

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Allen Bogard**

Mr. Bogard is the second City Manager in the history of the City of Sugar Land. He served in that position for 19 years until his retirement in January 2020 making him the longest to serve in that position. Allen began in 1976 working for several different cities in the Public Works department and as City Manager.

Allen discusses the role and challenges of being a city manager particularly in the fast growing City of Sugar Land. Sugar Land is unique in that it was a company town owned by Imperial Sugar and Sugarland Industries. The decision was made by these companies to sell huge plots of land which the city purchased and annexed prior to development. This encouraged the creation of master-planned communities such as First Colony, Commonwealth, Greatwood, Telfair, RiverPark and New Territory.

Allen also talks about the city creating 4A and 4B Corporations to acquire and develop land like First Colony Mall, Sugar Land Town Square, and the partnership with University of Houston.

14 Pages

⇓ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ⇓

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Don Hull – former owner Hull Airport

Bill Little – former Sugar Land mayor

David Neeley – former city manager

Places / Businesses

City of Houston, Texas

Conquest Airlines

City of Keller, Texas

First Colony, Sugar Land

Hull Airport, Sugar Land

Imperial Sugar

Sugar Land Airport

Sugar Land Town Square

University of Houston

Events

Allen Bogard began working in city government in 1976. He succeeded David Neeley as city manager for the City of Sugar Land in 2001.

Allen oversaw expansion and improvements to the city's infrastructure including Sugar Land Town Center, annexation of several master-planned communities, the building of the University of Houston campus while keeping the tax base low.

Allen describes the purchase and building of the city's \$100 million surface water plant and pipeline. Today, the city has been awarded a statewide award for good-tasting water.

Allen discusses some challenges faced by the next city manager after he retires in January 2020 after nineteen years.