

; ; 12/10/18 8:06 AM ;
;;;BOSTON CITY COUNCIL 5:30PM
;;;12/10/2018

test caption

>>
>> IT IS CURRENTLY 5:41 AND
WE'LL BEGIN OFFICIALLY AT 5:45.V÷\$y(Z
>> POUNDING GAVEL.
GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO
THEIE NELL LA CHAMBER --
IANNELLA CHAMBER.
I WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT OF
SILENCE AND CENTER OURSELVES AND
REMINDE US WHY WE'RE ALL HERE BUT
I DECIDED TO RECITE THE NAMES OF
THE LIVES WE'VE BEEN ROBBED OF
DUE TO GUN VIOLENCE IN THE CITY
OF BOSTON THIS YEAR.
I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT WE ALWAYS
PUT A NAME TO THESE2
THESE WERE PEOPLE OF FLESH AND
BONE WHO LOVED AND WERE LOVED
AND I WANT TO BRING THEM INTO
THIS SPACE.
ALEXANDER n"gY:MURVIN.
SHAQUILLE BODER.
CHAD O'CONNOR.
IAN HUNTER.
JOHN COLONME.
DWAYNE NELSON.
MIGUEL RIVERA.
ANTHONY YOUNG.
MICHAEL ROSS.
KEITH POMORE.
GERALDO LARUGE.
DWAYNE THOMAS.
CHRISTOPHER JOYCE.
CLAYBORN BLAIR.
EDWIN SANCHEZ.
GARFIELD THOMAS.
McKENSON HENRY.
JOSLEAN MORETIS.
ABRON CASTILLO.
WILL FRED PETERS.
JEFFERY MONTOK.
LUIS PEREZ.
D'ANDRA LEE.
ALEXANDER ALLEN.
YUSUHA A MOTO.

ERIC RIVERA.
PATRICK SALES, FELIX POLINO.
RAMON HOLLOWAY.
GABRIELLE RODRIGUEZ.
JOSEÉ LUIS WILLIAMS.
TAREL WHITE.
MARLON RICHARDSON.
STEPHEN WILSON.
ALICIA RESTRAPO.
KAMANI MILLER.
CORY PARKER.
LADAMIRA DOS SANTOS AND JOSHUA
LAVON.

MY NAME IS AYANNA PRESSLEY I'M
THE CHAIR ON THE COMMITTEE OF
HEAL -- -- HEALTHY WOMEN AND
MINORITY.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TESTIFY
SIGN IN BY THE DOOR AND CHECK
OFF THE BOX TO TESTIFY.
YOU MIGHT CHANGE YOUR MIND WHILE
SITTING HERE AND YOU CAN ALWAYS
GO BACK UP TO INDICATE YOUR
INTERESTED OR RAISE YOUR HAND
FROM THE GALLERY.

THIS EVENING WE'RE HOSTING A
LISTENING ONLY HEARING FOR
DOCKET 165 TO LISTEN TO
COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY VIOLENCE
AND TRAUMA.5 TO LISTEN TO
COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY VIOLENCE
AND TRAUMA.

I WANT TO AC NONE I'VE BEEN
JOINED -- ACKNOWLEDGE I'VE BEEN
JOINED BY ANNISSA ESSAIBI
GEORGE, MICHAEL FLAHERTY,
AT-LARGE COUNCILOR MICHELLE WU
WHO WILL BE DOING FOLLOW-UP
HEARINGS TO TODAY'S SESSION
BASED ON THE PRESCRIPTIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS.

DISTRICT CITY COUNCILOR TIM
McCARTHY AND O'MALLEY AND LYDIA
EDWARDS.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A BRIEF
OPENING STATEMENT, WE'RE
WEAVING -- WAVING THE OPENING
REMARKS.

IF AFTER WE HEARD COMMUNITY
VOICES THERE'S TIMES AND MY
COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE DEMANDING
SCHEDULES AND WISH TO STAY FOR
THE DURATION, IF THEY'RE STILL
HERE THEY'LL OFFER SOME REMARKS.

THIS HEARING IS A FULL-CIRCLE
MOMENT FOR ME AND MANY IN THE
ROOM.

IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME TO BEGIN
TO FINISH MY TIME AS A BOSTON
CITY COUNCILOR.

EXHAUSTED FROM MARATHON
COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND ATTENDING
WAKES, CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL AND
FUNERALS I CALLED AND ASKED WHAT
COULD I DO BETTER DIFFERENTLY.
SHE REPLIED WITH ONE WORD,
LISTEN.

EIGHT YEARS AGO, MANY OF YOU
JOINED ME FOR THE FIRST IN THE
NATION LISTENING ONLY, CITY
COUNCIL HEARING.

FOR THREE HOURS RELATIVES
OFFERED POWERFUL AND
PRESCRIPTIVE VICTIM IMPACT
STATEMENTS.

YOU TAUGHT ME THE BEST SOLUTIONS
COME FROM THOSE MOST IMPACTED.
THAT'S HOW I'VE CONTINUED TO
GOVERNOR ALONGSIDE AND WITH YOU,
COOPERATIVELY AND TRANSPARENTLY
HOLDING US ALL ACCOUNTABLE.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE TODAY TO
GET THIS ON THE OFFICIAL RECORD.
FROM THAT HEARING WE HAVE A
DEDICATED BEREAVEMENT ROOM AT
BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER AND A
MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PROVIDER
COMMUNITY TO BETTER COORDINATE]3k
CARE.

SO, WHY ANOTHER HEARING?
BECAUSE WE STILL HAVE QUESTIONS
WHEN IT COMES TO THE CITY'S
RESPONSE PROTOCOLS AND WE'LL
KEEP ASKING THE QUESTIONS UNTIL
WE SEE THE INFRASTRUCTURE, THE
STAFFING LEVELS, FINANCIAL
INVESTMENT TO SUPPORT FAMILIES
IMPACTED FROM GUN VIOLENCE
WEEKEND THE POLITICAL WILL.
UNTIL THEN WE'LL CONTINUE TO
ADVOCATE FOR THE ULTIMATE
FREEDOM, THE PEACE OF MIND FROM
KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY IS SAFE,
THAT YOU ARE NOT AT RISK, THAT
YOUR CHILDREN ARE NOT AT RISK
AND IF GOD FORBID SOMETHING
HAPPENS TO YOU IN YOUR COMMUNITY
AND NEIGHBORS, YOUR NEIGHBORS

AND YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT YOU AND THE REALIZATION OF YOUR HEALING AND PURSUIT OF JUSTICE. BECAUSE GUN VIOLENCE AND THE TRAUMA IT LEAVES IN ITS WAKE IS CHOKING AT THE PROMISE OF OUR CITY.

SO WHY ANOTHER HEARING?kaiñ BECAUSE WE'RE IN PURSUIT OF THE SAME FREEDOMS MARCHED FOR AND SAME FREEDOMS PROTESTED FOR AND THE SAME FREEDOMS FEMINIST PUSH FOR AND THE SAME FREEDOMS BLACK LIVES MATTER TOOK TO THE STREETS FOR AND WHAT WOMEN MARCHED IN THE NATION FOR AND WHAT MANY CONTINUE TO MARCH, PROTEST AND RALLY AND RAISE THEIR VOICES BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE IS GOING TO DO IT FOR THEM.

I AM HERE, WE ARE HEAR TO LISTEN AND TO BE LED BY WHAT WE HEAR FROM YOU.

YOUR LIVED EXPERIENCES, YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS, YOU ARE THE EXPERTS.

AND YOU HAVE ALWAYS INFORMED BY ADVOCACY AND THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE TRUE AS I HEAD TO WASHINGTON BECAUSE THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THE PAIN SHOULD BE THE CLOSEST TO THE POWER DRIVING AND INFORMING THE POLICY MAKING. A LITTLE HOUSEKEEPING, TONIGHT, WE'LL HEAR TESTIMONY REGARDING SYSTEMIC TRAUMA AND CITY RESOURCES PUT IN PLACE TO MITIGATE IT.

GIVEN THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF WHAT HAS BEEN SHARED WE HAVE PROVIDED SPACE IN THE CURLY ROOM FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS TISSUES OR A MOMENT AWAY FROM THE STORIES THEY'RE SHARING OR HEARING.

BEFORE I FINISH, I WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF CENTRAL STAFF AND TWO INCREDIBLE DEDICATED MEMBERS OF MY A-TEAM LOSING IN THIS SPACE, DENISE WALLACE AND LOUIS VOLA AND WE'VE BEEN JOINED BY A NUMBER OF CITY OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE ACTIVELY LISTENING HERE THIS EACH NING.

YOU WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE

FRONTLINE WORK DONE EVERY DAY,
STREET WORKERS, THE PEACE
INSTITUTE, WE ARE BETTER
TOGETHER, MOTHERS FOR JUSTICE
AND EQUALITY, MOMS DEMAND
ACTION, VIOLENCE IN BOSTON,
SURVIVORS, WOMEN SURVIVORS OF
HOMICIDE, WE NEED TO KNOW,
LIPSTICK, LIP GLOSS, MARK SCOTT,
CLERGY AND MANY MORE NOT ON THE
LIST AND MANY HERE TODAY.

I'LL FIND THE LIST BECAUSE I
WANT YOU TO HEAR WHO IS ACTIVELY
HEAR TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO --
HERE TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO
SAY.

LET'S CALL UP THE FIRST PERSON
TO TESTIFY, ALICIA GILLIARD.

>> WE HAVE BPS.

CHIEF MART CONSALVO AND
REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BOSTON
POLICE DEPARTMENT AND COLLEAGUES
AND FROM BPD WE HAVE WILBUR
MORALES FROM BCIF.

YOUR NAME AND WHAT IS YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD.

>> I'M ALICIA GILLIARD IN THE
GROVE HALL AREA SO DORCHESTER IS
MY COMMUNITY AND ROXBURY AND
ANYTHING IN BOSTON CONNECT TO
DORCHESTER IS CONNECT TO MY
COMMUNITY.

I'M HERE TO TESTIFY ABOUT THE
IMPACT OF TRAUMA AND MY
COMMUNITY BY THE HAND OF POLICE
BRUTALITY.

IN 2016 I WAS ARRESTED AND BY
JASON ROVANO OF THE BOSTON
POLICE DEPARTMENT THAT WAS IN
2016.

AND IN 2018 THE SEPTEMBER THAT
JUST PASSED, I HAD A JURY TRIAL
AND FOUND NOT GUILTY ON ALL NINE
ASSAULT AND BATTERIES ON POLICE
OFFICERS, RESISTING ARREST, A
AND B DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND THE
IMPACT MUCH THAT TRAUMA HAS HAD
ON MY FAMILY AND OTHER MEMBERS
OF MY COMMUNITY THAT SUFFER FROM
THIS VIOLENCE THAT ARE PUT ON US
BY THE BOSTON POLICE OFFICERS IN
OUR CITY IS FEAR, DEPRESSION,
ANXIETY, TO KNOW YOU CANNOT CALL
ON WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE

PROTECTING YOU IN YOUR COMMUNITY
IS DISHEARTENING.

IF I SEE A BOSTON POLICE
OFFICERS OR PLAIN-CLOTHED
I RECORD SO I KNOW CAN GET HOME
SAFE OR IF NOT SAFELY I CAN HAVE
THE INTERACTION ON CAMERA.

I WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE BODY
CAM TRIALS AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY OR A BIG
MISTAKE OR MISUNDERSTANDING.
730 DAYS BACK AND FORTH TO
COURT.

I'LL END WITH END IT LIKE THAT.
THE D.A. PROSECUTED ME AND TOOK
ME TO TRIAL AND COULD HAVE USED
THE COMMONWEALTH RESOURCES@g
BETTER AND I'M A COLLEGE P%
AND WILL WRAP UP ON SERVICES AND
GO ON TO A BACHELORS TO LAW.

I'M HERE NOR
VICTIMS OF POLICE BRUTALITY IN
MY COMMUNITY.

NEXT WE'LL HEAR FROM CHRISTIAN
WHITE.

>> I GREW UP ON HUMBOLDT AVE I'M
FROM THE ROXBURY SIDE.

AROUND THE AGE OF 13 I BECAME
INVOLVED IN THE GANG LIFESTYLE
BUT WHAT I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT
IS MENTAL HEALTH AND THE LACK OF
RESOURCES IN OUR COMMUNITIES
ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

IT'S BEEN MY EXPERIENCE AND I
TELL PEOPLE THIS ALL THE TIME I
SUFFERED EVERY FORM OF ABUSE YOU
COULD IMAGINE AND I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND THEN BUT NOW I
UNDERSTAND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS
AND ANXIETY AND I FOUND I WAS
PRIMED FOR THE STREET SO MANY
YEARS BEFORE I FOUND MYSELF ON
EITHER SIDE OF THE TRIGGER AND
SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FACED
WITH SITUATIONS EVERY DAY WHERE
IT'S NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT
EXACTLY THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND
THE BACK STORIES.

SO MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE CAME FROM,q
MY p[Ñ
NASHUA STREET AND THERE'S A
WHOLE BACK STORY THAT COMES FROM
THAT.

FOR ME PERSONALLY, I WAS

SENTENCED FOR A FIREARM IN MY OWN WAY I TOOK CONTROL OF MY OWN MENTAL HEALTH AND I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH MY THINKING.

I DIDN'T NECESSARILY KNOW HOW TO FIX IT BUT KNEW SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE AND BEGAN TO ADDRESS IT AND I STARTED LOOKING AT EVERYONE AROUND ME AND GREW UP WITH AND STARTED UNDERSTANDING THEY WERE JUST LIKE ME.

THEY MAY HAVE DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES BUT IN TERMS OF THE PAIN AND THE WAY WE INTERPRET FEAR, ANXIETY AND FEAR WE GREW UP IN A CULTURE WHERE IF YOU BECAME DEPRESSED YOU READ A BOOK OR!

WE GREW UP WHERE IF YOU WERE DEPRESSED YOU LOOK SOMEONE IN THE FACE AND CAUSE THEM HARM UNTIL YOU DON'T FEEL THAT ANYMORE.

WHEN I BEGAN TO ADDRESS MY MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IT BECAME MORE IN MY FACE WHEN I WENT BACK OUT IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS.

I WENT OUT IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS AND BEEN A SINGLE DAD FOR A YEAR NOW AND I STARTED UNDERSTANDING IT'S NOT JUST ENOUGH TO BE ACCOUNTABLE TO MY PAST TO BE A GREAT DAD AND UNDERSTANDING I DON'T CONTROL THINGS THAT HAPPEN TO ME BUT THE WAY I RESPOND TO THEM.

SHOWING HIM THAT TO BE A GREAT MAN MEANS WE NEED TO WORK ON REAL SOLUTIONS.

YOU READ THAT LIST.

AND EVERYX0DVQP) I KNOW TWO AND THREE PEOPLE ON THAT LIST AND THERE'S SO MUCH MORE AT THE HEART OF IT AND I KNOW KIDS WHO SAVE HALF THEIR LUNCH SO THEY'LL HAVE DINNER AND THE TRAUMA IS RE-OCCURRING.

PEOPLE ARE WAKE UP FEELING TRAUMATIZED EVERY MOMENT. SOMETIMES IT COULD BE A PAT DOWN OR A SCHOOL TEACHER THAT SAYS SOMETHING BUT THE POINT IS AND I FELT DEVALUED LONG BEFORE I

ENDED UP IN THE GANG LIFE, LONG BEFORE THAT.

AND MY FATHER SAID CHRISTIAN, I CAN'T AFFORD YOU ANYMORE, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE SO WE ENDED UP WITH MY UNCLE AND MY UNCLE'S A PASTOR AND I GREW UP IN A HOUSE WITH NO MORALES BUT I HAD SOMETHING PUT ON ME TO GO TO FOSTER CARE TO FEEL A LITTLE BIT OF THE NORMAL, A LITTLE BIT OF THE DYSFUNCTION.

THAT'S WHAT SO MANY YOUNG KIDS FACE.

IN A LOT OF WAYS FOR LACK OF A BETTER WAY OF SAYING IT THEY'RE ADDICTED TO THE TRAUMA. I'VE BEEN GOING OUT IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS AND TRYING TO COME TO MEETINGS LIKE THESE AND IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT FIRST STEPS, I WISH WE'D HAVE THIS IN GROWTH HALL.

AND HOW CAN WE TRULY HELP YOU INSTEAD OF LOCKING YOU AWAY. I'VE BEEN LOCKED AWAY MANY TIMES AND CAME OUT MORE VICIOUS THAN EACH TIME UNTIL I TOOK CONTROL AND TURNED IT AROUND.

WE NEED TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND WE NEED TO BOMBARD THESE NEIGHBORHOODS.

I THOUGHT I GREW UP IN THE GHETTO OR HOOD BUT I'M GROWING UP WHERE THERE'S AN EPIDEMIC OF UNRECOGNIZED MENTAL HEALTH. THAT'S WHAT IT IS.

I FEEL IF WE CAN BEGIN TO TEACH THESE KIDS THEY HAVE VALUE, THEY'LL VALUE THEMSELVES HIGHER AND WON'T SEE AS TAKING A LIFE AS EASIER TO DO.

THEY'LL STEP BACK AND SAY LET ME TAKE 10 SECOND AND THAT COULD BE THE LIFE OF A VICTIM AND A LIFE OF PRISON.

THAT'S HOW I FEAR.

>> I'M SORRY, THIS IS LISTENING ONLY BUT I HAVE ONE QUESTION, WHAT IS YOUR SON'S NAME?

>> CHRISTIAN WHITE, SAME AS ME.

>> LUCKY MAN.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING AND FOR BEING FRANK AND OFFERING

SOLUTIONS WHICH IS WHAT WE'RE
LOOKING FOR TODAY.

CHRISTINE SMITH.bb

>> WELCOME TO THE PEOPLE'S
HOUSE.

>> I'M CHRISTINE SMITH.

I'VE BEEN AFFECTED BY GUN
VIOLENCE.

MY SON WAS A VICTIM OF GUN
VIOLENCE AND ONE OF THE
THINGS -- AND HE IS A SURVIVOR.

I SEE THE FALLOUT OF THE TRAUMA
AND PTSD.

THIS HAPPENED YEARS AGO AND HE'S
STILL UNCOMFORTABLE BEING IN
PUBLIC PLACES.

HE WAS SHOT IN THE THOMAS SQUARE
AREA, BROAD DAY LIGHT.

HE DIDN'T GET HELP FROM
POLICE BECAUSE THEY SAID HE
WASN'T A COOPERATIVE VICTIM
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LET THEM KNOW
WHO SHOT HIM.

BUT THE FEAR OF
BLAZENNESS COULD BE MISTAKEN
IDENTITY.

I DON'T KNOW TO THIS DAY.

ALL I KNOW IS THE FALLOUT OF THE
TRAUMA AND IT WAS WELL, IF HE'S
NOT COOPERATE RATING AND IF
THEY'RE BOLD ENOUGH TO PULL A
GUN OUT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AND
START SHOOTING, I WAS SCARED FOR
HIM.

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO THE
PERSON IS AND HE'S GOING TO GO
TO HIS GRAVE WITH IT.

HE'S SCARED OF RETALIATION AND
GOT IN SERVICES FROM THE D.A.
OFFICE, FROM MENTAL HEALTH OR
ANYBODY BECAUSE THEY SAID HE
WASN'T COOPERATE RATING.

-- COOPERATING.

HOW CAN YOU EXPECT YOUNG KIDS TO
COOPERATE?

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PROTECT
THEM.

NO ONE WAS THERE TO PROTECT MY
SON.

THAT WAS MM YEARS AGO AND THE
ORGANIZATIONS YOU READ OFF I'VE
WORKED WITH THEM TO GET BETTER
TOGETHER AND MYSTIC AND
DIFFERENT THINGS ABOUT THE GUN

VIOLENCE.

WILL IT'S DEVASTATING.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN FOR
A SOLUTION OR MAYBE SOME GUN
CONTROL.

IT'S A DEVASTATING SITUATION.

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME EVER BEING
AT ONE OF THESE PLACES.

>> YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB.

>> I APPRECIATE YOU ALL.]S

THANK YOU, AGAIN, FELICIA,
CHRISTIAN AND CHRISTINE.

J.D. DAVIS WOULD YOU STILL LIKE
TO TESTIFY?

JUST YOU YOUR NAME AND WHATEVER
COMMUNITY YOU'D LIKE TO
AFFILIATE.

>> I'M J.D. AND LIVE IN UPLANDS
CORNER AND NOT ORIGINALLY FROM
BOSTON BUT I LIKE LIVING IN THE
CITY RIGHT NOW.

SO I'M HERE TODAY BECAUSE ON
BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION AND WE
ARE HEAR BECAUSE WE BELIEVE OUR
VOICES MATTER AND THE VOICES OF
WOMEN CHILDREN, IMMIGRANTS,
REFUGEES THE MOST VULNERABLE
PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES
MATTER.

AS WITH THE JUST FORCE CAMPAIGN
WE'RE HERE TO SPEAK ON PART OF
HER BEHALF.

SAHAM BAYA IS A SINGLE MOTHER
AND FROM MOROCCO AND SOUGHT
ASYLUM FOR HER SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL VIEWS AND WAS A
BELOVED ACTIVIST FOR THE 19
YEARS SHE RESIDED IN THE STATE.

WHILE LIVING IN THE U.S. SHE
CARED FOR HER SON, ATHEM AND WAS
THE FRONT-LINE ORGANIZER AGAINST
POLICE BRUTALITY, INEQUALITY AND
RACISM.

HER LIFE WAS NOT AND IS NOT
VALUED BY THE STATE.

WHEN SHE WENT IN FOR A ROUTINE
CHECK-IN FOR ICE SHE WAS
DEPORTED AND SEPARATED FROM HER
SON.

THIS ACT OF BRUTALITY HAS CAUSED
MUCH TRAUMA TO SAHAM AND ATHEM
AND TO THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY
AND COMMUNITY WHO LOVED HER.
TO SEE HOW THE STATE RIPPED HER

BY HER SON AND DENIED HER FOR
HER ASYLUM CASE HAS BROKEN MANY
HEARTS BUT PLACED BEFORE US AND
THE COMMUNITY AROUND IS AN
ANYTHING HATCH HAS -- ECONOMY
COMMUNITY HAS MOBILIZED AND
WE'VE TARGETED DCF FOR THEIR
INCONSISTENT AND NON-TRANSPARENT
PRACTICE.

WE CHALLENGE THEIR LACK OF
ACTION TO REUNIFY THEM AND END
THEIR COMPLICITY IN THE FORM OF
HARM TO THE VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN
THE COMMUNITY.

HER STORY IS NOT UNCOMMON.
SHE IS UNFORTUNATELY, ONE OF
MANY IMMIGRANT WOMEN OF COLOR
ACROSS THIS NATION WHO HAVE BEEN
VIOLENTLY SEPARATED FROM HER
FAMILY AND TRAUMATIZED BECAUSE
OF IT.

-- TRAUMATIZED.

YOU, AYANNA PRESSLEY HAVE
POSITIONED YOURSELF AS A
CHAMPION OF CHANGE AND
PROGRESSIVE IDEAL AND HAVE
OPENED THIS FORUM FOR THE PUBLIC
TO SPEAK OUT AND ASKING YOU AND
YOUR ADMINISTRATION TAKE
DEFINITIVE AND BOLD ACTION TO
BEGIN A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION
INTO THE PRACTICE THAT
CULMINATED IN HER UNJUST
DEPORTATION AND ASK YOUR
ADMINISTRATION BEGIN A PROCESS
WITH COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO
ENSURE OUR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE
FAMILIES ARE PROTECTED IN THE
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.
ONCE AGAIN, HAVE YOU OPEN THE
AVENUE TO LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE
AND SO WE ARE ASKING YOU COMMIT
TO ACTION.

YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME AT OUR
NEXT ORGANIZING MEETING THIS
WEDNESDAY EVENING AT 7:30 AND
WORK WITH US TO WIN JUSTICE NOT
IN THE ABSTRACT BUT IN THE FELT,
REAL AND CONCRETE LIVED FASHION.
THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.

>> THANK YOU, J.D.

WE THANK YOU, J.D.

>> WOULD ANNISSA BOOKER STILL
LIKE TO TESTIFY?

.
>> JUST YOUR NAME AND THE
COMMUNITY YOU'D LIKE TO
AFFILIATE.
>> I GREW UP IN ROXBURY AND LIVE
IN DORCHESTER.
I FINISHED MY CERTIFICATION.
>> CONGRATULATIONS.
>> I'M HERE BECAUSE I LOST MY
SON IN 2003 DUE TO A
HIT-AND-RUN.
HE WAS ONLY 15 YEARS OLD.
HE JUST GRADUATED MIDDLE SCHOOL
AND HE WAS HIT A MONTH LATER AND
DRAGGED 30 FEET UNDER THE WHEEL
OF THIS MAN'S TRUCK HE HAD HIS
LICENSE REVOKED EIGHT TIMES.
THE TRAUMA FROM THAT IMPACTED MY
WHOLE FAMILY.
THE COMMUNITY.
PEOPLE WERE REACHING OUT.
THE MAN WHO HIT MY SON WAS
ARRESTED AFTER THEY GAVE HIM THE
FOUR TO FIVE DAYS TO TURN
HIMSELF IN.
WE DON'T KNOW IF HE WAS ON DRUGS
OR ALCOHOL.
WE'LL NEVER KNOW.
HE WAS RELEASED ON BAIL AND
CHARGED WITH A HIT-AND-RUN.
INJURY OF A PERSON.
MY SON LAID UP IN A HOSPITAL
FROM JULY 31 TO AUGUST 4 WHEN I
HAD TO MAKE THE DECISION TO TAKE
MY FIRST BORN CHILD OFF LIFE
SUPPORT.
THIS MAN THEY BROUGHT HIM BACK
INTO COURT AND UPGRADED HIS
CHARGES TO HIT-AND-RUN THAT
CAUSED DEATH AND LET HIM TO GO
ON A \$5,000 BAIL.
AND I'M MAKING PLANS TO BURY MY
CHILD.
AFTER GOING BACK AND FORTH TO
THE OFFICE I CALLED THE D.A.
BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN MONTHS SINCE
I HEARD FROM THEM AND WHEN I
CALLED THEY TOLD ME HE HAD LEFT
THE COUNTRY FOUR MONTHS AGO.
AFTER I PLED AND CRIED AND
PLEADED WITH THE JUDGE TO TAKE
THIS MAN'S PASSPORT FROM HIM AND
SHE TOLD ME BLATANTLY, NO.
AND THE JUDGE NOT TAKING HIS

PASSPORTS AND STILL TO THIS DAY
I GO ACROSS THE STREET TO THE
D.A.s OFFICE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S
GOING ON WITH MY SON'S CASE.
THEY SAY LEAVE YOUR NAME AND
NUMBER AND WE'LL GET IN TOUCH
WITH YOU.
IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS.
NOBODY'S CONTACTED ME.
I TOOK THE DRUG ADDICTED MOM AND
HE'S NOW 15.:e
HE HAS SO MANY MENTAL HEALTH
PROBLEMS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN
ADDRESSED FROM THE TIME HE WAS 6
AND NOW HE'S 16 AND I JUST HAD
TO PUT HIM IN A RESIDENTIAL.
I'VE NEVER WANTED TO PUT ANY OF
MY KIDS IN THE GROUND OR THE
MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY OR
RESIDENTIAL I DON'T FEEL THE
SYSTEM IS WORKING IN ANY WAY.
THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, DCF, THE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH,
I'VE HAD PSYCHIATRISTS FOR MY
GREAT NEPHEW.
I THINK SIX SINCE HE WAS 6.
THERAPISTS, PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAM,
SINCE HE WAS 6.
THANK GOOD -- GOD FOR ONE JUDGE
SIX MONTHS AGO I ASKED HIM JUST
PLEASE HELP ME.
HELP ME BEFORE I LOSE HIM TO THE
SYSTEM.
BEFORE SOMEBODY KILLS HIM,
BEFORE HE HURTS SOMEBODY ELSE
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HIM, IT'S
NOT ADHD.
STOP GIVING HIM ADHD MEDICATION
BECAUSE SOMETHING ELSE IS WRONG
WITH MY CHILD.
FINALLY HE GOT HIS NEUROLOGICAL
PSYCH EXAMINE, IF THIS WAS DONE
AT 6, 7 YEARS OLD HE COULD HAVE
RECEIVE THE HELP HE DESERVED
THEN.
MY 15-YEAR-OLD HAS AN I.Q. OF
71.
15 YEARS OLD READING ON A THIRD
GRADE LEVEL.
HE CAN'T EVEN SPEAK A FULL
SENTENCE.
IT TAKES HIM FIVE MINUTES TO
ANSWER A QUESTION AND ALL
BECAUSE THE SYSTEM MENTAL

HEALTH, DCF, THE SYSTEM WOULDN'T HELP US.

11 YEARS AGO, ALL I ASKED WAS FOR HELP.

AND HE'S DOING FOURTH GRADE MATH.

HIS I.Q. IS 71 AND HE'S IN THE NINTH GRADE.

WE NEED HELP.

HE NEEDS HELP.

OUR CHILDREN NEED HELP BECAUSE OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE AND WITHOUT THEM WE HAVE NO FUTURE.

ALL THESE YOUNG ADULTS ARE OUR FUTURE.

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING TO HELP THEM, AND GET THE HELP WE NEED AND GET THEM THE EDUCATION WE NEED, WHERE ARE WE GOING TO BE? WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO BE?

I'M HERE TO SAY, AYANNA PRESSLEY YOU'RE A REALLY GOOD PERSON. YOU FIGHT AND YOU CONTINUE TO FIGHT AND I APPRECIATE YOU GOD'S BLESSED YOU WITH MANY MANY GIFTS AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICES.

AND THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.

-- SAY.

>> THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TESTIMONY AND ALL YOU SHARED.

I YOUR SON WHO WAS A VICTIM OF THE HIT-AND-RUN.

>> HARRIS JERROD BOOKER.

OKAY.

THANK YOU.

ALL RIGHT.

WOULD MEL APDY JOSEPH STILL LIKE TO TESTIFY?

I'M SORRY IF I'M BOTCHING NAMES HERE.

I ALSO JUST -- IS MILL ANDA JOSEPH HERE?

OKAY, GREAT.

AND I DID WANT TO JUST TAKE A MOMENT SINCE JUST ACKNOWLEDGE AND SAY HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE THAT WE HAVE SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE JOINING US HERE THIS EVENING.

AND I HOPE SOME OF YOU WILL WANT TO TESTIFY.

IF NOT, I'M GRATEFUL YOU'RE
HERE.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN
TESTIFYING, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU
SEE SOMEONE OVER HERE.

OKAY?

SO WE CAN GET YOUR NAME.

OKAY.

VERY GOOD.

AND I DID WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE
MARCH FOR OUR LIVES, BECAUSE I
DIDN'T ACKNOWLEDGE THEM EARLIER,
MARCH FOR OUR LIVES BOSTON.

OKAY.

TAKE YOUR TIME.

TAKE YOUR TIME.

ALL RIGHT.

AND SO YOUR NAME AND WHATEVER
COMMUNITY AFFILIATION YOU'D LIKE
IT SHARE.

>> HI.

GOOD DAY, EVERYONE.

THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING ME.

MY NAME IS MILAN JOSEPH AND I AM
REPRESENTING MATTAPAN.

I AM HERE TODAY AND I THANK YOU
VERY MUCH FOR HAVING THIS FORUM
TO DISCUSS ABOUT THIS TRAUMA
SITUATION THAT WE HAVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY WHICH HAS AFFECTED A
LOT OF US AND TRAUMA, I'M GOING
TO SAY, IT'S VERY BROAD.

AND IT'S SOMETHING -- I DON'T
KNOW HOW WE'RE GOING TO SOLVE
THIS SITUATION, BUT IT'S VERY
BROAD THAT, LIKE I SAID.

IT'S AFFECTING PEOPLE IN CERTAIN
SITUATIONS.

SO, I'M HERE TODAY.

MY TWIN BROTHER -- IT'S BEEN 12
YEARS SINCE HE'S BEEN MURDERED.
HE WAS SHOT BY LEAVING WALGREENS
ON MORTON STREET WALKING.
AND THEN HE RAN AND FELL BY THE
HOUSE.

AND HIS MURDER HAS NOT YET BEEN
SOLVED.

I CAN'T SAY, CAN WE SOLVE IT.

THERE'S A PILE OF CASES OUT
THERE THAT HAVE NOT BEEN SOLVED.
BUT I'M ASKING AND I WANT TO
HELP.

I WANT TO SIT DOWN WITH MY
REPRESENTATIVES, WITH MY

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WHO DO AWESOME WORK -- THANK YOU -- I WANT TO HELP.

I WANT TO MAKE THIS WORK, WITH THE POLICE OFFICERS.

WE TALKED ABOUT BODY CAMS.

LET'S TRY TO REFOCUS THAT AND IMPLEMENT THAT SOMEHOW.

WE TALKED ABOUT WE NEED TO LOOK INTO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

THERE'S NOT -- FOR INSTANCE, I HAVE MY DAUGHTER.

I MEAN, SHE SEES THE -- SHE'S SEEN THAT SHE LOST HER UNCLE.

SHE'S TRYING SO HARD.

SHE'S GOING TO COLLEGE.

SHE'S IN COLLEGE.

DID SHE SUFFER FROM TRAUMA?

YES.

DOES SHE SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION?

YES.

JUST FOR HER TO GET MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, THERE WAS NOTHING AVAILABLE.

THERE WAS NO -- THERE WAS THE -- THE CAPACITY WAS NOT THERE.

SO NOW IT'S LIKE THEY HAVE TO GIVE HER A LIST OF PLACES WHERE SHE COULD GO TO GET MENTAL SERVICES.

EVEN I WENT FOR MENTAL SERVICES JUST TO SIT DOWN WITH SOMEBODY TO TALK TO.

SHE -- THEY COULDN'T EVEN RELATE TO ME.

I'M LIKE WHAT AM I HERE FOR?

[LAUGHS]

SHE'S LOOKING AT ME LIKE, ALL RIGHT.

WHAT'S NEXT?

SO, IF WE COULD LOOK INTO THAN, BECAUSEZ THERE'S NOT VERY MUCH -- LIKE THE HEALTH CENTERS, THE CAPACITY'S NOT THERE.

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH PRACTITIONERS ON BOARD TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES FOR US.

AND IF WE COULD IMPLEMENT COUNSELORS, SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE SCHOOLS AS WELL TOO FOR OUR CHILDREN WOULD BE GREAT AS WELL TOO.

ANOTHER THING IS TO THINK ABOUT HOW WE COULD -- THE COMMUNITY,

OUR REPRESENTATIVES, OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHERE WE COULD SIT ON THE TABLE AND TALK TO THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND OUR POLICE OFFICERS AND SEE HOW WE COULD TRY TO REFRAME OUR WAYS -- THEIR WAYS OF APPROACHING A CERTAIN SITUATION.

YOU KNOW, THERE'S WAYS TO ASSESS THAT.

I THINK IT CAN HAPPEN IF WE REALLY SIT DOWN WITH EACH OTHER AND DISCUSS WAYS THEY COULD IMPLEMENT TO AVOID CERTAIN SITUATIONS WHEN IT COMES TO --

>> SHE'S JUST OFFERING YOU SOME BACKUP SUPPORT.

>> OH.

KAY.

ALL RIGHT?

SHE CAN GIVE YOU A HUG, HOLD YOUR HAND.

>> OKAY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> OKAY?

SO, IF WE COULD IMPLEMENT AND LOOK INTO THE POLICE OFFICERS THE WAY THEY ADDRESS A CERTAIN SITUATION.

I KNOW THEY DO AWESOME WORK.

I HAVE FAMILY WHO ARE POLICE OFFICERS, YOU KNOW?

BUT I GIVE THEM CREDIT.

I GIVE EVERYBODY CREDIT, BUT THERE'S SOME WRONG AND THERE'S SOME BAD.

SO, HOW DO WE ADDRESS THAT SITUATION?

HOW DO WE SIT AT THE TABLE AND SAY, ALL RIGHT, FINE, YOU KNOW, HOW DO YOU APPROACH THIS CERTAIN SITUATION?

YES, WE DEAL WITH PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM TRAUMA, MENTAL ISSUES.

HOW DO WE APPROACH THESE PEOPLE WHEN WE'RE TALK WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND WE SEE SOMEBODY SCREAMING, WITHOUT PULLING OUT A GUN AND SAYING, HEY, LISTEN?

HOW DO THEY ASSESS THAT SITUATION?

LET'S TAKE A STEP BACK AND --

YOU KNOW, SO THEY CAN REVISIT

THIS.
I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
IT'S THE SAME WAY THAT THEY WENT
TO TRAINING TO BECOME A POLICE
OFFICER, SO, WHY CAN'T THAT --
WHY CAN'T THEY JUST TAKE A LOOK
AT THAT AND SEE HOW THEY
APPROACH CERTAIN SITUATIONS IS
THAT WE'RE DEALING WITH RIGHT
NOW?
I'M WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND
PROVIDE MY FEEDBACK.
I'M WILLING TO DO SO.
FURTHERMORE, WE TALKED ABOUT
BODY CAM.
WE TALKED ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH.
IMPLEMENTING MORE PRACTITIONERS
IN THE HEALTH CENTERS RIGHT NOW
AND HOPEFULLY HEALTH INSURANCE
COULD COVER THAT AS WELL TOO
BECAUSE IT'S VERY IMPORTANT,
BECAUSE THAT IS A ISSUE AS WELL
TOO.
HOW WE COULD IMPLEMENT ALL THAT
TOGETHER IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS
WORK, BECAUSE TRAUMA, IT IS --
IT HAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN
THE HEALTH INSURANCE.
AND FURTHERMORE, UM -- YEAH, AND
I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE
AWESOME WORK THAT YOU'RE DOING,
AND I STILL STAND WITH YOU AND
EVERYBODY ELSE, MY CITY COUNCIL,
MY CITY OFFICIALS THAT I'M VERY
MUCH FAMILIAR WITH.
AND YOU'LL SEE ME WORKING IN
MATTAPAN.
OKAY?
>> GOOD.
AND I STAND HERE STRONGLY AND
FIGHT AND FOR MY TWIN BROTHER
WHO PASSED AWAY WHO WAS
MURDERED, I SHOULD SAY, 12 YEARS
AGO, AND I -- ONLY HE KNOWS WHY
I STAND HERE AND WHY I'M SO
PASSIONATE ABOUT MY COMMUNITY IN
MATTAPAN, BECAUSE I LOVE MY
COMMUNITY.
>> WILL YOU JUST SAY YOUR
BROTHER'S NAME ONE MORE TIME?
>> MY BROTHER'S NAME --
TAKE YOUR TIME.
MY BROTHER'S NAME IS JOSEPH,
MY BROTHER.

>> I DON'T WANT US TO FORGET.
I NO HE THAT THAT'S HARD.
BUT I DON'T WANT US TO FORGET.
OKAY?

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU AGAIN, EVERYONE.
YOU'VE JUST BEEN SO BRAVE.
AND THANKS TO EVERYONE HERE FOR
CREATING SUCH A SAFE SPACE TO
SHARE THEIR STORE'S SO CANDIDLY,
SO PAINFULLY.

WE'RE ALSO OFFERING VERY
THOUGHTFUL RECOMMENDATIONS.

ALL RIGHT.

I CAN'T READ THE FIRST NAME.

IS IT A MS. OR MR. DIALLO?

DIALLO?

STILL INTERESTED IN TESTIFYING?

FIRST NAME BEGINS WITH AN "R."

OKAY.

IS THAT ONE OF YOU?

YOU NERVOUS?

COME ON.

COME FORWARD, YEAH.

THAT'S OKAY.

[APPLAUSE]

WE'LL HAVE SOMEBODY -- COME ON.

>> OKAY.

GOOD.

ALL RIGHT.

>> HI.

MY I LIVE IN EAST BOSTON BUT
I GO TO SCHOOL IN DORCHESTER.
I JUST WANT TO TALK ABOUT, LIKE,
WHY I THINK VIOLENCE IS
HAPPENING IN MY COMMUNITY I LIVE
AND I THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF,
LIKE, LACK OF RESOURCES AND ALSO
MENTAL HEALTH.

LIKE, IF YOU DON'T FEEL GOOD
ABOUT YOURSELF, I THINK IT'S
ABOUT DEPRESSION AND HOW WE ARE
TAUGHT TO FEEL ABOUT OURSELVES
AND HATING OUR OURSELVES.
AND LACK OF RESOURCES AND STUFF
THAT WE DON'T HAVE.

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU.

SO, THAT'S YOUR -- WHAT YOU WANT
TO LIST UP AS A SOLUTION IS
BETTER ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES AND MORE RESOURCES FOR

THE COMMUNITY.

>> YES.

OKAY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TESTIMONY.

[APPLAUSE]

OKAY.

WILSON WYNN.

>> I'M HERE.

YEAH, ALL THESE YOUNG PEOPLE,
THEY COULD HAVE BEEN ANYWHERE
ELSE BUT HERE.

[APPLAUSE]

>> HELLO.

I AM WILSON WYNN.

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THERE'S SO
MUCH THINGS THAT GO INTO, LIKE,
VIOLENCE.

PEOPLE TALK ABOUT ACCESS TO IN
GENERAL.

AND ONE THING I WANT TO TALK
ABOUT IS, LIKE, PROBABLY
PARTICIPATION AND THE REASON
BEING IS GROWING UP IN BOSTON, I
LIVED HERE FOR LIKE MOST OF THE
MY LIFE, LIKE, 11 YEARS OR SO,
AND WHAT I NOTICED THAT, LIKE,
YOU KNOW, I JUST SEE THE PEOPLE
THAT I WENT TO MIDDLE SCHOOL
WITH.

THEY'RE JUST GETTING PUSHED
TO -- LITERALLY, I'M LIKE LET'S
HANG OUT, DO SOMETHING.

AND THEY'RE LIKE, I DON'T LIVE
IN BOSTON ANYMORE ACTUALLY
BECAUSE MY FAMILY CAN'T AFFORD
TO.

AND I'M JUST, LIKE, SEEING IT.

AND IT'S JUST SO CRAZY, LIKE.

JP -- LIKE MY FRIENDS FROM JP
CAN'T LIVE THERE ANYMORE.

LIKE, THE COST OF LIVING IN
BOSTON HAS JUST INCREASED SO
MUCH, EVEN IN MATT.

SPRAYING WILL WHICH -- MATTAPAN
SURPRISINGLY.

PEOPLE WANT TO BUILD ALL THIS
ESTABLISHMENT AND KICKING PEOPLE
OUT.

AND IT'S NOT FAIR FOR, LIKE --
AND ALSO, BY THE WAY, I RESIDE
IN GROVE HALL.

AND IT'S NOT FAIR TO SEE THAT,
LIKE, IN GROFHALL, LIKE, FOR
EXAMPLE, THE APARTMENTS, THEY

ARE ABLE -- EVEN THOUGH, LIKE,
THERE'S, LIKE, GUNSHOTS, LIKE,
LITERALLY, LIKE, SOMETHING GOES
DOWN AND A LIFE IS, LIKE, LOST,
BUT YET WE STILL HAVE
COMMUNITIES, LIKE, YOU KNOW, THE
APARTMENTS, WHERE THEY
CONTINUE -- HOMES, DA LAKE NO
VIE -- LIKE NO VICELENCE, NO
LOUD NOISES OR HOW PEOPLE ARE
LIKE -- NO POLICE SIGNS --
SOUND.

AND YOU KNOW, THE COMMUNITY,
WE'RE DOING STUFF TO, LIKE,
CREATE LIKE A SAFE COMMUNITY
BUT YET, LIKE, IT IS CRAZY TO
SEE, LIKE, MORE -- LIKE, MORE
AND MORE PEOPLE ARE, LIKE,
MOVING OUT AND CAN'T -- AND
BUILD SO MUCH TO, LIKE, IN OUR
COMMUNITY AND, LIKE, THEY'RE
GETTING KICKED OUT.

SO MY SOLUTION FOR
GENTRIFICATION AND POVERTY IS WE
NEED TO REGULATE ZONING LAWS AND
MAINTAIN, LIKE, YOU KNOW, THE
FAMILY COMMUNITIES THAT ARE
LIVING THERE AND ALSO I AM NOT
SURE THE TERMINOLOGY OF IT, BUT
JUST, LIKE, HAVE LAWS THAT
PREVENT, LIKE, THE LANDLORD TO,
LIKE, INCREASE THE RENT.

ALL OF A SUDDEN FAMILIES WHO
LITERALLY -- LAST YEAR, MY
GODMOTHER, SHE USED TO LIVE, YOU
KNOW, IN NICE AREAS NEAR ADAM
STREET.

NOW SHE HAS, LIKE, HAD TO MOVE
CLOSER TO -- AND I JUST SEE IT
AS NOT FAIR.

AND I DON'T WANT, LIKE, MORE
FAMILIES TO MOVE INTO, LIKE,
UNSAFE NEIGHBORHOODS WHEN THEY
ALREADY ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY --
A SAFE COMMUNITY AND A SAFE
SPACE.

>> WE'RE STILL LISTENING.

YEAH, NO.

THAT WAS IT FOR, LIKE, MY PART.

>> OKAY.

THANK YOU --

.
I APPRECIATE YOUR TESTIMONY.
AND YOUR SOLUTIONS AS WELL.

>> THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> ALL RIGHT.

WOULD LaVELLE DUKE STILL LIKE
TO TESTIFY?

LaVELLE?

GREAT.

WELCOME.

AND WE'RE JOINED BY MARY
FRANKLIN, WOMEN'S SURVIVORS OF
HOMICIDE, WHICH WE DID THANK YOU
EARLIER FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION,
YOUR EFFORTS, MARY.

SO WE APPRECIATE YOUR JOINING
US.

>> GOOD EVENING.

DNG.

MY NAME'S LaVELLE FOLKS.

I'M A LIFELONG BOSTON RESIDENT.

I LIVE IN MATTAPAN AT THE
MOMENT.

I'VE BEEN THERE FOR ABOUT THE
PAST TEN YEARS BUT I GREW UP IN
GROVE HALL.

SOME BACKGROUND FOR ME.

SO, I WAS DEBATING WHETHER I
SHOULD COME UP.

SO, I JUST HAVE TO ADD I'M ALSO
A PART OF WHAT THE NEIGHBORHOOD
TRAUMA TEAMS.

I WORK IN THE ROXBURY REGION.

THAT'S MY AREA.

BUT SPEAKING TOWARDS THE TRAUMA,
LIKE I SAID, I GREW UP IN BOSTON
MY WHOLE ENTIRE LIFE.

I'M VERY FAMILIAR WITH TRAUMA.

LIKE, CHRISTIAN SAID, FROM BOTH
PERSPECTIVE AS A VICTIM WHO THEN
BECAME A VICTIMIZER.

SO THAT PARADIGM SHIFT IN MY
LIFE.

BUT I SAT AND I LISTENED
TONIGHT, AND I LISTENED TO A
LOT.

AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I
ALWAYS COME TO IN ANY PROBLEM
IS, LIKE, REALLY LOOKING AT THE
PROBLEM AND CALLING A PROBLEM
WHAT IT IS.

AND SO AS I SIT YOU THE HERE AND
I ISWILLEN TO WHATER WOO TALKING
ABOUT, TRAUMA, RIGHT, WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT GUN TRAUMA, WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT VIOLENCE, THAT

TRAUMA.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE TRAUMA
OF ECONOMIC DISPARITIES,
EDUCATIONAL DISPARITIES, MENTAL
HEALTH DISPARITIES, BUT AS I PAN
THIS WHOLE ENTIRE AUDIENCE, WHAT
I DO SEE IS, IN THE CITY OF
BOSTON, WHICH IS VERY DIVERSE,
THE VAST MAJORITY OF THIS ROOM
IS OF COLOR.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

AND SO WE TALK ABOUT TRAUMA.
WE TALK ABOUT HOW TO AFFECT
TRAUMA, BUT WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE
TRAUMA DOESN'T AFFECT EVERYONE
THE SAME.

THERE WAS AN INCIDENT IN SOUTH
BOSTON.

I'M ONLY USING SOUTH BOSTON
BECAUSE THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT
RESONATED WHERE THERE WAS A
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT AND A
YOUNG CHILD WAS KILLED IN THAT
ACCIDENT, AND THEN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD MOBILIZED AROUND
THAT.

IT WAS A REALLY GOOD
MOBILIZATION.

RIGHT?

AND IT WAS BEAUTIFUL.

AND I THINK THE SAME THING CAN
HAPPEN IN ALL OF THE AREAS OF
COLOR IN SOUTH BOSTON'S TOO.

THERE'S MANY SPANISH, MANY
BLACKS.

SO THE CITY IS VERY DIVERSE.
BUT I THINK ATTACKING IT FROM
THE ROOTS OF WE'RE CHRISTIANS
SAYING WE'RE GOING TO START SO
SEARLEY, THAT'S SOMETHING WE'RE
NOT TALKING ABOUT, BECAUSE WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT HOW PEOPLE FEEL.

RIGHT?

AND THE SENSE OF SELF WORTH.
AND I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO
HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE TO
HAVE A LACK OF SELF WORTH.

RIGHT?

AND SO A LOT OF OUR BROWN BOYS
AND GIRLS ARE GETTING THINGS
TO -- AREN'T GETTING THINGS TO
MAKE THEM FEEL GOOD ABOUT
THEMSELVES.

RIGHT?

EDUCATIONALLY, ECONOMICALLY,
ENVIRONMENTALLY.

THIS IS NOT A BASH ON THE
POLICE, JUST AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

I GREW UP IN GROVE HALL.

I REMEMBER BEING STOPPED
CONSTANTLY.

RIGHT?

WHERE YOU GOING?

WHERE YOU COMING?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING AROUND HERE?

WHEN YOU'RE 12 AND 13, YOU KNOW

WHAT I'M SAYING, THAT AFFECTS
YOU.

IT AFFECTS HOW YOU FEEL LIKE --

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

YEAH.

>> THE WOMAN IN HERE'S SON DID
NOT WANT TO COOPERATE.

RIGHT?

BECAUSE I DON'T FEEL LIKE

THEY'LL PROTECT ME.

WELL, WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE POLICE
AND THAT INDIVIDUAL?

RIGHT?

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?

DON'T PAINT A PICTURE TO OF

EVERYBODY BEING ANGELIC AND

EVERYBODY IN THE COMMUNITY BEING
DEVILISH.

PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE.

IT'S JUST HOW WE ARE TEACHING
PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH EACH OTHER,
HOW WE'RE TEACHING PEOPLE HOW TO
SEE EACH OTHER.

AND ONE OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES
WITH MY COMMUNITY IS WE HAVE TO
TEACH EACH OTHER HOW TO SEE EACH
OTHER IN A BETTER WAY.

RIGHT?

TO SEE EACH OTHER AS MORE

THAN -- I'M NOT GOING TO UD THE

WORD, THE "N" WORD, AS MORE THAN
THE "B" WORD, RIGHT, FROM OUR

FEMALES.

OR THAT'S MY DAWG, ALL THESE
OTHER THINGS THAT ARE NOT MEN,
THAT ARE NOT WOMEN.

RIGHT?

THAT DON'T SHOW YOUR HUMANITY.

AND WE STRIP SO MUCH HUMANITY

AWAY FROM EACH OTHER

CONSISTENTLY.

AND TO JUST FOCUS -- LASER
FOCUSED ON MY COMMUNITY, RIGHT,
THE SENSE OF SELF-WORTH IS NOT
BEING INSTILLED IN ANY OTHER
ARENAS AS WELL.
RIGHT?
YOU GO TO SCHOOL.
YOU'RE NOT HEARING HOW GREAT YOU
WERE.
RIGHT?
YOU LOOK OUT YOUR WINDOW.
YOU'RE NOT SEEING GREAT BUSINESS
PEOPLE.
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S A BUNCH OF
PROFESSIONALS.
BUT WE'RE ALL AT WORK ALL DAY.
WE'RE NOT OUT THERE TO SHOW
EVERYBODY THERE'S OTHER WAYS TO
DO THINGS, TO TEACH THESE OTHER
YOUNG MEN WHO TRAUMA HAS CREATED
THIS WOUND WHERE THEY CAN JUST
CONTINUE TO LIVE OFF OF HATE, TO
LIVE OFF DESPAIR, TO LIVE OFF OF
HOPELESSNESS.
BUT WE HAVE TO CREATE A SPACE TO
GET AT THAT HOPELESSNESS.
AND SO, I DON'T WANT TO JUST
FOCUS ON THE TRAUMA.
ALL OF THIS STARTED EARLY.
HATED MYSELF.
IT WAS EASY TO HATE ANYBODY ELSE
WHO LOOKED LIKE ME BECAUSE I
HATED MYSELF.
FROM MY HOUSE, WHICH HAD NOTHING
DO WITH THE SYSTEM.
I WAS IN MY HOUSE.
PEOPLE WEREN'T TELLING ME MY
VALUE.
THEN GOING OUT AND IT JUST
CONTINUES TO REINFORCE AND
REINFORCE.
AND THEN WHEN YOU THROW TRAUMA
ON IT, WELL, YOU GOING TO HAVE A
REAL PROBLEM ON YOUR HANDS,
BECAUSE ALL THAT ANGER, ALL THAT
AGGRESSION HAVE BUILT UP.
I DAMN SURE DON'T WANT TO FEEL
IT ALL DAY SO I'M GOING TO GIVE
IT TO SOMEONE ELSE, LIKE
CHRISTIAN SAID.
AND I THINK WE HAVE TO START,
OBVIOUSLY, DEALING WITH TRAUMA,
REACHING OUT, GIVING PEOPLE THE
RESOURCES, BEING MORE AVAILABLE,

LETTING PEOPLE KNOW WE'RE IN THE SPACES AND PLACES THAT THEY'RE AT, BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THESE SPACES AND PLACES THAT WE ARE ALL AT. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I THINK WE HAVE SO LOOK PAST THE THINGS THAT WE'RE SEEING BECAUSE THOSE ARE THE SYMPTOMS.

RIGHT?

WHEN I START SNEEZING, I'VE ALREADY BEEN SICK.

YOU'RE JUST SEEING ME SNEEZING RECOGNIZING THE SICKNESS COMING OUT OF ME.

THE SICKNESS IS ALREADY THERE.

HOW DO WE GET IN OUR COMMUNITY AND HELP BUILD THAT?

THAT TAKES A LOT MORE WORK.

AND THANK YOU FOR THIS.

THANK EVERYONE FOR BEING HERE FOR THIS.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, EVERYBODY, BECAUSE EVERYBODY HAS TO BE AT THE TABLE BECAUSE WE ALL HAVE A VESTED INTEREST.

BUT I THINK WE HAVE TO LOOK AT IT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF RECOGNIZING THE TRAUMA THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IS REALLY FOCUSED ON PARTICULAR GROUPS, NOT ALL GROUPS.

WHEN I TALK ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE IN OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF COLOR AND WHAT IT IS THAT MAKES THE COMMUNITIES RESPOND SO QUICKLY TO DOING THAT INSTEAD OF ANOTHER ROUTE.

THERE'S OTHER WAYS.

SO I JUST WANTED TO LET ALL OF YOU --

>> I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE I HAVE IF RIGHT FOR MY NOTES.

SO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT VIOLENCE AS A BYPRODUCT OF OTHER THINGS.

>> YES.

SYSTEMS BUT ALSO CULTURE.

YES.

AND IT REMINDS ME OF A SIMILAR HEARING LIKE THIS WHERE A PSYCHOLOGIST SAID THAT WE

SHOULDN'T JUST FOCUS ON
MITIGATING TRAUMA BUT WE SHOULD
FOCUS ON INFORMING JOY.

>> YES.

AND SO, I REALLY FEEL LIKE
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT.
AND I ALSO APPRECIATE WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING AROUND LANGUAGE.
THAT SAME PSYCHOLOGIST SAID TO
ME WE SHOULD STOP REFERRING TO
OUR COMMUNITY AS THE HOOD
BECAUSE WE TOOK OUT THE WORD
"NEIGHBOR."

>> ABSOLUTELY.

COMMUNITY, COMMON UNITY.
IF I COULD SAY ONE MORE THING.
FOR ANYONE WHO USES THE TERM
"GHETTO," GHETTO IS A PLACE THEY
PUT JEWISH PEOPLE IN WORLD WAR
II.
PEOPLE CAN'T BE GHETTO.
THAT'S DOG WHISTLES FOR CALLING
THAT'S ACTING A CERTAIN WAY THAT
THEY'RE ACTING BLACK IN A
NEGATIVE WAY.

SO, PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T USE
THAT TERM, "GHETTO," ANYMORE,
PLEASE.

>> ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU YOU, LaVELLE.
AND WHILE MY COLLEAGUE -- WHAT?
OH.

OKAY.

I'M STILL CALLING NAMES.

OKAY.

I WAS JUST SAYING THANK YOU TO
MY COLLEAGUE FOR CONTINUING TO
MAKE SURE THIS FEELS LIKE A SAFE
SPACE.

FOR PEOPLE TO SHARE WHAT THEY
ARE SHARING.

SO, WE JUST HEARD FROM
LaVELLE.

AND I THINK NEXT ON THE LIST IS
LOLITA PARKER JR., AND THEN
WE'LL HEAR FROM FLORENCE CALAN.

OKAY?

LOLITA PARKER JR.?

WOULD YOU STILL LIKE TO TESTIFY?

OH.

OH, THERE YOU ARE!

[LAUGHTER]

>> FIRST IBB WANT TO SAY
SECRETARY IT YOU TO ALL THE --
FIRST, I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU
TO ALL THE FAMILIAR FACES THAT
SHOW UP EVERY TIME AND EVERY
TIME AND EVERY TIME.
EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ME,
MAYBE I'VE SEEN YOU.
MY NAME IS LEE LETA -- LOLITA
PARKER JR.
I LIVE IN THE WEST END.
BUT MY HEART IS IN LOWER
ROXBURY.
I'VE BEEN A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR 50
YEARS, AND I RECENTLY PUT MY
CAMERA DOWN TO BE ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE CAMERA.
I CAME HERE IN 1993 FROM
LOS ANGELES, HAVING A VERY
SERIOUS TRAUMA HISTORY.
AND I ENDED UP IN A SHELTER IN
EAST BOSTON, MOVED TO UP ENDS
CORNER WHERE I HAD BEEN
ORGANIZING IN LOS ANGELES.
I WAS THERE FOR THE RISE OF THE
CRYPTS AND THE BLOODS.
I EXPERIENCED A LOT OF POLICE
VIOLENCE MYSELF AS A YOUNG
PERSON.
AND -- BY THE LAPD HIGHWAY
CONTROL, L.A. COUNTY SHERIFFS.
SO I KNOW WHAT THAT'S ABOUT.
SO I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED
TO ACT ON A LIFE THAT I WAS
GOING TO MAKE FOR MYSELF INSTEAD
OF REACTING TO THE VIOLENCE THAT
I HAD GROWN UP IN AND AROUND.
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT LIVING IN UP
A.M.'S CORNER BECAUSE I HAD
GROWN UP PRIOR TO THE L.A.
REBELLION AND I CAME HERE IN
'94.
WHEN I GOT OUT OF THE SHELTER,
THE FIRST PLACE WE CAME TO LIVE
THROUGH THE HELP OF PROJECT HOPE
WAS UPHAM'S CORNER WHERE I CAME
AN ORGANIZER FOR UPHAM'S CORNER
MAIN STREET.
I WAS ASKED TO ORGANIZE PEOPLE
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
SO I DID THAT.
WHEN I LEFT, I ORGANIZED THE
MEETING AND I WOULD BE THE ONLY
PERSON OF COLOR IN THE ROOM

EVERY SINGLE TIME.
I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE A LOT OF
TIME BUT I WANT TO SET THE
BACKGROUND SO WHEN I TALK ABOUT
THE RECOMMENDATIONS, THEY MAKE
SENSE.

>> OKAY.

THERE WAS SO MUCH GOING ON IN
UPHAM'S CORNER IN 95, '96, '97.
BUT WE HAD A PHENOMENON THERE
WHICH I'VE SEEN OVER THE CITY
MANY TIMES WHERE THERE'S A
NEIGHBORHOOD ON THE HILL, THIS
CASE IT WAS JONES HILL, AND
THERE'S THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT'S
SURROUNDING THE HILL AND THE
PEOPLE ON THE HILL WANT TO KEEP
THE PROPERTY VALUES SO THEY KEEP
SAYING WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND
THE HILL, THIS TIME BEING
HANCOCK, STOUGHTON, DORCHESTER
AVE., COLUMBIA ROAD.
THOSE ARE ABERRATIONS.
I'M LIKE, ABERRATIONS DON'T
HAPPEN EVERY OTHER DAY THIS IS A
PATTERN.

I WAS SHUT DOWN.

NO ONE LISTENED IT ME.

I ORGANIZED A MEAT.

I GOT THESE YOUNG MEN --
MEETING.

I GOT THESE YOUNG MEN TO COME TO
THE MEETING.

SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SORT
OF THE MOTHERS AND FATHERS,
SELF-ASSIGNED OF MOTHERS AND
FATHERS OF UPHAM'S CORNER, CAME
UP TO ME AND SAID, WHAT ARE THEY
DOING HERE?

I SAID, YOU TOLD MAYTO ORGANIZE
A MEETING -- TOLD ME TO ORGANIZE
THE A -- A MEETING.

THEY SAID THEY'RE NOT WELCOME.

THAT'S WHEN I KNEW I WAS DEALING -- THEY WERE PERCEIVED
GANG MEMBERS SO THEY WERE NOT
WELCOME INTO A COMMUNITY MEETING
WHERE THEY WERE ENGAGED AND
LOOKING AT THE HISTORICAL -- I'M
ALSO AN ORAL HISTORIAN --
LOOKING AT THE HISTORICAL
ARCHIVES I HAD BROUGHT FORWARD
FOR THIS MEETING.

SO, I WANT TO SAY I -- I GOT IN
A LOTTERY, MOVED DOWNTOWN, BUT

DURING THAT TIME, I'M SOMEONE WHO WAS HIGHLY DISSOCIATIVE BUT ALSO HIGH FUNCTIONING, SO IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE TO SEE HOW MUCH PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS I WAS IN BECAUSE I COULD DO REALLY WELL IN PUBLIC, BUT AT HOME I WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON. AND THAT, I'M SURE, I'M SEEING A LOT OF HEADS NODDING.

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

AND SO, IT'S VERY HARD -- WHEN YOU'RE A HIGH-FUNCTIONING PERSON, AKA A BLACK WOMAN IN AMERICA, PERSON OF COLOR IN AMERICA --

[LAUGHTER]

RIGHT?

[APPLAUSE]

WHEN YOU'RE HIGH FUNCTIONING AND YOU GO INTO THE SPACES FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, THEY'RE LIKE, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU.

RIGHT?

OR IT'S EITHER THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU OR THEY MINIMIZE WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU OR THEY HAVEN'T HAD THE EXPERIENCE OF WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, AND SO WHATEVER -- HOWEVER IT GOES, YOU DON'T GET HELP.

TIVES FIRST, FORTUNATELY, UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS -- I WAS AN OUTPATIENT AT THE LINDERMAN CENTER IN THE EARLY '90s.

AND IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT GOING THERE.

BUT I WAS ALWAYS VERY TRIFEN.

THE REASON I WAS SO HIGH FUNCTIONING IS BECAUSE I WANTED MY CHILDREN TO -- I WANTED TO BREAK SOME GENERATIONAL CYCLES OF ABUSE.

THAT'S WHAT I'M ALL ABOUT, BREAKING GENERATIONAL CYCLES ABUSE.

SO, I WENT TO THE LINDERMAN.

I LEARNED COGNITIVE HE DID BEHAVIORAL THERAPY 10 NEXT, ALL OF THESE DIFFERENT THINGS, SO ON AND SO FORTH.

AT THE SAME TIME WHEN I WOULD GO INTO THE HEALTH SINCE -- AND

THIS IS MY POINT -- AND I WOULD
HAVE TO ADVOCATE FOR MYSELF.
I WOULD GO IN THE HEALTH CENTERS
WHERE I COULD STILL GET BADLY
TRIGGERED IN THE DENTIST'S
CHAIR, EYE EXAM, YEARLY
PHYSICALS.
I COULD STILL REALLY GET
TRIGGERED IN THOSE SPACES.
AND I HAD TO ADVOCATE FOR
MYSELF.
AND IN THE BEGINNING, I'VE BEEN
DOING THAT SINCE '96, EYES WOULD
ROLL.
PEOPLE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
BUT I JUST KEPT AT IT, BECAUSE I
AM NOT SOMEONE WHO'S GOING TO
LET OTHER PEOPLE'S IGNORANCE
ABOUT OUR COLLECTIVE TRAUMA KEEP
ME FROM GETTING THE HELP I NEED.
I'M NOT -- I'M JUST NOT THAT
ONE.
SO, I KEPT ADVOCATING FOR
MYSELF.
AND OVER THE YEARS, I HAD -- I,
AS THE PERSON WHO NEEDED HELP,
HAD TO TRAIN THE STUDENTS WHO
COME FROM BOSTON ALL OVER THE
WORLD, THEY COME HERE TO GET
TRAINED, I HAD TO TRAIN THEM
ABOUT WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN CASE I
STARTED DISASSOCIATING IN THE --
DISSOCIATING IN THE CHAIR.
I LIKE TO SAY I TRADED IQ POINTS
FOR EQ.
VERY SMART BUT I HAD TO FIGURE
OUT WAYS TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF
WHILE I'M BEING TAKEN CARE OF.
SO, FIVE DAYS AGO, I SHOW UP AT
THE BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER IN THE
DENTAL DEPARTMENT TO GET A MOLAR
PULLED.
I HAD MY DENTIST WHO HAS BEEN
WORKING WITH ME.
I MEAN, IT TOOK ME YEARS TO BE
ABLE TO SIT THROUGH A TEETH
CLEANING, YEARS.
I CAN DO THAT NOW.
IT SOUNDS SMALL, BUT I CAN DO
THAT NOW.
SO I GO TO THE HEALTH CENTER.
I TELL THEM I HAVE A HISTORY OF
PTSD.
BEFORE IT'S OVER -- AND I TELL

THEM I HAVE -- IT TAKES A LONG
TIME TO NUMB ME UP.

SO I HAD FOUR PEOPLE TRY TO NUMB
ME UP.

THEN I HAD THE STUDENT DENTIST
WHO WAS IN MY MOUTH AND I'M KIND
OF FREAKING OUT AND THERE WAS
ANOTHER GIRL OVER HERE.

SO, FINALLY, HERE COMES THE -- I
DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS TITLE IS --
AND HE GOES WHAT'S WRONG WITH
YOU?

IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD.

I SAID, UNLESS IT'S IN MY TOOTH.

HE SAID, WAIT, THIS IS -- I'M
NOT USED TO DEALING WITH THIS
KIND OF PERSON.

SO IN THE END, I GET MY MOLAR
EXTRACTED, BUT BY THE TIME IT'S
OVER, THERE ARE ABOUT EIGHT
PEOPLE IN THE ROOM ALL LOOKING
DOWN AT ME AND THE MAN WHO IS
PULLING MY TOOTH -- NOW, I CAN'T
SAY ONE BAD WORD ABOUT HIS
ABILITIES.

HE WAS ABLE TO DO IT WELL.

THE FUMBLING AROUND WITH THE
STUDENT WASN'T WORKING.

I KNEW THAT SHE -- AS HARD AS
SHE WAS TRYING, SHE WAS TOO
NERVOUS.

SO HE WAS ABLE TO EXTRACT MY
TOOTH.

BUT HE KEEPS TELLING ME WHAT'S
WRONG WITH ME IS ALL IN MY HEAD.

LIKE, I -- AND I'M TRYING -- I'M

TRYING TO, LIKING, HOLD IT
TOGETHER IN THE CHAIR AND LISTEN
TO WHAT HE'S SAYING BECAUSE I AM
GOING TO FILE A COMPLAINT.

BECAUSE I'VE ASKED OVER THE
YEARS -- I'VE HAD TO ASK
INTERN --

>> LET ME KNOW WHAT YOUR
RECOMMENDATION IS.

>> YES.

WE WANT TO HEAR --

I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY.

NO, THIS IS OBVIOUSLY VERY
INFORMATIVE AND YOU'RE HELPING A
LOT OF PEOPLE RIGHT NOW.

I'M SO APPRECIATIVE OF YOU
HONESTLY.

I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE

ABLE TO HEAR FROM THE OTHER
VOICES THAT ARE HERE AS WELL.

>> THIS IS THE POINT.

THE POINT IS THAT I'VE -- IT'S
FUNNY YOU STOPPED ME.

I WAS GOING TO SAY IT.

HOW MANY TIMES I HAVE HAD TO ASK
A STUDENT WHAT TRAINING THEY
HAVE HAD IN PTSD, ESPECIALLY
STUDENTS WHO ARE SERVING IN
SETTINGS.

TIME AFTER TIME, THEY SAY THEY
DON'T KNOW.

THEY HAVEN'T HAD ANY SPECIFIC
TRAINING ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH
PEOPLE COMING IN EXCEPT TO
MINIMIZE.

THEY HAVEN'T TOLD ME THAT BUT
THAT'S JUST WHAT'S HAPPENED TO
MAY.

SO WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE
HAPPEN, I'VE HEARD OVER AND OVER
AGAIN, MENTAL HEALTH IS AN ISSUE
HERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHO HAS OVERSIGHT
OVER BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER, BUT
THAT'S A PLACE TO START.

FIGURING OUT WAYS THAT THE CITY,
THE HOSPITAL THAT MANY PEOPLE GO
TO IN THIS -- YOU KNOW WHAT I'M
TRYING TO SAY.

>> YES, ABSOLUTELY.

THAT -- THAT THEIR ISSUES
WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, THAT
THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ATTENDING TO
THEM HAVE BEEN PROPERLY TRAINED
IN PTSD, MORE THAN JUST A
CHAPTER IN THE BOOK, YOU TAKE A
TEST, YOU MOVE ON.

>> YEP PTSD TRAUMA INFORMED
CARE.

>> YES.

AND THERE WAS A PERSON WHO
TALKED ABOUT EDUCATION.

I WANTED TO SAY THAT AT ROXBURY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, A WOMAN -- A
PROFESSOR RHONDA GRAY WHO WAS AN
ENGLISH PROFESSOR THERE, SHE'S
USING TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE
IN HER CLASSROOM BECAUSE
OFTENTIMES WHEN SHE DEALS WITH
RCC STUDENTS WHO ARE COMING AND
WRITING LOT OF TRAUMA COMES OUT
IN WRITING AND SHE'S SEEING THAT

OVER THE YEARS.
SO THIS IS ANOTHER PLACE WHERE,
IN THAT CASE, IT'S THE STATE,
BUT THERE'S A DIRECT CORRELATION
BETWEEN THE PEOPLE WHO WORK
THERE AND THE PEOPLE THAT THEY
SERVE.

AND I -- I'VE SAID A LOT.
AND I -- I -- I HOPE THAT --
LIKE I SAID, WHOEVER DOES HAVE
OVERSIGHT OF -- WHAT IS THAT?
BOSTON UNIVERSITY?

IS THAT WHERE BOSTON MEDICAL
CENTER PEOPLE COME --
>> THERE'S MIXTURE OF YOUR
DICTION OF ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE
SPOKEN ABOUT TODAY, BUT THAT
MAKES SENSE BECAUSE WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT SYSTEMS.

>> RIGHT.
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT THE CITY
HAS -- SOME INPUT INTO.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

LL RIGHT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> YOU SAID A LOT, AND WE
RECEIVED A LOT.

OKAY?

[LAUGHTER]

SO THANK YOU SO MUCH, LOLITA.

[APPLAUSE]

OKAY SO NOW WE'LL HEAR FROM
FLORENCE.

>> HI.

HOW ARE YOU TODAY?

>> HI, FLORENCE.

THANKS FOR JOINING US.

JUST YOUR NAME AND HOWEVER YOU
WOULD LIKE TO AFFILIATE YOUR
COMMUNITY.

>> MY NAME IS FLORENCE CALAN.

I LIVE IN MATTAPAN.

I'M HERE REPRESENTING THE CENTER
FOR TEEN EMPOWERMENT, WHICH IS
AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL JUSTICE
WORK FOR US TO BUILD OUR
COMMUNITY FROM WITHIN.

I'M 17 YEARS OLD.

I'VE BEEN INVITED TO MORE
FUNERALS THAN I HAVE COLLEGE
GRADUATIONS OR HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION.

S.

I'VE WITNESSED SO MANY OF MY FRIENDS, MY FAMILY, JUST PEOPLE THAT I SEE ON THE STREET BEING ARRESTED, BEING KILLED AS A RESULT OF GUN VIOLENCE.

AND I JUST WANT TO SAY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A YOUNG BLACK GIRL WHO DOESN'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT ANYTHING BECAUSE OF MY AGE, BECAUSE OF MY LACK OF EXPERIENCE, I WANT EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND THAT SITTING DIRECTLY IN A ROOM WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THINGS FOR ME MEANS A LOT.

HAVING YOU GUYS AS EYE CONTACT AND HAVING THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING BECAUSE OF MY ABILITY TO SPEAK SO WELL AND READ AND WRITE MEANS A LOT.

THE EDUCATION THAT I GET FROM A SCHOOL THAT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A VOTING -- ROXBURY HIGH SCHOOL, THE EDUCATION THAT THEY GIVE ME THE ABILITY FOR ME TO SPEAK MEANS A LOT.

BUT THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES WITHOUT GETTING THIS ABILITY ALSO MEANS SOMETHING.

I KNOW SO MANY TEENAGERS THAT WERE ON PATHS TO SUCH, LIKE, GREAT PLACES THAT LOST THEIR LIVES JUST BY BEING IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.

JERROD BROWN WAS KILLED IN JAMAICA PLAIN JUST FOR HIS ASSOCIATION, JUST FOR BEING IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME DURING A FIGHT.

GUNSHOTS WENT OFF.

HE WAS 16 YEARS OLD.

PASSIONATELY IN LOVE WITH FOOTBALL, ATTENDING BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL, AND HE WAS NOT EVEN AFFILIATED WITH THE GANGS AND THE GUN VIOLENCE AND ANYTHING.

ABOUT JUST BEING IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME TOOK HIS LIFE AWAY FROM HIM BEFORE HE COULD EVEN REACH THE AGE OF 18.

MY SOLUTION IS EDUCATION.

SO MANY YOUNG BLACK STUDENTS HAVE GIVEN UP ON THEIR EDUCATION

BECAUSE THEY DON'T THINK THAT
THEY ARE WORTH ANYTHING.
WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THAT OUR
MINDS ARE WORTHLESS.
WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THAT OUR
VOICES DO NOT MATTER.
WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THAT THE
CYCLE WILL JUST CONTINUE AND ONE
INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.

WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE NARRATIVE
AROUND WHAT BLACK LIVES MEAN.
WE CAN SCREAM BLACK LIVES MATTER
FROM THE ROOFTOPS, BUT UNLESS
OUR ACTIONS ARE MATCHING THAT,
UNLESS OUR TEACHERS INSIDE OF
THE SCHOOLS, UNLESS WE'RE HAVING
COUNSELORS INSIDE THE SCHOOL
TELLING US WE MEAN SOMETHING,
THAT WHEN WE SPEAK UP, WE'RE NOT
JUST BEING NAGY.

WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING TO TALK
BUT OUR VOICES MATTERS, THAT'S
WHERE IT STARTS.

SO MANY YOUNG BLACK KIDS HAVE
GIVEN UP ON EDUCATION BECAUSE
THEY DON'T THINK THEY'LL MAKE IT
TO 18.

SO COLLEGE DOESN'T MATTER.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I DO IN
SCHOOL.

I WILL GET KILLED OUT THERE IN
THE STREETS ANYWAY.

WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THAT
EVERYTHING THAT WE DO INSIDE OF
THIS SYSTEM THAT THEY CALL
AMERICA WILL JUST LEAD TO OUR
DOWNFALL REGARDLESS.

WE NEED MORE EXAMPLES, LIKE
YOURSELF, TO TEACH US THAT HARD
WORK DOES PAY OFF.

, THAT WE'LL GET TO PLACES AND
POSITIONS, NOT NECESSARILY OF
POWER, BUT OF JUST SUCCESS, JUST
TO BE MORE EXAMPLES FOR KIDS
COMING UP.

LITTLE KIDS 6, 7 -- I HAVE A
LITTLE SISTER.

SHE'S 6 YEARS OLD.

SHE'S LOOKED ME IN MY FACE AND
TOLD ME, I'M UGLY.

I'M BLACK.

I'M UGLY.

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT SHE'S

TAUGHT.

INSIDE THE OF SCHOOLS, THE SAME
SCHOOLS THAT THINK THEY'RE
TEACHING US EVERYTHING CANNOT
TELL ME THAT I'M WORTH
SOMETHING, THAT MY SKIN MEANS
SOMETHING.

SO, EDUCATION IS WHAT I THINK IS
MOST IMPORTANT.

I THINK THAT TEACHING US WHAT IT
IS THAT WE SHOULD TEACH
OURSELVES, NOT NECESSARILY
WRITING OUR STORIES FOR US, BUT
GIVING YOU THE BOOK AND THE PEN
FOR US TO WRITE OUR OWN STORIES
IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

GIVING US THAT PUSH, THE
OPPORTUNITY AT LEAST FOR US TO
WRITE OUR OWN STORIES, FOR US TO
BE ABLE TO TELL OUR OWN STORIES
WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING JUDGED,
WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING SILENCED,
WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING TOLD THAT
OUR STORIES ARE UNIMPORTANT.

SO, THANK YOU, GUYS, FOR
LISTENING TO ME.

>> ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

[APPLAUSE]

ALL RIGHT.

WELL, EVERYBODY MARK THAT DATE
IN YOUR CALENDAR BECAUSE I JUST
THINK YOU MET A FUTURE SUPREME
COURT JUSTICE.

[LAUGHTER]

A PRESIDENT.

SOMETHING.

THANK YOU, MISS FLORENCE.

OKAY.

ALL RIGHT.

AND NOW WE'LL HEAR FROM -- LET
ME SEE HERE.

MISS AUGUSTA, AUGUST?

MISS MARASAMY?

OH, HERE YOU ARE.

I KNOW YOU.

COULDN'T RECEIPT READ YOUR --

COULDN'T READ YOUR WRITING.

OLD EYES.

GO ON.

GOOD WRITING BUT I HAVE OLD
EYES.

ALL RIGHT.

SAY YOUR NAME AND HOWEVER YOU
CHOOSE TO AFFILIATE COMMUNITY.

>> OKAY.

SO MY NAME IS NA AUGUST.
TODAY I WASN'T GOING TO TESTIFY,
BUT I FELT REALLY PASSIONATE
THAT I HAD TO.

I GREW UP IN BOSTON.

AND SO I JUST WANT TO GO AHEAD
AND -- I DON'T KNOW HOW TO
EXPLAIN THIS BECAUSE I DON'T
HAVE ANYTHING PREPARED.

SO, I'M JUST GOING TO TALK TO
THREE SMALL STORIES SO YOU GUYS
CAN UNDERSTAND.

SO, ONE DAY, I WAS GETTING OUT
OF SCHOOL FROM COLLEGE AND I HAD
A FRIEND OF MINE USE MY CAR.

AND HE'S BLACK MAN.

AND THIS IS SOUTH BOSTON.

SO I WAS FER HE WAS DRIVING --
SO HE WAS DRIVING INTO HARVARD
POINT AND -- AND I GET A PHONE
CALL FROM HIM, AND HE TELLS ME
THAT -- FOR ME TO COME TO THE
POLICE STATION.

SO I CAN -- I CAN SEE SOMETHING.
AND WHEN I GET TO THE POLICE
STATION, I SEE THAT MY CAR WAS
TORN UP BY A WHOLE BUNCH OF
BULLETS.

AND IT WAS TOTALED.

SO, THAT'S ONE STORY.

SECOND STORY.

I WAS IN THE CAR WITH MY BROTHER
DRIVING AROUND -- I FORGOT THE
STREET, BUT IT WAS IN ROXBURY.
AND JUST BECAUSE MY BROTHER WAS
A BLACK MAN IN THE CAR DRIVING
AROUND, HE GETS PULLED OVER.

AND FOR WHATEVER REASON,
EVERYTHING'S FINE IN THE CAR, SO
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE GETS PULLED
OVER.

WHEN THE COPS COME, THEY CHECK
OUT THE CAR.

AND I SAID TO THE COP, IS THERE
ANYTHING WRONG?

NO, HE'S JUST DOING A SEARCH.

SO, THAT'S THE SECOND STORY.

A THIRD STORY, I HAVE A YOUNGER
BROTHER, ABRAM AUGUST, WHO'S NOW
IN LAW SCHOOL.

ONE DAY, HE WAS JUST DRIVING IN
HIS CAR DOWN BY UPHAM'S CORNER
AND HE WAS BEING TAILGATED BY A

POLICE OFFICER.

AND HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE, SO
HE HAD TO CALL THE POLICE ON THE
POLICE TO LET THEM KNOW THAT HE
WAS BEING TAILGATED.

ACTUALLY HAVE ANOTHER STORY.

FOURTH STORY IS THAT I HAVE A
SMALL BUSINESS THAT I'M
OPERATING IN THE CITY OF
MATTAPAN, AND WITHIN THE PAST
THREE YEARS, I'VE BEEN
BURGLARIZED.

THE FIRST TIME WAS WITH A
GENTLEMAN WHO HAD KIND OF LIKE A
STICK WITH NAILS IN IT, AND I'M
RUNNING MY OPERATION, GETTING
INTO BUSINESS.

AND HE COMES IN TO BURGLARIZE
THE STORE.

I FEARED FOR MY LIFE.

AND I HAD TO DO THINGS TO TRY TO
TAKE THIS PERSON AWAY.

A GOOD THING HE GOT CAUGHT
BECAUSE THE COPS WERE CALLED AND
HE DID A PRIOR CRIME AT THE "T"
STOP.

AND A SECOND INCIDENT WAS WITHIN
THOSE THREE YEARS, MY SHOP GOT
BROKEN INTO, AND -- SO
THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, I'VE DEALT
WITH TRAUMA IN SOME WAY OR FORM.
AND SO -- JUST IN MY BUSINESS
ALONE, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT -- I
WANT TO STAY CLEAR IN WHAT I'M
SAYING.

IN MY BUSINESS ALONE, I'VE HAD
SO MANY DETECTIVES TRY TO COME
IN AND GET VIDEOTAPE, VIDEO
FOOTAGE OF CRIMES THAT HAPPENED
EITHER IN THE AREA OR -- OR
WITH.

MY PLACE.

AND I ASKED THE DETECTIVES,
LIKE, WHY DON'T THEY JUST -- YOU
KNOW, OBVIOUSLY, IT'S A
HIGH-CRIME AREA.

WHY DON'T THEY JUST HAVE A
SIMPLE CAMERA IN THE STREET TO
GET THEIR OWN FOOTAGE?

OH, THERE'S NOT FUNDING.

I'M JUST ONE OF -- ONE OF MANY
PEOPLE OF COLOR IN AND AROUND
THE CITY THAT DEALS WITH TRAUMA
IN A SMALL FORM OR EVEN IN -- IN

OTHER WAYS.

AND IT -- IT GOES UNNOTICED.

IT'S BYPASSED LIKE IT'S

SOMETHING NORMAL, BUT IT'S NOT.

AND YOU KNOW, I COULD -- COULD

HAVE DONE SOME OTHER STUFF TO

KIND OF DEAL WITH MY TRAUMA, BUT

I'M A STRONG PERSON, STRONG

WILLED.

AND I HAVE A GOOD HEAD ON MY

SHOULDERS, SO I CAN -- I DON'T

KNOW HOW TO REALLY EXPLAIN THAT,

BUT -- IT'S JUST -- EVERYBODY

WANTS TO FEEL SAFE IN THE CITY

THAT THEY LIVE IN.

AND SOME OF MY -- SOME OF THE

SOLUTIONS THAT I -- I'VE -- I'VE

COME UP WITH IS SIMPLE THINGS.

SO, AS I DRIVE AROUND -- SO,

LIKE, IN THE AREAS OF PEOPLE OF

COLOR, ONE THING THAT I -- I

DON'T NOTICE A LOT OF AND I --

YOU KNOW, IF I GO OUTSIDE MAYBE

LIKE SOUTH BOSTON OR, LIKE, BACK

BAY AREA OR, YOU KNOW, OTHER

AREAS THAT HAVE MORE FUNDING AND

INVESTMENTS, THINGS LIKE

GREENERY THAT CAN BE INVESTED

INTO -- INTO THE AREAS THAT

DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF

INVESTMENTS, SEEING FLOWERS,

KEEPING UP WITH CLEANING UP THE

CITY.

SECOND WOULD BE, LIKE,

INSTALLING CAMERA SYSTEMS IN THE

AREAS THAT ARE -- HAVE HIGH

CRIME RATE.

THE LAST CRIME -- THE LAST

BURGLARY, IT TOOK THE BURR

LAR -- THE -- BURGLAR, THE

GENTLEMAN BURGLARIZED THE STORE

45 MINUTES TO GET IN THE STORE.

SO WITHIN THAT 45 MINUTES IN A

LIT-UP AREA NEAR THE "T" STOP,

THERE WAS NOT ONE OFFICER THAT

CAME IN, THAT DROVE AROUND THAT

AREA TO STOP THAT CRIME.

45 MINUTES.

AND I LOOK THE AT THE FOOTAGE.

45 MINUTES AND THE GUY WAS JUST

STANDING THERE ATTEMPTING TO GET

INTO THE -- TO THE SHOP.

YOU KNOW, IT'S CRAZY.

SO, YEAH, SO, CAMERAS, SETTING

UP CAMERA SYSTEMS IN AND AROUND
THE CITY TO MAYBE DETER PEOPLE
AWAY FROM DOING CRIME.

AND ALSO, YOU KNOW, LIKE, MAYBE
HAVING LIGHTS OR LIGHTING UP THE
AREA A LITTLE BIT BETTER TO HELP
WITH -- WITH -- WITH CRIME.

I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S --

>> NO, IT IS.

ABSOLUTELY.

>> YEAH.

SO I THINK THAT'S IT.

THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.

>> THANK YOU.

AND THAT'S MY STORY.

I'M SO GLAD YOU TESTIFIED.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> SO, THANK YOU.

ALL RIGHT.

NOW WE'LL HEAR FROM CARRIE MAYS.

>> HELLO, EVERYONE.

GOOD EVENING.

>> GOOD EVENING.

SAY YOUR NAME AND HOW YOU
WOULD LIKE TO AFFILIATE YOUR
COMMUNITY.

>> MY NAME IS CARRIE MAYS.

I'M FEEP YEARS OLD.

I'M ALSO A REPRESENTATIVE OF
TEEN EMPOWERMENT.

AND I'M ALSO A SENIOR AT FENWAY
HIGH SCHOOL.

AND I'M JUST GOING TO READ A
TINY PIECE OF HOW I'VE BEEN
FEELING LATELY ABOUT THE
VIOLENCE.

YES, I AM BOSTON STRONG, BUT I
LIVE IN A MARGINALIZED AREA OF
WHERE BOSTON'S WRONG.

I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD YOUR SON
SAY IT.

AS A BLOODSHED OF MY BROTHER --
MY WISH IS TO MAKE IT TO 18.

HOW CAN I GO TO SCHOOL WITH GUT
SPILLED ON THE CONCRETE, NEXT
DAY IT'S CLEANED UP LIKE THERE'S
THERE WAS NOTHING TO SEE.

MY FEET WALK ON THE SAME
CONCRETE IN THE STREETS WHERE MY
BROTHERS BLEED.

THIS IS MY PTSD.

THIS IS OUR PTSD.

MAKING THE GROUND FEEL LIKE THE

REAL CEMETERY.
NOW GOING TO SCHOOL HAS BECOME
MY SANKTARY, WALKING PAST NEWLY
BUILT CONSTRUCTION SITES FROM
SIDE TO SIDE OF MY VIEW.
I KNOW THESE BUILDINGS ARE VIEW
BUT THE PRICES RING THE BELL
THAT THEY ARE NOT FOR YOU.
WISHING I COULD BREATHE THE
CRISP AIR, I SUFFOCATE FROM
GENTRIFICATION BEING IN THE
ATMOSS NEERP THEY'RE TRYING TO
PUSH US OUT WHEN WE'VE BEEN HERE
FOR AGES.
MY PEOPLE ARE NOT BUGGED SO WHY
DO I FEEL LIKE WE'RE THE ONES
UNDER EXTERMINATION?
I LIVE ON THE BORDER BETWEEN
DORCHESTER AND ROXBURY.
TWO WARDS COLLIDING SO SIMILAR
YET SO INDIFFERENT TO EMBRACE
THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE.
MY HOMETOWN IS FILLED WITH
INFINITY LIGHT AND BEAUTY BUT
IT'S OVERSHADOWED BY RACISM
WHICH CAUSES FOR IT TO BE
BLINDED BY DARKNESS.
MINDSET RUNS THROUGHOUT THE
PUBLIC SCHOOL'S HALLS.
METAL DETECTOR SCAN MY HUMANITY
BEFORE I WALK IN THE DOOR.
AND YOU I'M STILL NOT QUITE SURE
IF IT'S FROM MY SAFETY OR
PERPETUATE THE PERCEPTION THAT
I'M A CRIMINAL.
WHOEVER THE CRIMINAL IS, I KNOW
THAT I AM FAR FROM IT.
AND THAT'S JUST A PIECE THAT I
WROTE NOT TOO LONG AGO.
I FEEL LIKE WE'RE --
>> THANK YOU.
PLEASE.
YOU FORGOT TO SAY YOU WERE AN
ARTIST.
>> YES.
SO POWERFUL.
THANK YOU.
>> AND ALSO, I FEEL LIKE
SOMETIMES WE'RE ASKING THE WRONG
QUESTION WHEN IT COMES TO
APPROACHING GUN VIOLENCE, AND I
AM TALKING ABOUT -- I'M TALKING
0 ON BEHALF OF BLACK AND BROWN
CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY,

BECAUSE TRAUMA IS GUN VIOLENCE
AND ANY TYPE OF VIOLENCE IS NOT
JUST A SUBURBAN ISSUE.

I FEEL LIKE WE'RE ASKING THE
WRONG QUESTION.

WHERE ARE THE GUNS COMING FROM
WHEN WE SHOULD BE ASKING WHY ARE
THEY PICKING UP THE GUNS IN THE
FIRST PLACE?

I FEEL LIKE ONE OF THE SOLUTIONS
IS TO MAKE SURE TO STRENGTHEN
POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS
AND MAKING SURE THAT IT IS A HE
ARE QUIRMT WITHIN THAT
INSTITUTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT
THAT POLICE COMMUNITY
RELATIONSHIPS ARE STRENGTHENED
AND IT'S EVIDENT, AND FOR MAKING
SURE THAT THERE ARE BIASED,
RACIALLY BIASED TRAININGS AND
WORKSHOPS BEFORE THE POLICE
OFFICERS GO OUT ONTO THE STREET.
I ALSO FEEL LIKE PART OF THE
SOLUTION IS -- WE TALKED ABOUT
THIS BEFORE WE CAME TO WORK -- I
MEAN BEFORE WE CAME HERE AT
WORK.

WE SAID, WHAT IS THE BIGGEST
CAUSE OF VIOLENCE?

AND ALSO ONE OF THE BIGGEST
CAUSES IS LACK.

WHAT I MEAN BY LACK IS LACK OF
OPPORTUNITY, LACK OF SAFE
SPACES, LACK OF -- LACK OF JUST
RESOURCES, LACK OF FUNDING, LACK
OF INVESTMENT, LACK OF TEACHING
SELF-LOVE.

AND AS AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN YOUNG
WOMAN, I WAS NOT TAUGHT TO LOVE
MYSELF.

I WAS TAUGHT PAIN.

I WAS TAUGHT THAT I WAS WORTH
NOTHING, CONNECTING TO A FORCE
SAYING WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT
HURT PEOPLE?

HURT PEOPLE HURT PEOPLE.

>> HURT PEOPLE HURT PEOPLE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

>> AND SO I FEEL LIKE ONE OF OUR
SOLUTIONS IS TO INVEST IN MORE
SAFE SPACES, MORE YOUTH
DEVELOPED PROGRAMS, MORE YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT, BECAUSE
STATISTICALLY, IT IS PROVE THAN

IT LOWERS THE VIOLENCE -- PROVEN
THAT IT LOWERS THE A GUNNER GUN
VIOLENCE.

SO IF WE'RE NOT INTEGRATING AND
INVESTING IN WHAT IS WORKING,
THEN WHAT ARE WE REALLY DOING?
SO THAT IS MY SOLUTION TO INVEST
IN UNG WHY PEOPLE AND INVEST IN
MORE SAFE SPACES.

YOU CAN CLAIM IT.

>> HOW ABOUT THE ARTS?
AND THE ARTS.

[LAUGHTER]

>> ALL RIGHT.

[APPLAUSE]

[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, CARRIE.

OKAY.

NATALIE.

ALL RIGHT, NOW, ACCORDING TO MY
PAPER.

I'M GOING TO DOUBLECHECK,
NATALIE IS GOING TO BE THE FINAL
PERSON WHO HAS INDICATED SHE
WANTS TO TESTIFY.

OH, OKAY.

WE'VE GOT A NEW SHEET.

ALL RIGHT.

SO AFTER NATALIE, WE'LL HEAR
FROM MOBILE, STEVEN, AND
INDEERA.

MORE?

OKAY.

WE GOT YOU.

ALL RIGHT.

NATALIE, SO YOUR NAME AND
HOWEVER YOU'D LIKE TO AFFILIATE
YOUR COMMUNITY.

>> YEAH.

OKAY.

MY NAME IS NATALIE.

I WASN'T PLANNING ON SPEAKING
TONIGHT.

I'M ACTUALLY -- I ACTUALLY KIND
OF LOST MY VOICE BUT I GUESS I
STILL HAVE ONE.

SO, I WANT TO THANK THE PEOPLE
THAT HAVE SPOKEN TONIGHT,
BECAUSE YOUR BRAVERY AND YOUR
STRENGTH, I FEEL, IS WHAT IS THE
BASIS OF WHY OUR NATION IS
GREAT, AND I HONESTLY LOOK UP TO
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU,

BECAUSE I DON'T THINK I HAVE
YOUR STRENGTH.

I LOOK UP AT THE YOUNG GIRLS WHO
HAVE SPOKEN HERE TONIGHT, AND IT
HONESTLY BREAKS MY HEART TO SEE
CHILDREN COME UP AND BEG FOR
RESOURCES FROM A WEALTHY AREA.
JUST KNOW THAT YOU ARE AMAZING,
ONE.

TWO, PLEASE DO NOT EVER GIVE UP.
I JUST WANT TO SAY AS A RESIDENT
OF BOSTON THAT -- AND ALSO
SOMETHING THAT'S OBVIOUS BUT I
WANT TO SAY IT ON THE RECORD.
THE WHITE PEOPLE OF BOSTON NEED
TO STAND UP BECAUSE THE PEOPLE
OF COLOR --

[APPLAUSE]

-- IN BOSTON, THEY DID NOT DO
THIS TO THEMSELVES.
THEY HAVE BEEN PLACED THERE.
SO, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO
GET THEM OUT OF THERE.
SO, HONESTLY, I DON'T REALLY
DEAL WITH POLITICS, AND I REALLY
DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT,
BUT THE PEOPLE ON THE BOARD
WHO -- YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT
THESE CHILDREN, THAT THESE
FAMILIES, THAT THESE COMMUNITIES
ARE IN NEED OF YOU.

AND I'M HERE JUST BECAUSE I CAN
SAY THAT BECAUSE OF MY SKIN
COLOR, UNFORTUNATELY.
AND THESE PEOPLE NEED YOU.
SO I'LL PUT THAT ON THE RECORD.

>> THANK YOU.

I HOPE YOU FEEL BETTER.

THANK YOU, NATALIE.

[APPLAUSE]

OKAY.

IS IT MOBILE OR MOBILE?

>> MOBILE.

ALL RIGHT.

I KNOW YOU TOO.

I'M JUST ATROPHIED TODAY.

ALL RIGHT.

MOB.

MOBIL, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.

ALL RIGHT.

SO WE'LL TAKE YOUR TESTIMONY AND
AGAIN YOUR NAME FISH OFFICIALLY
FOR THE RECORD AND WHATEVER
COMMUNITY YOU'D LIKE TO TILL

YATE WITH.

>> I ALSO WASN'T PLANNING ON
SPEAK TODAY.

I'M GOING TO SIT BACK TO HAVE A
LOUD VOICE BUT MY NAME IS MOBILE
BERREL BY CHOICE.

CHRISTINE BURREL BY BIRTH.
I WASN'T GOING TO SPEAK BUT
AFTER HEARING EVERYBODY TALK
THERE'S SO MANY PARALLELS OF
LIVING IN ALABAMA AS WELL AS
LIVING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY WHERE THERE'S SO MANY
THINGS GOING ON WITHIN
COMMUNITIES AROUND VIOLENCE,
WITHOUT ACCESS TO DIFFERENT
SERVICES.

SO, SPEAKING FROM MY OWN
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, POLICE
BRUTALITY LACK OF MENTAL HEALTH
ACCESS IN COMMUNITIES I'VE GROWN
UP AND LOOKING AT MY EXPERIENCE
AS A PROFESSIONAL TRAINED IN
SOCIAL WORK AND WORKING IN
VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS WITH
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES TO
GET ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES AS WELL AS PROMOTE
KNOWLEDGE AROUND THOSE SERVICES,
THINGS I THINK OF ARE SERVICES
THAT MEANS BEING SPECIFIC TO THE
COMMUNITIES THAT WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT IN SERVING.

THERE'S A LOT OF THE PEOPLE WHO
SAT UP HERE BEFORE ME SPOKE
ABOUT UNIQUENESS OF SEARCHING
PEOPLE -- SERVING COMMUNITIES OF
COLOR, COMMUNITIES LIVING IN
POVERTY AND REALLY APPROACHING
THE WORK AND THE MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES FROM A PERSPECTIVE OF
THEM BEING THE KIND OF EXPERTS
OF THEIR LIVES AND EXPERTS OF
WHAT THEY NEED AND BEING ABLE TO
LIFT UP THE VOICES OF FOLKS WHO
ARE LIVING IN THE COMMUNITIES
THAT ARE SEEKING SERVICES AND
ACTUALLY PROVIDING THAT ACCESS.
A COUPLE OF THINGS I WORKED IN A
COUPLE OF DIFFERENT BOSTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND THE WAITLIST -- SOMEONE SPOKE ABOUT
THEIR CHILD HAVING TO WAIT FOR A
LONG AMOUNT OF TIME FOR A
PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION.

AND AS SOMEONE WORKING ON THE SOCIAL SERVICES SIDE OF THE WORK IN THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVING TO TELL PARENTS, I'M SORRY, I KNOW YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO MEET WITH A COUNSELOR BUT THEY CAN'T UNTIL SIX MONTHS FROM NOW OR NEXT YEAR BECAUSE THE CASELOADS ARE FULL IS NOT A VERY PLEASANT CONVERSATION TO HAVE. SO, FELICIA, IN MY OPINION IS TO PROVIDE THAT ACCESS UNIVERSALLY TO FAMILY YOUTH AND FAMILIES. HAVING YOUR BASIC NEEDS TAKEN CARE OF FOR ME THAT INCLUDES YOUR MEANT HEALTH NEEDS. SO FOR ME LOOKING AT HOW WE ALLOCATE SERVICES IN THE SCHOOLS, A PRIORITY SHOULD BE MEANT HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. OUTSIDE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS LIFTING UP THE SCHOOLS AND ACCESS TO CONNECT THIS COMMUNITY.

THERE'S AN ORGANIZATION THAT JUST RECENTLY OPENED, THE INSTITUTE FOR BLACK AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH INC. AND THAT'S A FRIEND OF MINE WHO RECOGNIZED THIS NEED THAT REWENT SERVING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND WE'RE NOT LOOKING AT THE UNIQUE SITUATIONS OF BLACK AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILIES. SO SHE'S TRYING TO FILL IN THE GAP.

>> SAY THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION ONE MORE TIME.

>> IT'S THE INSTITUTE FORe" INC.

AND REDE IS THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THAT, IN CONNECTION TO OTHER FOLKS, IN PARTNERSHIP, BUT THEY RECENTLY FOR EXAMPLE DID A SIX-WEEK WORKSHOP SHEERS, IN THE MYTH OF A SIX WEEK WORKSHOP SERIES THAT ING BRS PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS FOR THE COMMUNITY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF LOOKING AT COMMUNITY VIOLENCE, LOOKING AT DRUG AND ADDICTION, LOOKING AT

MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS, ET CETERA.
SO JUST HAVING THOSE SORTS OF
SPACES WHERE DIFFERENT AGES AND
RACES AND GENDER IDENTITIES AND
LGBTQ CAN COME TOGETHER AND
REALLY FIGURE OUT WHAT IS
WORKING FOR US AND WHAT IS NOT
WORK IS SUPERIMPORTANT.
I THINK THE CITY AS A WHOLE CAN
PUT MORE FUNDING TOO
OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THAT SO WE
CAN HAVE ACCESS TO DO THAT
WITHOUT STRUGGLING OF HOW WE
WILL PAY FOR THE SPACE OR WHERE
WE WILL MEET OR WHO IS BEHIND US
IN THESE OPPORTUNITIES.
AND THE LAST PIECE, I WANT TO
LIFT IT UP, I FORGET WHO MADE
THE POINT ABOUT HAVING COMMUNITY
POLICING.
HAVE I HAD A LOT OF NEGATIVE
EXPERIENCES WITH POLICE IN
VARIOUS CAPACITY WHICH IS WHY I
WORE MY POLICE HAT REGULARLY
BECAUSE I DON'T THINK THERE IS A
LOT OF TRAINING THAT GOES INTO
POLICE BEING ABLE TO SUPPORT
COMMUNITIES THE WAY I THINK IT
SHOULD BE DONE.
SO LIFTING UP THE NEED FOR
COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS VERSUS
POLICE OFFICERS.
THE POINT IS TO MAKE SURE
COMMUNITY FEELS LOOK A HEALTHY
AND SAFE PLACE TO LIVE NOT FOR
YOU TO KIND OF MONITOR THE
BEHAVIORS OF PEOPLE, TO DICTATE
HOW WE MOVE THROUGH THE WORLD.
SO I THINK A SHIFT IN HOW
TRAINING HAPPENS, SO THAT WE ARE
BUILDING COMMUNITY VERSUS
POLICING PEOPLE IN THE
NEIGHBORHOODS THAT WERE KIND OF
AROUND IS IMPORTANT.
>> THANK YOU.
ANYONE GOING TO TESTIFY, YOU
HAVE TO SO MUCH TO CONTRIBUTED.
>> THANK YOU.
>> THANK YOU FOR TESTIFYING.
>> ALL RIGHT.
NOW IS IT CESAR, VERY GOOD, SAY
YOUR NAME OFFICIALLY FOR THE
RECORD AND WHATEVER COMMUNITY.
>> MY NAME IS STFAN.

L LAPUS HOW YOU SAY IT IN ENGLISH.

FIRST I WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU FOR DOING AMAZING WORK AND BEING AN AMAZING PERSON.

YOU REALLY REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY, A LOT OF PEOPLE LOOK UP TO YOU AND I THINK YOU GIVE A LOT OF PEOPLE HOPE.

THE SECOND THING I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT, OKAY, ITS SECRETARY THING I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WAS A LOT OF MY COMMUNITY DOESN'T HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF COMING TO CITY HALL, AND I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE BEST PLACE TO HOLD THIS CONVERSATION.

SO I WOULD PREFER WHEN THIS DOES HAPPEN AGAIN F IT HAPPEN IN COMMON SQUARE, MATTAPAN, IN ROXBURY.

SO MY SOLUTION TO GUN VIOLENCE ARE MAINLY TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

SO IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU PUT MORE MONEY TO SCHOOLS IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THE MONEY IS BEING SPENT.

AND YOU KNOW, I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE MONEY IS BEING SPENT SO THEY CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW IT'S BEING SPENT OR NOT COMPLAIN, CONSTRUCTIVELY CRITICIZE HOW IT'S BEING SPENT.

AND SECOND TO THAT, I THINK THE NEXT SOLUTION IS ACCOUNTABILITY. YOU KNOW, YOU GIVE PEOPLE MONEY BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S BEING SPENT.

AND I THINK THAT'S ALSO A PROBLEM.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU KNOW LACK OF RESOURCES SHOULD NEVER BE A PROBLEM, THIS IS AMERICA, WE CREATE OUR BE OWN CURRENCY, THE WORLD RUNS ON OUR CURRENCY.

THAT IS BULLSHIT, I'M SORRY I'M SWEARING BUT THAT'S BULLSHIT.

WHAT DO YOU CALL IT, SO YOU KNOW, DEFINITELY DIDN'T PREPARE TO SPEAK HERE, BUT YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT THIS WAS REALLY IMPORTANT TO SAY.

AND I THINK ALSO, LIKE, ONE MORE SOLUTION TO VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY, IN ALL PROBLEMS IS HOW POLITICIANS HOLD HOSTAGE THE POWER IN AMERICA.

I THINK YOU CAN'T EXPECT ONE TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES WHEN THEY CAN'T FEED THEMSELVES SO IT MAKES SENSE TELLING PEOPLE TO VOTE AND DO ET CETERA WHEN YOU KNOW THEY ARE STRILGING. SO YOU KNOW THEY CAN'T TALK TO YOU, SO IT IS A SETUP IN TERMS OF HOW YOU PLAN ON ENGAGING WITH THEM SO PIE SOLUTION TO THAT IS CHANGING THE WAYS OF ENGEAJMENT WITH PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

I THINK TELLING PEOPLE TO REGISTER TO VOTE AND COME TO YOUR MEETINGS IS NOT WORKING.

AND I EXPECT MORE OF YOU.

ONE OTHER SOLUTION TO GUN VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITY IS THERE IS TECHNOLOGY FOR GUNS WHERE THEY SCAN YOUR FINGERPRINTEDS SO YOU CAN'T SHOOT IF IT IS NOT YOUR GUN.

I DON'T THINK WE HOLD PEOPLE WHO OWN GUNS ACCOUNTABLE ENOUGH IN AMERICA.

AND I THINK PUT THAT, IF ARE YOU GOING TO SELL YOUR GUN, YOU HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW ARE YOU SELLING YOUR GUN WITH A FINGERPRINT ON IT, AND I KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO CONGRESS, OR I'M SORRY, IS THAT WHERE YOU ARE GOING.

>> YEAH.

>> YEAH, THAT'S IT.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> SO I KNOW THAT THERE IS, THAT TECHNOLOGY SO USING THAT FEDERAL POWER, I WANT YOU TO PUSH FOR, YOU KNOW, HIGHER GUN TECHNOLOGY AND ALSO TO PUSH FOR YOU KNOW-- TO PUSH FOR, YOU KNOW, PUTTING MORE MONEY INTO COMMUNITIES BECAUSE THE WOL BASIS OF THE CONVERSATION WHAT IS THE SOLUTION TO VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY, WE KNOW THE ANSWERS TO WHAT THE SOLUTION TO VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY, THERE IS ACADEMIC STUDIES DONE ON IT,

THERE IS RESOURCE, THIS IS NOT A QUESTION THAT YOU NEED TO ANSWER TO, I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENTS OF ALLOWING PEOPLE TO SPEAK THEIR VOICE BUT YOU KNOW THE ANSWER AND I NEED YOU TO PUSH THAT ANSWER IN CONGRESS. AND I NEED TO YOU, LIKE, PUSH THAT ANSWER, PUSH YOUR PEERS SO THAT SAUL HAVE I TO SAY, SHOUT OUT.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> OKAY.

SO I BELIEVE THE FINAL.

>> TWO MORE.

>> SO ANDIRA AND WHO ELSE, COME ON DOWN, ANYONE ELSE WHO WANTS TO TESTIFY, EVERYBODY JUST COME UP, OKAY.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE YOU LINE UP AND WE'RE JUST GOING TO USE THE TWO BACK PODIUMS, OKAY.

RIGHT HERE.

ALL RIGHT.

OKAY.

YOUR NAME AND WHATEVER COMMUNITY YOU WOULD LIKE TO AFFILIATE WITH.

>> MY NAME IS ANDIRA ALSS I'M DORCHESTER NATIVE BUT RIGHT NOW RESIDING IN THE SOUTH END.

>> OKAY.

>> THE PAST COUPLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CAME IN PRETTY MUCH SAID IT FOR ME.

THERE IS NOT MUCH I CAN SAY--

SAY-- -- SHOT AND KILLED IN DAYLIGHT, I MEAN, IT SUCKS.

BUT LAKE I LIKE, THE TRILL HAS BEEN GOING ON I'M REALIZING THE LAWYERS, THE LAWYERS ON BOTH SIDES ARE WHITE, THE JUDGE IS WHITE, 14 OUT OF 15 JURY MEMBERS ARE WHITE.

LIKE THAT SETTING THE.

>> AND ALSO LAKE I'M HAPPY THAT YOU ARE LIKE THE FIRST BLACK CONGRESSWOMAN HERE BUT LIKE WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF FIRSTS.

WE HAD A FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT, MY COMMUNITY DIDN'T GET BETTER.

POLICE COMMISSIONER IS NOT FOR US.

DEVAL PATRICK WA, DID HE DO FOR US?

SO I JUST REALLY THINK LIKE WHILE PEOPLE ARE HERE AND THEY ARE REALLY GRATEFUL FOR YOU, I'M HOLDING YOU TO A HIGHER STANDARD.

AND I JUST REALLY HOPE, LIKE, YOU COME THROUGH.

THE POLICE JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE.

AS A PERSON WHO BASICALLY GOT KICKED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL BASED ON A DEMERIT SYSTEM, WE NEED MORE RESOURCES.

LIKE WE DON'T NEED POLICING.

LIKE THEY, LIKE I DON'T KNOW WHAT SITUATION THEY MAY THINK BETTER.

I'M JUST LOOKING AT IT IT.

>> ARE YOU DOING GREAT, YOU ARE DOING GREAT, THANK YOU.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANTED TO SHARE, DID YOU WANT TO SHARE ANYTHING ELSE?

>> I THINK THAT'S IT.

>> OKAY, ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU SO MUCH, AN DIRA.

>> HI, EVERYBODY, HOW Y'ALL DOING, MY NAME IS

WILLINGTON-- I'M 19 YEARS OLD, AND I AM FROM HARLEM, NEW YORK, BRONX BORN, HARLEM MADE. AND I MOVEED OUT HERE TO DORCHESTER WHEN I WAS, WHAT, JANUARY OF THIS YEAR.

SO I AM RELATIVELY NEW TO THIS COMMUNITY.

BUT I CALL MAY SELF A HIP ACTOR AM I LOVE 2450E9ER.

I LOVE-- THEAT TER, I LOVE MY ARTK I LOVE MY CRAFT, AND I THINK THAT IT'S IMPORTANT THAT, I WILL STOP RIGHT THERE.

I NEED EVERYBODY IN HERE TO COLLECTIVELY TAKE A BREATHE, CAN WE DO THAT, CAN WE DO THAT, PLEASE?

ALL RIGHT.

ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU.

AND I THINK THAT WHEN WE PUT YOUTH AND ART AND WHAT MAKES US SPARK IN OUR SOULS IS REALLY

IMPORTANT.

SO TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE, SO I
WROTE A POEM, ON MARCH 28th,
2016, A FRIEND OF MINE BY THE
NAME OF JA-WANCARAVE DISPLRKS
ALSO KNOWN AS CHICO WAS
MURDERED.

AND I WROTE A WHOLE PLAY ABOUT
IT AND THIS IS A SHORT LITTLE E
SEPTEMBER OF THAT PLAY-- E SERP
OF THAT PLAY.

AND IT GOES LIKE THIS.

>> THE GUN HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE
PRISON, NOT THEST CAPE.

A STATEMENT OF TEMPORARY HATE
AND THE ANGER IS HERE FOR NOW
BUT ONLY PAIN WILL TAKE ITS
PLACE.

AND NO MARYT THE SHOOT, THE
SHOOTER IS ALWAYS IN PAIN.

I BLAME THE BROKEN SYSTEM FOR
KILLING OFF ALL OF OUR BLACK,
NOW WE GOT KIDS DOWN HERE
SURVIVING AND NOT LIVING.

KIDS WITHOUT FATHERS WITH BIG
BROTHERS, ONE DAY-- NOT BECAUSE
WE GANGSTERS, KILLING EACH OTHER
BUT BECAUSE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH
PEOPLE IN THE WORLD SHOWING LOVE
FOR US.

AND BLACK LIVES DON'T MATTER,
ONLY WHEN IT'S TIME TO VOTE.

IT'S TIME FOR POLITICIANS TO
STOP PLAYING ON OUR HOPE.

WE AT THE POINT WHERE WE CAN'T
SIT DOWN AND IS FOR OUR FREEDOM
ANY MORE.

WE GOT TO BREAK DOWN THE PILLARS
THAT ONCE STOOD BEFORE.

THE FRUITS OF MY LABOR GETTING
EATEN AT THE DOOR, BUT WHAT FOR?

OH, I GET IT, I WANT PEACE, YOU
WANT PROFIT, SO YOU HEAR LITTLE
BOYS DRUGS, MONEY AND GUNS AND
SEEING HOW MUCH MONEY YOU CAN
MAKE OFF IT.

NOT TELLING THE LITTLE BOY THAT
THE PATH THEY HAVE EMBARKED ON
ONLY MAKES THEM WIND UP ONE OF
TWO PLACES, IN JAIL OR IN THE
GRAVE.

YOU ARE SO ASLEEP THAT THE SHEEP
COUNT YOU.

IT WILL GIVE YOU SATISFACTION,

SHOWING MY FEARS.
NOR WILL IT GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE
IN SHOWING MY TEARS.
I WILL STAND PROUDLY, AND BRAI
SHUSLY FOR-- MY PEOPLE,.
>> OR FOR CHICO.
THANK YOU.
>> SHOULD WE GET HIS NAME FOR
THE RECORD.
>> OKAYS TAKE YOUR TIME.
TAKE YOUR TIME, HONEY, IT'S
OKAY.
>> OKAY, SO MY NAME IS DEBBIE
PEREZ, I'M 15 YEARS OLD AND I'M
CURRENTLY ATTENDING BOSTON LAT
ENACT ADD ME.
I MOVED A YEAR AGO TO NATHAN YAL
GARDENS IF BRIGHTON.
I WAS IF ROXBURY MY WHOLE LIFE.
-- EVER SINCE I WAS IN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IT IS A
LIFESTYLE FOR ME.
NOW I I'M IN THE 109 GRADE AND IN
AN APARTMENT IN BRIGHTON.
IT IS A LONG COMMUNITY, ST A
NICE SCHOOL BUT LATIN ACADEMY IS
THE CLOSEST-- I WANT TO SEAK
ABOUT THE PAIN AND TRAUMA LIVING
IN SHELTERS HAS BROUGHT ME.
I THEFER TALKED ABOUT IT WITH
FRIENDS NOR FAMILY.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH SUPPORT.
I DIDN'T HAVE MANY SUPPORT
SYSTEMS.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SPEAKING
ABOUT IT TO A LARGE CROWD.
MAINLY BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO
BE A BURDEN AND I DIDN'T FEEL
COMFORTABLE.
AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR
CREATING SUCH A LOVING PLACE IN
THIS COMMUNITY TO TALK ABOUT IT
BECAUSE IT HAS SCARED ME FOR
KEEPING IT ALL IN.
AND I NEVER REALIZED THAT UNTIL
I GOT OUT.
AND NOW I HAVE RANDOM MENTAL
BREAKDOWNS AND I'M AFRAID ONE OF
THESE DAYS IT IS GOING TO BREAK
ME PERMANENTLY.
I FEEL DON'T FEEL LIKE THE
SCHOOL PORTS STUDENTS WHEN IT
COMES TO MENTAL HEALTH, SOMEBODY
ELSE MENTIONED IT BEFORE BUT WE

NEED SOCIAL WORKERS AND
PSYCHIATRISTS IF SCHOOLS.
WE ALSO NEED AWARENESS AND WHAT
WE CAN FIND-- MAKE THEM MORE
COMMON.

I ONLY GOT MY MOM IN THIS AN SHE
GOT NOBODY ELSE.

(APPLAUSE)

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, THAT WAS
SO BRAVE.

AND YOU JUST HELPED SO MANY
PEOPLE.

WE'RE GOING TO SUPPORT YOU
FIRST, OKAY.

MAKE SURE TO GET HER
INFORMATION, PLEASE.

WITHIN HI, MY NAME IS-- AND I
CURRENTLY LIVE IN THE GROVE HALL
AREA.

AND I WASN'T GOING TO SPEAK, I'M
NOT A PUBLIC SPEAKER SO I'M A
LITTLE NERVOUS.

AND I'M VERY EMOTIONAL.

>> IT'S OKAY.

>> THERE IS ABOUT FOUR MEMORIALS
IN MY AREA, WITHIN A BLOCK
RADIUS.

MY PARENTS LIVE ON THE FIRST
FLOOR, I LIVE ON THE THIRD
FLOOR.

AND EVERY TIME I HEAR ARGUMENTS
OUTSIDE, I WAIT FOR A GUNSHOT TO
GO OFF SO I CAN RUN DOWNSTAIRS
AN CHECK ON MY MOTHER.

MY ROOM IS COVERED WITH-- LIKE
THERE WAS A BULLET HOLE THAT
WENT THROUGH THERE.

AND LITERALLY I HAD LEFT 15
MINUTES BEFORE THAT.

I COULD BE OUT THERE.

AND A PERSON, I HAVE TO THINK
WHICH LEVEL SHOULD I BUY IT AT
SO THAT WAY JUST IN CASE A STRAY
BULLET GOES THROUGH MY HOUSE
THAT I BE WON'T GET HIT.

I LIVED IN BROCKTON.

HAVE I BEEN TO WAY MORE FUNERALS
THAN I CAN EVEN COUNT.

MY FIRST FUNERAL WAS AT THE AGE
OF 14 FOR A FRIEND.

AND THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF
SHOOTINGS NEAR MY HOUSE.

AND ONE OF THEM, MY PARENTS ARE
IMMIGRANTS FROM VIETNAM AND

THERE IS A WOMAN WHO WAS SHOT IN THE PARK ACROSS THE STREET. AND MY ROOMMATE, MY MOM, MY DAD HEARD THE WOMAN SCREAMING HER LAST BREATHE.

AND THAT'S HOW MUCH TRAUMA. AND I REALIZE THAT MY TRAUMA HAS BEEN NORMALIZED MY WHOLE ENTIRE LIFE, AND IT SHOULDN'T BE.

MY THERE HAS JUST BEEN SO MANY THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON AM BUT I REALIZE THAT I AM SO EASILY TRIGGERED NOW.

AND THAT'S NOT OKAY BECAUSE I'M A SOCIAL WORKER.

LIKE I NEED TO LOOK OUT OUT MY TRAUMA SO I CAN HELP OTHERS AS WELL.

I SAID I WASN'T PREPARED FOR, THIS I WAS WRITING MY NOTES WHILE I WAS SITTING OUT THERE BUT HEARING EVERYONE'S VOICE AND STORIES REALLY EMPOWERED ME AND I THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING SO STRONG AND SHARING YOUR STORIES.

THERE IS JUST SO MANY MORE THAT I CAN'T THINK OF RIGHT NOW BUT IN TERMS OF SOLUTIONS, MORE POLICE TRAINING, MORE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS THERE IS ONE TIME SOMEONE FROM MY HOUSE CALLED THE POLICE ANONYMOUSLY, WANTED TO BE ANONYMOUS, AND SHOWED UP AT THE HOUSE AND LOCK ON OUR DOOR ON DEUR, OUR NEIGHBORS, THERE IS A LOT OF GANGS AND DRUGS, ACTIVITIES AND ALL OF THAT.

AND I'M COMFORTABLE TALKING WITH THEM, HAVE I A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM, I EVEN ASKED THEM MYSELF, HEY, GUYS, YOU CAN JUST PUSH IT, PUSH IT SOMEWHERE OR EVEN JUST TRY NOT TO CAUSE SO MUCH, I DON'T EVEN KNOW.

LIKE I HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM, WE SAY HI AND ALL OF THAT, HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM, TALK TO THEM ABOUT VOTING AND ALL THAT TOO.

BUT IT IS JUST, MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE.

MORE POLICE TRAINING.

MORE NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES FOR

YOUTH AND PEOPLE OF COLOR, SAFE SPACES, EDUCATIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA, SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNINGS, TEACHER TRAINING ON THAT AS WELL. MORE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCES.

MOAR FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

SPECIAL EDUCATION, COPING SKILLS, ART, LIKE YOU KNOW, ENCOURAGE THE YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN ART WHETHER IT IS MARTIAL ARTS, WAYS FOR PEOPLE TO RELEASE THE TRAUMA THAT THEY GO THROUGH EVERY SINGLE DAY.

JUST EDUCATION, I THINK THAT IS WHAT ST.

EDUCATION IN ALL AREAS, POLICE, TEACHERS, RESOURCES, PEOPLE, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ALL OF THAT.

I CAN'T REALLY GATHER MY THOUGHTS RIGHT NOW.

>> NO, YOU DID GREAT, GLAD YOU TESTIFIED.

>> SO, THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THIS AND I THANK EVERYONE FOR BEING HERE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> OKAY, I BELIEVE THAT CHARLENE WILL BE OUR FINAL TESTIFIER.

>> GOOD EVENING, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY, I JUST WANTED, I WASN'T GOING TO SPEAK LIKE MOST PEOPLE BUT I WANTED TO SPEAK FROM JUST A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE, AS FROM ONE WITHOUT LIVES IN BOSTON, EDUCATED IN BOSTON AND WORKS IN BOSTON.

I'M A SOCIAL WORKER AND I WORK WITH FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY HOMICIDES SO I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BEAR WITNESS TO WHAT FAMILIES ARE EXPERIENCING AND SUPERVISE STAFF WITHOUT BEAR WITNESS TO THOSE AS WELL.

I THINK YOU HAVE HEARD FROM A LOT OF HURT PEOPLE TODAY BUT ALSO A LOT OF RESILIENT PEOPLE, PEOPLE WITHOUT KIND OF HAVE GONE THROUGH TERRIFYING THINGS AND HORRIFIC THINGS IN THEIR LIVES

BUT STILL HAVE THE COURAGE AND
ARE EMPOWERED TO SPEAK ON BEHALF
OF FAMILIES, HUNDREDS OF
FAMILIES THAT STAND BEHIND THEM.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT
RECOMMENDATIONS, I THINK ABOUT
FOUR AREAS, ONE A ACCESS.

I THINK THAT THERE ARE LOTS OF
PEOPLE, WHO A LOT OF PEOPLE IN
THIS ROOM WHO WE PARTNER WITH,
WHO DO THE WORK.

I DON'T KNOW IF PEOPLE KNOW
ABOUT THE RESOURCES THAT ARE
AVAILABLE.

SO WE HAVE LOTS OF CONVERSATIONS
ABOUT BUILDING CAPACITY.

AND MORE AND MORE AND MORE, BUT
WE REALLY SHOULD START WITH
PEOPLE UTILIZING SERVICES THAT
EXIST ALREADY.

AND SO HOW DO WE GO ABOUT THAT.
SO THAT IS ONE RECOMMENDATION,
ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALS, EDUCATING
THEM ABOUT THE RESOURCES THAT
ARE AVAILABLE.

I THINK ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES, WE
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, SOMETHING
THAT IS INNOVATIVE AND
DIFFERENT, IN BOSTON.

WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO HAVE
A TRAUMA INFORMED POLICE FORCE?
WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO HAVE
TRAUMA FOR WORKERS AND ED CARES
WHO HAVE CONTACT WITH OUR YOUTH
DAY TO DAY, HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE
OUR KIDS ARE OKAY IF THEY ARE
NOT OKAY AND SO HOW DO WE DO
THAT, THE OPPORTUNITY AROUND
THAT.

HONESTLY I THINK EDUCATION, I
THINK WILL IS LOTS OF
CONVERSATIONS, HOW DO WE IMPROVE
THEM AND ALSO WITH THE BOSTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

AND FINALLY RESOURCES YOU KNOW
WHEN A FAMILY LOSES A LOVED ONE,
THERE IS A PERIOD OF TIME WHERE
PEOPLE FOCUS ON THE TBREAF.

THERE IS A LOT THAT COMES AFTER
IT, RIGHT.

SOME HAVE FAMILIES WHERE THE
BREAD WIN CERTIFICATE THE
PRIMARY WINNER FOR THE FAMILY
AND CAN NO LONGER PAY THEIR

MORTGAGE.

WE HAVE FAMILIES WHO DON'T KNOW
HOW THEY WILL FEED THEIR
FAMILIES.

WE HAVE PEOPLES WHO SEE A LOT OF
DISTRESS, AND SO WE TALK ABOUT
RESOURCES, WHAT DO THEY ACTUALLY
LOOK LIKE.

AND IT'S HARD TO KIND OF
SELF-ACTUALIZE, TO GET TO A
BETTER PLACE, IF YOU DON'T FEEL
SAFE, YOU KNOW, WALKING THROUGH
THE HOME WHERE ANYTHING CAN
HAPPEN.

SO I THINK ABOUT THE ACCESS,
EDUCATION, RESOURCES, SO WHEN I
THINK ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS
THOSE ARE THE AREAS I HOPE I CAN
FOCUS ON BUT IN PARTICULAR,
WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH ALL
OF THE EXISTING PARTNERS AND
MAKING SURE THAT PEOPLE HAVE
ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES, THANK
YOU.

>> THANK YOU, SHAR LEAN.

>> ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU.

MAKE SHAWR WE JUST GET YOUR NAME
FOR THE OBSERVATION RECORD,
PLEASE.

ALL RIGHT S THERE ANYONE ELSE
WHO WOULD LIKE TO TESTIFY?

OH, ONE MORE VOICE, OKAY.

JUST YOUR NAME FOR THE THE
RECORD AND WHATEVER COMMUNITY
YOU WOULD LIKE TO AFFILIATE
WITH.

>> HI, MY NAME IS TRENT FORD,
I'M HERE TO REPRESENT THE-- I
JUST WANT TO SAY THAT DEBBIE'S
VOICE MOVED YOU AND SEEING HER
CRY MOVED YOU, I JUST WANT TO
YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE MILLIONS
OF OTHER PEOPLE LIKE HER,
TEENAGER WAS PUT ON A BRAVE FACE
EVERY DAY TO TRY TO FIT IN.
AND I MET COUNTLESS PEOPLE LIKE
HER.

AND JUST SEEING HER BE SO BRAVE
IN FRONT OF HER MADE ME FEEL SO
MUCH BETTER.

I THINK THE WAY TO GET RID OF
VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA S TO REPEAT
THINGS LAKE THAT AND JUST TO
APPRECIATE THEM, SO THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

(APPLAUSE)

ALL RIGHT, I WANT TO THANK YOU
ALL FOR THE SAFE SPACE YOU
CREATED THIS EVENING.

SO THE PEOPLE DID FEEL THAT THEY
COULD BE SO HONEST AND SO OPEN.

AND I WANT TO GIVE-- AND I'M SO
APPRECIATIVE TO MANY OF MY
COLLEAGUES THAT STAYED FOR SO
LONG BECAUSE I KNOW THERE ARE
MANY DEMANDS ON THEIR TIME.

I WANT TO THANK MY TWO
COLLEAGUES THAT ARE STILL HERE
AND AFFORD THEM AN OPPORTUNITY
TO SAY FEW WORDS AND THEN I
WILL OFFER A FINAL WORD AND THEN
WE WILL GAFFE EL OUT.

WE HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE 5:30
STABBED ALMOST 8:00.

SO ALL OF YOU COULD HAVE BEEN
ANYWHERE ELSE BUT HERE.

AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL THAT YOU
MADE THE DECISION TO BE WITH US
TO HAVE THIS REALLY IMPORTANT
DISCUSSION.

AND SO NOW I WILL GIVE COUNSEL
WU A CHANCE TO SAY A FEW WORDS
AND AS I SAID AT THE TOP OF THE
HEARING COUNCILLOR WU A HE GROOD
AND HOLD A 2308UP HEARING TO
THIS ONE TO ADDRESS THE CITY'S
RESPONSE AND PROGRESS FOLLOWING
TONIGHT'S HEARING AND
RECOMMENDATIONS.

WE WILL BE PRODUCING A REPORT OF
THIS RECOMMENDATIONS AND SO
COUNCILLOR WU.

>> TO BE HONEST, THERE IS A LOT
THAT HAPPEN MS. THIS BUILDING,
AND THOSE OF US WHO HAVE THE
PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF
SITTING IN THESE OFFICES FEEL
REALLY BUSY ALL THE TIME.

WILL IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO
OR SOME MEETING TO GO TOO OR
SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT OR A
NEWS STORY OR THIS OR THAT.

BUT I THINK WHAT HAPPENED
TONIGHT IN THIS ROOM IS MORE
IMPORTANT THAN ANY OF THAT.
THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION
OF OUR JOBS IS JUST TO LISTEN.
AND SO I WANT TO THANK ALL OF

YOU FOR THE COURAGE AND
COMPASSION AND THE INCITES AND
WISDOM THAT YOU ALL SHARED WITH
US TONIGHT.

IT I TOOK A LOT OF NOTES AND WE
HAVE A LOT OF FOLKS, SMART
PEOPLE WHO ARE ALSO HELPING
COMPILE THIS INTO A RECORD THAT
WE'LL HAVE FROM HERE ON OUT
BECAUSE OF YOUR WILLINGNESS TO
SHARE YOUR STORIES AND YOUR
SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.
ALONG THOSE LINES, I ALSO WANT
TO THANK COUNCILLOR PRESSLEY
BECAUSE SHE HAS BROUGHT THAT
PHILOSOPHY FROM DAY ONE IN HER
CAREER AND CITIZENURE ON THE
COUNCIL OF REMEMBERING THAT
LISTENING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT
ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF US
HERE.

AND I JUST FEEL SO EXCITED THAT
THAT IS GOING TO BE NOW THE
STANDARD FOR OUR REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS, TO HAVE THAT AND TO
BRING ALL OF OUR VOICES THERE
WITH HER.

SO JUST FROM MY PART, THANK YOU
SO MUCH.

I THINK THIS IS AN IMPORTANT
REMINDER FOR EVERYBODY THAT THE
MOST IMPORTANT THING WE COULD BE
DOING, THE MOST WORTHY PLACE TO
BE SPENDING OUR CITY DOLLARS AND
RESOURCES AND FUNDING IS JUST TO
MAKE SURE WE'RE CREATING THAT
BASIC HUMAN DIGNITY ACROSS THE
CITY THAT ALL OF OUR YOUNG
PEOPLE, ALL OF OUR BABIES SHOULD
FEEL LOVED AND GREAT AND
WONDERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL AND
WE'RE FOLLOWING FAR SHORT OF
THAT RIGHT NOW.

AND I, FOR MY PART PLEDGE THAT I
WILL KEEP COUNCILLOR PRESSLEY IN
THE LOOP AS WE CONTINUE HER
EFFORTS HERE AND HER CHARGE TO
MAKE SURE WE GET THERE.

>> THANK YOUK COUNCILLOR BU.

>> KOWNL ILLER GORGE.

>> THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE
AND SHARING, I THINK WHAT WE ALL
HEARD IS VERY PERSONAL, VERY
RAW, VERY REAL STORIES AND

EXPERIENCES, AND THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU, AND TO BE WITH YOU IN SHARING THAT STORY ESPECIALLY, NOT ESPECIALLY BUT I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL BIT OF GRATITUDE FOR THOSE WHO SHARE THEIR STORY FOR THE FIRST TIME OUTLOUD.

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO HEAR THAT, TO EXPERIENCE THAT WITH YOU, AN TO APPRECIATE THE RAWNESS OF THE STORIES AND THE PAIN THAT YOU ARE HEARING.

IT IS UNIMAGINABLE HOW MUCH COURAGE IT TAKES TO SHARE THAT SO I REALLY WANT TO GIVE THAT APPRECIATE.

AND COUNCILLOR, FOR CREATING THIS VERY SAFE AND LOVING SPACE. I THINK THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE LISTENING HEAR BUT ALSO AT HOME KNOW THAT YOU ARE LOVE, THAT ARE YOU CARED FOR, AND THAT WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE CREATING SPACES LIKE THIS ACROSS THE CITY, THAT OUR SCHOOLS ARE SAFE AND WELCOMING, THAT YOU FEEL THAT YOU CAN EXPRESS YOURSELF AT COOL BUT THAT ESPECIALLY MAY INTEREST AND EDUCATION, MY WORK IN EDUCATION, THAT WE'RE CREATING SAFE INNOCENCE SCHOOL FOR YOU TO DO THIS, CITY HALL SHOULDN'T BE THE PLACE WHERE YOU COME, SCHOOL SHOULD BE THE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE.

AND FIND THE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES THAT YOU NEED AND THAT COMMUNITY SHOULD ALSO BE THAT PLACE, SO WE ARE CERTAINLY CHARGED WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF WORK FROM YOUR COMMENTS TONIGHT, THAT NONE OF US TAKE LIKELY.

AND IT'S I THINK A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS IF WE FOLLOW IT AS YOU PRESCRIBE THIS EVENING AND PRESCRIBE IN YOUR COMMENTS TONIGHT.

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR DOING THAT FOR US.
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU ALL, AND SO MUCH HAS BEEN SAID SO I'M NOT SURE HOW I COULD REALLY EFFECTIVELY CAP ON ALL OF THIS, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO JUST OFFER ONE ACADEMIC NOTE HERE, MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD ME IN RECENT MONTHS TALK ABOUT THE FACT THAT FROM CAMBRIDGE TO ROXBURY LIFE EXPECTANCY DROPS BY 30 YEARS. GUN VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA CONTRIBUTES TO THAT. IN FACT, JUST RECENTLY BOSTON COMEUFORT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RELEASED A REPORT AND DETERMINED THAT BLACK AMERICANS HAVE LOST A LITTLE OVER FOUR YEARS OF LIFE EXPECTANCY DUE TO GUN VIOLENCE SO THE RESIDUAL IMPACT OF FIRST AND SECOND HAND TRAUMA, THE IMPACT OF THE TRAUMA THAT GUN VIOLENCE LEAVES IN ITS WAKE IS REAL. IT IS MY HOPE, MY PRAYER AND MY WISH THAT WE WILL GET TO A PLACE WHERE WE ARE PASSING ON, ALONG MORE THAN INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA. WE KNOW THAT VIOLENCE BEGATS VIOLENCE, IN ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE ARE INTERRELATED ANDKKED AND SO OUR APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE MUST NOT ONLY ADDRESS THE CONSEQUENCES AND THE AFTERMATH AND THE SYSTEM, AND THE SYMPTOMS BUT THOUGHTFULLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY GET AT THE ROOT CAUSES. AND I THEY THAT THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT IS TO CONTINUE TO BE SURVIVOR LEAD. AND THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE, SURVIVORS. AN ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I AM GOING ON TO WASHINGTON IS TO CHAMPION FOR THE DEFINITION OF SURVIVOR TO BE MORE BROADLY DEFINED. AND FOR THERE TO BE AN ACCOUNT ABILITY, NOT ONLY FOR YOUR HEALING AN JUSTICE, WE HAVE ONE OF THE WORST CLEARANCE RATES IN THE COUNTRY AND ALL OF THIS HAS TO BE ADDRESSED. AND NO, THERE IS NOTHING THAT WE CAN'T DO TOGETHER, ESPECIALLY IF

WE ARE LEAD BY YOU.

A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE BE, AN
ACTIVIST FRIEND OF MINE SAYS
THAT IT'S NOT THAT THE OPPRESSED
SHOULD MARGINALIZE THE VOICELESS
T IS THAT THEY ARE UNHEARD.
SO WHY ANOTHER HEARING? THIS IS
WHY.

BECAUSE THERE ARE LESSONS WE
LEARNED HERE TODAY THAT WE WOULD
NOT HAVE LEARNED ANYWHERE ELSE
IF THIS SPACE HAD NOT BEEN
CREATED.

AND SO WE HAVE ACTIVE LEIGH
LISTENED AND KNEW WE WILL
INTENTIONALLY AND URGENTLY AND
THOUGHTFULLY ACT.

BECAUSE AS I SAID AT THE TOP OF
THE MEETING, NOT ONLY DO WE NEED
INFRASTRUCTURE AND STAFFING
LEVELS AND CITY, STATE AND
FEDERAL INVESTMENT FOR VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION, BUT
ALSO TRAUMA RESPONSE AND
RECOVERY.

BUT WHAT WE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE
IS THE COLLECTIVE POLITICAL WILL
AND COURAGE TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT NOT ONLY THE VIOLENCE BUT
THE TRAUMA, BECAUSE IN
ADDRESSING THE TRAUMA WE BREAK
CYCLES OF VIOLENCE.

SO THESE ISSUES ARE NOT SILLOD.
THEY ARE NOT SEPARATE.

SO I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU
FOR BEING WITH US THIS EVENING,
FOR YOUR POWERFUL AND
PREDESCRIPTIVE TESTIMONY.

DO I WANT TO ADD OR YOUR VICTIM
IMPACT STATEMENTS.

AND I DO WANT TO ADD THAT WE DO
HAVE SUPPORT OF SERVICES HERE
STILL.

WE WANT TO MAKE SURE 245 FOLKS
ARE FEELING OKAY.

AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY HOME, SO
IF THERE ARE FOLKS YOU NEED TO
SPEND TIME WITH OR YOU NEED
SUPPORT BEFORE YOU DO THAT,
PLEASE DO LET US KNOW.

AND I ALSO JUST WANT TO SAY THAT
THIS IS THE WORK DOESN'T END
HERE.

THIS WILL NOT BE THE LAST

DECISION, THIS WILL NOT BE THE
LAST HEARING, AND WE WILL NOT
ONLY BE CONVENING AT CITY HALL.
THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF MANY
OTHER MEETINGS AND WE WANT IT IT
TO BE AT CITY HALL SO THIS COULD
BE LIVE STREAMED.

AND ACCESSIBLE TO AS MANY PEOPLE
AS POSSIBLE, OKAY?

SO THE WORK CONTINUES AND I WILL
JUST END HERE BY SAYING WHAT I
ALWAYS SAY, WHICH IS THAT THE
PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THE PAIN
SHOULD BE THE CLOSEST TO THE
POWER, DRIVING AND INFORMING THE
POLICY MAKING.

AND I HUI FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP
IN DOING EXACTLY THAT.

ADJOURNED.

(APPLAUSE)

(APPLAUSE)