



## Oscar Ellis Jr., 2011

Download date	2025-03-16 09:10:59
Link to Item	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10267/34236">http://hdl.handle.net/10267/34236</a>

*Speaker 1:* My mother deceased.

*Interviewer 1:* Okay, so what's your name?

*Speaker 1:* Huh?

*Interviewer 1:* What's your name?

*Interviewer 2:* For the –

*Speaker 1:* Oscar Ellis **Jones**.

*Interviewer 2:* Oscar Ellis Jones.

*Interviewer 1:* And Oscar, how old are you?

*Speaker 1:* I'm 54.

*Interviewer 1:* Four? And do you have any children?

*Speaker 1:* **My daughter**.

*Interviewer 2:* That's all? Just her?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, just one.

*Interviewer 1:* She's three?

*Speaker 1:* No, just one.

*Interviewer 1:* Oh, she's one?

*Speaker 1:* Oh, no, she'll be three in November.

*Interviewer 1:* Okay.

*Interviewer 2:* She's three.

*Interviewee 1:* And you –

*Speaker 1:* I been having her since she was like a month and a half old.

*Interviewer 2:* Really?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, yeah, **since her mother and I –**

*Interviewer 1:* Did you say the mother was –?

*Speaker 1:* On the crack.

*Interviewer 1:* Oh, okay.

*Speaker 1:* Took her to Lakeside about three times – **didn't do no good**. She's still on the crack.

*Interviewer 2:* We'll, she's lucky she has a good dad like you to take care of her.

*Speaker 1:* Oh, yeah –

*Interviewer 2:* She's lucky she's got you, yeah.

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, yes, you know – somebody.

*Interviewer 1:* And how long did you live in Cleaborn Homes?

*Speaker 1:* Oh, about two years.

*Interviewer 1:* Two years? And do you remember what those years were when you moved in?

*Speaker 1:* It was in – I'd say 2009 – '10.

*Interviewer 1:* And then you moved out?

*Speaker 1:* \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer 1:* Okay.

*Speaker 1:* 2009.

*Interviewer 1:* And how'd you come to live in Cleaborn? Where were you moving from? How did you hear about it?

*Speaker 1:* I was moving from **Dunbar** \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer 1:* Okay. And why did you choose to live in Cleaborn?

*Speaker 1:* Well, it was just good timing, you know what I'm saying? Rent was too much – way too much – you know what I'm saying? I was trying to get my veteran benefits. Matter of fact, I'm still trying to get my veteran benefits, but this time, I was given the Social Security. And then this situation now, they told me – might not

even send the Social Security and the veteran check out because the budget default up there in Washington, D.C.

*Interviewer 2:* Oh, my gosh. Oh, geez.

*Speaker 1:* **Just another situation, right now.**

*Interviewer 2:* They didn't tell you that when you started your service, and when you start – yeah.

*Interviewer 1:* Of course not.

*Speaker 1:* **Really**, they told me they're not sending no veteran checks out, no Social Security checks out.

*Interviewer 1:* Wow.

*Speaker 1:* Did y'all hear it on the news?

*Interviewer 2:* Yeah.

*Speaker 1:* Have you been hearing it?

*Interviewer 2:* Yeah, I've been hearing that.

*Speaker 1:* You been hearing this. Man, it's a mess, man.

*Interviewer 2:* Yeah, it is. Did you go to \_\_\_\_\_ often?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, mm-hmm.

*Interviewer 2:* Yeah.

*Interviewer 1:* When you lived in Cleaborn, who lived there with you?

*Speaker 1:* Just –

*Interviewer 1:* Just your daughter and yourself? Do you remember what it was like when you first moved in, like the conditions of the buildings, who you met, your neighbors?

*Speaker 1:* It was all right. You know what I'm saying? You just had to call 'em about them roaches \_\_\_\_\_. I mean, I went and got some stuff myself that took care of 'em, though, 'cause the stuff they were using, it wasn't really –

- Interviewer 2:* Taking care of –
- Speaker 1:* – taking care of 'em, yeah. I went and got something of that **Fire Ant** that costs like \$27.00 a can. I put it down myself, and I didn't have any more problems. But the stuff they was putting down, it really wasn't killing 'em.
- Interviewer 2:* Yeah, those are everywhere in Memphis – roaches \_\_\_\_\_.
- Speaker 1:* I ain't got none here 'cause I used some of that same stuff.
- Interviewer 2:* Yeah, what is it called?
- Speaker 1:* It's called Fire Ant.
- Interviewer 2:* Fire Ant.
- Speaker 1:* I ain't got none here.
- Interviewer 2:* \_\_\_\_\_.
- Speaker 1:* So I put it down here. I ain't go neighbors or nothing, you know, in the building or nothing, so I ain't got none here.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah, that's good.
- Speaker 1:* That **Fire Power, Fire Ant**.
- Interviewer 2:* Fire Ant, I'm gonna write that down.
- Speaker 1:* It's some good stuff, man. If you put it down, you gotta make sure you keep it outta the way of the kids, now. You know what I'm saying? Don't let the kids **get a hold to it**.
- Interviewer 2:* Is it like a spray or like a powder?
- Speaker 1:* No, it's a powder. It's like some powder, like that boric acid, but it's – boric acid **gonna multiply**. But this stuff here, it get rid of fire ant. Get it, right there, at **Long's** Hardware, right there at Crump and Expressway – Long Hardware.
- Interviewer 2:* I'm nervous 'cause I got like a dog and don't want that to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Speaker 1:* Yeah, you get some of that, put it down, you ain't gonna have no problem with roaches – really. As long as you been, you ain't gonna see no roaches in your house.
- Interviewer 2:* Yeah, that's good.
- Speaker 1:* **So there.**
- Interviewer 2:* Everywhere else in Memphis, they're everywhere.
- Speaker 1:* Everywhere, but you ain't gonna see none in here because –
- Interviewer 1:* I have spiders, not really anything else. Just –
- Interviewer 2:* Really? Gosh, lucky.
- Interviewer 1:* I live in an upstairs apartment.
- Interviewer 2:* That's good.
- Interviewer 1:* That might be why, but a lot of spiders.
- Speaker 1:* You must stay way out, kinda stay way out.
- Interviewer 1:* Right by Rhodes.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, so if you're gonna stay way out like that, there's spiders real bad.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah. So when you first moved into your apartment at Cleaborn, what was it like?
- Speaker 1:* It was all right. You know what I'm saying? Just gangs.
- Interviewer 1:* Gangs?
- Speaker 1:* Gang members and stuff – so much fighting. \_\_\_\_\_ now 'cause so much gangs and stuff, so I just – I just \_\_\_\_\_, mostly the violence. I hate violence.
- Interviewer 1:* Did you ever have any like experience with running into them?
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, they wanted me to try to sell dope out in front of my unit and stuff, so I just called the police. They responded real fast.
- Interviewer 2:* Really?

- Speaker 1:* Uh-huh. I called the police on 'em.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah, I bet that was hard with a little baby, and you don't want anything to happen.
- Speaker 1:* I don't wanna 'em out in front of my building selling no dope, especially the fact that her mother was messed up on that stuff and didn't live with me.
- Interviewer 1:* She wasn't at Cleaborn with you?
- Speaker 1:* No, she wasn't at Cleaborn with me.
- Interviewer 1:* And you were there two years, is that correct? So how would you say it changed while you were living there, like the actual conditions of the building, or did you build any relationships with people while you were there? Or –
- Speaker 1:* Oh, I never really messed with too many folks there.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah, just did your thing?
- Speaker 1:* I had just moved over there. I wasn't over there long before they tore 'em down. \_\_\_\_\_. I kinda like to stay by myself.
- Interviewer 1:* Were there any changes in the overall neighborhood that you noticed while you were there? Was there a lot of violence in the –?
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, you had a lot of young people started moving in. You know what I'm saying? That's when you started to really see a lot of violent stuff, gangs and stuff.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah?
- Speaker 1:* **When I was in the city**, I was over there and just like, when I first moved in, they had some older peoples over there, but they started moving out. You know what I'm saying? Like I said, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Interviewer 1:* And were you employed while you were living Cleaborn?
- Speaker 1:* No, no, just Social Security and trying to get my veteran money.
- Interviewer 1:* What part of the service were you in?

- Speaker 1:* United States Marine Corps.
- Interviewer 1:* Marine – for how long?
- Speaker 1:* Three years.
- Interviewer 1:* Three years? Were you employed while you were in the Marines?
- Speaker 1:* No, not really. You know what I'm saying? There really wasn't no really serious fighting going on. At that time, we were driving up the – getting outta the war. You know what I'm saying? **Basically, they be sitting with their advisors** – you know what I'm saying – to \_\_\_\_\_. There wasn't really no one fighting \_\_\_\_\_.
- Interviewer 2:* Did you like your experience in the military?
- Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm, yeah, I did until the tank fell over on my leg. You know what I'm saying? Messed my leg up here.
- Interviewer 1:* Ooh.
- Speaker 1:* **Messed** my leg up, and they gave me 85 percent disability, and that's what I'm trying to get – my –
- Interviewer 2:* Get your money for, yeah.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, I'm trying to get the money for this.
- Interviewer 1:* Ouch.
- Speaker 1:* And I'm cut all the way up here. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Interviewer 1:* Geez.
- Speaker 1:* So I'm thinking **might end up** having so much default stuff going **up on in there** in Washington, D.C., you know what I'm saying? Saying that it's gonna be a while, but I did get my Social Security started. I'm just getting Social Security – don't look like I'm gonna get no check this month 'cause they're talking about they don't make no – you know what I'm saying? – no plan on that deficit thing – you know what I'm saying? – Obama said he's not gonna send no checks out, man. **He sending** no Social Security, no veteran checks out. It's a bad situation.
- Interviewer 2:* It's a bad place that they're at, I think.



- Speaker 1:* See now they can't get it together, man.
- Interviewer 2:* I know, right. I feel like I could do a better job than that, right?
- Speaker 1:* I'll be – we hope I be doing – man, I can't understand it. You know what I'm saying?
- Interviewer 2:* Yeah. So you get 85 percent disability?
- Speaker 1:* Eighty-five – so –
- Interviewer 1:* How many years ago was that when you were in the service?
- Speaker 1:* That was in – I went in '71. I come out in '74.
- Interviewer 2:* You were a young when you went in, yeah.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, I was. I went in when I was just, I think, when I turned 18.
- Interviewer 2:* Eighteen. Did you graduate from outta school and then go to the service?
- Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm, sure did.
- Interviewer 1:* Were you born in Memphis?
- Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm.
- Interviewer 1:* So you've been here all your life? And while you were living in Cleaborn, did you feel like it was a community?
- Speaker 1:* Yes, it was community.
- Interviewer 1:* Did you kinda know your neighbors? You said you kept to yourself, but would you ever interact with them?
- Speaker 1:* No, not that much. I just waved to 'em and stuff like that, so –
- Interviewer 1:* Did you ever have anyone –
- Speaker 1:* Her mama was – she would go in all the housing, so I get to see her house now. So we ain't live together, but I was trying to help her mama, and that's when I got her pregnant because I took her to Lakeside, and I thought she was changing and stuff like this, you know, trying to do the right thing. But started messing around with

the scene. Now what? I ain't that fine. I'm gonna – I take that back. She wants her. I can't really say that. \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer 1:* So when's the last time that you were with her?

*Speaker 1:* Shoot, it been like – been about two and a half years.

*Interviewer 1:* So pretty much right after your baby was born, you get custody and – smart man.

*Speaker 1:* I ain't been with her for almost three years.

*Interviewer 2:* Where does she stay at now?

*Speaker 1:* I don't know.

*Interviewer 2:* You don't ever see her?

*Speaker 1:* Court don't want her to see her.

*Interviewer 2:* That's good.

*Interviewer 1:* I don't blame 'em.

*Speaker 1:* Court don't want her to see her. Court said if I do let her see her, then they gonna take her from me.

*Interviewer 2:* Oh, wow.

*Speaker 1:* 'Cause I see what it is. They don't want her to see her.

*Interviewer 2:* Gosh, wow. Do you think it's better that way or –?

*Speaker 1:* Hmm?

*Interviewer 2:* Do you think it's better that way or –?

*Speaker 1:* I don't know. I be out on the porch sometimes. She might walk past here, and I maybe let her come up here – and you know what I'm saying? – see her for a minute on the porch – for a minute. I don't let her come in the house.

*Interviewer 2:* Right.

*Interviewer 1:* Would you ever let anyone watch your daughter while you lived in Cleaborn, or were just usually home all the time and –?

*Speaker 1:* I'm home all the time. I won't let somebody watch her 'cause she's classified as ADHD by Dr. **Lean** at the hospital over there. She's on a certain type of ADHD medicine, so she got a very intense behavior disorder – you know, **hyper attention just** – so I \_\_\_\_\_ at this point here, I \_\_\_\_\_ potty training, right now. She's going like on a pot right there. She's going to the potty.

The only time I put her training pants on is at night 'cause she can't pee. In the daytime, I have regular panties on, and she goes. She go into the potty, **regular**. You know what I'm saying? And I try to give her – \_\_\_\_\_ milk or juice. You know what I'm saying? \_\_\_\_\_. So I'm not sure **what they do then with** our check, you know, when we get our checks.

*Interviewer 1:* \_\_\_\_\_ a baby.

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, but they don't wanna give me no food stamps 'cause they say I get too much money.

*Interviewer 1:* But you're not getting money.

*Speaker 1:* We're not getting it. We're not gonna get it this month, it look like. But they got until the **second** to try to do something. I might have to go there and get some food stamps if they don't send them checks.

*Interviewer 2:* Yeah, I would, too. Give me food stamps or checks, one or the other, you know?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, for real.

*Interviewer 1:* Yeah, people are really hard to get a hold of. While you were living in Cleaborn, did you ever take part in any neighborhood traditions? Or were there any neighborhood traditions, like block parties or any birthday parties or festivals, holiday get-togethers?

*Interviewer 2:* Barbecues?

*Interviewer 1:* No?

*Speaker 1:* Nope?

*Interviewer 1:* Yeah, I always forget that one – barbecue.

- Speaker 1:* No, I mean – you know what I'm saying? I didn't play with too many folks over there like that.
- Interviewer 1:* Were there –
- Speaker 1:* I know that was just gonna be temporarily for me, anyway. I wasn't planning on staying over there. If they wouldn't have tore 'em down, I was gonna move anyway. That's how it was.
- Interviewer 1:* Was there anyone you trusted in Cleaborn?
- Speaker 1:* I knew **Vanessa** over there, **Vanessa's mom**. **That's it**. I trusted her.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah, she seems really –
- Speaker 1:* I trusted her.
- Interviewer 1:* Did you move together, next to each other, on purpose, or was that an accident?
- Speaker 1:* That was just an accident.
- Interviewer 1:* Oh, okay.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, she had told me they had this housing for \_\_\_\_\_, but they ain't called –
- Interviewer 2:* Does she ever help you with your daughter or –?
- Speaker 1:* Huh?
- Interviewer 2:* Does she ever help you with your daughter?
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, if I wanted her to, she would.
- Interviewer 2:* She would? Yeah.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, if I want her to, she would.
- Interviewer 2:* I'm sorry. I interrupted you. You said something about a man that was coming over here.
- Speaker 1:* **Bancorp** Realty. That's who I rent this house from. Yeah, \_\_\_\_\_ was \$350.00.

- Interviewer 1:* And were there any people that you would rely on for support financially or emotionally while you were living there?
- Speaker 1:* No.
- Interviewer 1:* No?
- Would you ever trade services with anyone at Cleaborn? Like if they would cut your lawn or cook you a dinner, would you –
- Speaker 1:* No, they took care of that.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah? The city or whoever?
- Speaker 1:* Oh, no, the housing authority.
- Interviewer 2:* Housing authority – cut people's lawns and all that sorta thing.
- Speaker 1:* They cut the lawn.
- Interviewer 2:* Did they do a good job with that?
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, yeah. They keep it up.
- Interviewer 1:* They kept up with maintenance?
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, they keep the maintenance up 'cause I do some of it. I keep my own. Pipe bust or something, I'll fix it.
- Interviewer 1:* Right away, or would –?
- Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm.
- Interviewer 1:* Right away.
- Speaker 1:* \_\_\_\_\_.
- Interviewer 1:* Had you had an experience with public housing before Cleaborn? Had you ever lived in any –
- Speaker 1:* No, no, no, my first time.
- Interviewer 1:* Oh. Did you feel safe while you were living there?
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, 'cause I called the police. Yeah, I felt safe, and I called the police – **real**.

*Interviewer 1:* Do you have any memories of any violence or anything that was –?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, some peoples got shot over there. Since I was over there two years, I know two peoples that got shot. **Last two years, two people got shot.**

*Interviewer 1:* Was any of it near your –

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, yep, on St. Paul over there, St. Paul Street.

*Interviewer 1:* Would you have felt safe playing outside with your daughter?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, we'd go out there and play at a playground.

*Interviewer 1:* Would you use the parks?

*Speaker 1:* They had a playground right there on St. Paul.

*Interviewer 1:* Uh-huh, 'cause Vanessa was telling us about a story when there was a small – or young girl who got killed in like crossfire from a drive-by.

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, I remember that.

*Interviewer 1:* Were you concerned about something like that happening with your daughter?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, I was. You know what I'm saying? But I made sure I watched her while she was out, wouldn't take my eye off her. You gotta keep your eye out. **If there** a car parked, passed by or something, you know what I'm saying? You see **anything** that looks funny or something. You know what I'm saying? You grab your daughter and go on back in the house. Look like something's going down. **Just go back in the there. Don't come out.**

*Interviewer 1:* What kind of activities, besides going to the playground, would you do with your daughter? Did you ever take part in any of the church movies that we've heard about or –?

*Speaker 1:* We just go up to **Porter** \_\_\_\_\_. They usually have things going on **over there**, so \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer 2:* Where was that, then?

- Speaker 1:* Porter \_\_\_\_\_, right down on Lauderdale – usually have – there's stuff up there for the Cleaborn Home \_\_\_\_\_.
- Interviewer 1:* What kinda stuff?
- Speaker 1:* Well, got stuff like that cards, playing dominoes, and all that kinda stuff – ping-pong stuff. Little kids play \_\_\_\_\_.
- Interviewer 1:* Would you bring your daughter when you would go to that?
- Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm. Kids, they brought 'em in there.
- Interviewer 1:* What did you like best about living in Cleaborn?
- Speaker 1:* Rent [laughter].
- Interviewer 1:* Rent.
- Interviewer 2:* What'd you say?
- Speaker 1:* No utilities.
- Interviewer 1:* No utilities.
- Interviewer 2:* What was it like – if you don't mind me asking – monthly rent there?
- Speaker 1:* My monthly rent – shoot – it wasn't no more than like \$149.00.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah, and there was no utilities?
- Speaker 1:* No utility.
- Interviewer 1:* And so what were the expenses that you had? Do you own a car?
- Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm.
- Interviewer 1:* So like that and –
- Speaker 1:* Condo, car insurance.
- Interviewer 1:* And food.
- Speaker 1:* And food.
- Interviewer 1:* I had –

- Speaker 1:* I had to buy my own food.
- Interviewer 1:* Have you ever had your daughter in day care? She's kinda young, though.
- Speaker 1:* No, I didn't have that – not yet. You know what I'm saying? But as soon as I get her potty trained, I'm gonna get her in there – if they get this check thing cleared. You know what I'm saying? \_\_\_\_\_. I just wanna go on and get her potty trained, so she's potty trained. I wanna make sure that day care are clean, that they gonna watch her. You know what I'm saying?
- Interviewer 2:* Yeah.
- Speaker 1:* Really good, not just – you know what I'm saying? 'Cause three-star day care over there on – that three-star day care they had over there on Monroe, across from the – it used to be the Piggly Wiggly over there?
- Interviewer 2:* Yeah.
- Speaker 1:* Do you remember that little boy? They said he come outta the day care and ran out in the middle of the traffic right there.
- Interviewer 2:* Oh, my gosh. I didn't hear about –
- Speaker 1:* And that's a three star. That's a three-star day care, and this truck was stopped – you know what I'm saying? – in the middle of the street – Monroe. Traffic was heavy and saved that little boy life. He was three years old.
- Interviewer 2:* Gosh, and that's so scary.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, and that's a three-star day care. You know, that's the highest star you can go. So then you just go with a star, you don't make no differences between star. \_\_\_\_\_.
- [Crosstalk]*
- Interviewer 1:* Accidents can happen anywhere.
- Speaker 1:* Can happen anywhere. That little boy walked out in the middle of that traffic, middle of heavy traffic during the day.
- Interviewer 2:* I bet his parents were so scared.



- Speaker 1:* It got on the news.
- Interviewer 1:* Geez.
- Interviewer 2:* Yeah, I didn't see that. I missed that.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, it was all over the news. You know, that trucker saved – he saved that little boy.
- Interviewer 2:* That's good that he saw him in time.
- Speaker 1:* Going in the middle of the street – three years old. Man, that's \_\_\_\_\_. Now that was a blessing there that he didn't get hit, hmm. So there's another three-star day care right on Alston, Miss \_\_\_\_\_. She got kids. I've been over there to see what's happening and stuff, you know. Matter of fact, she wanted me to do some work over there for her, like \_\_\_\_\_ – as a matter of fact, she wanted me to terminate – pour that – put some of that stuff I got over here.
- Interviewer 2:* Fire Ant? Yeah.
- Speaker 1:* Yes, in the day care – You know what I'm saying?
- Interviewer 2:* Well, that's good.
- Speaker 1:* We'll put it up on the attic, go up on the house and put some –
- Interviewer 2:* So those kids don't get any –
- Speaker 1:* So the kids won't get in it.
- Interviewer 1:* Maybe if you could help her out, she'll give you free day care.
- Speaker 1:* **That's what** I tell her.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, that was the deal.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah, that'd be good.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, tell her to give me free day care – you know what I'm saying? – I keep the \_\_\_\_\_ off \_\_\_\_\_.

- Interviewer 2:* That's good.
- Speaker 1:* So we've been talking. Her name's \_\_\_\_\_. She own a day care right there on Alston and Lauderdale.
- Interviewer 2:* Cool. They say roaches are really bad for little kids. I don't know why, but –
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, she even had them exterminator – pesticide folks – come out there about three times spraying, still got 'em.
- Interviewer 2:* Terminix and that kinda stuff? Yeah.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, she still – they been out three times, and she still got roaches. I told her, I said, "You need me to take care of this thing."
- Interviewer 2:* Yeah.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah.
- Interviewer 2:* You got the stuff that you –
- Interviewer 1:* Call you for my spiders.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, you need me to take care of that.
- Interviewer 2:* You should start your own company. That would be good.
- Speaker 1:* Huh?
- Interviewer 2:* You could start your own company.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, yeah, I sure could.
- Interviewer 1:* Fire Ant.
- Speaker 1:* For real, yeah. For real.
- Interviewer 1:* And what were some of the biggest challenges of living in your Cleaborn home?
- Speaker 1:* Let me see – just being to live in the project. That was the first time I was in there. That was the biggest change – just staying in the project for the first time. Yeah, 'cause when we were growing up, we stayed right there on Lauderdale – not Lauderdale, but

Wellington, right here – on Wellington and 4th, in a house on Wellington and 4th when we was growing up \_\_\_\_\_, and we ain't never stayed in the project.

*Interviewer 1:* So you said like there was also a lot of violence. Was that a challenge?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, that's a challenge, yeah, being around all that violence and close to it. You know what I'm saying? So close to it.

*Interviewer 1:* And drugs.

*Speaker 1:* And drugs – oh, yeah, drugs, seem like that's all anybody wanna do is sell drugs, and they got nothing else to do, get not money no other way, get no money but to sell drugs. So everybody over there, all them youngsters, that's what they wanna do, is sell drugs. **On every units**, when you see somebody on the corner, \_\_\_\_\_ youngster on the corner, **every day** – you know what I'm saying? – selling drugs, and you know, just totally mess this world up.

*Interviewer 1:* Were there any leaders that you remember from the Cleaborn community, anyone that sticks out, who would fight against something, or if there was an issue in the community, they would be the ones who you'd go to?

*Speaker 1:* Vanessa, she would. She'd fight against them drugs. I remember her saying – **she didn't broke the law – was good**. I wasn't over there that long, though.

*Interviewer 1:* Right, yeah. Do you ever remember anyone, such as researchers or people from the housing authority or social service agencies, coming over to Cleaborn and meddling and you feeling like they didn't belong there or shouldn't be there, like being nosy or –?

*Speaker 1:* Doing work in the office?

*Interviewer 1:* Yeah, anywhere – researchers, housing authority leaders, preachers, social service agencies.

*Interviewer 2:* People just come over and you're like – they don't live there, but you felt like they were sort of messing around there and shouldn't have been.

*Speaker 1:* No, I just –

*Interviewer 1:* Just minding your own business? Okay. And how'd you feel when you first learned about the plan to demolish Cleaborn?

*Speaker 1:* You know what, I really was glad. \_\_\_\_\_. I really was glad 'cause you know why – I'm just tired of them gangs and stuff over there, man – the gangs. **Them folk can kill over there like that.** You know what I'm saying? Yeah, it was just – really, it was too much violence over there. I really was glad. You know what I'm saying? For real, dang, man.

And you know what? I'll be glad when they tear down them Foote Home down over there. Yeah, for real 'cause it's the same thing there. They're really heading over there now. Like I'm talking like it was over there in Cleaborn Home. It's over there now.

*Interviewer 1:* Yeah?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, sure is.

*Interviewer 1:* Did you feel like the police were pretty involved and responsive?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, they respond, now. They gonna come fast.

*Interviewer 1:* Was there always someone patrolling or –

*Speaker 1:* Now that was the bad thing there. There wasn't a whole lot of patrol over there, but if you called, they had a quick response. But there wasn't no patrol like there should've been.

*Interviewer 1:* Yeah, there should've been someone stationed.

*Speaker 1:* That's right. That right. There should've been someone stationed. There should've been some heavy patrol over there. So they did make good respond time – you know what I'm saying – when you called, but there should've been some patrolling, too, you know. Probably would've had some real good patrolling, you probably wouldn't have had all that. You know what I'm saying?

*Interviewer 1:* When you found out about the plan to have everyone relocated, did you have enough time to pack up, find a new place, and get you and your daughter into a new house?

*Speaker 1:* Yeah, yeah.

*Interviewer 1:* And was the Memphis Housing Authority helpful at all with you finding this? Or did you say it was just Vanessa?

*Speaker 1:* I found Vanessa, and she told me there was a house over there, next door to where she had just got in. \_\_\_\_\_ Bancorp saying that, so I just called Bancorp \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer 1:* Did the Memphis Housing Authority provide any kind of transportation or something like that where –

*Speaker 1:* No.

*Interviewer 1:* No, it was all you and little Vanessa and – okay. Do you trust Memphis Housing Authority to take care of your needs?

*Speaker 1:* At that point, they did okay.

*Interviewer 1:* They did okay?

*Speaker 1:* They did okay.

*Interviewer 1:* How quickly were they responsive when you told them you found a place and then getting the checks and everything set up?

*Speaker 1:* They didn't take long.

*Interviewer 1:* They took care of it all right away?

*Speaker 1:* Mm-hmm.

*Interviewer 1:* Okay. Are you still in contact with anyone that you had met from Cleaborn?

*Speaker 1:* Just Vanessa.

*Interviewer 1:* Vanessa?

*Speaker 1:* That's it.

*Interviewer 1:* Okay. And what kinda hopes do you have for yourself and your daughter now that you moved away?

*Speaker 1:* I don't know. When I get my veteran money, I'm gonna get me a house. I don't know. I might just – I'm gonna get me another house, but –

*Interviewer 1:* Yeah? That you will own, your own house?

- Speaker 1:* I'm looking to own a house.
- Interviewer 1:* And where do you want to buy a house at? Around here still or somewhere –
- Speaker 1:* No, I'll probably go out a little further, you know, probably go out a little further. I really haven't decided at this point yet, you know, exactly where I'm gonna buy. I think I'm gonna look around first and see what might be the best situation.
- Interviewer 1:* And since you've relocated, have you been offered any case management? Or has anyone from Memphis HOPE contacted you with information about programs or to check in on you?
- Speaker 1:* \_\_\_\_\_.
- Interviewee 1:* No? No one's called you?
- Speaker 1:* Anybody call Vanessa?
- Interviewer 1:* Pardon me?
- Speaker 1:* Did she say anybody called her?
- Interviewer 2:* I don't remember. Sorry, we've done a lot of these interviews.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah.
- Interviewer 2:* Yeah, lots of people have said that.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah.
- Speaker 1:* Lots of people have said that?
- Interviewer 2:* What kinda support would you like for them to give you? Do you have anything that you feel like they could be providing, and you wish that you had someone helping you out with something?
- Speaker 1:* I just need the government to send my checks. That's all.
- Interviewer 2:* So maybe they could help with you that, help you get your money from the government.
- Interviewer 1:* Yeah.
- Speaker 1:* Yeah, you know, everyone say –

*Interviewer 1:* Or find another source of income just for now while the government is having its own issues?

*Speaker 1:* Yep, well, I just wanna do something, but they don't send any checks. **Might have** to do something.

*Interviewer 2:* That's all I got.

*Speaker 1:* That's it?

*Interviewer 1:* Yeah.

*Speaker 1:* All right.

*Interviewer 1:* Thank you so much.

*Interviewer 2:* Thank you so much

*Speaker 1:* Oh, you're quite welcome. I'm glad –

*Interviewer 2:* You've been –

*[End of Audio]*