

1 GVP27 Fella

2 D: Ready?

3 F: Yeah.

4 D: Please state your name.

5 F: Uhh, I go by Fella. Fella-Run-It-All, Mr. Run-It-All.

6 D: Okay. And Fella how old are you?

7 F: Twenty-six.

8 D: Twenty-six?

9 F: Yeah.

10 D: Handsome young man.

11 F: Thank you.

12 D: You're welcome. And Fella, please share your story uh, your experience with gun violence.

13 F: Um, this was 2015. Um, I had just left the lake and I was droppin' off my ex at the time, well

14 she was my girl. Um, I was ridin' down [Harambee] to her, uh, grandma house. I was droppin'

15 her auntie off and they want to smoke, but I usually don't let people smoke in my car 'cause that

16 gives the police a chance to search vehicles and all that. So, they got out, sat on the porch and

17 like, I say like, thirty seconds later, I just start hearin' gun shots and I see my back window go

18 out. And then I felt my stomach jerk, that's why I knew I got hit. So, my first initiative was to get

19 out the car and run so, I get out. I-I get-start runnin', I fall over, they still shootin' at me. And I

20 get up, uh, I run down Burleigh and cut through a alley [nearby] and I slipped. When I slip, I

21 tried to play dead but then like "If they chasin' me, shit, they might just come back and face me."

22 I'm, I'm done! So, I get up, I come out the alley, there's a car right there. And they just ride past

23 me, I'm tellin' 'em I'm shot and they just kept ridin' past me. So, I kept runnin', I believe I was

24 still [nearby] somewhere, I hop a fence. And I just lay in this back yard for like a hour, everytime
25 I was wanting to get up though, I hear somethin', so I just lay there. And then shit, mosquitoes
26 fuckin' me up, 'cause I was bleedin' a lot. So, I got irritated. I'm like, "If I'ma, if I'ma die, I ain't
27 gonna die here." And yeah, I got up and I knocked on somebody's door and their auntie let me in
28 and then called my people and I called the po-the ambulance and then the dudes that was
29 upstairs, they came down with knives and shit.

30 D: Whoa!

31 F: Yeah, 'cause they heard the gunshots and they seen me hop their fence. And they, so they
32 thought that the people were still chasin' me. And uh, I hop the fence. When I hopped the fence,
33 they had saw that or whatever so, they came down like, "They might be still out there for him.
34 Dude gotta go." I'm like, "Man I'm shot three times. Y'all, just let me get up and call my people
35 and I get out y'all hair." They let me call the police and uh, my people. Uh shit, I went to the
36 hospital.

37 D: Where'd you end up in the hospital at?

38 F: Uh, Froedtert.

39 D: And, did we, did you ever catch, did they ever catch who did it?

40 F: I don't know who shot me or why, it was over 54 shell cases. Somebody was shooting a nine,
41 somebody was shootin' a machine gun. There was holes in the sides of my car like golf balls,
42 I'm like, man.

43 D: Wow.

44 F: They missed the first three though. Like, I wasn't even movin'.

45 D: Who, uh, were you the only one who was was shot that was, that got out the car?

46 F: Yeah, if they, if they didn't get out my car, they probably would've died.

47 D: Oh my god.

48 F: 'Cause one was in the, I have plenty holes in my back seat, in the passenger side and it was,
49 they was right on that side. So, they would've most definitely got hit.

50 D: What made you, how did you know to leave the car and not stay in the car?

51 F: I'm, I react fast.

52 D: Or not drive off in the car?

53 F: My car was off. I wasn't finna tryna start it. 'Cause you gotta put it in, in drive and start it,
54 that's, that's shit, you hit then. I just reacted faster than (pause) others might.

55 D: Wow, wh- after that experience were you afraid to go outside, to go on the streets, or?

56 F: Nah, it just made me more aggressive. (pause)

57 D: Did you have nightmares?

58 F: Nah, just anger problems.

59 D: Um, how did you overcome, how did you overcome being shot?

60 F: You really don't overcome that kind of stuff. It-it's always in your mind, like, it's always in
61 my mind like, "Why me? I wasn't botherin' nobody, wasn't doin' nothin' wrong, and I get shot."
62 I don't know who did it, so that's always on my mind too.

63 D: So, well, do you think they was havin' a shootout?

64 F: No. It was, it was meant for me. I don-I don't know why though. 'Cause I always pull up over
65 there, that's where my ex stayed. I was just droppin' her auntie off at the time. I never had no
66 issues with nobody, nobody ever looked at me funny. It was just, one hot summer day, or
67 summer night.

68 D: After this experience, what would you say we could do to lower gun violence in our
69 community?

70 F: I don't know. To be honest, how this generation going, I don't see that happenin'. 'Cause they
71 don't wanna work, everybody wanna play on the streets, so I don't know, I just, maybe the
72 music. Start with the music. Put some more positive music out there, maybe that'll change
73 somethin'.

74 D: That's a good idea.

75 F: Yeah, put more family events out. That's a good start but, a lot of people don't even want that.
76 They just so used to the, how they, how they grew up. A lot of these babies, they didn't grow up
77 with their parents, lot of 'em—hold on. (phone call) Hello? I'm doin' the interview. (pause) I'ma
78 go after I do this interview. (call ends) Uh, yeah, 'cause this generation, they makin' babies so
79 young, so they, it's like they raisin' theyselves and gotta learn how to do things on their own, but
80 all they doin', their parents ain't raisin' them, so they play in the streets. And the baby's watchin'
81 that. So, when they grow up, that's all they gonna see, the streets and wh—that's what they, it just
82 a re-recycling cycle.

83 D: What would you say to someone who recently was shot and survived, and now they're havin'
84 a hard time?

85 F: Just move different. Like me, I don't, I don't kick it in the hood. I don't stand outside, I don't,
86 I don't make myself a target, basically. You, like, you standin' around in the hood, you basically
87 askin' to get shot nowadays, or askin' for the police to bother you. I just move different. Find
88 activities and nicer neighborhoods or, you know, fun activities. Just move different, find some
89 hobbies. Ain't nothin' out here.

90 D: If he or she was havin' a hard time, um, I know you said you didn't have a hard time, how
91 would you tell them how to overcome it mentally?

92 F: Man. (pause) I don't know.

93 D: Because what made you not afraid to go back outside? Or to, to drive through the area?

94 F: 'Cause I don't, 'cause I- me, I don't know. Like, I don't do nothin' to people, it's other people

95 wanna do to me. Like, a lot of people, more than half, you're doin' somethin' wrong to get shot.

96 But, innocent bystanders, I don't know, I say, shit, just move different. Don't be in areas you

97 ain't got no business bein' in or you know you gonna have to carry a weapon. 'Cause that's

98 when problems can occur. I don't even do that, I don't even do house parties since, I don't, man.

99 (pause) I don't know. It just, it's all based, it's just based off how you wanna react to it.

100 D: What would you say to legislators on how you think they could help reduce gun violence in

101 our commun-in Milwaukee?

102 F: Like I said, um, I don't know (pause) more festivals, I think would help. Um, givin' back

103 more. Um, (pause) startin' programs, like YMCA's and stuff like that again, like, I barely see

104 kids talk about goin' to the YMCA's anymore or Boys and Girls Club, like, just activities for the

105 youngs and the youth like, to stay off the streets. Um, (pause) um, (pause) um, uh, let, for the

106 system, be more lenient on, on people who are on papers and just gettin' accused of crimes and

107 havin' to go do time for. But really there's no evidence or proof behind it. 'Cause that could

108 change a person's whole outlook on life.

109 D: Senseless revolutions, crimeless revolutions.

110 F: Yeah. Yeah, just accusations.

111 D: Mhmm.

112 F: Um, I think that's all, all I can think of off the top.

113 D: Anything you wanna add?

114 F: Um, don't do drugs. Um, I don't know, be positive, always think of somethin' to do. Create a
115 hobby. Never, never sit around, sittin' around 'cause your minds just, wanderin' to negative
116 thoughts, so keep yourself busy. Take care of them kids if you got some. (pause)

117 D: That's it.

118 F: Yeah.

119 D: Thank you!