

LETTER OF INFORMED CONSENT

My name is xxxx, and I am a graduate student in the Department of xxx at xxx. I am conducting research on xxxx in (community). I hope that my research will contribute to a better understanding of xxxx. I invite you to share your perspective on the community with me.

Your participation in this interview is completely voluntary. You may stop the interview at any time, for any reason.

If you choose to participate, I will ask you a number of questions about your experiences in/with this community and your opinions on recent political issues. I will conduct the interview at a location that is convenient for both of us. With your permission, I will tape record the interview.

All information collected as part of this research project, including audio tapes, will be kept in a password-protected computer file or in a locked filing cabinet in a secure location. I will assign any information that you give me with a unique code. I will keep the file that matches your name and code in a different locked filing cabinet, away from the information that you give me. You will not be identified in any presentation or publication of this data unless you agree to being named in my final report by signing the second signature line below. I will use audio tape(s) only to remind myself of what was said and to insure the accuracy of quotes and citations. Though I may save tapes and transcriptions for my own future research, I will continue to take the above measures to insure confidentiality. I will never share these tapes with other researchers.

Please note that I request permission to cite you by name. You may speak off the record for part or all of the interview. Any information provided off the record will not be included in the final report, unless I can attribute it to a different source.

There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this research. I hope that my research will contribute to a better understanding of xxxx. I will make copies of any resulting articles available to you upon request.

There are risks to your participation in this research. As noted above, unless you tell me that you are speaking off the record, I may cite you by name in this report. Any individual, including members of local organizations, may read what you tell me in the interview. As a result, your social and political relationships with those people and organizations may be affected.

If you wish to be interviewed, please sign below. I will give you a copy of this form for your records. If you have any specific questions concerning this interview or more general questions concerning my dissertation research, you may contact me by e-mail (xxx) or by calling my home telephone number (xxxx).

I have read the above information and I am willing to participate in this research project.

\_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

I give permission for xxxx to cite me by name in the final report.

\_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_ (date)