

Code	700011
Subject	Clifford Johnson, Jr.
Date	4/14/2010
Interviewer	Milton Profit, Jr.
Abstract	Clifford Johnson, Jr. manages an apartment building on East 139th Street where he and his partner (Mr. Kidd) hopes to install a garden. Clifford has lived in the neighborhood for seven years. The neighborhood is occupied by drug dealers and the community has a "turn your head the other way" mentality. He is hoping the installation of a garden will have a snowball effect in the community and will make other people follow suit.
Special Notes	
minutes:	0:55:40
	0 Intro, comments that E. 139th Street is a drug infested street.
	1 Lived in Maple Heights prior to moving to E. 139th Street. Born in Wade Cross, Georgia.
	2 The community in Wade Cross is friendly, quiet, well educated, nice community. The system in Cleveland prevent people from sticking together.
	3 In Wade Cross if someone was dealing drugs the community would confront the individual, but in Cleveland people turn their heads when illegal activities are going on .
	4 Attended Ohio University and met his wife and later moved to Cleveland.
	5 His wife is from Cleveland. A fraternity brother offered him a position to manage his apartment building on East 139th Street.
	6 The criminal are organize and regulate certain things.
	7 The block club on the street is 95% women, and the women get made at the men for the condition of the neighborhood. After a man was killed the city provided the street with a camera.
	8 Drugs are like a movie, if it's not in your community now, it's coming. You don't know who the criminals know-so you have to watch what you say around everyone.
	9 Has been with the community of Mount Pleasant for seven years. Talks about changes over the seven years he has been there.
	10 Most of the criminal would like a job, but it is easier and more available to sell drugs or steal. The economy increases the criminal activity.
	11 Has tried to approach some of the guys involved in crime, but has to be wary not to talk to them like a cop or telling them what to do.
	12 The people in the community are endurable. Talks about people staying in abandoned houses.
	13 Discusses tearing down houses as difficult necessity because of the abuse by drug users. The "dope" boys are uneducated but many of them learn this behavior from their families.
	14 The community is getting better, but only because of a murder on the street. Change should've been made before something like this happen. Questions the councilman's activities in the community concerning safety.
	15 Drugs have been sold on the street for over thirty years.
	16 Talks about the councilman of the area making "token visits." The street is split in half between two different councilmen.
	17 Discusses what the project will do for the community. Open people's eyes to clean up the street.
	18 Talks about why the lots were chosen for the garden. One of the lots is next door to the apartment building he manages.
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	20 The garden is a start, may make people want to improve their property.
	21 The garden was once a vacant building, it has since been torn down and the debris will be removed. Flowers will be planted. Talks about other people taking notice and applying for grants to start other gardens.
	22 Discusses the expected design and makeup of the gardens.
	23 Discusses how the project should have been started five years ago.
	24 There is a state of mind on the street to mind your own business. Talks about the women being more active, says that men need to step up and be leaders.
	25 Talks about a neighbor kid being shot and killed across the street from the apartment building, was a wake up call to get involved. But how can you show these guys to go in another direction when there are no jobs.
	26 There is no alternative to offer them since they are making money off of drugs or crime.
	27 You can't give up on these guys. They make money hustling.
	28 Found out about the grant from the Mount Pleasant Association. Talks about the neighborhood of Buckeye changing for the better.
	29 Some people don't want to take the time to change the neighborhood. Moving from Maple Heights to Kinsman was an enlightenment. You don't have to live in the heights to live decent, clean your own neighborhood.
	30 Talks about living in a neighborhood where the children can play outside and be safe.
	31 Discusses future dreams of the project, hoping it will expand to more neighborhoods.
	32 Young people emulate older people, if they see it and it is open to them.
	33 The community is unaware of the garden but will be surprised when it goes up.
	34 Councilman is unaware of the project but will most likely be there when the cameras are.
	35 Talks about only half the street being paved. Neighborhood is situated on the border of Shaker and Garfield Heights.
	36 The side closest to Shaker is still a nice area. When you see garbage and debris in front of a house you know it's an abandoned building.
	37 Most of the people that make up the street club in the neighborhood are homeowners.
	38 75% of the people that live on the street are homeowners, the renters in the area don't have stock in the community because they can easily leave. Talks about the women in the block club cheering when he showed up for the first time to the block meeting because of the few men that get involved.
	39 Never has been involved in the community in this capacity before.
	40 The experience has been enlightening.
	41 More people and money are needed to help things work.
	42 Talks about people copying the idea, which will eventually change the area.
	43 Talks about people cutting through people's yards. Kids cut through and it is dangerous. Would like more cameras, if you're not doing anything wrong why are you worried about Uncle Same watching you.
	44 The camera did make a difference, and the drug selling became more discrete. Talks about how the councilman could help change the street.
	45 Talks about needs that aren't being met, doesn't know what he'll need until the garden is started.
	46 Discusses getting more money after the funding ends in November.
	47 Discusses putting gardens on the neighboring street of 140th.

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49	Hoping things will snowball and people will see the improvements and want it for their street. Talks about the predominant drugs being sold and used on the street.
50	Refers to the city limit of Shaker Heights and the E. 139th Street as the Mason-Dixon Line. Drug dealers ensure safety for outsiders because it is important to keep people coming back to buy.
51	Talks about leasing the land and hopes for after the lease period.
52	Talks about putting name on the property license and the legality if something happens on the lot who is liable.
53	Waiting to see what the community will do once the garden is up.
54	Mr. Kidd (the partner for the garden) is the grant writer and the project coordinator.
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