



Promises and Hopes

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During the 1970s the City government proposed several plans for urban renewal. Because of previous experience with urban renewal planning, the community demanded a voice in the creation of those plans. The Avondale Community Council, the Avondale Community Development Corporation and the Avondale Redevelopment Corporation all played a part.

In 1980 the ARD and ADC began working with City Manager Sylvester Murray and developer Oscar Robertson. The product of this cooperation, the Town Center opened at the corner of Rockdale and Reading on April 23, 1983.

Reading Road between Rockdale and Rockford
about 1975
When the city bought the site through the Reading Road project, Reading Road in the 1970s was a main thoroughfare and had a number of shops and businesses. The site was later used for the new Town Center.

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Reading Road between Rockdale and Rockford about 1975. The site was later used for the new Town Center.



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Riots broke out in Avondale on June 13, 1967 and April 8, 1968. The June 1967 riots occurred over a four or five night period and spread to other mostly black areas of the city for some time before the riots started, police had entered a policy of dispersing crowds along Reading Road. On the evening of June 13 a meeting was called at the corner of Rockdale and Reading to protest police harassment. Rioting broke out following the meeting. Eventually, the National Guard troops suppressed the "rebellion" as some called it, but minor disturbances continued on throughout the following month.