

1 GVP2 Antwan Daniels

2 D: Hello.

3 A: How you doing?

4 D: Please state your name for our recording.

5 A: Antwan Daniels.

6 D: And you said you have a story to share with us, and your story is about, you said, your  
7 brother?

8 A: Yeah.

9 D: So, please share your story.

10 A: Well, how can I start with it. My brother of 32, 30—

11 D: You gotta put the mic closer.

12 A: My brother at 31 years, man, all I can say is this, the mic don't, why is it so (inaudible)—

13 D: (inaudible)

14 A: Ah, yeah. All I can say is man, I really, how I feel about the whole gun violence thing is man,  
15 I think—I believe I lost my brother too early. Basically, he was like, mostly my twin. I love him  
16 to death man, I just wish that it would've went another route that night. And—

17 D: Speak a little louder.

18 A: It's just the gun violence. Just the gun violence. And just (inaudible) just the gun violence is  
19 just ridiculous in Milwaukee, period. And, like I said, man, it was a rough night that night. I  
20 remember the story 'cause I think I was in the room with my child and I think my momma had  
21 told my brother, my other brother had end up gettin' into s—they wouldn't even get, it was on,  
22 on [Sunset Heights]. And my momma had got off the phone call, my other brother was in  
23 trouble. So, I think, and it's crazy 'cause we seen the thing on the news, we seen everything on

24 the news about it, we seen the bodies layin' down there, we seen my brother body layin' down  
25 and there's a whole—he was out there, he died, he got murdered at 7 o'clock. But they didn't  
26 come until like 11 o'clock at night, the, this the, to come see us. And I felt everythin', I told 'em,  
27 "My momma ain't told me to go out there get my brother," so by the time I got outside to go get  
28 him, it was too late. And he went over there the, this side of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, (inaudible)  
29 said it was a, a, a drug deal gone bad. Which it wasn't. It was same thing, people in the  
30 community won't, can't ever get a job for themselves, wanna take what everybody else got in 'em.  
31 That's how it being end up getting murdered, he had been hit three times in the back. My other  
32 brother, my other co—there's three of us. The survivor, he got hit chest, hand, and lower back.  
33 So, I just thank God every day I still got one of my brothers. I do, I miss my brother a lot, you  
34 know what I'm sayin', it's a lot to hold in, it's a lot to talk about, but I miss him a lot. It's just  
35 that, he, I think he left too soon. You know, I'm sayin' the gun violence is ridiculous in  
36 Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It's ridiculous. I say 'bout everyday on my, my Facebook page, everyday  
37 it's ridiculous. It ain't no way that we should have crime rates higher than Chicago. Like, we, we  
38 higher than Chicago and it's crazy. Like, I was tellin' my mom the other day, it's crazy 'cause  
39 now I have to see my mom cry, every—everyday my mom cry and she always say the same  
40 thing, "Why her son?" I keep telling mom, "You know, you know we couldn't stop it." You  
41 know.

42 D: Did they catch who did it?

43 A: No. No, no, no. Nah, nah, nah they didn't catch who did it yet. But they did say the lookin'  
44 on, they're looking into it.

45 D: Did they clarify, did they clear up—did your mom clear up the fact that it was not a drug  
46 deal?

47 A: That's why I'm clarifying right now. And like I said, the State of Wisconsin knew my brother  
48 as a drug dealer. They said it was a drug deal gone bad. Which, it wasn't a drug deal gone bad. It  
49 was ignorant people that wanted somethin' that my brother and my other brother had. And  
50 decided they wanna rob him and like, force the one dude, so, one of my brothers tell 'em, they  
51 say, "But first one of y'all gotta die." Happened to be my baby, my little brother. And so that's,  
52 course it wasn't no drug deal gone bad, I'ma clear it up, wasn't no drug deal gone bad, it wasn't  
53 none of that. It was just my brother, they're gonna, they're doin' their normal rounds, goin' to  
54 ride around, you know what I'm sayin', goin' to see their people and that's what happened, like.

55 D: I'm so sorry.

56 A: And it's crazy 'cause this ain't the first time me, well, I went through, I had another brother  
57 that lost his life to gun violence before this it's gonna be four years now. So, it's just crazy. I'll  
58 give you. You know, I love my city, love my state, you know, it's just somethin' gotta give, you  
59 know, like I said, somethin' gotta give, like I, I'm really thinkin' about now of doin' the, I seen  
60 the, the, the, like the Muslim had a little paperwork sayin', "If you got a violence, call the  
61 hotline." I'm really thinkin' about now, that I see stuff online lookin' at like, I'm thinkin' about  
62 now if you got, me personally—if you got beef man, you got any kind of fight, it ain't worth it  
63 man. It's not worth it, it's not worth getting' killed or goin' to jail over it. You know, if you, if  
64 you, if you got beef man, you know, do it the old way man, you can box, like, box it out, you  
65 know, shake hands, leave it alone. But you know, everything change, everybody got guns, now  
66 they give their kids guns, even kids got guns now. And I would tell my momma the same thing,  
67 like, everytime I leave the house, she always say, "I want you—" don't, she call my phone every  
68 fifteen minutes to check on me. Like, I tell my mom, I, see personally, I'm not, I'm not scared to  
69 go, I just don't wanna go out like that.

70 D: You understand why she does that?

71 A: Yeah, always, yeah, yeah.

72 D: I lost my only son to gun violence.

73 A: Yeah, and it's crazy 'cause the day, we had just, the other day I had just saw him. We just, he  
74 came through, came through and he was like, "Bro, I don't fee—" 'cause again, he had Sickle  
75 Cell Anemia and he was like, "Bro, I don't feel good. Bro, I'm gonna go to the crib." I said,  
76 "Well, go to the crib and go lay down, bro." And sure enough, had I went with him, that night,  
77 my brother that night, but for some reason he told me to stay at home, he said, "You got them  
78 kids, man. Somethin' happen to you, I, I have to raise my niece and my nephews by myself." So,  
79 that's one thing I'm like, oh, I forgive h—forgive him from that, you know, 'cause he saved my  
80 life, you know what I'm sayin'. It's hard when you grew up with somebody, that have been from  
81 a child on up, that been by your side 24/7, to see them lay up in the casket. And like, it took them  
82 so long. Like, my brother's body was downtown for a whole week.

83 D: Did they say why?

84 A: They, they say because they was tryna find a, a funeral home or somethin' to put him in. And  
85 we didn't even know he was down there. How, how, how we had knew he was down there, my  
86 auntie. My auntie end up calling, she had asked if my brother body was still down there. And  
87 they said, "Yes." So, my auntie end up callin' her pastor, he got in touch with his funeral home. I  
88 think it's Paradise Funeral Home, that got to us so. I say one thing, you know, it's crazy, I, I seen  
89 my brother that one time, but it play in my head everyday. Like, I just told him like, I just told  
90 him like, you know, bullets ain't built for everybody, man. You know what I'm sayin'.

91 D: Right.

92 A: Ya know he, my thing with this is you know, like I tell people he came back home and he was  
93 tellin' us, ya know, "I'm gonna come back home, bro. We gon—we gonna figure out the  
94 problem. We're gonna watch the new Power Rangers movie." (laughter) So, we would come  
95 back home, watch that you know, he said he'd be back in one hour. You know, I wait for that—  
96 I'm still waitin' for the hour to come. I'm still waitn' for the hour to come. You know, I sit—I  
97 sacrifice, ya know, I gotta see my sister cry everyday, you know what I'm sayin'. There's just so  
98 much I gotta take as being the oldest brother. By me being the oldest brother, I gotta take so  
99 much in, like, it's—when my brother got murdered, sister came out sayin', "Bro, what we gonna  
100 do now, man." I say, ya know, it's a hard pill to swallow, but you know, I guess, I, you know, I-  
101 I-I, I think what people understand is. Are you the oldest? Or you got younger brothers and  
102 sisters that are younger than you? Everything reflect on me now since, the second oldest is gone.  
103 But like I tell everyone, my aunt, we livin', my mom keepin' faith, she-she a big prayer, big  
104 believer, big believer in Jesus, ya know I'm saying, so, she pray she do her thang you know, I'm  
105 sayin' she just watin' for justice. If we get justice, I'll be alright. And me personally, it might, it  
106 might sound crazy to other people, but, I'm not—the dude that actually killed my brother, you  
107 know.

108 D: Do you know who did it?

109 A: I don't know who did it. I—I wanna say this, this, it might sound crazy, I actually, I actually, I  
110 don't forgive him for killing my brother. But I forgive him for puttin' my brother at peace. You  
111 know what I'm sayin? My brother, he ain't in this world no more, he's gone. He ain't gotta  
112 worry about that Sickle Cell anymore, he ain't gotta worry about his heart problem. So, he, I, like  
113 I said, I forgive, me personally, I come from a strong, a strong background. You know what I'm  
114 sayin? I just want them to explain, ask why, like what was the reason bro? You took everything

115 you had off him, well what was the reason you had to kill him? You know what I'm saying?  
116 Like, I would've, I would have face—fact—face, whatever that word is, I would've put—fact is,  
117 if my brother would've been injured or in jail, I could still see him. But not send him, send him  
118 in the no ground in no casket. You know? And it hurts me so bad, like, 'cause I still got my  
119 mama, my sister, my little ones—my kids, my, my, his niece, my daughter, ask me everyday,  
120 torn, she say, "Daddy." "What's goin' on baby girl?" "I miss my uncle." And I, I say, "I miss  
121 him too," and I said, "I miss him too," You know, "I miss him too, I-I love him." My son, my  
122 son, h-he-he go probably, every, I say, every, every other Monday sayin' he, sayin' he misses,  
123 say he miss his uncle. But like I said, it's just crazy. Like, you ain't got, it's not only that you  
124 got—i-i-it's already bad that we got police killin' us. You know I'm sayin'? It's already bad we  
125 got the police killin' us and then we got other people you know, sayin', other, the same race  
126 killin' us at the same time. You know what I'm sayin'? It's basically what ya'll doin' is killin' us  
127 off one at a time. That, I tell my, and trust me my brother had this long, we had this talk a long  
128 time ago. Like I say, we, we all do our thing, we, we, we, we ain't all you know, I'm sayin'. We,  
129 we every—we all got a sense of humor. We make mistakes, you know what I'm sayin'. Like, I  
130 was just tellin' my other brother, like you know what I'm sayin', and it's crazy, my other  
131 brother, after my brother got murdered, we had to rush to his house 'cause he tried to commit  
132 suicide.

133 D: Oh no.

134 A: And you know, he was right there. And I-I wish I could meet the woman that was out there  
135 with my brother that night when he got hit 'cause she said that she was really trying to save his  
136 life.

137 D: Do you know—oh you don't know who she is?

138 A: I don't know who she is. I—when we go over there, when we over there by where he got  
139 murdered at, any time we ask where the woman at, you know, she never at home. And I just  
140 wanna thank her, I wanna thank her a lot 'cause she was out there at my brother final time.

141 D: And what was your brother's name?

142 A: Anthony Daniels. Anthony Daniels. Anthony Daniels.

143 D: So, hopefully she'll see that you tell her thank you.

144 A: I said, I wanna thank you, you know what I'm sayin', he was out there. Thank you for being  
145 out there in my brother's final times, you know what I'm sayin'. Thank you for callin' the  
146 paramedics. And thank you for makin' sure my other brother was safely. 'Cause, like Lord  
147 know, like I said, the dude, we, we seen the b—we seen the body bag on the news. We seen him.  
148 My momma had just said, "I feel for that, feel for that parent or whoever family member that is  
149 that's there in that body bag." It happened to be my brother.

150 D: Oh my god.

151 A: And like I tell, you know I'm sayin', I-I got a strong heart. You know, I got a strong heart,  
152 you know I'm sayin'. So, like I said, I-I try my best to teach my kids the best thing. I'm an 80s  
153 baby, so, I go by the old 80s code, you know what I'm sayin'. I teach my son everything right or  
154 wrong, like I said, like I said, I ain't no, I ain' no, no good guy, I been through everything. But  
155 like I said, I love my brother, man. And I said, we just gotta stop. Man, Milwaukee, man, we  
156 gotta get this together, man.

157 D: How do you suggest we stop gun violence?

158 A: How do you suggest you stop gun violence? I ain't gonna say, I'm not gonna say that you  
159 know, 'cause it's so many, it's so many people that's gettin' guns, like, they gettin' guns for,  
160 they get—so many people, it's kids gettin' guns now. So, I think if we got more community

161 stuff, you know what I'm sayin', more communities. Like, when I was growin' up there was the  
162 Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, you know I'm sayin', the neighborhood like this, we did stuff,  
163 stuff like, you know I'm sayin', I was raised by it—my momma and grandma always told me it  
164 takes a village to raise a child.

165 D: Right.

166 A: And I was raised like that. You know what I'm sayin'? Like, we did everything and it was  
167 good, you know what I'm sayin. I think, you know, I think, I think issue, the most issues th-the—  
168 with these guns is drug problems too. Drug problems too. So, like I tell my mom, you know I'm  
169 sayin', I'm workin' on somethin' that's gonna probably benefit my mom and probably the  
170 community, you know what I'm sayin'? Like I said, I-I-I'm gonna actually look into that, if you  
171 got beef with somebody, hey you know, after y'all talk it out and y'all still wanna fight, y'all  
172 they got you. (inaudible) You know, put the gloves on. Take 'em off. Letcha take 'em of, put  
173 'em back on, take 'em off and I'll make sure y'all shake hands and it's over. You know what I'm  
174 sayin'? I'm 32 years old. All my beef I had is squashed. It's squashed. You know I'm sayin' it's  
175 crazy how I, you know I'm sayin', most people I know that, that I was growin' up with—they're  
176 jailed or dead. And I'm not, I'm not goin' back to that cell, I'm not goin' in no jail cell. I'm  
177 not—and I'm damn sure, and I'm not tryna get hit by no bullet hopefully, if God willing.

178 D: I hope not either. Is there anything else you'd like to say?

179 A: Shit, yeah, it's the gun violence is, is just ridiculous. And, and, and come on y'all. Y'all stop,  
180 stop provokin' these cops to do stuff to y'all. Because even with body cams, they still killn' us,  
181 even with the body cams they still killin' us. You know I'm sayin'? I got, my daughter had told  
182 me that at Juneteenth she asked the cop, "Is y'all here to kill me daddy?"

183 D: Oh my god.

184 A: She was three at that time. So, the cop said, “What you mean little lady?” I said, “Well she  
185 asked you. Well, she watch the news. She did--she watch the news.” I’m not kidding. I like to  
186 teach my kids what reality is. So, she watch the news, like, she asked the cop, “Y’all here to kill  
187 my daddy?” The cop said, “Nah, sweetheart. We’re here to protect and serve.” I said, “Whoa, I  
188 ain’t heard tha—I ain’t heard that word in a long time.”

189 D: Oh wow.

190 A: Like I told you, you know like I told ‘em, you know I’m sayin’, like I said, you know, even  
191 now, man, I’m just thankful that I still got my other brother.

192 D: I’m thankful. You are thankful.

193 A: Still thankful.

194 D: Thank you.

195 A: No problem.