

#### 4:53- Rocky's introduction

Hi guys um so we're going to go ahead and get started. Before we begin the formal programming I think it's important to recognize the space that we're in. So this is Rice House. It's um it's the house owned by the Black Student Union on college- at the college. So in 1969, Black students took over the administrative building and demanded that Black students have a cultural space with residential facilities and this house is the legacy of that. Um and so just recognizing that this is a space that we're in and so I'm gonna turn it over to Joy James who's gonna give an introduction to our speakers for the day and then we'll get started.

#### 5:32- Joy James' introduction

Ok, thanks Rocky. So, hi, welcome, and thanks that you guys created a space um and it's a beautiful space, so thanks for sharing it. And particularly thank you to Dorothy Holmes and Shapearl Wells for coming from Chicago yesterday to spend time with us. An I would like to give just a little bit of background um. We met at the University of Chicago. It was the day after a larger forum which focused on international mothers' activism in response to the loss of their children from gun violence, both from state and also from gangs, right? And the way in which they were recreating what it means to have civic love and virtue based on family love and connection, but also how that radiated out into community. So the main stage on that day right was really dominated by an international setting, but then the following day we got to meet in a smaller group, and that's also where we were with Sandra Bland's mother and people shared their stories right of organizing. We met again last September in Cali, Colombia, and I've learned a lot from you and we have similar politics and different politics and we'll learn more about your politics and how you organize, but I learned more about organizing and compassion and remembering certain things in terms of working collectives, both inside the country and outside the country. So I just wanted to set that up as my appreciation. I know that there's a lot of interest in the work that you're doing. There's also interest in Chicago politics now that Rahm Emanuel has stepped off and Lightfoot is the new mayor- what that means, if it means anything of substance. But I thought, you know, I will stop and you can share with us and then Rocky and Aissata will take it from there. Ok? So welcome to Williams.

#### 7:20- Shapearl Wells

Thank you. Um, I'll go first. My name is Shapearl Wells. I'm the mother of Courtney Copeland. Courtney was a 22 year old entrepreneur. He was killed on March 4th, 2016 coming home from work. What's ironic about Courtney's situation is that we don't know how exactly he was murdered. We know that he was shot- he was shot in the back in his car and he drove himself to the police station which was just probably about 3 or 4 blocks away. But, what we see once we retrieve the videos is that when he was in police asking them to help him, they refused to help him. And so this has been a 3 year journey for me uncovering what happened to my son, what exactly happened. Courtney, the area that Courtney was

murdered in it is called a safety zone. Safety zone meaning that they have pod cameras, police car cameras that should capture all types of evidence. In his area he had uh approximately about 12-15 cameras. So when I, the first thing I did was request the video coverage of the surrounding areas to try to see what happened to my son. Maybe it picked up something. When I met with the police, they told me that none of the cameras work, and so it took us over a year to actually get the the video that we have, and it was only one video. And I'm just going to briefly describe parts of the video to you because there's still some things that we are still trying to uncover. So when the camera pans to Courtney Courtney is on the ground, he's on all fours. And Courtney is looking up at them talking to them. And this is significant because they told me- the police- that my, my son arrived to the police station told them that he was shot and he collapsed and he passed out and never said a word. But once I retrieved the video, I see my son communicating with the police, looking up at them and only looking up at them. He's surrounded by about approximately about 8 to 10 cops and he's begging them for help. So my son is reaching up to them, begging them to help him and they look at my son as if he's nothing.

So this is what I see. And then, um, after that the camera is manually panned away from the scene. When I come back to the camera, it comes back and they're aggressively picking my son off of the floor, throwing him against the car and handcuffing him. So I didn't know all of this was happening to my son and why. Because he was already injured. He, uh, he was asking for help. He went to the police to ask for help and he was handcuffed during the transport. So after I've solved the tapes, I began to inquire more and go through this investigative process. To this day, the CPD denies the fact that they had handcuffed him even though it's in the medical records. I have a nurse confirming that he arrived in the ER, um, handcuffed. And these are the type of things that we deal with in Chicago.

I can't pinpoint to say that CPD shot my son, but I can't recuse them either. All I know is that I receive a phone call around 2 in the morning telling me to rush to this hospital. And it was ironic because where my son was, um, shot, they took him to the hospital on the north side of town. And he was on the west side of town. So it took them extra minutes to get him to get assistance. And so all of these things, uh, make me try to uncover the truth. So in the last three years since his, since his murder, I've been trying to uncover this battle, trying to piece together the last moments of his life. And we know that at 1:15, Courtney was on Facebook. He was talking to his friends. He was happy. He, he was communicating- nothing was wrong. At 1:16, he was shot, calling the 911 and he's in front of the police.

So what we see is that there is a lot of problems and me as a mother, it doesn't matter who shot my son, it doesn't matter. What I expect from the police is to help him. What I expect is for them to show compassion. And what I see is that he was not treated um with compassion in his last days. And so I find it hard to digest that and not try to change those rules. And so I see for myself and part of my activism that I'm doing is that some things

need to change. And I know that you guys probably heard about the Jussie Smollett case and you see how they were able to put 24 cops on his case. This was a beat up. He allegedly got beat up. They were able to- now little cameras. We see a big discrepancy in the Black and brown community when it comes to video tapes in the way that we're handled. They handed him a certain way because of his economic- socioeconomic class. They also handled him uh a certain way because he is um, LGBTQ. So when we see, when we try to fight for these same things and these same resources for our kids we're shut down by the city. And so a lot of people were asking me, well, how do you feel about them? I said, I'm devastated as a, as a mom, because for three years I have asked them to investigate my son's murder. They tell me they have nothing. I know more about my son's death and they do. And I probably got one follow up phone call from the detectives that are working on his case in the last three years. And so it's only us mothers who keep our children's name in the media. And it's only as we began to expose what's happening that they began to say, okay, let me relook and reexamined this case. But with Jessie Smollett, you see all the cameras work, now I'm talking about, he pulled up in front of the police station. So why wouldn't cameras in front of the police station work?

But this is what we have to deal with in Chicago: And it's the politics behind it. It's very, um, powerful. And if you have to break through so many barriers and so many walls to try to get to the truth. And so right now I'm working with the invisible institute, which is a a social journalist, journalist company, and they actually uncovered part of the Laquan McDonald, uh, murder, uh, situation with Chicago police. And they're helping me to actually put together a podcast about the journey that I've been on to, uh, expose some of the things that we did find out about portraits. And so we're hoping to have that out probably by, uh, we're recording episodes right now, so we hope that it had it out, but in the summer, early, early fall, but we'd have a lot of work with you in Chicago.

Thank you.

15:40- Dorothy Holmes

My name is Dorothy Holmes, the mother of Ronald Johnson. He was um murdered October the 12th, 2014 by a Chicago detective. My son was up on 53rd and King round at a house party. And in the process of him leaving the party, the vehicle that him and his friends went in was shot up at on the gang roads in that area. So everybody in the vehicle jumped out and ran- flushing. My son got left outside because the building that the party was in, they ran back in and the door closed. So he never made it back in the building. And in the process of him getting locked outside, he came into altercations with all the officers that was out there. And they say, some of them said they never seen the gun in his hand. Some of them saying yeah he had a gun, but the actual officer that he came in contact with, she never seen anything in his hand. So it was one officer that attack my son before he got killed. And that's the officer that my son and he was fighting and his partner was standing there. So if you gonna- my fight is that if you gonna arrest a person, you don't have to get

physical with them. If he turned around to you and he gave up running, why did you have to walk up to him, kick his legs apart, then grab him by the back of his hair, because he had dreads, grab him by the back of his hair and try to throw him to the ground. So he got into defense mode. He had to defend itself. So he broke away from the office and he ran to the front of the building. He tried to pull the gate open. He couldn't get the gate open. Then he ran back past the same officer behind the police car- less than two seconds the officer that was in the backseat of that police car jumped out, shot at him five times and hit him twice. One hit him in the back of the leg, the other one hit him in the shoulder and hit the main artery and exited through his eye socket. And my fight started like, uh I wanna say maybe like um I buried him like October the 22nd. My fight started right after that because they said he turned around and he pointed the gun at the officer. That's why the officer shot him. I'm like, that's not true. And when I, um, couldn't get the information that I wanted cause the city never contacted me saying that my son was murdered. My daughter had to call me and tell me he had been shot. So I'm like, "He was shot where?" and she's like, "On King Drive." So I run out the door, put my hazard lights on- now I live like on 122nd, this happened on 53rd and King Drive. I made it with from 122nd and Normal to 53rd and King Drive in less than 5 minutes cause I put the hazard lights on and jumped straight on the expressway and I wasn't stopping- I was just blowing my horn going through the lights. So I made it to the city and I'm like, "Where's my son?" and a guy walked up to me like, "That mother so-and-so killed him." I'm turned around and I look at him, I'm like "The police!?" and he like, "Yeah, they shot him." So I'm like, "Well, where he at?" it's like "He's g-, he's gone to Northwestern." I'm like, okay so now I'm jumping back in the car. I'm flying again. I made it like 5 minutes before I even made it to Northwestern Hospital, they called me back like, "No, he's not at Northwestern. He's like maybe two or three minutes from where he got killed there," which is the University of Chicago Hospital. So now everybody's jumping back in their cars going back that way. So when we get there now, the hospital was on lockdown. I couldn't identify him. Imagine he got killed on a Sunday and I couldn't identify my son until like that Thursday or something like that. And when I did go to the morgue to identify him, they said his body wasn't ready. How!? It don't take that long to do an autopsy. So they still wouldn't give me the information I wanted. So now I started reaching out to different lawyers. So I finally got a lawyer that- to take the case and I went down to him who was investigating the case and I'm like, "Okay, why I haven't heard from no one?" I wrote my letter, had it typed up, kept me a copy and gave them a copy and I'm like, "I got a video." Then they was like, "Well we got a video too." So now I'm puzzled like, "Okay, what video y'all got?" Now he did not give me too much information. He walked off and he sent me another lady out. So they wanted the video I got, so I'm not giving them nothing. So I went back and told my attorney, "They got a video," and he's like, "This is the video that you have?" I'm like, "I don't know." Come to find out it was the dash cam footage of the shooting. So, um, when I first seen that dash cam footage, um, I went down to sign off on the paperwork and well at the time we was like, "We got the dash cam footage and we finally got this," cause they fought and to keep it now, so they had to release it, but they

released it to the attorney and the public hadn't seen it yet, so I kept walking towards the door and my hand wouldn't let me open the door to walk out. So I told the lady, I said, "You know what, here, let me see that video." So I put my grandson in the room, which is my son's son. Put him in one room, and I walked back in there and she went through it and she showed it to me. I'm like, wow. So that's how Chicago police get down. They murdered my son and lied about it. On the video, you see him coming off the side of the building, running to the front of the building to pull the gate. Couldn't get the gate open. Then he run back past the same officer again and the police car pulled up. Just like, he pushed the door and the door closed back. Then he kicked it then he jumped down just started shooting at him.

And when my son fell the video went off, Then they stare, um, they asked her "Why did the video end like that?" They said that the sergeant had came to the scene, told him to move that car outta the way and communicate through their cell phones. So we had to get all those records and stuff and we finally got it. Then I said, you know, the officer's deposition and in so many words she was saying like, "If you run from the police, we got the right to shoot you." And I'm like, "No, you don't!" So they had put it into a little recess and told me like you can't have no outbursts like that. I'm like, "Okay, well I know he's still like, you don't have no right to shoot nobody if they run." So we went back in and he was still talking. Then he said he feared for the other officer that was sitting on- and on other side of the park. And you said my son was going to grab from 53rd and King Drive to 53rd and Cottage Grove? I said "Impossible you-." Then the only thing they charged him with was having the wrong bullets in the gun, and he was out on desk duty, so like they keep him. Tracks up, up behind him. So every time I found out something, I'd call up my lawyer like, "Oh when was y'all gonna tell me that he's at this ditch?" And then he looking at me like, "Um, where are you getting your information from?" "None of your business." And he was like, "Well, you know what? You're absolutely right. That's where he's at now," which is the Inglewood area on 63rd and uh like Morgan. So, that's where my fight really starts, really started. And I wont say I'm an activist. I'm gonna say I'm a concerned mother that won't go off of the city shit.

And I started doing my research and when I want to know something, I'm gonna go to this attorney because you represent my son, so I have a right to know this. So most everything I been taking to him has been coming back true because a lot of stuff now is coming back in our favor by I guess our lawsuit and stuff like that. But like I told them, they told me to get them some numbers. I can't give y'all no numbers. My son life didn't have a price tag on it. I can't give it y'all numbers. So we go back to court, um, say like I think it's like May the 8th or something like that cause it's still like a lot of motions and stuff being filed. But, I told them "I don't care. I don't care about their money cause I can't go to that cemetery and buy my son back. So I don't care about their money." So my main concern is now is getting- that state's attorney who we have the office is Kim Foxx- to reopen up these cases that was closed and hopefully sometime next month or something I'll get the news that I want to hear because if not, then I'm going for a special prosecutor to take over the whole case. And oof, in those,

it's a lot of mothers, well they make it look bad on our end because they took the money and they expect it now, and that from every mother, like when they kill our kids, they looking at themselves like, "Okay, we going to pay them off and that's the end of it." Can't pay me off cause I'm not accepting it. I won't.

What I want is the same thing if my son were to run after and kill somebody, he'd have been in jail. Ain't no we gonna pay this family out. I want them also convicted of murder cause he- he just liked me. When I cut myself, I bleed red. When he cut himself, he bleed red. So he belongs behind bars also. And the mayor, I gone chased him out of restrooms and all of that because why? Why are you here? You ain't doing your job. You're a coward. I called him a coward on national TV. You're a coward because you won't face none of the mothers.

And then the state's attorney, we had an awful of sorts, Anita Alvarez at the time. She said she wasn't going to be intimidated by me and I told her I wasn't going to be intimidated by her, but you're not getting reelected and she didn't get reelected. Now we got Kim Foxx in office and I don't feel like she's doing her job either because if she was, soon she'd have got it off she'd have started looking at all these cases that she said Anita Alvarez left, that didn't nobody know about it and now they still releasing. Maybe they'll release a video every now and then, but what's the sense of releasing these videos if y'all are not charging these officers and then y'all know the system is corrupt. Anytime you had DOJ to come in there and they, they tell y'all that it's corruption going on here and ain't nobody doing their job. Like I told 'em, I'm going to get charges brought. I'm not going to never give up the fight for justice for my son. If it's the death of me, like maybe to a fault, but I'mma tell you I'm going all the way out. I'm not, I'm not going, cause I got five grandkids, which is my son's kids that I have to have raised, I only had three kids now I'm raising five. I love 'em because he did leave me somebody on this earth to resemble him and I'm there for them cause I'm all they got, I'm daddy and grandma now. And, like I tell anybody, it ain't easy because you know I have my good days, I have my bad days and most of all, I can sit back and say, wow, I raised a good young man. I thank God every day for those 25 years and nine months he was on this earth with me. But the fight continues so I'm not just fighting for my son, I'm fighting for everybody, not just him. May he rest in peace. I love him and he's my first born, only son. But when I say justice for Ronnieman it's justice for 'em all.

Rocky: (27:17)

Before we get into the questions, I'd appreciate if we could just take a few moments to just sit with everything we heard.

So one of the things you just mentioned was that this fight goes far beyond yourselves. And so I think the question we want to start off with is what type of world are you fighting for? Like, cause it goes, it goes beyond these simple cases. So like what's like at the end of the day, like what will it take past like your sons, that is getting them convicted, for like you guys

to stop the activism. Is there some sort of end goal. And like what's your vision for like what liberation, Black freedom or justice looks like?

Shapearl (28:25):

Well for me, I know that Black people have been fighting since the inception of this country. We have been fighting for our freedom, for self respect and dignity since the inception of this country. And what I know is that for me, this fight is bigger than Courtney. When I was like, you know when the first thing I said to myself, like, God, what are you trying to show me in this, by taking my son? What am I supposed to do with this? Because you know, God says He's not going to give you anything that you can't bear. And I was like, God, this is, I'm talking to God: "God, this is unbearable. But what are you trying to show me?" And what God began to show me is that this is, this is about Courtney, but this is about the inhumanity for all Black people.

And so what I think that I would want is to change a lot of laws. I think that in the ambulance they need to have video recording, those are things I'm planning on, trying to, because you know, in the history, we know that they used to ride Black people around in the ambulance until they died and then they took them to the hospital. And it brings me that similarity that maybe this is what happened to my own child. But if we had video cameras in there, then we could see exactly what's going on, how they're treating -- because I don't personally think that a lot of Black people are dying because they're being shot, they're dying because they don't get to the hospital. And we're seeing the data is showing that they're not getting to the hospital fast enough to expose that. That's one thing.

Then also to make sure we have universal systems for all of these cameras. I shouldn't have a problem where I'm getting, if I'm on the north side of Chicago, I can get videotapes, but if I'm on the south and west side, I can't get them? No. Everything needs to be up to par, and they need to have one centralized system in order for them to have that, and then we also need to make some different laws that tells, tells the cops that they have to help. My dying son should not be sitting here begging the cops, looking up at them, reaching up to them, asking them to help. They should be required. In Chicago they are not required to help. They are just required to call 911. But they are all trained in first emergency aid and they could render help. And so these are things that I'd want to see changed and even if all of that is changed, I've always been a person who has fought for social justice and I'll continue it 'd just be on another level because I don't think that this country will ever be rid of racism in issues of, surrounding race.

Dorothy: (31:18)

Um, what I would like to see is like us Black and Brown people, in office, not all of this, I'm getting my family member in there like "Davey had his whole family member working for the city of Chicago." We don't, we don't need that. We need us in there because we got to live

in this state. You can't come from this place and put this person in place because you don't know what's going on in this city. You don't know, and you can't take a -- you want the police-- If you're not from our neighborhood you shouldn't be policing our neighborhood.

You got to fan out the community in order to just come into the neighborhood that stops and frisks 'cause you're pants sagging and all that, no, you can't do that, that's harassment. We want people like our own kind in our own neighborhoods where you could say "ah ok I know that's Johnny over there or that's Tiffany right there, go in the house get off the streets."

We don't, we don't want, we're tired of the police, period, 'cause they get mad when I say stuff, like I told 'em, people getting tired, they're gonna start back, shooting back, and then y'all are gonna want troops. No, no we don't want that. We tired, I'm tired. They will take up the TV on and we argue since this person got killed, this person got killed and then you look at the, what's his name? Eddie Johnson. He really, he really ain't got nothing to say.

Shapearl: --Eddie Johnson is the superintendent of police.

Dorothy: --the superintendent of police. He really don't have nothing to say. He's just there getting a paycheck. He's taking money from outta our pocket, we're paying taxes and we're not getting what we need. We tired.

Shapearl (32:50): Right now Chicago has over 7,000 unsolved murders and over --and this is just the last decade-- over 7,000 unsolved murders. And right now our murder solve rate is less than 15% which means that 85% of all murders go unsolved in Chicago.

So people are out here killing with impunity. They do not fear getting caught. And the thing is since that in some neighborhoods which are primarily Black and brown, they are in the single digits. And so we have a system right now that our lives don't matter. Black and brown lives don't matter.

I was talking with Joy this morning and in the last two months we had 19 girls, women, who have been shot in their car and we have cases of 51 murders that have just been, uh, analyzed by a outside person. But we've been saying that we had a serial killer in Chicago for a long time and the superintendent of police, he got on national TV and said, we do not have a serial killer in Chicago. And the women that were found, that all these women have been found in the same type of manner, either in the alleys and garbage cans or abandoned houses, 51 women.

And so they said that this was a pattern that we were seeing. And so we were calling, the activists, the moms were all calling out to them for them to investigate this, that there was a serial killer. But to have a major city like Chicago labeled as a serial killer on the loose. But



this independent person went out and said, hey, there's too many similarities. So what you're saying is that you have 51 killers that do the same MO. It doesn't make sense. And so, so we have a lot of, we do have gang problems, but the most of, we have a problem with shootings, unsolved murders.

If the po-- right now, I feel, I feel that the police are only there collecting checks because as I investigated my own son's, if your, if your murder isn't solved within the 48 hours and I know if everybody has seen that TV show, it's a cold case. And so you have no um, no justice for all these single mothers, these mothers who are trying to find justice for their children. I mean you have seven, over 7,000 unsolved murders in Chicago and no one's talking about it.

Aissata: (35:36)

Yeah. Um, thanks for coming. And uh, I guess the next question would be how do you create solidarity across the nation? And maybe also internationally. Like how are you linking with other mothers who are doing this type of work that you're each doing?

Dorothy (35:54): Well, I've met mothers, and I've been to California, met mothers there, I've been to Colombia, met mothers there, um, [...], Minnesota, so you know we travel we meet mothers, we talk, we share our stories to let them know that you are not alone in this struggle in fighting for justice for your kids. And, um, yeah I met mothers from Colombia, Brazil, and they actually did visit, I haven't been there.

So it's like a lot of my Facebook friends that I've been friends with on Facebook that live in other states, I actually have not met, that have been affected by police brutality.

So it's like a point of, uh, like social media do help, but at the same time you know our pages are being watched, because I got called from the attorney asking me what have I posted on Facebook, and me being me I'm asking him like, why? And he's like, "you know, I got a call from the city and they said that you put the um, the police officer picture on Facebook." And I say: "yeah, why? And he's like I need you to take it down." And I told him "no I will not." I said, "just like my son picture went viral. Well, I need everybody to know how this officer look." And he was like "well, okay, well I'll call you back" and he didn't call me back, he sent me a friend request. Now what make you think I'm gonna accept your friend request?

So, um, yeah, you know, I know they watching, so I'm gonna give them something to look for, I'm gonna post what I want to post on Facebook because y'all don't know our pain. We dealing with the loss of a child. And you want to tell me to watch what I post on social media? Look, he got no pictures of his mama, his kids, cause I put them up. So they tried to lock me up because I told them also what goes around comes around. They took it as a

threat. I said, well it was a threat, then. So I went down there to them, me, and about a hundred of us went down there. I'm like, y'all wanted me. Here I am. They're like, oh I tried to suggest you didn't drive. I said, right, my whole point exactly y'all weren't ready for it. So ever since then I've been fighting.

They do stuff to intimidate me, but I'm not scared. They'll pull me over, traffic violations. Ah hell I got no, no it's not. Y'all better come up with something better than that 'cause my husband checked everything on the car I pull out, and one day they pulled me over, told me like, "I could take your car." No you can't. What you gonna take my car if I got a license, I got insurance, everything on my car's up to date. He said "I don't like your attitude." I said "I don't like yours either." And then he was like "well, um, let me write your name in and don't nothing come back I'm gonna let you go." So I was standing there laughing at him and stuff. I was saying like I got my phone and they being listened to. I got my phone on my seat so everything they're saying, I'm saying, everybody hearing it. So he walked back to the car and said, "here you go and you have a nice night and you be safe out here." And I snatched it and I said, "thank you and you have a nice night and you be safe too." I got in my car and drove off. Like I told him, y'all better come better than that. And y'all killed my son, I feel nothing now. Y'all gotta come better than that. So they do, they do the slick stuff, but, I'm, they gotta come better, I'm not scared of 'em, I say what I want to say. I got freedom of speech which they figure we don't, but we do.

Shapearl (39:24)

Yeah. For me, like Dorothy was saying, this is a club that nobody wants to be in. And so, because you are in this space of a grieving mother or surviving mother --I like to call myself a survivor because I survived this tragedy. I'm still alive. There are some mothers who could not survive losing a child and they have committed suicide. They have done other things, you know, so, cause they couldn't bear the pain.

And so we have, it's like a network of mothers that we have established through the community and you get invited to just like to go speak. And uh, it's a coalition of mothers in pain that are trying to, uh, make moves to, to basically to ease it. So this social activism that we do is to help mothers get through the same, cause sometimes we may meet a mother whose child just died, who, who was just buried. And you try to talk them through what you've already gone through. The same thing that happened with me. Same thing to happen with Dorothy. And we help each other because we the only ones who fully understand what it is. And sometimes we do projects together, we do seminars, we do workshops, and we talk about how you're going to impact the community in a positive way.

And I always try to keep in my mind that my goal is always to change, change this pain into a purpose for God to use me in a purposeful manner that is going to be positive for the community. Because I feel like, you know, I represent Courtney. Courtney was representing

the world when he was alive, but now I have to pick up that mantle and carry it. And that's what we're trying to do.

Rocky (41:21):

You've mentioned, um, the community many times in your responses. So I think we wanted then to ask like, how does community care factor into the work that you do? And y'all do it day by day. So like what type of work are you doing like within your community and nearby communities?

Shaparl: (41:41)

Well, after Courtney passed away, I found out so much about my son. I was like, oh, you know how you like, "Oh my child, my children never listen." But then you find out that they were actually listening. So I had a lot of positive feedback and it was like so much outpouring of love and a lot of people came and told me a lot of stories about Courtney, after he had passed.

I had, the first day I opened up my house to the neighborhood, I probably had at least 500 people come to my house that day to talk about their interactions with Courtney. And so what they were telling me is that he was out there, he was feeding the homeless, he was out there. He was, uh, helping single moms pick up their kids and take them, you know, from point A to point B after school. He was just, just like encouraging people. And so I was like, oh my God, my son was doing this. I didn't know. I mean, every time I see him, I'm like, "what do you want now?" You know, "what do you want now?" He was always on the run and he told me, he said, "Mama, I'm out here changing lives." And I was like "Ah, boy you just running the streets."