentors. All those girls, Pat, Mary Carol and Ellie, God rest her soul, and all the boys are just solid people. Good to their word, they're hard-working, and they love what they do.

End of Interview