

Joan: Hello. I'm Joan Kjaer and I want to welcome you to WorldCanvass from International Programs at the University of Iowa. This is part three on our program on the politics and impact of immigration. And our guests in this segment are Mazahir Salih and Jesus Chuy Renteria. Thank you both for being here.

Joan: Real pleasure to have a chance to talk to you. You know, we've had a lot of heavy conversation and important conversation, but now we're going to talk to two people who live in Iowa who have made their lives here and you both come from different places in terms of family heritage.

Joan: I want to start with you Mazahir. You were born in Sudan, in Africa, and now you're here. You are a worker at the Center for Worker Justice and you were recently elected to the Iowa City City Council, brava. So tell us, you came from Sudan to America and probably under very trying circumstances.

Mazahir Salih: Yeah. I guess the first thing that I want to say is that no one will leave a place that they are feel comfortable. I came to America because I really couldn't stay in Sudan because I wasn't feel comfortable, I just forced myself and I came here.

Mazahir Salih: When I came first, I came to Virginia and I came looking for better life. But to tell you that first, in the beginning I thought when I got to America it would be easy life, I will collect the money maybe from the street, and you know try to do that, I have a lot of really, really, you know stories about America and how the life is easy over there and people got paid in dollar and dollar for us is really something big.

Mazahir Salih: Anyway, when I came new, I just try, said, "Okay, I'm going to have my life become better in few days." But the reality wasn't like that, I think better life is not something laying there for the taking, better life is really something you have to fight for it. You have to build it yourself, and that is what happened to me. I came to America, I have a lot of barriers, I was thinking, "This will be the best life ever." But in the beginning was hard. Language barriers, culture barriers, even weather barriers. I came from a hundred degrees every day, and coming to America, which is cold and the snow, never saw the snow before, and all these kinds of things really it is not easy to come from your country like where you have your people, and your language, you feel comfortable. Even now speaking to you, if I speak that on my language I would say it beautifully. You know? But yeah, still I struggle in the language and everything sometime. But just to show you that this is not an easy thing when I arrive here, it was really difficult for me to find job, to resettle, to understand the language, to do a lot of things. It was totally, you know, difficult.

Joan: Did you come here to meet someone from your family? Or did you come requesting asylum?

Mazahir Salih: No, actually I came because you know in Sudan my dad pass away when I was third grade, we are four sisters and two brothers. We have, our life was really, really hard growing up. We suffered too much since my mom, she doesn't have enough education. And I was just thinking about something, I need to improve our life. I always liked to improve things when they are not going in the right direction, since I was little. That's why the first was I was trying to help my mother and she always say, "Education is solution. I don't have enough education that's why I'm not finding a good job." And she encouraged us to educate, you know like really study hard so we can graduate. I did graduate from civil engineering, from my country, and I thought as soon as I get my certificate I will find good job and build a better life for my family in Sudan.

Mazahir Salih: But that wasn't the reality because you know the government was corrupted. If you don't know somebody in some organization or companies you cannot even find job. I just hold my certificate looking for job, couldn't find anything, that's why I just decide to get out of the country. I start hearing about the immigration lotteries and I applied many times without luck, and finally I went to Egypt and I get a visa to come to the United State and I came here really looking for that better life. Which I'm still fighting for it.

Joan: So you're married now and you have children.

Mazahir Salih: Yeah, I met my husband you know after five years in Virginia. I met my husband who is asylee, he's from Sudan but he came and he came and seek asylee and he got his asylum. And we met and I just thought he's a good guy, still good guy, and we got married and we have five children in Virginia. In Virginia I started working after 15 days, I work in McDonald's because you know even though I have civil engineering degree, but it is new country for me, I have to start all over. That's why I started by working in McDonald's. And they pay me \$5.25, that's important, I have to add because this was 1997. The minimum wage was \$5.25, and now the minimum wage is \$7.25, that's not good. But you know I ... Just that was the minimum wage, I was working hard sending money back home, I built a beautiful house for my family back home and I start sending money also for my brother and sister so they can go to school and start improving our life over there.

Mazahir Salih: I was working two jobs, in two McDonald's, I just have one from 7:00 to 3:00 and the other one is from 4:00 to close. I have just to change my shirt, very quick, get bathroom because one of them was franchised, one of them original McDonald's, they have different shirt, and just go to the other one. I remember I still, like really long time on my feet even sometime I get blister when I go home, it really was tough for me because I had to pay my rent in Virginia, I have to send the rent for my family back home, and all the money, they depend fully on my salary here in the United States and that what I been doing, but after I done everything for my family, after that I met my husband in Virginia and I really had tough time in Virginia resettling things as new country for me as I told you, but after I resettle I start learning everything quickly and I become advocate for the new people who come, I was start advocate for them, tried to

make them resettle, try to help and navigate through the system when I hear I become very famous in Virginia by helping newcomer.

Mazahir Salih: My cell phone was a public phone, not private phone, everybody will give it to anyone. So they can call me at nighttime, no problem, I will pick up the phone because I think that it is important to help the new people navigate. You will come like really lost, scared, especially if you have children. When I came, I came by myself, but when you have children it will be really difficult for you. I will take my whole family, try to register their kids to school, apply for certain benefit, figuring out the place they can stay and rent, and try to help them find a job. Also, I can enroll them in English as a second language classes and try to help them navigate. I was doing this for long time in Virginia, just advocating for the immigrants actually because at that time I don't have any interaction with American people outside my workplace. I just find them there, talk to them while I'm work, I don't have any other interaction or friend, or anything.

Mazahir Salih: Until I been doing this for long time, I met my husband, I have five children, which is one girl four boys, I have all of them in Virginia and finally I decide I need to work professionally, where I can earn more money and spend less time in work, like eight hours a day, enough. And have more time to stay with my children. And also the rent was very expensive in Virginia. And I have five children we live in two bedroom apartment, we paying \$1750 and this was really ridiculous. I work hard, my husband work hard so we can navigate and try to make ends meet.

Mazahir Salih: But I decide to come and study, and I was Googling some kind of community college where I would find a place to find less rent, at the same time to study. And I just come across Iowa, Kirkwood Community College, and looking what I'm going to study there. And I find something called EEG, which is electroneural diagnostic technology, you measure the brainwave EEG if you heard about it. For the people who have epilepsy or head trauma or those kind of things. And I said, "Oh, I love that." Even though I'm engineering, I was supposed to deal with cement and aggregate and all these kinds of things, but you know this is what make me deal with the brain and I always think if I focus on something, I will do it. That's why I said, "Oh, I'm going to do that." And I just decided to come to Iowa to Kirkwood Community College to study EEG and I promised all my friends in Virginia, because they was really sad that I'm leaving Virginia, I said, "Two year I will be back, two year only, to finish that associate degree in Kirkwood Community College and come back." And here I am, I never went there but do you want me to tell the story in Iowa?

Joan: Yeah sure, and then we'll go to Chuy and we'll hear his story too.

Mazahir Salih: Sure. You know when I came to Iowa really ... I'm done so maybe he go first or like-

Joan: No it's okay.

Mazahir Salih: Anyway it's good to ask.

Mazahir Salih: When I came to Iowa. As I told you, in Virginia I was very passionate about helping people and advocate for them but I was limited in my help to the immigrant people because I thought they are the people that needed help. And maybe the Americans can help me navigate so I can help the other people to navigate. But during that time when my daughter start going to the Head Start, this is the first time I start going and engaging with school. And I been going there just to volunteer because they told me there is a volunteer opportunity for parents to come. And I been going there, they start seeing me coming a lot and they said, "What about to join the Head Start Policy Council?" I said, "Why not? But i don't know what that is." "You're going to tell me about it"? And I just join it and I understand what it is and I find ou,t "Oh! As a parent, we can have input in how the money of the Head Start could be spent." Oh that, isn't that good? Like we have voice and as an immigrant I'm going to have that voice and I can not imagine it. And I always ask, "Are you sure we can say no and we can say yes, not the administration?" and they say, "Yeah, we're helping the board to do everything".

Mazahir Salih: One of the people who was in the policy council, she said, "Hey, Mazahir, do you wanna learn more about this? There is something called Parent Leadership Institute of Alexandria, Virginia. Why don't you join those people? This institute will educate people, they trying to make the parent leader of the community and they will teach you about the system, how the government work, from city level, state, county, everything."

Mazahir Salih: And I have no idea there's something called the mayor, I have no idea there's something called city council or even board supervisor because that's my, really the last thing on my agenda when I came to this country, even I did not put it on the agenda, I don't want to know how those kind of things, I have many other important issues I was focusing on.

Mazahir Salih: Anyway, I joined the Parent Leadership Institute of Alexandria, I become really familiar with the laws and how everything start working. They took us to the capital of Virginia, Richmond. And we saw people are passing bills and I didn't understand it at that time really very well, but I was like seeing what's going on at least start having idea and I become leader. During that program you have to graduate with a project. You have to focus on one project that you can improve the community or just solve a problem or issues in the community.

Mazahir Salih: At that time I find out the Head Start bus for the kids has been cut due to budget. And I find out a lot of parents which is having kids say, "I don't see them anymore coming." When I ask, they told me they drop because they don't have a means of transportation to take their kids to the Head Start. But I said, let me ask my mentor if that's a good thing to solve. He said, "Yeah, that will be it."

Mazahir Salih: Anyway he start helping me how to do a campaign around this, and he told me, he gave me the tools and the first thing I did is a survey to see how many kids

has been dropped. And I find 11 kids has been dropped because of that. And I took all this and start proposing something, who can solve the problem. We brought ... They told me I have to go and meet the mayor, and ask the city to solve the problem. And I went there for the first time to see the mayor, and the mayor invited for me all the school, the superintendent and the transportation directors, everyone. And he said, "Here's Mazahir. She looking for a solution and you are here from the city, tell me how you can help this." And he told me, "And by the way if we cannot find help, what you going to do?" I told him, "I'm going to go to the media and make it public issues." And he said, "No, don't do that now, let us solve the problem."

Mazahir Salih: And we did. We really accomplished, we had the bus pact, running, and this is the first time I can say I become really engaged as American citizen and even make change. I was very happy I did that change. And I still have that passionate and when I came to Iowa I met with the people who's really passionate about social justice.

Mazahir Salih: One day just by accident I was at Coralville Public Library with my youngest one because he doesn't have school, and we was hanging at the library while I see people coming in and all of them they went downstairs and I said, "Oh, is there some people that look like me, they wearing a scarf, and they going down, and let me go and see what is going on downstairs." And one day I ask somebody, "Is this public?" He said, "Yes, it is public." And I went there found a lot people from different background, and guess what that was the first meeting for the Center for Worker Justice.

Mazahir Salih: It was called Immigrant Voice Project at that time and they're having their first meeting. And I just, they talking a lot about a good things, they talking about all the issues that I love. I like it. And I said, oh those my people. Just God send me to the library so I can join this. And I just start like talking to them, I put my name for the next meeting, and that's how I engaged with the Center for Worker Justice. Later I become a founder. Immigrant Voice Project is the founder of the Center for Worker Justice. So I become one of the founder of the Center for Worker Justice. If you don't know we did a lot of good stuff in this community. Most stuff you know, but I like to brag about it. You know all the time wherever I go we raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 as you know in Johnson County. Where you know the Des Moines people came and they said you cannot, they took the right of the county from that, but you know I said, "We don't care about Des Moines people." They are not the Johnson County residents, they don't know anything, that's why we start going to the business door to door and ask them to keep paying the minimum wage of Johnson County, which is \$10.10, because they still operating. No one went out of business, that's why we been telling them that. That's one of the victory we have we recover almost now today \$70,000 of wage theft. Wage theft, as Robin mentioned early, just employer doesn't want to pay people who done the work for them. And you know I just in fact recovered two wage theft last week. One of them is \$600 and the other is \$400, almost \$1000 just last week. This is happening in this community, we are really improved the relationship between

minority and local enforcement here. As you said, Captain Campbell was talking about the relations between minority, how they help, we are the one who are calling Captain Campbell and all the local informants to come and talk to the immigrants. So they can feel safe in this community.

Joan: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mazahir Salih: I guess those all the thing that we really done and after that I just decide also by knowing ... I guess I can stop here and you can ask me later.

Joan: Yeah, no that's good-

Mazahir Salih: Sorry, you know my story is not only a half an hour, I think maybe three hours.

Joan: I understand, well-

Mazahir Salih: Give him just a little bit and maybe you can ask-

Joan: Okay okay okay.

Joan: So Chuy, such a pleasure to have you here too.

J Chuy Renteria: Thank you Joan.

Joan: So your family came here, your mother independently came from Mexico, your father came from Mexico. Met in Muscatine, got married, and tell us what happened since then.

J Chuy Renteria: Yeah, so I think it's important and first of all thank you everybody for sticking around and thank you, Joan, for inviting Mazahir and I. Something before I get into it, this is just be being a little sassy. It's really interesting to see the kind of dichotomy get placed in kind of the talking heads and everybody kind of leans into that. And then when it comes to, and I know it's late, too, but when it comes to actually having us talk and kind of like get into the complexities of who we are as people, I think people sort of, kinda lose interest, which I think is really interesting to point out. And Mazahir, when you speak, you speak like I speak, we're both storytellers. And you kind of get into the nuance of communication. We don't talk in acronyms. And I think that's really important to think about when we're actually conversating and having these stories.

J Chuy Renteria: So before I get into more with that, so my parents are both from border towns in Mexico. They didn't know each other and they both moved and came to Iowa, immigrated to Iowa, and ended up going to a meat processing plant in Muscatine and got married in Muscatine and then, it was Louis Rich at the time, in West Liberty, Iowa, which is about 20 minutes away, and I was born here in Iowa City and grew up in West Liberty. And another thing to kind of note, too, is I kind of have imposter syndrome right now. I feel like, "What am I talking

about?" But for me it's almost ... It's really important for me to, and I think, Joan, you recognize this, I don't have the answers. And I think it's important to have people on platform like this who don't have the answers. Instead, I'm burdened with the questions. And right now I just have to make those questions manifest for you, and for you, Joan.

J Chuy Renteria: Something that my dad talked about--he's from Ojinaga, which is in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, which is the northern border state. He said that when he was growing up there were posters and fliers all throughout Ojinaga for jobs in Iowa and what the language said to him was, "Come to Iowa and work, we won't check papers." And he said if you don't think that's happening to this day, then you're fooling yourself. And I think there's tons of questions that happen when you start to think about that. And some, I'm just going to pose them as rhetorical questions, it's like how many people know about West Liberty? How many people know here that West Liberty was the first majority Hispanic town in Iowa? And another rhetorical question is how many undocumented people do you know, personally? And something that I say is, "If you know somebody here in Iowa, who looks like me, who has brown skin, who's Mexican or Central American you're about two degrees removed from somebody who knows an undocumented person."

J Chuy Renteria: And whether or not we're talking semantics and whether or not we're talking about breaking the law. We're talking about families, we're talking about all these complicated questions that arise when the sort of political burden gets placed on us. So, my parents had three kids. My brother, I have an older brother who's ten years older, older sister, five years older than me, and myself. And we grew up, and I think an interesting thing that happened is growing up in Iowa and I wrote a story about this, which, Joan, you read-

Joan: Yeah, it's fantastic-

J Chuy Renteria: And we kinda talked about it. It's a story about work and I kinda talk about all the different experiences I've had with my identity and work here in Iowa. And I started off with saying let me tell you about my relationship with work, 'cause if you're Mexican in America you have a relationship with work and it's complicated. When people look at me when I'm working, they see the accent I have, or they see the accent I don't have. They see how tan and dark I get when I'm working in the summer in roofing. That was really interesting, one of the first guests who talked about, when he talked about the immigration checks was your complexion. And I think that's really, one of the biggest most complicated things that happen when you talk to people of color, marginalized people, or people... immigrants here, you're talking about complexion and how when we worked in the summer people would treat us differently when we saw how dark we got. I had, and, Mazahir, I went to Kirkwood as well, so that's funny. I went to Kirkwood and I had my Kirkwood ID, and I had a Kirkwood ID where I was like 19, and it was the end of the summer, 'cause it was in the fall, so I have this picture of me on this Kirkwood ID where I'm tanned and I had a buzz cut and I kept it for a long time 'cause I would show it to people and my ID now, picture

me with an ID right now. So I show them that one and then I show them the Kirkwood and people would have a visceral reaction. And I couldn't tell you how many times people said, "You look like you went to prison."

J Chuy Renteria: I think right there it shows you how much of a complicated kind of ... like you have this idea of how dark you are, your complexion and it vibrates when you're a person of color and you're in this kind of paradigm.

Joan: Yeah.

J Chuy Renteria: Yeah.

Joan: Well, Chuy has written an amazing book and he shared one of the chapters with me as we were, earlier on, planning this program and it was about this story of work and some of the people who were related to you who were involved in summer roofing and so on and so forth. And you just talked about how whatever you were doing with your own personal life, maybe at that point you were taking courses in the junior college, I don't know, but people would drive by in the neighborhood where you were putting a roof on a house and you said....

J Chuy Renteria: So, it goes like this. When we're on the roof of a house ... And here's the thing, to give you guys a lot of context 'cause I think it's like Mazahir and I, we have lots of context we need to lay out. For me growing up in Iowa, I know about, I can understand about 80% of Spanish, I say I have this 80%, 20%, formula I tell people. I can understand about 80% of what my parents or what people are saying, I can speak about 20% proficiency, whatever that means. Basically, if you were to say, "Are you fluent in Spanish?" I would say, "No." And I think it gets really ... and the thing with my family is, and it happens with a lot of family of immigrants, in our family you can actually go like, "Oh, yeah, my nephew speaks Spanish; his brother, it kinda didn't hit his ear and he doesn't speak Spanish; his sister is the most Mexican out of all of us so she for sure speaks Spanish." And that's something we ask of ourselves, "How Mexican are you really?"

J Chuy Renteria: And in the story I talk about how I ended up roofing with my brother for a summer because my brother is an amazing roofer, and I'm not, but I needed some money for the summer. And so it was my brother and we kind of amassed this team of misfits. So it was my cousins, and my brother, and some other people and we ended up getting some undocumented workers working with us, too. You work construction, you work roofing, you know it's unregulated and that can happen, and it was all this, so I was working with this guy who was undocumented who couldn't speak any Spanish at all and here's me who looks like I could be his son, who can't speak any Spanish and we communicate through my brother who can speak, and my dad and everything over there, all this kind of culturally-textured, nuanced kind of, really, ecosystem that's like funky, right? And anybody driving by, and this might be just my own personal bias, but to anybody driving by, we're Mexicans on a roof.

J Chuy Renteria: And so that's a rhetorical question I have for people, like when you're driving by and you see a group of Mexicans, what do you feel? How do you think? What do you think when you're seeing them working? Can you see the nuance in there?

J Chuy Renteria: A thing that happened just today that's kind of interesting is my name, Chuy. C-H-U-Y, pronounced Chu, but we say Chuy. And so many people got to me from here in Iowa City and there like, "That's such a crazy name, is it Star Wars?" That's the one thing I hate, is it Star Wars? Chewbacca? They're like "Wow, that's such a unique name." Jesus, Jesus, Chuy is one of the most common names in the world. In West Liberty I know about six Chuys. There's a student at the University of Iowa who, his TA was accidentally sending me emails all semester, this semester, because his name is Jesus Chuy, I won't say his last name, but I think in her head she's like, "There's no way at all that there's another Chuy." I was like, no he's one of like seven other Chuys in West Liberty. So that's another ... so I mean for that, the question right there is like, "What are our perceptions of what's normal or not?" What's our perceptions of what's, you know we're talking about ethnocentrism and we're talking about how do we perceive others if we are ignorant to these cultures.

J Chuy Renteria: And the other thing I asked before, but like who knows West Liberty, who knows about this majority Hispanic town that's only 20 miles away. That if you drive down their downtown it looks like little Mexico. My tia has a restaurant there and it's amazing, so you guys should go. I'll do one plug.

Joan: Yeah. Well and just one more thing... it really struck me so hard when you recounted another incident that happened. You work in a professional role at Hancher Auditorium, it's a wonderful position, you're involved in community engagement, reaching out to schools and so on...a really responsible, wonderful, exciting job, and your parents came to Iowa City at one point and wanted to see you in the new Hancher Auditorium, but-

J Chuy Renteria: So here's how it goes.

J Chuy Renteria: So, through this roofing thing that happened with my brother, it ended up, and I talk about it in the story, it ended up being this entire saga of the summer of us, kind of the ramifications of what I consider systemic racism. And it fell apart, and I ended up going to Kirkwood and getting my associates degree and then I went to the University of Iowa for dance, so I did my undergrad in dance, and then right when I graduated I got a knee injury and I always say I had really big plans and an impending knee injury that dashed said plans. And I ended up working at a day center for individuals with special needs for about 10 years. And from there I saw an opening for Hancher, for community engagement.

J Chuy Renteria: So basically what we did at the day center was try to creative ways to get these individuals out into the community in real ways. So it translated really, really well to Hancher. That is all to say that I've kinda been, you know had lots of different hats in the community and was really, really excited and it felt like a huge step up to be working at Hancher. 'Cause the kind of elephant in the room,

dirty secret with day centers is like it's so hard, and there's not a lot of money and everybody has to come to a point where there like, have to make a decision, if they're going to sacrifice for this or if you have to take a left, and so I jumped at the opportunity for Hancher, and one of the first weeks I got the job, when I got in was when it opened, the new building.

J Chuy Renteria: And so my parents were going to come see, and as I said our communication is like they speak in Spanish, I talk in English, and I talk in Spanish which is pretty much English with a few Spanglish like "Perros and Comos" in there. So we were trying to conversate and we're talking on the phone and Hancher wasn't on their GPS because Hancher wasn't around, the new building wasn't there so they ended up in this kind of random other university building and all of the sudden I'm on the way there and I hear, I'm talking to my mom on the phone, she like [Spanish Donde Estas 01:38:36], and I'm like "Where are you?" And I hear this other voice get on and it's the receptionist for this other building and she says, "Hey, I think I'm here with your parents." And I'm like, "Oh, yeah, yeah, I'm on my way." She's like, "I'm here with your parents, I think, and we're trying to figure out where you work, are you in the back dock? Are you the custodial? Do you work with the kitchen staff?"

Joan: Hmm.

J Chuy Renteria: Yeah, right.

Mazahir Salih: Assumptions.

J Chuy Renteria: Yeah, and I think it's like this culmination of this story, which is like ... and I mean, my mom, if you know my mom she laughed so hard, when we were like in private. 'Cause she lets it roll off her back. And she's used to it and she's strong. And for me, I'm really sensitive, and I internalize it, but it's like a microaggression, right? But I think it's really important, especially, I wanted this story to culminate and have this really packaged thing, for what I call the "gut punch." The gut punch of that microaggression, because it really, really kinda showcases for the optics of it. You can be working and you can be sustaining in this ecosystem of all these nuances and then, but no. Where do you work? Are you a janitor? And, the whole story too, there's nothing wrong with that, I worked custodial, I worked roofing, and there's nothing, I think I ended, I'm trying to remember the story to now, I end it with, "Work isn't just saying that these jobs, there's no honor in it, but it's saying that those aren't the only jobs that define us." Which I think is a really, really hard thing for some people to swallow.

Joan: Yeah. Boy. Well I think we could probably go for another three hours.

J Chuy Renteria: Yeah.

Joan: But I'm afraid we probably have to respect the time of the audience, too. And, gosh, I can't thank you both so much for coming here. Really, it's just wonderful. Both just wonderful people in the first place, but I would be really interested to have people in the audience just raise your hand if your parent or grandparent was an immigrant to the country.

Joan: Yeah.

Mazahir Salih: That's a lot.

Joan: So, you know. Yeah.

Mazahir Salih: Yeah, I just want to add the assumption that people made by just the way that you look, or the accent that you have or the way that you dress, I'm going to just say quick things, you know Joanne's Fabric, they moved, and on their grand opening they invite the city council to come and do this. And you know that all the customer will come, because if you are the first 100 on the line or first 50 on the line you get discount, and people race there for the morning, and they told me exactly what time I should be there as a part of the city council. And I went there, just same, a scarf, you know, not changing anything. And I went there, and I just walking confidence going inside the store and you know the people who are in the store they stop me. And she said, "Oh, you know, just go to the line, we did not open yet."

Joan: Oh, oh.

Mazahir Salih: And before that I saw from far away, I just saw the city manager going and I saw Susan Mims going inside, and she just opened for them. Because I was in the parking lot trying to hurry up and get there, as soon as I get to the door she didn't even bother to ask me who I am, she just said, "Go there, the customers on that line, you have to stay outside until we open. We haven't opened yet." And [inaudible 01:42:13] go by, I think you guys invited me. She said, "Who you are?" I said, "I'm one of the city council." She said, "Oh, yeah, you can come." And you know just like I don't look like city council, maybe that's why.

Joan: Well, you do now! You look like our city council. So thank you so much. Chuy Renteria and Mazahir Salih.