

Jimmy: I would like to ask you how many family members are there in your family?

Antwon: I have a big family, we are about 10 I think and on my mother's side another 10, we are a big family.

Jimmy: That's good to know, my second question for you is what are your hobbies?

Antwon: Motorcycle ride. Since I live in California I go to the beach a lot to run and workout at the beach.

Jimmy: My third question for you is how long have you lived in Los Angeles?

Antwon: My whole life I'm 39 I was born and raised here.

Jimmy: That's cool, what is one of your most successful achievements so far?

Antwon: I got a few maybe, I got my truck license and my car license so I'm proud of that. I'm also working hard for my kids to be better and have a better future. I'm also a single father so I'm taking care of my kids by myself as well.

Jimmy: That's great to hear, I'm also proud of you for keeping that up.

Jimmy: Another question that I have for you is When and how did your family come to Los Angeles?

Antwon: My grandma told me in the 1960s to move the east side and in the 1980s we moved to the west to South Central.

Jimmy: Wow you lived in different places. What do you think South Central's greatest strength is?

Antwon: By the time the situations were changing and the schools were different, there were not that many opportunities for kids to study, and there were a lot of gangs. Power and prices have changed a lot, everything is more expensive now and lots of new rules, new management etc.

Jimmy: How do you think South Central has changed over the years?

Antwon: I feel like South Central changed more :so like, back then it was a little easier a little cheaper. Now everything is just more expensive and you know wages and prices have changed. I know that when I was growing up—in 9th grade, I could go to the store and get a soda for a quarter! Now, the same soda is a dollar. So you know what I mean?

Jimmy: I get that.

Antwon: I've seen that change. Yeah, and then like just the shift of gentrification and change and them bringing the prices up on stuff and forcing Black and Brown people to move further out of LA. So I've seen that like a little bit of change. And just you know with the gangs. Back then, there was a lot of gang violence, and now I'm not saying it's slowed down or stopped but more people are just realizing that that's ain't what you want to be. Trying to just grow.

Jimmy: And another question I got for you is: What were the schools looking like back then?

Antwon: I went to Washington Preparatory High School, so—

Jimmy: Oh yeah, Washington?

Antwon: Yeah so I went to Washington, and you know for me, school was... I don't... Since I work right here at Community Coalition, I pick up the kids from Washington and other surrounding schools, but for me, it wasn't like that. I see more kids in school. I got in trouble a lot, and sometimes I didn't get in trouble. So for me it was like—I think the kids got more help with anger management problems or psychological problems. Back then, we would just have to thug it out.

Daniel: They have like—they have better opportunities right now?

Antwon: Better opportunities right now. You know what I mean? Back then when I was growing up, we didn't have this opportunity. We didn't have places we could go and get help. It was just like everybody fought for themselves. Gangs were really all around. Back then, you were either gangbanging or..

Jimmy: School.

Antwon: School, or sports. I didn't play any sports so it was just like there weren't too many opportunities out there. There was a pipeline almost—that's what it seems like—and you just want to break that cycle.

All my brothers and sisters, we grew up and always had people in the system. It's like we're trying to break that pipeline now and just like... maybe do something better. For the future.

Jimmy: Another question I got for you is, well the last one basically, is how was the economic situation?

Antwon: Like I was saying, the soda was a quarter, Debbie's snacks was a quarter, now it's fifty. So the economy was just—Gas! When I first started driving, gas was like...

Jimmy: It was better?

Antwon: It was 89 cents.

Daniel: 89 cents? A gallon?

Antwon: Now it's four dollars a gallon. It was about a dollar a gallon and now it's four. So you know what I mean? It was just—I feel like I had a little more money then and it was easier to do stuff. Now, I wanna say like twenty years later, the whole two dollars on everything. So the economy was a lot easier to get houses and to get some property. Now everything is sky high especially over here where they just built The Forum and they're building the basketball. They got the football right there. So all that brought the prices up. Even if you live maybe six miles from there, the prices are sky high.

Jimmy: So everything was cheaper back then like that time? And prices have gone up, and there are also more opportunities now?

Antwon: There are more opportunities now to get help with anything. You know mentally ill or just help with reading or math or anything. You can go somewhere and get it. Especially by me being in this organization that I work for, it's like getting me resources for other things. And when I see my people out there that need help with, I try to help them out. So it's way easier now, getting opportunities.

Jimmy: Things have changed a lot over time.

Antwon: As expected though. Everything can't always stay the same.

Jimmy: It was a pleasure for me to interview you today. Thank you so much for listening to us and giving us your time. I appreciate it so much and have a good day.