

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Speaker 1:

You see a lot of action up here, a lot of it. For me, it's not my usual this is Baltimore.

Speaker 2:

He actually had a gun.

Speaker 3:

He just told us, we know what time it is.

Speaker 4:

"You know what time it is, kick it out."

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios

Speaker 3:

There was a big gun in our face.

Speaker 5:

And they showed them the gun. They said, "we're going to come back and kill you guys."

Speaker 3:

So he had a gun pointed the gun at me.

Speaker 4:

He made everybody get on the floor.

Speaker 5:

That night they broke the back door, came in, broke one of the guy's head.

Speaker 4:

He made everybody throw all their stuff in the middle of the floor.

Speaker 5:

And the old man, you know, what can he do? So he just gives him the money.

Speaker 3:

He took the money in my hand and he left.

Speaker 1:

And we were wrong.

Speaker 5:

I'm pretty sure everyone's got robbed on the block, at least once, but some of these places have been robbed 15 times. It's crazy.

Charles Faulkner:

Officer Charles Faulkner, Sector 2, Close 25, which is basically the 33rd and Greenmount corridor. Been there for about five years. Most of the calls, disorderly, loitering, CDS, controlled dangerous substance.

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios

A few years ago, we had a homicide right down on the corner of 33rd and Greenmount. Well, that's why for the last three years, you always have an officer standing post and walking foot in that area. My first year I said is my worst year, because you're new, your badge is shiny, nobody respects you, they know you're new, you smell new, you act new, nobody knows you. So eventually, the nice way to put it, you kind of put your foot down, I won't say where, but you put your foot down. And a lot of times you have to make yourself known that I'm not disrespectful, but I won't be disrespected.

So it's a lot of give and take. You pick your battles a lot, because sometimes guess what, I got to focus on more of just keeping people safe and not just okay, you're standing up on a corner. I can always come to you, but the more pertinent stuff needs my attention right now. You got to have probably three things at this job that you'll be successful. One, is a sense of humor. You got to have a sense of humor in all of it. If you take it seriously, you'll go insane in six months of this job. Two, common sense. You can have a doctorate in whatever field you want, if it doesn't look right, it's probably not right. And last but not least is integrity, because it's like a dog sensing fear, people can sense if you're being true to them or not.