Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series | 400 E. Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 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/



Daniel Robinson (00:03): So my name is Daniel Robinson, better known as DJ. This is 429 MetroPCS. Go ahead and take a walk in real quick. We have cases, we have new cellphones. We have new GALAXY S4 to S3s. We have the LG, L9s, the F3s, the NOKIAs, LUMIAs, Windows phones, the Exhibits and all the phones that you may need. [Crosstalk 00:00:32]

To be honest with you, this was a career opportunity for me. This is basically a chance for me to go ahead and to prove to myself that I can go ahead and manage a business on my own. When I first pulled in the neighborhood, I knew off the books, I was like, this reminds me of DC. I was like, hold up, hold up. I said, okay, I know where I'm at right now. You kind of relate if you've already been in the area like this. So me, I would just post up outside, passing out flyers, getting to know people and riding the neighborhood, talk to them. It's not like I don't know how to talk to my people because this is, I mean, even though I'm not from this area, we all wanted the same regardless. We may be from different areas and may say, okay, I don't know this area like that, but at the same time, it doesn't matter because we're still able to relate to each other on this level.

Speaker 2 (01:35): I got to be honest with you, DJ. When I first pulled up and saw you out here, I thought, "Oh man, the neighborhood boys are going to give this guy a hard time." But the more I talked to you and the better I get to know you, I imagine they probably really admire you.

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Daniel Robinson (01:49): Yeah. I mean, I don't come at them like, some thug off the street or anything, they can tell where I've come from or my background, like they always say, Will's going to recognize me, I don't have to say it. I'm here to tell you that I'm a businessman. We come from different sides of the field and we come together to meet and it's just like, there's no reason to be on beef. There's no reason to be, " Okay, who's this new kid on the block? Why is he on this block? And don't be posted up on this block, this isn't your block." That's how any one of them connect, because they post up out here all the time. They do what they do, so they walk by and they just say "Hi", or they wave, or they just nod their head, whatever it is that you do, I'm just going to respect you too. That's just how it is.

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