

0:00:09.375,0:00:11.541

Welcome to the Ogden Way podcast, a place

0:00:11.541,0:00:14.750

where we tell the story about Ogden
by telling stories about Ogden's people.

0:00:14.750,0:00:17.875

My name is Jaynee Nadolski
and I am here today to once again

0:00:18.166,0:00:21.500

flip the script and go behind
the headlines with Mayor Ben Nadolski.

0:00:22.291,0:00:23.583

Well welcome back.

0:00:23.583,0:00:26.208

Thank you.
We had a good vacation last week.

0:00:26.208,0:00:28.666

Thankfully, boy was that needed necessary.

0:00:28.666,0:00:30.291

I know things have been busy.

0:00:30.291,0:00:32.375

Things have been busy,
but it's good to be back.

0:00:32.375,0:00:34.125

Yeah.

0:00:34.125,0:00:38.083

All the work doesn't
necessarily doesn't continue.

0:00:38.416,0:00:40.791

Yeah. So.
So we're a little backed up right now?

0:00:40.791,0:00:41.333

Yeah.

0:00:41.333,0:00:43.208

My team does a really good job
keeping everything running

0:00:43.208,0:00:47.000

and trying to give me some space

so I can get some recovery.

0:00:47.291,0:00:48.541

And we had a great time.

0:00:48.541,0:00:48.708

Yeah.

0:00:48.708,0:00:52.541

Nice to connect to family and say goodbye
to my dad at the beach and all

0:00:52.541,0:00:53.291

that stuff, and,

0:00:54.750,0:00:56.166

really refreshing, but nice to be back.

0:00:56.166,0:00:58.791

Yeah, it was nice to be back.

And it's nice to be back.

0:00:58.791,0:01:02.750

Just because, you know, we love living
in Ogden, but, I do miss the beach.

0:01:03.458,0:01:05.916

I'm sure things seem easier there
for some reason, but,

0:01:05.916,0:01:09.208

you know, we're kind of entering
into silly season in politics.

0:01:09.208,0:01:11.166

And so I think a lot of people

0:01:11.166,0:01:13.541

will start to pay attention
during the campaign season.

0:01:13.541,0:01:17.125

And they have questions,
you know, how how is how is the mayor,

0:01:17.125,0:01:19.958

how is city council spending their time
spending their resources?

0:01:19.958,0:01:22.958

And so I thought this would be
a good opportunity to kind of go,

0:01:22.958,0:01:26.125

go behind,

you know, what's actually going on?

0:01:26.125,0:01:29.333

Because I know you're super busy
all the time.

0:01:29.333,0:01:29.916

All the time.

0:01:29.916,0:01:32.958

I know where you are most of the time.

0:01:33.000,0:01:36.000

When you're at work, like,
I can kind of see, like, I know where

0:01:36.000,0:01:38.541

if you're going to be in town
or out of town.

0:01:38.541,0:01:41.041

I know you are. When when you're home.

0:01:41.041,0:01:43.041

On those fun occasions when you are home.

0:01:43.041,0:01:46.250

But, I think a lot of people want to know
how you're spending your day.

0:01:47.041,0:01:48.791

So have this be a great opportunity
to talk about that.

0:01:48.791,0:01:51.125

I think it's in my job and in politics.

0:01:51.125,0:01:53.041

It's always silly season, but it's.

0:01:53.041,0:01:54.500

There's there's peaks and valleys.

0:01:54.500,0:01:55.125

I guess.

0:01:55.125,0:01:57.500

It's all it's all relative right now.

0:01:57.500,0:02:01.416

But,

I wish I had more time to share what I do

0:02:02.083,0:02:05.750

because I'm proud of the things that we
do, and I have nothing to hide.

0:02:07.500,0:02:08.333

We just.

0:02:08.333,0:02:11.875

It takes energy and effort and resources
and time for me to share the time.

0:02:12.083,0:02:13.875

The time I spend.

0:02:13.875,0:02:15.375

And so that's one of the challenges
I have.

0:02:15.375,0:02:17.875

And sometimes I get frustrated cuz
I can't share enough.

0:02:17.875,0:02:19.583

But I want to share as much as we can.

0:02:19.583,0:02:21.708

So I'm glad that we're here

to talk about it.

0:02:21.708,0:02:25.583

Because we spend a lot of time

engaging with our community.

0:02:25.916,0:02:28.916

We are out

boots on the ground in our city,

0:02:28.958,0:02:31.958

and it's one of the most fulfilling parts

of the job is

0:02:32.375,0:02:34.791

you think you know Ogden right?

0:02:34.791,0:02:38.958

We've been here a long time,

and we have been out and about in the city

0:02:39.500,0:02:42.500

and had amazing experiences
for a lot of years.

0:02:43.083,0:02:48.291

And still in this job, you continue
to find corners and pockets of Ogden

0:02:48.291,0:02:51.583

and different parts of our community
that you don't know exist.

0:02:53.416,0:02:56.250

And it's really
fulfilling to be a part of that, right?

0:02:56.250,0:02:58.083

And they,

0:02:58.083,0:03:00.666

you know.

0:03:00.666,0:03:03.333

For example, the Marshallese community.

0:03:03.333,0:03:05.791

From the Marshall Islands, you
you don't know how big and vibrant

0:03:05.791,0:03:09.041

that community is until you become
a part of it and engage with it.

0:03:09.041,0:03:09.916

Right.

0:03:09.916,0:03:13.291

And, and, and those citizens,

0:03:13.583,0:03:16.583

residents, constituents, people
that we're here to serve.

0:03:17.125,0:03:18.625

Love it when you become a part of it.

0:03:18.625,0:03:20.041

Because now they have a connection.

0:03:20.041,0:03:22.708

And this is really important
because community engagement

0:03:22.708,0:03:25.375

is more than just showing
up, saying some things and then leaving.

0:03:25.375,0:03:28.875

It means you show up,
you share a message, but you leave behind

0:03:29.958,0:03:32.250

information and a pathway to connect

0:03:32.250,0:03:36.250

with me, us,
and you also take things with you.

0:03:36.291,0:03:36.833

Correct.

0:03:36.833,0:03:39.666

You bring, you know, here's
the needs of this community, right?

0:03:39.666,0:03:40.500

And how they want to be involved.

0:03:40.500,0:03:43.375

And I, I,

I haven't met anyone of the Marshallese

0:03:43.375,0:03:45.916

community yet, but you've spoken
about very highly about them.

0:03:47.125,0:03:48.125

But I have met,

0:03:48.125,0:03:51.916

citizens from the,
Kashmiri community during the

0:03:52.083,0:03:52.708

there's another

0:03:52.708,0:03:55.875

that was another example that was amazing
to learn about their history,

0:03:56.166,0:03:59.291

learn about why they're here
and how much they love where they live now

0:03:59.291,0:04:01.875

and want to be a part of the
of the broader community.

0:04:01.875,0:04:04.583

Right. And and really how they came here.

0:04:04.583,0:04:06.875

So the Kashmiri community is very vibrant.

0:04:06.875,0:04:09.083

And Kashmir is a region.

0:04:09.083,0:04:13.541

It's a contested region
between India and China and Pakistan.

0:04:13.541,0:04:15.083

And it's volatile.

0:04:15.083,0:04:16.458

And so they're here for a reason.

0:04:16.458,0:04:17.875

They're here for peace.

0:04:17.875,0:04:21.750

And, but they still love their nation,
but they love being in America.

0:04:21.750,0:04:23.208

They're very thankful for being here

0:04:23.208,0:04:26.208

and there
and they're here and all the right ways.

0:04:27.083,0:04:30.041

You know, genuine, very genuine people,
very family oriented.

0:04:30.041,0:04:34.791

It's it's fun to experience the values
that are the same, across

0:04:35.666,0:04:38.458

the different international communities,
because at the end of the day,

0:04:38.458,0:04:40.250

we're all human. It's all humanity.

0:04:40.250,0:04:42.500

But the important thing is
we don't just engage.

0:04:42.500,0:04:44.541

We don't just show up,
say something and leave. Right?

0:04:44.541,0:04:48.166

We leave behind a way in a pathway
into accessing me.

0:04:48.958,0:04:52.208

And I can't be available for everybody
all the time, directly,

0:04:52.875,0:04:56.875

but me and my office,
my influence, my authority can.

0:04:57.416,0:05:00.666

And that's the goal of my engagement,
is to use my position

0:05:00.666,0:05:05.916

to put as many people in my seat of power

as possible, because this is a very,

0:05:07.708,0:05:08.916

I'm very lucky to be here.

0:05:08.916,0:05:09.708

Yeah, right.

0:05:09.708,0:05:10.500

We feel very fortunate.

0:05:10.500,0:05:11.291

It's a blessing.

0:05:11.291,0:05:14.291

And I don't want to just sit in this chair
and use it for myself.

0:05:14.291,0:05:16.541

I want to take this chair
and give it to as many people as possible.

0:05:16.541,0:05:19.125

I was many people to sit in as we can.

Yeah.

0:05:19.125,0:05:21.250

You know, metaphorically. But,

0:05:21.250,0:05:24.041

and that's where having a really

0:05:24.041,0:05:27.625

deliberate approach

with staff that helps support it,

0:05:28.000,0:05:32.833

but also a network of volunteers

and community members in other parts

0:05:32.833,0:05:36.291

and sectors of our community,

really play a powerful role.

0:05:36.541,0:05:39.708

And what it does is it opens your eyes,

but it also opens up new avenues

0:05:39.708,0:05:42.541

and new pathways, right? Pathways

you never knew existed.

0:05:42.541,0:05:45.416

And that pathway goes from kitchen table

0:05:45.416,0:05:48.416

all the way to international engagement
and everything in between.

0:05:48.416,0:05:51.000

When you are
we are not a homogenous community.

0:05:51.000,0:05:52.791

We are a very diverse city.

0:05:52.791,0:05:55.916

We are an international city,
and people do not give us credit for that.

0:05:56.125,0:05:57.916

You know,
and we you and I have talked about this

0:05:57.916,0:06:01.166

when we've gone to other cities
and and I won't name them,

0:06:01.166,0:06:04.166

and we just go to the grocery store
or something and we're like,

0:06:04.583,0:06:08.416

There's no character, no character here,
no diversity, no culture.

0:06:08.625,0:06:10.291

I'm like, where's the food? Yeah.

0:06:10.291,0:06:11.791

Like we're right.

0:06:12.916,0:06:14.958

I don't,
I don't look at it from the food thing.

0:06:14.958,0:06:16.375

But you've always been
more of a foodie than me.

0:06:16.375,0:06:16.666

Yeah.

0:06:16.666,0:06:19.666

But just feeling like every,
you know there's,

0:06:19.666,0:06:23.083

there's no it's so homogenous
I guess that would be the word.

0:06:23.083,0:06:26.083

And so I enjoy

0:06:26.541,0:06:28.166

school. It's nice.

0:06:28.166,0:06:29.958

Great thing about Ogden is its diversity.

0:06:29.958,0:06:32.125

And I think you're right.
We don't get credit for it.

0:06:32.125,0:06:37.041

But, I love that
the people of Ogden have embraced it.

0:06:37.041,0:06:38.208

Yeah, I love it when, like,

0:06:38.208,0:06:40.333

we're on vacation or something,

and we'll go to another city

0:06:40.333,0:06:42.375

and you'll hear our kids say things like,

I don't.

0:06:42.375,0:06:44.291

There's just no, like, character here.

0:06:44.291,0:06:45.500

Everything feels the same.

0:06:45.500,0:06:46.500

That's their way of saying there's

0:06:46.500,0:06:49.500

no diversity in this place

and that they miss what we have, right?

0:06:49.541,0:06:51.250

And we take it for granted.

0:06:51.250,0:06:52.875

Another thing we take for granted
is the fact

0:06:52.875,0:06:55.875

that we're an international city
with international significance

0:06:56.208,0:06:57.625

and international connection.

0:06:57.625,0:06:59.291

When you're a diverse city

0:06:59.291,0:07:01.916

and I'm I'm sure anybody that's
watching or listening to this

0:07:03.458,0:07:05.250

probably hasn't thought of it this way.

0:07:05.250,0:07:08.250

But think about where first generation
immigrants come from

0:07:08.791,0:07:11.791

and think about the significance

and the cost and the

0:07:12.250,0:07:14.458

and how hard it was for them

to get to that point,

0:07:14.458,0:07:17.833

especially when they're achieving

such high levels of success here.

0:07:18.208,0:07:20.125

And we have business owners here

0:07:20.125,0:07:23.125

for the first generation immigrants

that are killing it economically here.

0:07:23.625,0:07:27.666

Think of the influence and connections

they have where they come from.

0:07:27.708,0:07:29.500

Yeah. Well, let's talk about that.

0:07:29.500,0:07:32.500

You know, I,

0:07:33.291,0:07:36.875

we spent some

we spent some time in Guadalajara, Mexico.

0:07:36.916,0:07:39.750

Yep. That's right.

You spent more time there than I have.

0:07:39.750,0:07:41.625

Yeah.

I've done one trip with you.

0:07:41.625,0:07:44.125

You came home?

0:07:44.125,0:07:46.500

Yeah. You got sick when you came

home. And I was like, I knew you.

0:07:48.541,0:07:49.250

You are a foodie.

0:07:49.250,0:07:49.875

You like to eat?

0:07:49.875,0:07:50.958

I made some fish.

0:07:50.958,0:07:53.333

Yeah, all of the things. And.

0:07:53.333,0:07:55.666

But you and I enjoyed it.

0:07:55.666,0:07:58.666

There's a lot of people, and I remember.

0:07:58.791,0:08:01.416

Yeah. You're not as much on the.

Oh, it's just kind of.

0:08:01.416,0:08:02.250

Now, let's be clear.

0:08:02.250,0:08:04.500

We're talking about personal travel. Yes.

0:08:04.500,0:08:05.750

You and I were on. Yeah.

0:08:05.750,0:08:08.750

But we don't like.

0:08:09.500,0:08:10.791

I'm glad that we went to the beach.

That's our.

0:08:10.791,0:08:12.166

That's our one family vacation

0:08:12.166,0:08:14.541

that we've been doing every year

for four years or so.

0:08:14.541,0:08:17.416

My family and we are a huge family.

0:08:17.416,0:08:20.375

There's 100 of us or something that gather

there every year for a family reunion.

0:08:20.375,0:08:22.041

And that's important

for building our own family.

0:08:22.041,0:08:25.208

But when we go on vacation,

we like to vacation with experience.

0:08:25.541,0:08:26.791

Right. And

0:08:27.875,0:08:28.875

that trip.

0:08:28.875,0:08:31.375

So I think it started in 2019.

0:08:31.375,0:08:33.750

You went once before I went with you.

0:08:33.750,0:08:34.000

Okay.

0:08:34.000,0:08:37.000

So, so I've been five times

since on our own dime.

0:08:37.458,0:08:42.333

And that's a lot of help from council
member, former council member Luis Lopez

0:08:43.041,0:08:46.208

who at the time like in 2019,
we were both on the city council together.

0:08:46.208,0:08:49.625

And he was really pushing a lot of,
initiatives that would help local,

0:08:50.083,0:08:51.291

Mexican business owners.

0:08:51.291,0:08:54.000

And there was just a big divide,
a big disconnect.

0:08:54.000,0:08:57.166

There's like a cognitive disconnect
between that lifestyle,

0:08:57.166,0:09:00.750

that experience, that culture,
and what my day to day life was.

0:09:00.958,0:09:03.708

And I remember
Luis would try to explain it right,

0:09:03.708,0:09:06.625

and he's like, just get so passionate
and you'd be like,

0:09:06.625,0:09:08.166

you know,
I'm not seeing what you're trying.

0:09:08.166,0:09:11.375

He was getting kind of frustrated because
he's like, just kind of experience it.

0:09:11.375,0:09:13.125

So we spent our own money to go,

0:09:14.583,0:09:16.541

and that's a
life experience that's worth every dollar.

0:09:16.541,0:09:17.625

We spent.

0:09:17.625,0:09:21.541

But what he's trying to share, like,
you ever hear people say,

0:09:22.666,0:09:25.125

you know,
having diversity in your friends

0:09:25.125,0:09:28.083

brings diversity in your mindset
and in your relationships in the world.

0:09:28.083,0:09:31.458

And that's exactly what Luis Lopez
has brought into my life.

0:09:31.458,0:09:33.500

And that's what he brought
as a peer in the city council.

0:09:33.500,0:09:35.250

That's what he brought to my

0:09:35.250,0:09:38.250

to my service, to my mindset
and my leadership is

0:09:38.666,0:09:41.166

seeing the world in the through the lens

0:09:41.166,0:09:44.333

as much as I can
for one third of our city.

0:09:44.333,0:09:45.416

That's a lot of people.

0:09:45.416,0:09:48.166

That's over 30,000 people here. Yeah.

0:09:48.166,0:09:50.208

And people are surprised
when I share that with them.

0:09:50.208,0:09:53.541

Like do you know how many, Hispanic people
we have living here.

0:09:53.541,0:09:55.875

It's not a small portion. Right.

0:09:55.875,0:09:57.041

And so vibrant.

0:09:57.041,0:09:59.708

So we didn't go just for tourism sake.

0:09:59.708,0:10:03.916

In fact, we were very off the tourism
path every time

0:10:03.916,0:10:07.541

I've been there in the five times
that I've gone on my own dollar.

0:10:08.458,0:10:09.791

We don't do tourism things.

0:10:09.791,0:10:12.291

We do cultural and connection things.

0:10:12.291,0:10:17.958

And the other part of what he offered
was he had a life before

0:10:18.916,0:10:20.916

coming to the United States.

0:10:20.916,0:10:22.375

Fascinating life. Right.

0:10:22.375,0:10:26.666

And and he is, a first generation
immigrants self

0:10:27.125,0:10:31.125

who has worked really hard to at that time
be at the same place that I was.

0:10:31.791,0:10:33.375

And our
our pathways were totally different.

0:10:33.375,0:10:36.000

His was much more challenging
than mine. Right.

0:10:36.000,0:10:40.583

But the what he opened my eyes to
is the economics, in Mexico

0:10:40.583,0:10:44.083

and the economic opportunity
that is totally untapped here in Ogden.

0:10:44.833,0:10:47.125

We have, without any

0:10:47.125,0:10:50.125

deliberate effort, one third of our city,

0:10:50.625,0:10:53.958

driving economically here

to make a living, to make it go.

0:10:54.500,0:10:57.916

And if we can put more deliberate
attention into nurturing,

0:10:59.875,0:11:03.500

you know, economic opportunity
for one third of our city, that's huge.

0:11:03.500,0:11:06.166

That's an enormous boon, right?

0:11:06.166,0:11:06.416

Yeah.

0:11:06.416,0:11:09.916

And so he has really opened my eyes
to the untapped potential of,

0:11:10.625,0:11:13.666

of that economic opportunity here.

0:11:14.416,0:11:16.875

And he opened my eyes

through introductions

0:11:16.875,0:11:19.458

over the course of the five trips,

and we built a lot of relationships

0:11:19.458,0:11:22.583

and spent a ton of time

meeting with officials in Mexico,

0:11:23.416,0:11:25.541

meeting with people,

prominent business leaders and,

0:11:26.791,0:11:28.416

community leaders.

0:11:28.416,0:11:31.333

And he opened my eyes to opportunities

for international engagement

0:11:31.333,0:11:34.333

and what that means
for what that could mean for Ogden.

0:11:35.250,0:11:38.291

And so fast forward to K.

0:11:38.500,0:11:41.500

Now I was a city council member,
then I become mayor.

0:11:43.041,0:11:45.125

One of the things I also do
for engagement

0:11:45.125,0:11:47.666

is I have to engage with the community,
other elected officials.

0:11:47.666,0:11:48.666

Right, right.

0:11:48.666,0:11:51.833

From other city council members
around the state.

0:11:51.916,0:11:52.583

Right.

0:11:52.583,0:11:55.541

Especially in the county to other mayors,

0:11:55.541,0:11:58.958

to county commissioners,
to state legislators.

0:11:58.958,0:12:01.750

And our congressional delegation,
governor, etc..

0:12:01.750,0:12:04.750

Right. And,

0:12:05.125,0:12:08.458

so when I was first elected,
we flew out to Washington, DC

0:12:08.500,0:12:10.250

to meet with our congressional delegation.

0:12:10.250,0:12:11.500

I remember that.

0:12:11.500,0:12:12.333

And and,

0:12:12.333,0:12:15.166

you know, we've gotten into a series
of things that we need help and support

0:12:15.166,0:12:19.208

with at the federal level, to help
move our initiatives forward for Ogden.

0:12:19.750,0:12:23.208

And because of those connections
that we made in the five trips

0:12:23.208,0:12:27.916

that we self-funded,
we were invited to be on stage,

0:12:28.583,0:12:31.791

the world stage, one of the biggest stages
in the world, time square

0:12:32.750,0:12:33.833

and,

0:12:33.833,0:12:36.833

through NAIMA the North American Institute
of Mexican Advancement.

0:12:37.708,0:12:41.958

This is a group that uses culture
and art to connect communities

0:12:41.958,0:12:44.958

and to open up opportunities
for economic advancement.

0:12:45.125,0:12:46.291

Okay.

0:12:46.291,0:12:48.916

Very deliberately,
they tour the Western United States

0:12:48.916,0:12:52.875

and the eastern United States every year,
and I think up into Canada, maybe even.

0:12:53.208,0:12:56.041

And they do that through mariachi.

0:12:56.041,0:12:59.041

You know,

Guadalajara is the birthplace of mariachi.

0:13:00.583,0:13:05.583

And that is a world class performance,

I would say.

0:13:05.750,0:13:07.708

Right. That was incredible. Yes.

0:13:07.708,0:13:10.708

And remember,

we are an international city.

0:13:11.833,0:13:15.208

Meaning we are a world class place

and we deserve

0:13:15.666,0:13:19.083

world class connection and world class

opportunity, world class performance.

0:13:19.333,0:13:20.583

Right.

0:13:20.583,0:13:23.125

And that's a mindset we have to change.

0:13:23.125,0:13:26.125

We are not just Ogden.

0:13:26.125,0:13:31.041

Damn it, we are Ogden I love that and I,
I love the we deserve it, right?

0:13:31.041,0:13:31.375

We do.

0:13:31.375,0:13:34.083

And we're going to take ourselves
seriously. Yeah.

0:13:34.083,0:13:35.541

In order for others to take us seriously.

0:13:35.541,0:13:38.208

Because we do deserve this
and our people deserve this, right?

0:13:38.208,0:13:41.208

And we we get overlooked so much.

0:13:41.333,0:13:44.708

Just this morning,

I was looking at the path of the F-35

0:13:44.750,0:13:48.291

flying over Utah,

and it's got times and cities.

0:13:49.125,0:13:51.000

Why isn't Ogden on that?

0:13:51.000,0:13:51.875

They have North Ogden.

0:13:51.875,0:13:54.291

Nothing wrong with North Ogden,

but we're Ogden.

0:13:54.291,0:13:55.041

Yeah.

0:13:55.041,0:13:57.333

Why why do we continually get left off?

0:13:57.333,0:13:59.416

Look at the weather.

How many times do you see the weather?

0:13:59.416,0:14:00.625

They don't even
mention the weather in Ogden.

0:14:01.666,0:14:02.500

We are.

0:14:02.500,0:14:05.458

I obviously have a chip on my shoulder
a little bit this morning.

0:14:05.458,0:14:06.625

You're a little feisty.

0:14:06.625,0:14:09.000

Soon as you said that, I was like, here
we go.

0:14:09.000,0:14:09.708

Oh, here we go.

0:14:09.708,0:14:12.500

He gets fired up.

But you know what? That's what we need.

0:14:12.500,0:14:15.375

We need someone that says,
why is this okay?

0:14:15.375,0:14:16.833

It's not okay. It's not okay.

0:14:16.833,0:14:20.125

And it's our people deserve
to be recognized

0:14:20.125,0:14:23.916

by the dot on the on the right
and the time they belong on the map.

0:14:24.458,0:14:27.458

I mean, I had someone come and request
my support for something in Salt Lake,

0:14:27.541,0:14:30.416

and they put up a thing, and we didn't
even have a dot on the damn map.

0:14:30.416,0:14:31.375

I lost my mind.

0:14:31.375,0:14:34.375

I'm like, don't ever come to Ogden
without a dot on the map.

0:14:34.625,0:14:36.708

And the next time you come
down and we are the damn dot,

0:14:38.166,0:14:38.791

right?

0:14:38.791,0:14:39.416

Yeah.

0:14:39.416,0:14:42.875

So yeah, I have a chip on my shoulder, but
I think our entire city does or should,

0:14:43.583,0:14:44.041

because.

0:14:44.041,0:14:47.041

I think that's what's cool about Ogden,
they're just like, right.

0:14:47.208,0:14:48.916

But we are that mindset.

0:14:48.916,0:14:49.333

It's important

0:14:49.333,0:14:53.041

because we're not activating opportunity
for one third of our city.

0:14:53.125,0:14:56.083

Yeah. And

0:14:56.083,0:14:59.083

there's travel on the personal side,

0:14:59.125,0:15:00.833

led to an opportunity
to be on the world stage.

0:15:00.833,0:15:03.666

And I'm telling you,
when I remember being on Times Square.

0:15:03.666,0:15:06.458

So I'm already going to Washington,
DC on business travel.

0:15:06.458,0:15:10.625

So we had one day in a short train
ride to go to Times Square right?

0:15:10.625,0:15:12.375

The night before.

0:15:12.375,0:15:15.375

And I remember walking on stage

0:15:15.375,0:15:18.166

and at Times Square introducing myself.

0:15:18.166,0:15:20.541

Never thought that in my wildest
dreams. Right.

0:15:20.541,0:15:22.541

And I couldn't even see the end of people.

It was just.

0:15:22.541,0:15:26.583

Yeah, not that it's like New Year's Eve

but it wasn't packed and packed.

0:15:27.166,0:15:28.375

But it's night time.

0:15:28.375,0:15:30.416

All the lights and I go up there.

0:15:30.416,0:15:32.875

Ben Nadolski,

Ogden city mayor from Ogden, Utah.

0:15:32.875,0:15:34.375

And the place just erupts,

0:15:35.375,0:15:36.208

right?

0:15:36.208,0:15:38.250

I'm like, we are an international city.

0:15:38.250,0:15:40.458

We are a world class city.

0:15:40.458,0:15:43.791

We are welcoming the world in our

through our doorsteps.

0:15:43.791,0:15:46.791

In 2034 for the Winter Olympics. Right.

0:15:46.833,0:15:49.833

And we are a Winter Olympic host city.

0:15:50.000,0:15:53.000

And the place absolutely erupted.

0:15:53.125,0:15:54.166

And that's the difference

0:15:54.166,0:15:57.166

between the way the world sees us
and the way we see ourselves.

0:15:57.291,0:15:58.208

Right?

0:15:58.208,0:16:01.208

So people are like,
why are you spending time traveling?

0:16:01.791,0:16:06.833

Because we belong in this world,
and we are taking our rightful place

0:16:06.833,0:16:07.333

in our right

0:16:07.333,0:16:11.666

to step in this world, and we are doing it
on behalf of one third of our city.

0:16:12.375,0:16:15.416

And so that opportunity.

0:16:15.666,0:16:17.041

So I go up to the stage.

0:16:17.041,0:16:18.666

Part of my presentation in the performance

0:16:18.666,0:16:22.541

is to present the key to the city
to NAIMA a North American event,

0:16:22.875,0:16:27.083

Institute for Mexican Advancement
and say, please come back to our city

0:16:27.500,0:16:31.291

and unlock the doors
of opportunity for our people.

0:16:32.583,0:16:33.958

And Naima is

0:16:33.958,0:16:37.000

associated, obviously with that,
that performance of mariachi.

0:16:37.708,0:16:41.583

And they have since been coming back
and what and they said

0:16:41.875,0:16:45.875

after that, presentation, they said,
we want you to come to our city now,

0:16:46.666,0:16:49.666

and we're going to unlock some doors
for you and for your people.

0:16:49.666,0:16:51.500

Okay. This thing goes both ways.

0:16:51.500,0:16:53.416

This is how international exchange
is supposed to work.

0:16:53.416,0:16:55.083

But you have to build relationships first.

0:16:55.083,0:16:56.958

You have to invest in people there,

0:16:56.958,0:16:58.625

and you have to get to a point
where they trust you.

0:16:58.625,0:17:01.875

And what I've learned,
especially in Mexico, is that the

0:17:02.958,0:17:05.958

there is a ton of capital, and they want
to invest in the United States of America

0:17:05.958,0:17:07.708

and our people,

0:17:07.708,0:17:11.333

but they don't really have a connection
that they trust in order to do it.

0:17:11.583,0:17:15.125

And when they have that pipeline of trust,
it's amazing how

0:17:15.291,0:17:17.125

that's how they choose where to invest

0:17:17.125,0:17:20.166

rather than here we look at a pro forma
in a business case, etc.

0:17:20.750,0:17:21.375

they look at that,

0:17:22.375,0:17:23.583

but they really look at

0:17:23.583,0:17:26.750

what they look at that business case
where they have connection.

0:17:27.416,0:17:28.708

Okay.

0:17:28.708,0:17:31.708

Well remember that

the things that have come from your trip.

0:17:31.708,0:17:33.833

Correct.

Do you and talk a little bit about that?

0:17:33.833,0:17:34.833

I mean, yeah, absolutely.

0:17:34.833,0:17:36.416

People visit because of that trip.

0:17:36.416,0:17:38.875

Absolutely. So investment. Correct.

0:17:38.875,0:17:42.958

And so I've taken one city's

board of trip to Guadalajara.

0:17:43.458,0:17:47.583

So 5 to 1 personal investment

to 1 to 1 public investment.

0:17:47.583,0:17:51.458

And it was a quick trip because again,
I got sick not with food poisoning.

0:17:52.958,0:17:54.333

You get sick a lot on your trips.

0:17:54.333,0:17:55.083

Like I think, you know,

0:17:55.083,0:17:58.458

you just kind of wears out because
because I never stop, I never stop.

0:17:58.583,0:18:01.916

You're not you're not out on the beach
in Mexico, right?

0:18:01.916,0:18:04.916

You know, you're out like meeting
people, right?

0:18:04.916,0:18:07.291

You're talking business, talking, bell
to bell to bell.

0:18:07.291,0:18:09.916

So we formalized a trip,
came up with a schedule of.

0:18:09.916,0:18:11.500

Of who to meet with.

0:18:11.500,0:18:13.291

I met with the mayor of Guadalajara.

0:18:13.291,0:18:15.750

She's an incredibly dynamic person.

0:18:15.750,0:18:20.541

And she and I talked about specific
opportunities and introductions,

0:18:20.541,0:18:25.250

and she helped make introductions,
to some key, local business leaders.

0:18:25.583,0:18:26.875

It was awesome.

0:18:26.875,0:18:28.250

And her staff were there.

0:18:28.250,0:18:30.166

Some of my staff
are now connected with her staff.

0:18:30.166,0:18:33.333

She and I together,
and they have a whole host.

0:18:33.333,0:18:34.916

We don't do much with Sister Cities.

0:18:34.916,0:18:38.583

We have Hofe which we can talk about to
because that's a that's a relationship

0:18:38.583,0:18:42.166

that we are way behind
on reciprocating, on way behind,

0:18:44.791,0:18:46.833

and talking
about world significance and history.

0:18:46.833,0:18:48.833

Oh my gosh. And we'll get back to that.

0:18:48.833,0:18:50.208

Yeah. I'm so focused.

0:18:50.208,0:18:51.458

Thanks.

Sorry,

0:18:51.458,0:18:54.958

but Guadalajara has a whole network
of sister cities that they do trade with.

0:18:55.083,0:18:59.333

And Guadalajara is the
not just the birthplace of mariachi.

0:18:59.916,0:19:04.791

It is a world leader
in arts and technology, right?

0:19:04.875,0:19:09.125

Arts, culture, technology,
advanced manufacturing, etc.

0:19:09.916,0:19:11.000

this is a huge city.

0:19:11.000,0:19:12.625

It is huge and huge.

0:19:12.625,0:19:14.416

As I said, there's a lot of people there.

0:19:14.416,0:19:17.125

Yeah, like it's the second biggest city
in Mexico. Populist.

0:19:17.125,0:19:18.833

Populist for me. Like I need to.

0:19:18.833,0:19:20.333

So it's one of the world's biggest cities.

0:19:20.333,0:19:23.541

And here we are
Ogden, city of less than 90,000.

0:19:23.583,0:19:26.625

Yeah, I feel like we're a big world,
the biggest city, right?

0:19:26.791,0:19:28.000

We got big city mentality.

0:19:28.958,0:19:31.833

And and they want to they
want a more formalized that connection.

0:19:31.833,0:19:33.625

But I'm not willing
to formalize that connection

0:19:33.625,0:19:37.625

unless it's real returns real money,
real opportunity for people here.

0:19:37.666,0:19:40.166

And so that's where we started.

0:19:40.166,0:19:43.166

On that trip, we met with officials for,

0:19:44.125,0:19:47.125

we met with executives,

0:19:47.333,0:19:50.625

around the airline industry

and pitched opportunities

0:19:50.625,0:19:54.625

for tourism to Ogden,
specifically around the Ogden airport.

0:19:54.833,0:19:57.791

Those are being, evaluated.

0:19:57.791,0:20:01.583

We met with,
the university of Guadalajara.

0:20:02.000,0:20:04.458

It's one of the biggest universities
in the world,

0:20:04.458,0:20:09.458

and they have the preeminent Latin America
film festival.

0:20:09.875,0:20:11.125

Huge.

0:20:11.125,0:20:13.625

It's in LA and L.A only.

0:20:13.625,0:20:15.958

And they also have

0:20:15.958,0:20:18.958

I think it's the second
biggest book fair in the world.

0:20:19.541,0:20:20.791

Enormous.

0:20:20.791,0:20:22.375

Really? Yeah.

0:20:22.375,0:20:24.041

So we take a trip because they want.

0:20:24.041,0:20:27.833

They invited us to come and see the book
fair to see the significance of it

0:20:28.458,0:20:31.458

and how it could potentially become a part
of what we do here in Ogden,

0:20:31.833,0:20:34.750

because we want to make sure that we're using tourism that benefits our people.

0:20:34.750,0:20:35.666

Right.

0:20:35.666,0:20:38.666

So remember, one third of our city,
these are the

0:20:38.875,0:20:41.583

these are the kinds of things they want
and they need in order

0:20:41.583,0:20:43.708

for them to thrive in life. Yeah.

0:20:43.708,0:20:45.666

And we have world class connections now.

0:20:45.666,0:20:48.333

And we're talking about opportunities
for that here.

0:20:48.333,0:20:51.083

Right. University of Guadalajara

0:20:53.041,0:20:54.166

we're hopeful for a

0:20:54.166,0:20:59.083

visit in during the winter,
upcoming winter so that we can make

0:20:59.083,0:21:03.750

some introductions here for tourism,
industry relationships, etc., etc..

0:21:04.666,0:21:06.833

So that was a great meeting.

0:21:06.833,0:21:09.833

We toured, boxing

0:21:09.833,0:21:12.166

clinics and camps and academies.

0:21:12.166,0:21:15.166

As you know,
that's a big sport, huge sport.

0:21:15.291,0:21:18.166

In, in, in Mexican culture.

0:21:18.166,0:21:18.500

Right.

0:21:18.500,0:21:21.500

And I continually hear that
that's something that we underserved here.

0:21:21.791,0:21:22.333

Right?

0:21:22.333,0:21:26.125

I think we underserved it in a lot of
places in the, in the country, actually.

0:21:26.208,0:21:27.666

Correct. Yes, sure. Here.

0:21:27.666,0:21:31.750

But we have a huge history of boxing
in our city and world famous bouts

0:21:31.750,0:21:34.750

and boxers that have been in the city
in, in the past.

0:21:35.166,0:21:36.916

Yeah, it's amazing stories.

0:21:36.916,0:21:40.375

And so getting back to our Olympic plans,

0:21:41.750,0:21:43.791

our Olympic goal

0:21:43.791,0:21:46.583

is to find an Olympian in this city.

0:21:46.583,0:21:47.625

That would be our legacy.

0:21:47.625,0:21:49.041

Our Olympic legacy

0:21:49.041,0:21:53.458

is if we create all of the programming
and all of the access to opportunities

0:21:54.166,0:21:57.166

for sports, for developing youth
and giving kids that opportunity,

0:21:58.291,0:22:01.291

that's affordable and accessible
and development at a world class way.

0:22:02.458,0:22:04.291

We find an Olympian, all kids. Right.

0:22:04.291,0:22:06.166

So you're offering all of the

0:22:06.166,0:22:07.916

all of the opportunities
for all of the cultures

0:22:07.916,0:22:10.625

represented, for those right across
as many sports as possible? Absolutely.

0:22:10.625,0:22:12.375

Boxing fits right within that.

0:22:12.375,0:22:14.416

One third of our city wants that. Yeah.

0:22:14.416,0:22:15.416

We're not all skiers.

0:22:15.416,0:22:17.458

Two thirds of our cities. Like,
why would we ever do that?

0:22:17.458,0:22:18.750

And it's like,
because you don't understand

0:22:18.750,0:22:22.250

what's being requested
and demanded and needed by our people.

0:22:22.250,0:22:23.583

One third. Right.

0:22:23.583,0:22:25.458

They're doing this in garages right now.

0:22:25.458,0:22:26.208

It's not as safe.

0:22:26.208,0:22:29.208

And it's not as, as good as it could be.

0:22:29.208,0:22:29.541

Yeah.

0:22:29.541,0:22:34.166

And so we met with world
class developers of youth in Mexico.

0:22:34.458,0:22:37.458

Guadalajara specifically
where world class fighters, have come out.

0:22:38.125,0:22:40.250

And we want to take that model here.

0:22:40.250,0:22:44.666

And there's an RFP right
now, for a partner out in our community

0:22:45.375,0:22:48.375

to develop a youth boxing program
in Ogden

0:22:48.416,0:22:51.416

through a private partnership,
not us doing it.

0:22:52.166,0:22:53.416

Someone in our community doing it.

0:22:53.416,0:22:55.041

And we want to. Facilitating the.

0:22:55.041,0:22:58.250

because.

Yes, because we have access to grants.

0:22:58.250,0:23:01.291

Right. We have access to to funding.

0:23:01.291,0:23:04.625

That's not, it doesn't have to directly be
Ogden city taxpayer funds.

0:23:05.541,0:23:10.458

But Ogden City taxpayers
fund a city, governance

0:23:11.000,0:23:13.875

that has access to grants and donations
that others don't,

0:23:13.875,0:23:18.000

and access to partnerships
that can surround an academy like that.

0:23:18.041,0:23:18.250

You know,

0:23:18.250,0:23:22.375

we really I mean, all of the solutions
are always in person with partners.

0:23:22.666,0:23:23.166

And it's hard,

0:23:23.166,0:23:26.166

I think, because sometimes people say,
I don't my money shouldn't be used

0:23:26.500,0:23:27.625

for international travel.

0:23:28.875,0:23:29.833

And, you

0:23:29.833,0:23:32.958

know,
and I think I understand the sentiment,

0:23:33.625,0:23:36.083

but I think it's

because they're not understanding or

0:23:36.083,0:23:39.625

they're not aware that what

that what that actually correct.

0:23:39.833,0:23:41.000

And that's on me to share.

0:23:41.000,0:23:42.875

And and and

and that's why we're doing this. Right.

0:23:42.875,0:23:46.458

So I agree that I shouldn't

just be gallivanting around the world

0:23:46.791,0:23:48.291

on junkets, right?

0:23:48.291,0:23:49.041

Yeah. For sure.

0:23:49.041,0:23:52.083

We have to be super mindful to be home
and help me take these kids to practice.

0:23:52.083,0:23:54.083

If you're going to go, so what?

0:23:54.083,0:23:55.250

I fly,

0:23:55.250,0:23:57.625

so I just fly out to New York City
and do a three day trip

0:23:57.625,0:23:58.833

just to be on stage for one?

0:23:58.833,0:24:00.250

No, but

0:24:00.250,0:24:03.791

if we can leverage that opportunity
when we're already an hour away by train.

0:24:04.583,0:24:08.750

And that's let's achieve that efficiency

and that savings to get that world

0:24:08.750,0:24:09.833

class opportunity.

0:24:09.833,0:24:12.625

Yeah. Look at the door
that, that opened up. Yeah. Right.

0:24:12.625,0:24:17.083

And so well
and when Ballet Folklorico came this year.

0:24:17.208,0:24:18.250

Oh yeah. There you go.

0:24:18.250,0:24:22.041

They had a really great,
I guess, I guess segment.

0:24:22.333,0:24:27.458

I don't know, that paid homage to the,

0:24:28.625,0:24:29.708

the trains meeting.

0:24:29.708,0:24:30.083

Correct.

0:24:30.083,0:24:33.541

So in New York City, we talked about

I met with other

0:24:33.541,0:24:36.541

mayors and other,

prominent community leaders

0:24:36.625,0:24:40.500

in Mexico and in Latin America, actually,

who are in the US.

0:24:40.500,0:24:43.916

And they have

they were there because they have this

0:24:44.250,0:24:47.000

already have had it for a while.

0:24:47.000,0:24:49.041

And we're we're trying

to bring our connection

0:24:49.041,0:24:51.458

and international relationship
and opportunities to where they are.

0:24:51.458,0:24:54.541

And they told me about the direct
investments and the direct benefits.

0:24:54.708,0:24:55.791

And that's what sold me.

0:24:55.791,0:24:57.833

I'm like,
oh yeah, yeah, this is a big deal.

0:24:57.833,0:25:01.250

And this is an excellent partner
for creating that pipeline.

0:25:01.250,0:25:02.125

Right.

0:25:02.125,0:25:05.958

And so they offered to to highlight
our culture

0:25:06.625,0:25:09.916

and their performance,
which was amazing, which was amazing.

0:25:09.916,0:25:12.458

It's kind of
it was kind of controversial on their end

0:25:12.458,0:25:15.458

because you're using the most traditional

0:25:15.500,0:25:17.708

Mexican cultural arts,

0:25:17.708,0:25:21.208

especially for that region of Guadalajara
and state of Jalisco Right, right.

0:25:21.916,0:25:23.541

To share Mexican American culture.

0:25:23.541,0:25:23.958

But that's

0:25:23.958,0:25:27.125

the point is we're they're trying to use

art and culture to bridge that.

0:25:27.375,0:25:28.791

Yeah. But that connection.

0:25:28.791,0:25:31.791

And so they came here and they toured
the western United States and showed it,

0:25:32.416,0:25:34.916

and they had a whole film, a short film

0:25:34.916,0:25:37.916

about our railroad history in Ogden, Utah.

0:25:38.208,0:25:41.208

And they shared that around
the entire western United States.

0:25:41.333,0:25:44.583

And then they did an entire performance
about it, and it was incredible.

0:25:44.583,0:25:45.125

And then

0:25:46.250,0:25:46.791

we had

0:25:46.791,0:25:50.291

local volunteers who were Union Station

and train

0:25:50.291,0:25:53.666

enthusiasts, historians

like advocates for that place

0:25:54.500,0:25:56.666

through and through

and went on the stage with us.

0:25:56.666,0:26:00.666

We recreated the driving of the Golden

Spike photo along with our partners

0:26:00.666,0:26:04.500

and friends at team USA and Olympics,

and we said same thing.

0:26:04.625,0:26:07.500

We said in Mexico Arena, Times Square.

0:26:07.500,0:26:08.583

We are Ogden, Utah.

0:26:08.583,0:26:12.125

We are welcoming the world back through
our doorsteps at the Union Station.

0:26:12.625,0:26:15.208

When the Olympics come in 2034,

0:26:15.208,0:26:19.666

it is our goal to welcome the world back
through the doors of Union Station,

0:26:19.750,0:26:23.250

through that grand lobby, the same way
that we always welcome this world.

0:26:23.958,0:26:26.416

That's why we are who we are
and where we are,

0:26:26.416,0:26:29.708

and why the 45th Street developed the way
we welcome the world through the rail.

0:26:30.041,0:26:30.875

Right? Right.

0:26:30.875,0:26:32.958

We want to do it again
using the front runner. Yeah.

0:26:32.958,0:26:35.958

And trax and commercial, train travel.

0:26:35.958,0:26:36.833

Yeah.

0:26:36.833,0:26:39.708

But instead of everybody dropping off
north of the Union Station.

0:26:39.708,0:26:40.208

Yeah.

0:26:40.208,0:26:43.625

Our vision is to connect them
with the Union Station once again.

0:26:44.166,0:26:45.833

Right? I would love that. That'd be great.

0:26:45.833,0:26:48.833

So tell me that we're not advancing

Ogden's interests

0:26:48.833,0:26:50.875

when we do these things

right. We're telling that story.

0:26:50.875,0:26:53.666

And do you think we're going to be able

to use our taxpayer dollars to

0:26:53.666,0:26:54.833

to fix a problem like that?

0:26:55.916,0:26:57.750

Like that's way bigger than Ogden City?

0:26:57.750,0:26:59.916

Yeah, we have to have state and federal

0:26:59.916,0:27:03.250

and international partners

to help make a move like that happen.

0:27:03.791,0:27:06.791

And we have to have an opportunity
like the Olympics

0:27:07.375,0:27:09.166

to to even think it's possible.

0:27:09.166,0:27:10.000

Right? Right.

0:27:10.000,0:27:13.000

So that's
what is our time bounded opportunity.

0:27:13.125,0:27:15.458

Well, I, I'm, I'm

0:27:15.458,0:27:18.458

certainly excited about like the work
that, you know, the

0:27:19.250,0:27:23.791

you were gone a lot to Guadalajara for
all those, you know, self-funded trips.

0:27:23.791,0:27:27.583

But, I always knew that
there was something coming from it.

0:27:28.083,0:27:28.416

Yeah.

0:27:28.416,0:27:34.041

And, you always come back energized
and excited, so, I'm glad to do that.

0:27:34.041,0:27:37.708

So let's talk a little bit about,
our sister

0:27:37.708,0:27:41.250

city in Germany.

0:27:41.250,0:27:41.791

Hof, Germany.

0:27:41.791,0:27:45.666

They came last year, I think their mayor
and some other city council year before

0:27:45.666,0:27:46.416

I think it was.

0:27:46.416,0:27:46.666

Yeah.

0:27:46.666,0:27:50.958

So yeah, I remember I just started
as mayor in January 2024, shortly after

0:27:51.916,0:27:52.666

is the Hof fest.

0:27:52.666,0:27:58.041

And they bring in
they often do bring a delegation because

0:27:58.041,0:28:02.500

they treasure our relationship and their
their mayor is called the Lord mayor,

0:28:03.625,0:28:05.583

and they brought in council members,

0:28:05.583,0:28:07.500

which they have a bunch of council members
there.

0:28:07.500,0:28:08.333

It was a lot.

0:28:08.333,0:28:08.500

Yeah.

0:28:08.500,0:28:10.500

Their form of government,
their system of government governance

0:28:10.500,0:28:13.791

is totally different than ours
and their individual city council members.

0:28:14.875,0:28:18.375

They kind of affiliated with a party
type of a of a structure,

0:28:18.916,0:28:21.916

and they also oversee individual
components of the city operation.

0:28:22.625,0:28:25.791

And so, they have a lot of interest
in the way we govern,

0:28:26.458,0:28:29.666

but they also have a lot of interest in,
how we do projects,

0:28:29.666,0:28:31.375

work across
all those different departments.

0:28:31.375,0:28:33.750

And so they come here
and they learn from us,

0:28:33.750,0:28:36.791

and they always
say, we want you to come here

0:28:37.958,0:28:39.916

like, you guys don't come.

0:28:39.916,0:28:41.958

And we've been lucky
that we've had a couple people

0:28:41.958,0:28:44.958

and a few people that have really invested
personal

0:28:45.458,0:28:48.375

money into that relationship in the past,
and that's really the only times

0:28:48.375,0:28:50.458

that we've ever been back.

0:28:50.458,0:28:51.500

It was awesome.

0:28:51.500,0:28:56.041

Like, Council members
Wix and Gokner have made efforts

0:28:56.041,0:28:58.375

or like when they've been on vacation,
they make trying to

0:28:58.375,0:29:00.708

add that to their trip,
just like I did with Guadalajara.

0:29:00.708,0:29:02.208

Right? Yeah.

0:29:02.208,0:29:03.500

And Guatemala, by the way.

0:29:03.500,0:29:03.708

Yeah.

0:29:03.708,0:29:05.041

We didn't talk about what

I want to talk about that

0:29:05.041,0:29:08.333

to other personal investment

that is leading to to wins for Ogden. But,

0:29:11.125,0:29:12.833

anyway,

this is an international relationship,

0:29:12.833,0:29:16.708

which is the oldest, sister city

relationship in the world with Germany.

0:29:17.166,0:29:19.291

So that when I read that,

I actually didn't know

0:29:19.291,0:29:22.125

that I read that in the paper,
and I was like, really?

0:29:22.125,0:29:24.625

Yeah, how did I not know that.

0:29:24.625,0:29:26.333

And how do we not honor that? That's

0:29:27.375,0:29:29.583

it's it's

0:29:29.583,0:29:32.583

it's kind of disappointing

in the fact that we

0:29:32.666,0:29:35.708

we don't we do not we don't honor it
in the same way that they do.

0:29:35.875,0:29:36.458

Yeah.

0:29:36.458,0:29:39.458

And they have built and we have built

0:29:39.708,0:29:42.291

an entire festival, an event

0:29:42.291,0:29:45.291

around that relationship for years.

0:29:45.333,0:29:48.833

And, you see that investment from them

0:29:48.833,0:29:52.416

when they come and we build our program,
our event around their presence,

0:29:53.166,0:29:56.666

and it builds significance
for that moment for our people here.

0:29:56.666,0:29:58.875

Yeah. And we're not repaying that
for their people.

0:29:58.875,0:30:00.625

And I think that that's a travesty.

0:30:00.625,0:30:03.625

I think that's,

0:30:04.500,0:30:06.250

we're talking about post-World

0:30:06.250,0:30:09.250

War Two world relations with Germany.

0:30:09.625,0:30:13.625

And we are the oldest
first established relationship

0:30:14.041,0:30:17.416

with the city in Germany
and the United States post-World War.

0:30:18.291,0:30:19.666

And we are not honoring that.

0:30:19.666,0:30:22.500

That's

I I'm sorry, but we have an obligation.

0:30:23.541,0:30:24.166

Yeah, we have

0:30:24.166,0:30:27.416

a moral and ethical duty and obligation

0:30:27.916,0:30:32.000

to honor history and to honor
that relationship and to do our part

0:30:32.541,0:30:35.416

because they've been doing theirs
and we haven't been doing ours.

0:30:35.416,0:30:36.375

Right. Absolutely.

0:30:36.375,0:30:41.083

So to spend \$3,500 for just me to go

0:30:42.083,0:30:44.375

and honor that for decades.

0:30:44.375,0:30:49.375

Yeah, to make up for decades of lost time,
I think is an an obligation.

0:30:49.458,0:30:50.875

Yeah. Right.

0:30:50.875,0:30:53.875

And I think it's justifiable,

0:30:54.583,0:30:58.375

especially in light of the five trips
to Guadalajara that I've done in order

0:30:58.375,0:31:02.583

to open up opportunities on my own dime
and a trip to Guadalajara on my own dime.

0:31:03.375,0:31:04.250

Or Guatemala

0:31:04.250,0:31:07.250

on my own dime to open up opportunities
which we can also talk about.

0:31:07.250,0:31:09.833

Right. Yeah.

Does anyone else from city council going.

0:31:09.833,0:31:10.916

City Council is going.

0:31:10.916,0:31:13.916

Everyone I think so that's awesome.

0:31:14.041,0:31:15.500

And I don't know how they're handled
on their end.

0:31:15.500,0:31:17.541

But yeah I'm just sharing
how I'm hearing on my end.

0:31:17.541,0:31:19.541

But I think it makes a statement.

0:31:19.541,0:31:22.500

It's an important step
because their council came,

0:31:23.500,0:31:26.500

many members of the council came like 20.

0:31:26.541,0:31:27.458

Yeah.

0:31:27.458,0:31:31.500

They're making way more investment

and honoring it more than we are.

0:31:31.625,0:31:34.583

And we've got work
to do to fix that. Yeah.

0:31:34.583,0:31:38.500

And they're planning enormous events
on their end around our presence.

0:31:38.500,0:31:40.166

So excited for. Yes. Yeah.

0:31:40.166,0:31:41.916

So this is an investment
in our friendships

0:31:41.916,0:31:45.250

and our partners in Germany
and our history of our relationship.

0:31:45.500,0:31:47.958

And I'm proud to say
that we're the administration.

0:31:47.958,0:31:50.416

That's going to do that

by just sending me like,

0:31:50.416,0:31:53.416

we're not sending in the whole delegation

because

0:31:53.875,0:31:57.125

let's be honest, we have to be very
mindful about how we spend city resources.

0:31:57.166,0:31:57.375

Yeah.

0:31:57.375,0:32:00.916

And so using it to just me, because
that's the significance on their end.

0:32:01.791,0:32:03.833

Their planning I think is important. Yeah.

0:32:03.833,0:32:06.833

Well let's talk about
being mindful of resources because when

0:32:07.000,0:32:11.333

when you went to Guatemala recently
that was also self-funded.

0:32:12.041,0:32:14.291

And the reason for that was

0:32:15.291,0:32:15.666

okay.

0:32:15.666,0:32:17.750

You remember in the earlier
when we said that

0:32:17.750,0:32:20.750

local business members here
who are achieving success

0:32:20.791,0:32:24.166

come from success,
sometimes where they're from,

0:32:24.625,0:32:27.916

or maybe they have childhood connections
to achieve success.

0:32:28.416,0:32:31.083

That's certainly the case for Luis Lopez.

0:32:31.083,0:32:34.625

He was in a in the place and in circles
that were significant in Mexico

0:32:34.833,0:32:37.833

when he came here
and we should have shown why

0:32:37.875,0:32:40.125

and share his story
because his story is incredible.

0:32:40.125,0:32:41.666

I mean, it is incredible.

0:32:41.666,0:32:44.000

There will be movies and books
written about him in Hollywood.

0:32:44.000,0:32:47.000

His family, there's no doubt about it.

0:32:47.500,0:32:49.541

And so

0:32:49.541,0:32:52.541

we have a business member here, right?

0:32:52.583,0:32:55.791

Gilmar owns

Tokyo Station is one of his things.

0:32:56.291,0:33:00.708

And he he has helped open doors

0:33:01.416,0:33:02.875

in Guatemala.

0:33:02.875,0:33:07.125

And when he said he had these relationships, we met with the governor's office,

0:33:08.083,0:33:09.083

actually.

0:33:09.083,0:33:11.875

So Gilmar invited them out

and they came out here.

0:33:11.875,0:33:12.708

That's right. Right.

0:33:12.708,0:33:15.708

So the president
of the Guatemalan Congress

0:33:16.041,0:33:19.041

came together and

0:33:19.625,0:33:22.541

admittedly, at first
I don't recognize the significance.

0:33:22.541,0:33:23.750

Like, whoa, what does that mean?

0:33:23.750,0:33:26.625

We are not a city that's used
to having those kinds of visas.

0:33:26.625,0:33:30.541

Other world class cities are okay,
and they're very prepared.

0:33:30.541,0:33:34.041

They understand the logistics
and the protocols internationally.

0:33:34.791,0:33:38.333

And, that's the thing that other cities
customarily do,

0:33:39.500,0:33:41.333

including cities of our size
all across the country.

0:33:41.333,0:33:44.875

And we have it because we have not
honored our international significance

0:33:45.500,0:33:49.625

or our opportunities and connections
through local business owners and leaders.

0:33:49.833,0:33:50.958

Right.

0:33:50.958,0:33:55.875

And so, Gilmar brought the president
of the Congress

0:33:55.875,0:33:58.875

of Guatemala here, and that's,

that's like the speaker of the House.

0:33:58.875,0:34:00.916

There are unicameral government. Yeah.

0:34:00.916,0:34:02.208

So it's like the Senate president

0:34:02.208,0:34:05.208

and the speaker of the House

for the country and more.

0:34:05.416,0:34:08.875

So if you want if there are two prominent

figures in Guatemala,

0:34:08.875,0:34:10.833

it's the president

and the president of Congress.

0:34:10.833,0:34:12.375

That's the two, right? Yeah.

0:34:13.375,0:34:16.375

So he comes here and we we hit it off,

of course.

0:34:16.625,0:34:18.666

And they have an agenda of their own.

0:34:18.666,0:34:21.666

And we help facilitate their agenda,
including introducing

0:34:22.041,0:34:25.625

him and his team to,
the governor and his team.

0:34:25.708,0:34:29.500

And one of the things that the governor's
team said is missing

0:34:30.375,0:34:34.708

and the Guatemalan community
in Utah's like 15,000 strong or something.

0:34:34.875,0:34:37.791

I can't remember exact number,
but there's a lot of people that come here

0:34:37.791,0:34:42.541

from Guatemala and we do not have

the consulate or, here in Utah.

0:34:42.625,0:34:45.291

So we do for other nations.

0:34:45.291,0:34:48.291

And the governor's office said, this is a

0:34:48.375,0:34:51.375

glaring omission

that we would love to rectify.

0:34:52.041,0:34:54.583

And there is a consulate in Denver.

0:34:54.583,0:34:56.041

And the first step

you take that I've learned

0:34:57.125,0:34:58.958

is that you,

0:34:58.958,0:35:01.583

start with an honorary consul in the seat.

0:35:01.583,0:35:05.541

And Guatemala's goal, we learned, because we self-funded a trip to go out there.

0:35:06.916,0:35:10.875

We met with the State Department and the president of Congress.

0:35:11.041,0:35:14.666

He introduced me to a number of different officials, and their goal

0:35:14.666,0:35:18.041

is to have an honorary consul in every state in the nation.

0:35:18.666,0:35:22.541

And it's been very hard for them to develop those relationships very hard.

0:35:23.166,0:35:26.666

So we have met with our State Department,

0:35:27.500,0:35:28.666

picked up all of the paperwork

0:35:28.666,0:35:31.666

and the requirements
for that relationship to happen,

0:35:31.875,0:35:34.958
and they're coming back again,
and we'll be bringing them back to the

0:35:35.250,0:35:39.000
governor's office
to formalize the relationship.

0:35:39.000,0:35:42.000
And we have an honorary
consul selected here in Utah.

0:35:42.458,0:35:45.458
And we've actually already
used that relationship to help

0:35:45.500,0:35:47.958
somebody in another city
who went through personal tragedy,

0:35:48.916,0:35:51.916
help reconnect their family with their

0:35:51.958,0:35:53.625

with their home.

0:35:53.625,0:35:54.583

Right.

0:35:54.583,0:35:56.541

And that was a very tragic circumstance.

0:35:56.541,0:35:59.125

But that's the kind of leadership
that Ogden has

0:35:59.125,0:36:01.666

because we have connections
to our business community.

0:36:01.666,0:36:02.291

Yeah.

0:36:02.291,0:36:05.875

And I think that we are leaving
opportunities off the table

0:36:06.500,0:36:09.500

of international significance

that can help our people here.

0:36:10.041,0:36:10.625

Right?

0:36:10.625,0:36:13.625

Because community engagement is not just

0:36:13.833,0:36:14.666

at the kitchen table.

0:36:14.666,0:36:16.375

It ranges

all the way from the kitchen table

0:36:16.375,0:36:17.958

to international

and everything in between.

0:36:17.958,0:36:19.875

Right? Right.

0:36:19.875,0:36:22.875

So why did you decide to do self-funded
prep for this?

0:36:23.000,0:36:25.041

Because it was the right thing
to do, right?

0:36:25.041,0:36:27.500

It was important we had an opportunity
to help people, right?

0:36:27.500,0:36:31.583

So we did it rather than but what I mean,
I guess is rather than using city funds

0:36:31.583,0:36:33.000

to travel to something like that,

0:36:33.958,0:36:36.666

like I feel like because of the same thing
in the last

0:36:36.666,0:36:40.750

five trips to Guadalajara is
I didn't see yet the direct

0:36:41.375,0:36:44.583

economic exchange
and the opportunity for Ogden Yet,

0:36:45.291,0:36:49.291

so I didn't feel like

I need to actually be proven correct.

0:36:49.291,0:36:52.291

If I if it gets to that point,

maybe I will, but very judiciously.

0:36:52.583,0:36:56.458

Yeah.

But again, you said it's silly season.

0:36:56.875,0:36:58.625

Yeah, yeah.

0:36:58.625,0:37:03.750

People want to share half truths and say

you do that and not share the whole story.

0:37:03.833,0:37:06.250

Right? And granted, it's

my story to share.

0:37:06.250,0:37:07.791

If I hadn't shared it, that's on me.

0:37:07.791,0:37:11.125

But I'm glad we've shared
45 minutes of time to do that.

0:37:11.958,0:37:14.416

But we haven't even hit
all the details we've got.

0:37:14.416,0:37:17.416

We've had three professional soccer
groups come to Ogden

0:37:17.958,0:37:19.750

and they're serious about Ogden.

0:37:19.750,0:37:22.083

They look at our people, our economics,

0:37:23.083,0:37:23.333

right?

0:37:23.333,0:37:26.291

Our socio
economic, they're someone's coming, Ogden.

0:37:26.291,0:37:29.333

And we're going to do that
and formalize our partnership with Weber

0:37:29.333,0:37:32.333

county to go out and say, okay,

0:37:32.416,0:37:34.458

who else is interested
because we're going to we're

0:37:34.458,0:37:37.666

going to move on on world class
opportunity for Ogden.

0:37:37.958,0:37:42.916

And it wouldn't have happened
if not for that first trip in 2019.

0:37:43.791,0:37:44.708

Are you sure it was 2019.

0:37:44.708,0:37:47.500

I think it was
I might have be wrong on the on the year.

0:37:47.500,0:37:48.791

I went with you in 2019.

0:37:48.791,0:37:51.375

I don't think that was the first time

you went

0:37:51.375,0:37:51.916

anyway.

0:37:51.916,0:37:53.875

It doesn't, you know,

I mean, you know, me and dates

0:37:53.875,0:37:58.250

I do, anyway that those that's

0:37:58.250,0:38:02.958

not wouldn't have happened if not for us

building those pathways, those pipelines.

0:38:03.166,0:38:03.583

Absolutely.

0:38:03.583,0:38:06.375

And so more things are coming.

I'm really excited about it.

0:38:06.375,0:38:10.500

And we'll share those as they come,
just as we've got an RFP for boxing.

0:38:10.875,0:38:12.916

Whatever relationship
that leads to with anybody

0:38:12.916,0:38:15.166

that's interested in this community,
we're going to share what that leads to.

0:38:15.166,0:38:17.000

And it's not going to be everything
all at once.

0:38:17.000,0:38:18.708

It's going to be a slow build.

0:38:18.708,0:38:21.333

But that's what building
community is, right? Right.

0:38:21.333,0:38:23.583

And we're serving people by doing that.

0:38:23.583,0:38:25.750

That's why jobs,
why we're here and serving.

0:38:25.750,0:38:28.875

And maybe if you're a part of the people
that don't feel like you're

0:38:28.875,0:38:32.541

being served of maybe think about
who is actually serving and why, right.

0:38:32.541,0:38:34.000

You've got that third. Right.

0:38:34.000,0:38:37.791

And people that have a very different
background and, and culture and needs

0:38:37.791,0:38:38.750

than,

0:38:38.750,0:38:40.666

you know,

another portion of the community,

0:38:40.666,0:38:42.708

like I'm like, I don't play soccer,

I don't like soccer.

0:38:42.708,0:38:45.625

Why do I care about professional soccer

having interest in Ogden?

0:38:45.625,0:38:47.875

Well,

there's a lot of people that do. There is.

0:38:47.875,0:38:50.166

Or my kid doesn't box

my kid plays softball.

0:38:50.166,0:38:53.958

Well, there's a lot of kids in our city

that love to box and want to box.

0:38:54.166,0:38:57.166

Yeah, we've got clubs in the two

high schools that are jam packed

0:38:57.708,0:39:00.208

and introductory
opportunities at Marshall White,

0:39:01.208,0:39:02.666

that they could feed

0:39:02.666,0:39:05.833

a pipeline of development for kids
beyond that, right?

0:39:06.291,0:39:08.541

Yeah, it's all about that
creating the pipeline.

0:39:08.541,0:39:12.625

And we can do that through connections,
through opportunity of and partners.

0:39:13.000,0:39:15.166

Right. Real people, real well.

0:39:15.166,0:39:18.458

And what I love about this is obviously
we've shared a little bit about,

0:39:19.125,0:39:24.375

you travel where you're spending
your time, your resources and why.

0:39:24.458,0:39:24.875

Right.

0:39:24.875,0:39:29.916

And I think what I love about that
is it also comes back to enhancing Ogden.

0:39:29.916,0:39:35.000

And it is so much about the diversity
that it brings in and,

0:39:35.000,0:39:39.416

and how that just builds our community.

0:39:39.708,0:39:41.125

Right.
Not so much.

0:39:41.125,0:39:43.666

Well, and there's even more to it.

0:39:43.666,0:39:47.541

I'm, I'm certain I've left off
some of the wins from our one trip

0:39:47.541,0:39:51.875

to Guadalajara, because I have to rattle
off the entire agenda for both.

0:39:52.166,0:39:53.541

Yeah, both.

0:39:53.541,0:39:55.625

The hard.

0:39:55.625,0:39:57.166

There's more coming and

0:39:58.500,0:40:01.500

if if you think about it,

0:40:01.916,0:40:03.458

I just had a meeting a couple days ago.

0:40:03.458,0:40:08.375

I'm on the Olympic host community
committee for the Olympic Organizing.

0:40:09.375,0:40:11.625

We're advisory
to the whole organizing group

0:40:11.625,0:40:14.625

and the goal of that group

0:40:14.791,0:40:17.791

is to prepare cities to welcome the world.

0:40:17.958,0:40:22.250

And we have a lot of work to do in order
to change the way we view ourselves,

0:40:22.250,0:40:25.791

but also the way we are built
administratively to welcome the world.

0:40:26.750,0:40:29.875

And these steps of community engagement,
international opportunity

0:40:29.875,0:40:33.416

and economic connection
are preparing us for 2034.

0:40:34.083,0:40:36.333

But what about like World

Trade Center Utah?

0:40:36.333,0:40:38.125

Why aren't we more engaged there?

0:40:38.125,0:40:40.416

Some engagement. We can do more.

0:40:40.416,0:40:44.000

That's a that's an area

we have got to be at the table

0:40:44.625,0:40:47.500

in which we don't have international
significance or international mindset.

0:40:47.500,0:40:50.500

We're missing international world
class opportunity, period.

0:40:50.916,0:40:53.916

So me and my administration,
we're going to be engaging with people

0:40:54.041,0:40:57.750

from kitchen table to the world stage
and everything in between.

0:40:58.250,0:41:01.250

And you've been with me
for a lot of that here locally.

0:41:01.458,0:41:03.250

And I've got staff
that are prepared to help us.

0:41:03.250,0:41:07.250

And it's not just doing things
for feel good, it's doing things

0:41:07.250,0:41:09.250

that are real good, real results.

0:41:09.250,0:41:12.083

Weber State's
track and cross country team years ago.

0:41:12.083,0:41:13.666

Back when I was in college.

0:41:13.666,0:41:16.916

They had the T shirts
that said Locally Grown

0:41:17.500,0:41:20.750

because they were all local kids around
and they were, but nationally known.

0:41:21.000,0:41:22.958

And that just kind of makes me think.
Good one.

0:41:22.958,0:41:25.916

Locally grown in Ogden,
internationally known, you know,

0:41:25.916,0:41:27.500

I love to see something like that.

0:41:27.500,0:41:29.750

You remember before we had kids,
we traveled all over Europe

0:41:29.750,0:41:32.375

and we almost exclusively stayed
with teammates.

0:41:32.375,0:41:35.708

Yes, from our school days at Weber state.

0:41:35.958,0:41:40.000

Yeah, look at the leverage
we could access in the world, right?

0:41:40.041,0:41:41.333

Yeah. It's the relationships.

0:41:41.333,0:41:44.250

If we do it with deliver it and attention.

0:41:44.250,0:41:45.166

Yeah.

0:41:45.166,0:41:48.875

Well I appreciate your time and I'm
I think this will help answer

0:41:48.875,0:41:50.791

a lot of questions
some people may have because,

0:41:50.791,0:41:51.416

I mean, you know, I'm

0:41:51.416,0:41:54.708

sure that like we said, silly

season is always it's always silly season.

0:41:55.166,0:41:58.125

But we are definitely nearing a peak

as campaigns

0:41:58.125,0:42:01.833

get going and agendas and. Right.

0:42:01.833,0:42:04.833

And some and they still may not agree

and that's fine.

0:42:04.916,0:42:05.833

They don't have to agree.

0:42:05.833,0:42:07.625

But like we don't all agree on everything.

0:42:07.625,0:42:08.750

That's not what unity means. But

0:42:09.875,0:42:12.333

I'll have to ask if you're

0:42:12.333,0:42:16.000

thinking about something, then

you're like, that has no relevance for me.

0:42:17.208,0:42:19.416

Think about the relevance

it has for others.

0:42:19.416,0:42:22.416

I'm not just the mayor of for you, I'm

the mayor, for everyone here in Ogden,

0:42:23.041,0:42:24.000

period.

0:42:24.000,0:42:27.250

And when you engage in those corners

like we talked about with the Marshallese,

0:42:27.833,0:42:32.541

with the Kashmiri community, with going to

church on West 24th Street is fun.

0:42:32.541,0:42:33.708

Yeah.

0:42:33.708,0:42:37.125

That's how you learn who we are
and what all of our needs are.

0:42:37.250,0:42:40.375

And that's why we do the kind of work
that we do from kitchen table

0:42:40.375,0:42:43.375

to to the international world stage
and everything in between.

0:42:43.458,0:42:44.583

I love it.

0:42:44.583,0:42:49.166

Well, thanks for having thanks for coming
today to your office to interview you.

0:42:50.208,0:42:51.708

Thanks for joining us today, everyone.

0:42:51.708,0:42:56.125

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the podcast and share with your friends.

0:42:56.291,0:42:58.541

Thanks for coming.

I appreciate you appreciate.