

Charlie Brown interviewed by Tameka Denton

July 31, 2020

Brooklyn, NY

Tameka Denton: Hi good afternoon

Charlie Brown: Hi

TD: It's nice to meet you can you state your name

CB: Charlie Brown

TD: Your age?

CB:41

TD: Your occupation?

CB: Supervisor

TD: Your racial identity

CB: Hispanic

TD: Your gender?

CB: Male

TD: Your sexual orientation

CB: Male straight I should say.

TD: Where are you from

CB: New York

TD: And your background

CB: New York

TD: And your parents?

CB: Puerto Rico

TD: Can you tell me how they end up in New York

CB: I don't know

TD: What was your opinion on the police before the protest against police brutality began?

CB: My opinion on the police was always the same before the police brutally and after the police brutally. I just believe that people if they do bad things you know they should understand that they are going to be punished in some kind of way I'm not saying

people have to dye for it but what I am saying is that if you are doing a criminal thing that you should understand at some point you're going to either be in two places is either you gonna be in jail or dead so it better to live a lifestyle which doesn't involve criminality.

TD: Do you have any interesting stories you about encounters you have had with the police

CB: I had encountered with the police there was a truck parked in front of my driveway and I ask them to move it from the driveway and the guy started arguing with me the truck driver so then we arguing back and he wanted to act like he was gonna do something to me and we almost got into an altercation so when I got into the house to come back out they were asking me about some kind of papers you know just to show them about the stuff my dad car that got hit by a truck there the police were coming and they were there. So when the police came they guy truck told his version of the story and they didn't even bother to let me talk or get my side of the story they winding up just slamming me on the police car and they handcuff me and I end getting hit a couple of times with umm the nice stick and the little battens and you know that's what happened. You know they arrested me I went to the prison and from prison, I was released with a ticket. and you know um do you I think that it should happen that way no but you know I did understand on the other hand when they were grabbing me up and when they were throwing me on to the car I didn't move I didn't resist anything I just accept it because at what point and time are you gonna understand that police are police and they're there to police people or citizen. so I accepted what they did and you know what at the end of the day you could explain your side when you go to court and you're there in front of a judge that were you explain what happen and when you released from the ticket or they take to jail or you get on bail or whatever, you would have your time to go in front of the judge and when you go in front the judge it up to you have a law or say your side of the story to legal defendant or legal aid lawyer and they will talk for you. So I believe those are the people that are put here to talk for you. So unfortunately, I have to get arrested and this thing happens, but I knew my place because If I would have resist who knows what could happen.

TD: What do you have to say about the traffic stops that escalate to somebody dying? What are thoughts about that?

CB: My thought with the trafficking stops where people are dying is very serious because at these points and time umm these police officers make stops and they don't know who in the car and there's a lot of vehicles with tinted windows so at point of time they don't know what the people inside the cars are doing you know that's why I believe they ask for the window to be rolled down its for safety for everybody for safety for their safety and safety for the people in the car for everybody safety. To see clearly I think when your stop if you don't want no issues I think you should stop turn of the car open all the windows and just sit there and wait till they ask you a question and when they ask you questions you answer. It's simply you know I been stopped plenty of times and they ask me question and I answer to the best of my ability or whatever I feel like telling them. Its conversation between two people that are humans is just that one has a badge and one is sitting in the car seat you just have to communicate and you know than

whatever happens from there happens from there and the same way say whether you receive the ticket or don't receive the ticket or you think your wrong or you think your right I think that is determined by the judge when you get the ticket they will issue you an appointment at the DMV or were you but I don't think that people should die behind things like that but think when people start to act suspicious I think that's a problem and I think that's where the problem starts.

TD: What your opinion on the protest movement before May 2020?

CB: I think people can protest whatever they want you to understand people can say whatever they want. I just think that people need to do that respectfully and with violence and there's a lot of times that it doesn't have to be the main individuals that are holding these rioting or these protests or whatever the case. Their others just coming between them to insight these problems and then when becoming bigger and bigger and bigger and that's when it becomes a total issue because it's hard to picked out peaceful protesters from violent protesters if all you see is a whole bunch of people. So sometimes innocent protestors get caught up in the mix because you have the bad protestors when I say bad I'm saying the ones who doing things like throwing bottles throwing cans doing things they shouldn't be doing you know cause anybody can stay somewhere with people a lot of people and they can have any chant they wanna have and say whatever they want to say. But when you start to do violence and start to put your hands on people, you start to break windows and do things like graffiti and stuff like that its a totally different thing.

TD: So, what do you think about the protest then and now like back vs 2020?

CB: No I think that in every protest there always been some kind of thing like you know there's been other protest back in the days I'm not too sure when but I'm sure they were protesting where they burn buildings down you understand and you know it's true I think that it has been worse now cause you have people who tryna set up their own zone and their own little government you know stuff like that but I think that it always been the same people burn down things people have fought against the cops. But think it's worse now because the violence is more physical and it's a little more aggressive before you know you had a cop there they wouldn't dare to hit them they would probably push them or try wrestle with them or the will resist but now they actually trying to do physical harm and that's a totally different thing.

TD: Why do you think that these protests erupted?

CB: I think that they erupted because of... I'm not gonna say all of police officers but if one police officer or two police officers do something that's wrong or is wrong, then I don't think that everybody should pay the price for that whatever this police officer did... did the wrong thing I could only say from what I see from tv what they show me on tv I was not there so I can't really so but what they show from tv you know, they show that the officer was doing what he was doing and the man lost his life in a bad way. I think there were other ways of holding people down and doing stuff like that too you understand they can't hold one police officer to all of them you can't what hold what one did and hold everyone uncountable for that. You know because not everybody is not the same you know, I do think that it was wrong but at the same time, I don't think that all

this extra stuff needs to happen. I think that if people use their local government and talk and about these things and bring these things to the table before time than I think somethings can be resolved. I think that people don't use their own community to go to talk the people they put in power they senators their councilmen they don't use them properly if they take and go in crowds and bunches or more than one and they go these senators and they go to these council and say yo we wanna talk about this than believe that that's how change start you have numbers going to these people that you... the voters put in place that's how you suppose to get your communication across you to understand you can't wait till something happen to then start uproar and say this wrong you have to do it before it happens and doing it before happens means you're using your brain not allowing something to happen, your acting before it happens meaning acting ahead of time.

TD: How have coronavirus change your life?

CB: [Chuckles] the only thing coronavirus change in my life is having to wear this mask and to have to go in stores and stuff like that. And to tell you the truth I just think that it's more of a compliance thing because you go into certain stores and see people walking with the mask and they still have they mask on their chin and their mouth is exposed and they still breathing in the air so you know to me it means nobody in the store told them, okay you know they didn't tell them to get out but they let them in the store because they have a mask on their chin. So their like okay we see the mask you can come in. So you know it's more of a compliance issue versus if somebody doesn't have the mask than they automatically trying to stop them from coming into the store so those are two different things so that is like now they're trying to enforce a rule more than enforce health and safety for everybody else. Plus if you have a mask on and you so social distancing anyway, I don't understand the need of having a mask.

TD: Do you think that coronavirus has an impact on these protestors? Can you be more specific on how coronavirus affected protest?

CB: Tell you the truth I don't believe the coronavirus had any impact on the protestors I believe that if I'm not only gonna say only protestors I'm gonna say people in general if people care right and they thought this was such a big thing and they were scared about it to tell you the truth I think everybody would've stayed home. They would nobody out there trying to do anything but at that point of time, you still have people protesting, rioting, looting and some of them had masks some of them didn't have masks. It's like they didn't care about the virus at the time the virus only came before that and after that when that situation died down. It didn't die down all the way because people still remembered that it still happened the death of George Floyd, but since it kinda died down after the burial it's been a little bit of time I think people still doing their thing without the mask and you know I think people need to also need to also check on the facts of this that there an inflation of coronavirus people, in other words, people being diagnosed with the coronavirus so there serval of news outlet where they found out that different hospitals had people dying from different things and they caused by the coronavirus so that can be skewed numbers to make it look like something totally different than it really is so this is what have on our hands right now.