

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 ([00:03](#)):

My name is Henry Sorrell. They used to call me and they still do, Smiley. This used to be my patrol beat for Northwest District, four to 700 Block Liberty Heights. Matter of fact, when I first started off back in the '60s, we used to walk in the beat back and forth. Matter of fact, they didn't allow us to have cars, because they didn't have any.

I walked the whole area from all the way down NOLA Parkway, all the way back up to Garrison Boulevard, which is a long way on both sides of the streets. Sometimes two or three streets in, when a call came out, because it was a call box right on the corner of Garrison and Liberty Heights. It was the only communication we had here. We didn't have anything called radio back then, just plain feet.

Speaker 2 ([00:51](#)):

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As a retired police officer, with as many years, decades of experience as you have, what kind of words of advice do you have for current police officers in this area?

Speaker 1 ([01:00](#)):

You know how to get to know your people. You know your people, you don't have to worry about chasing anybody, shoot anybody, but every now and then you get a badass. But that's hype.