

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Javier Vela**

Mr. Vela shares stories about being a detention and probation officer in Fort Bend County for juveniles and adults beginning in 1979; using certified language interpreters and dealing with a diverse culture. He explains various terms such as a juvenile being a “huffer” (user of inhalents).

In 1991 he went to work for the Federal Probation Office for the Southern District of Texas and retired in 2011 after a 35 year career in the probation business.

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

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Dr. Allsmith – Psychiatrist
 Steve Monk – Chief, FBC Juvenile Detention Facility
 Mike Culpers – Chief, FBC Adult Probation Department
 Mike Humphries, Marcy Hall, and Mary Phillips – probation officers, Mary was later selected as the probation chief
 Travis Hirschi – American criminologist, author

Places / Businesses

Juvenile Detention Facility, Fort Bend County (FBC)
 Brazoria County, Texas
 Richmond, Texas
 Angleton, Texas
 Angleton Juvenile Detention Facility
 Brownwood, Texas
 Texas Youth Commission (TYC)
 Fort Bend County (FBC)
 FBC Emergency Services
 Huntsville, Texas
 Sam Houston State University

Houston Police Department
 FBC Sheriff's Department
 Texas Department of Corrections
 FBC District Clerk's Office
 Federal Probation Office, Houston, Texas
 Assistant Deputy Chief, Houston Operations.
 Attorney General's Office
 Assistant Director of Probation
 Rosenberg Annex, Rosenberg, Texas
 Walmart
 Sugar Land, Texas
 Fresno, Texas
 Sanders, Texas
 FBC Justice Center, Richmond
 FBC Probate County Jail
 VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars)
 FBC Constables Office
 Columbia
 Venezuela
 Fort Bend Juvenile Probation Department

Events

Javier Vela served as a detention and probation officer for juvenile and adults in Fort Bend County and for the Federal Probation Office in Houston from 1979 until his retirement in 2011.

He provides details into the probation business and shares several stories about dealing with juveniles and adult probationers.