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/



Gary (00:02): You say my name on this block, everybody know me. I've done mine here. What I'm telling you right now is you have to have a appreciation for more than just money in order to enjoy this life. Well, my name is Gary, but my name for the streets back then was God(beep). I go back to '92. I came here because I heard they were selling drugs here. And I came here with nothing else in mind but to get money. That was my story. When I came here, it was seen like it was just, it was more white people buying crack at that particular time. That's when the epidemic has really just hit. A lot of people would spend a lot of money, they're giving up a lot of (beep) just to get high. And that's what it was, at that particular time that's all I was chasing, was money. I got locked up here. I got robbed here. I beat people up here. You know what I'm saying, I've been in a situation where I had to shoot out with people here. It's nothing good, or in the sense where, oh, I feel like I'm a gangster. Nah, I just survived all those situations.

Speaker 2 (00:57): That said, I mean, where are you at now with your life? What's going on with you these days?

Gary (01:00): Well, right now I got my own cleaning service, man. I decided to turn it over. Well, that was the part of the decision when I had to do seven and a half years in the federal penitentiary for these streets. So I feel that I owe these people something. Because it seemed like, through the years, I took so much from them. My biggest addiction was money, oh, and still is money. I'm addicted to having. So I have to keep grinding to get back to where I was at without doing something illegal. I know I can. I

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blazed the path to get there illegally, I know I can do it legally. So I'm just trying hard, man. Just trying hard, out here grinding. That's all.

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