

M: [I am at] St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Augustine. Today's date is October 26, and the first question I have for you is when and where were you born?

S: I was born in Tallahassee, Florida, in 1947.

M: What's your educational background?

S: I have a B.S. in Aeronautical Sciences from the University of Houston.

M: When did you first move to St. Augustine?

S: November, 2000.

M: Where else have you lived?

S: Basically born in Tallahassee, raised up in Tallahassee. I went to high school there. I graduated, lived around four years in Texas in the military. San Antonio, Amarillo, and Abilene. After that I was discharged and moved to Houston, and lived there for an additional four years. I moved back to Tallahassee, and from there I took an assignment with the Federal Aviation Administration in Hillard, Florida. I spent time in Hillard, about a year-and-a-half moving back to Tallahassee. I had an assignment in Oklahoma City as well as Gainesville, Florida, working with the Federal Aviation Administration for a total of twenty-two and-a-half years. The last fifteen of those years I was bi-vocational in the ministry and public services.

M: So you moved here because you got assigned to this church?

S: That's correct.

M: Where did you live when you first moved here?

S: In reference to where?

M: Where in St. Augustine, in the area.

S: We lived in the south end of the city, out in what we call Moultrie. If you want the physical address it was

M: No, that's okay. Do you still live there?

S: No.

M: The area you first moved here, what was the area like, what were your neighbors like?

S: I had a mixture of neighbors. I guess the demographics were--very low African American population. For the most part we had non-black neighbors, but based on the ratio of St. Augustine I would consider it normal in that particular area of the city.

M: Where do you live now?

S: I live in the Elkton area called Southeast Cypress Lakes, which is just south of west St. Augustine. I still consider it St. Augustine, but basically some folks [would] say its south.

M: How is that different from Moultrie?

S: I would say slightly more diversified as far as cultural backgrounds, and also racial or ethnic groups. The ratio, I really haven't had a chance, we've been here since March, and I really haven't had an opportunity to find out the actual makeup of the community, but just from observation I would say it's a little bit more diversified.

M: Since you've only been here for around five years, how would you characterize race relations in St. Augustine, between the city and the people?

S: Are you asking me on a scale or basically just an average statement – good, bad, or indifferent?

M: Maybe a little bit of both. How good it was. If it's good, why is it good? If it's bad, why is it bad?

S: I would consider it fair. One of the reasons, I would say, is basically because the opportunities afforded for non-blacks are just nonexistent, basically. When you look at the format, what we have is basically St. John's County school system. I think there are a couple of other entities here that employ, or have an opportunity to employ. Northrop-Grumman and the City of St. Augustine. But the ratio is fair at best, I would say.

M: How's it compared to other places you've lived?

S: Compared to Houston, I would probably put it on the scale of, say one to ten, I would put it right at three. Compared to Tallahassee, Tallahassee is a very diversified community. It would probably be about the same, because you just don't see non-blacks visibly and actively involved. Equal housing is not that great.

M: Along the same lines, you in the course of your job must interact with a lot of people. How often do you interact with people of other races and what type of interactions do you have with them? What's the relationship like between them?

S: My personal relationships, I would consider to be good. I had an opportunity to interact with the Mayor of the city, an opportunity to interact with the previous Sheriff of the St. Johns County and the current Sheriff, who was previously the police chief of St. Augustine. As far as a relationship with the ecumenical community, we have a relationship with the Holy Memorial Presbyterian and Grace United Methodist. Other entities within the county, of course the School Board, we've had interactions with them. From a personal point of view, I would consider it good, but I'm probably in a minority there of having that experience. I don't know if that's because of my position or my ability to venture out and gain a working relationship or a capable relationship with the community.

M: Do you actively seen any racial tension or discrimination in the city?

S: Yes, we do have a problem with the police department, the Sheriff's department. There are some problems, we addressed those with a promise that there would be a better working relationship. But there's a big difference in law enforcement on the west side of St. Augustine versus the downtown area or in St. Johns County, obviously Ponte Vedra, World Golf Village. A major difference in police presence and police or law enforcement activities. There just seems to be a sort . . . I wouldn't go as far as to say they're profiling, but its come very close to the description of profiling.

M: You mention some incidences involving the police. What were those incidences?

S: Well, just a little more a year ago, we had a very sensitive incident where an individual was Tased [shot with a Taser stun-gun], and the Sheriff's Department was considered to not have used the best judgement in that situation. And that was not a good incident for the balancing or the smoothing of the race relations in this county.

M: And that man ended up dying, correct?

S: Yes.

M: What was the response to that incident?

S: Whose?

M: From the black community, primarily.

S: Very much enraged over the fact. We brought in several civil rights groups or interests and in doing so, the community sort of rallied around to the man. Some response from law enforcement as to what actually happened. In addition to that, a continuous pursuit of getting to the bottom of it, which I am not privileged at this point in time to either share or have the knowledge of the actual disposal of the

case. But I do know that it was probably was at that time, and still is, in the back of the minds of the citizens of St. Johns County, as to being unfairly treated.

M: You mention you had a pledge of getting a better working relationship with the police. What exactly does that entail? Has there been any movement towards that?

S: Basically, just dialoguing. But at that time, the police chief, Shoar, and the Sheriff, we sat down and talked to try and find ways and means that which we could have a better representation of blacks or African Americans in law enforcement and to have a mutual respect for one another in the carrying out of their duties and the respect of the citizens. As I said, a verbal pledge that this was being one of the primary motives of the department, specifically that they didn't blatantly do things would cause this attention. I respect both the persons, and that position of authority, and I think they simply had a desire to see a better relationship in the community. But having to control, quote unquote, staff and they sometimes can not be as closely monitored as they should.

M: This kind of segues into one of my questions. I talked to the Human Resources Chief at the City of St. Augustine, and they said there are currently no African Americans working in the St. Augustine Police Department.

S: Correct.

M: Do you know what the ratio in the St. Johns County Police Department?

S: The St. Johns County?

M: Yes.

S: You mean [the] Sheriff's Department, right?

M: Yes, Sheriff's Department.

S: The ratio is probably less than five percent.

M: Do you think there is an active reason behind this? Or is this just more of a coincidence?

S: I think it's a combination of things that have taken place here. Finding persons who are willing to settle in St. Johns County who are of the African American persuasion. That's the first thing. Secondly, I think the screening process may not be. We're not totally aware of what the criteria may be for, but just judging from surrounding counties and other cities, I would think that we would find qualified persons in this area as well as others. So I really don't know the reason why. I

have been told the salary is probably one of the reasons, that when we get someone, case in point in the Sheriff's Department, that they start out to get the basic foundation, and then as soon as they are established with a credible foundation in law enforcement, they seek employment elsewhere in surrounding areas. And I guess the city of Jacksonville and Orlando certainly will be cities that will pull persons who have experience in that area. And being within a relatively short commute distance, it may attract a lot of people from this area to go there.

M: Just to make sure, but I'm assuming that most of your church is black.

S: Yes.

M: So what areas of town does your congregation live in?

S: For the most part, we have them here in the Lincolnville area, West Augustine, and a very small percentage of them living in the outlying areas such as the Shores, Oakbrook, and the Moultrie area. The rest of them, for the most part, are within the St. Augustine city proper.

M: Obviously, there's a very big difference between Lincolnville and West St. Augustine, or at least some difference. What are those neighborhoods like? What are the defining characteristics of those neighborhoods?

S: Which ones?

M: Well, start off with Lincolnville.

S: Defining characteristics of Lincolnville, it's somewhat historic. The older settlement of St. Augustine, this area was once predominately probably black. [In] the last two census, we've seen a significant decrease in the black American population in this area. So I think there's more of a pride in the Lincolnville area. And here, we're seeing a mixture of the races in this area, so you get a little bit more of a tension here. I think other entities may have an interest in the developing of Lincolnville, so therefore what we have here is probably going to be preserved and protected. Whereas, if you look at the westside of St. Augustine, there are some gradual changes, but they're changes for the most part not for the benefit of the black people. As far as public service in that area, it's kind of low compared to other areas of the city and the county.

M: What do you mean by public service?

S: Well, if you drive down the streets, there's inadequate drainage, the streets are narrow, there are very few sidewalks. There has been some movement to make improvement along King Street, West King Street, but outside that, between about Volusia Street or Dubal and St. John Streets and all those areas in there,

you will probably find a less than desirable community conditions. As far as public facilities, they have Calvin Pete Park there, but it's just not something that would entice people to move to that area. There's some development in that area now, but when we speak of affordable housing, the employment system does not allow the blacks in this area to even have an income to get them to the baseline of affording homes. I think the average cost of a home here in St. Augustine is probably somewhere in the neighborhood now of \$140,000, \$180,000. And if you don't have the income to support that, then you have to live and work out of what I would consider less than desirable housing.

M: Speaking of employment, obviously in the last few decades African Americans have been relegated to mostly menial tasks, janitorial, manual labor, things like that. In St. Augustine, has that changed much? Do you see blacks working in professional level jobs or white-collar class jobs?

S: For the most part, no, because if you look at the city government, there are very few. If you look at the commissions, we have a black city commissioner, and none on county, none of the elected positions within the county are held by African Americans right now. Within the public school system, we have several AP's [Assistant Principals] but very few Principals. In the school system, at the school board level, very few. I don't think the ratio is balanced. If you asked since the Civil Rights Movement, has there been a significant change, I would say, at this point in time I would be hard pressed to say yes. Maybe there was an initial movement towards that, but for whatever reason, it just doesn't exist right now. When we have young folk from the area who decide not to return to the area because of a lack of opportunity, I don't think its going to get any better.

M: So what you're saying is that its more just a problem of lack of opportunity?

S: Lack of opportunity, and a lack of the system affording an investment. Therefore, I think it's closely linked and does not, in my opinion, does not seem to be favorable for change. I suppose that may require a bit more explanation. Trying to find a proper word usage. To come short of saying that, I think employment is based on favoritism. I think I'll just stop with that. Basically who you know and who you've known in the past, that's my opinion on what's going on.

M: Back to West Augustine, there's at least been a lot of press coverage and at least words going into the idea that money and effort are going to West St. Augustine, with the federal Weed and Seed program, the Community Redevelopment Area, there's also the West Augustine Improvement Association. Do these programs seem to be doing anything, do they seem to be working?

S: Yes, they are effective. However, the process is real slow right now. I would think because of the lack of having it now, we should have a little more aggressiveness from all interested parties to see it come to fruition at a more

rapid pace. The process is just very slow. When we talk about the housing improvement in West Augustine, we're seeing some changes in the quality of homes, but yet those homes are still out of reach for some of the people who are in dire need of them.

M: What do you see these programs doing?

S: First of all, I think they do raise the awareness of the need. The programs or the designs both help facilitate in accomplishing the ultimate goal of living the American Dream. As I said, the goal and objectives are fine, but the process of getting to those is just real slow.

M: Now as a Pastor, I'm sure a lot of your congregation comes to you when they have problems. Without going into specifics, I don't want you to violate confidence, how often do you hear of cases of outright discrimination in this city?

S: Well, [complaints of] outright discrimination. I would say, to [that] has been very minimal. I'm not so sure why it has been so subtle and mild that it's [not] worth speaking about it. There may be a fear of not being able to accomplish anything from complaining about it. It's perplexing to me as to why there's not more of an outrage over that, the disparity between the have and the have-nots.

M: Do you have any reasons why there might be that lack of outrage?

S: I'll give you a personal response to that.

M: That's fine.

S: I think we need to have a concerted effort of oneness. That may bring about a change, the unity within our community may, if there was solidarity within that, it might bring about change. For instance, we are, right now, on the post Rosa Parks era [famed Civil Rights protestor Rosa Parks had died the day before the interview]. Back in the time when she protested, the inadequacy of equality, the whole community came together and decided they would boycott, and they were successful in that. I think initially if something of that nature should happen within our community, we would probably rise to the occasion. But when we start coming together trying to draft ways to address the issue, we see the support always dwindling. It might be a lack of cooperation or a lack of unity. But that's just my personal opinion on that. I don't claim that that speaks for the entire community. I fear that may be one of the reasons why there's not more of an outrage over the amount of inequalities within the area.

M: This interview is not just about your position, but also [concerns] you personally, so feel free to answer it personally as much as you want. But you mentioned lack of unity in the black community. Are there various factions, what are the reasons for this fractionalization?

S: If I had the answer to that, it would be a packed white church on Sunday. [laughter] But it could be a matter of lack of trust among one another. Or the fear that one may use the other to exploit or advance his or her own cause. Can you hold on just a moment, please?

M: Sure.

[Break in tape.]

M: Okay, we're back on the interview. So you mention you haven't had many people come to you specifically and talk to you about discrimination, but have you heard things through the grapevine, through the rumor mill, of any instances?

S: I don't think you would have any blatant, hardcore discrimination. St. Augustine is becoming a little bit more diversified, but it's just the status quo. It's just established. There are boundaries and barriers that exist that people choose not to try to knock down anymore. I don't think that you would see any particular area in the city that you could not go into, one would fear his or her life in doing so. So it's there, but it's subliminal, I would say. So naturally, in order for that to happen, the time when you see it would be, for instance, like the situation that occurred with the young man on the Westside. Then the sort of southern racists as I said from time to time, we do see--and I don't justify anyone's illegal activities. But there are times when we may drive up and down King Street [one of the main roads in St. Augustine, connecting downtown with West Augustine] and you find numerous persons spread eagle [forced by police officers to spread their legs and arms for a search]. If it's involved with an illegal activity, then I guess then they don't have a legitimate complaint, but then again, it's an opportunity for discrimination to come out in that sense. And I guess the vigilance of law enforcement in areas like that may be more persistent than they would be in other areas. Because I've had parishioners from the church come and say "Pastor, such-and-such a thing happened to me, and I need some assistance in following through with the discrimination." It very seldom has happened. And as I said, it's not a blatant violation of one's civil rights or anything of this nature, but I'm sure it exists. You see that based on the progress of the persons. I can think of only one case where a parishioner came to me and indicated that her civil rights had been violated by an establishment here. The employer used the N-word towards the individual. I think they got into a verbal confrontation. She was of course, dismissed from her work. We, of course, put her in contact with the state to follow up on that. But here again, sometimes when we don't follow through all of the steps, you get lost in the paperwork, and you never find the end results of that. That was the one case that I knew that was clearly a case of discrimination.

M: Now you mention that there's little African American representation in city government, and there's none in county government. Have you noticed that

there's a concerted effort by black people to get involved and its just not working. Or is it just not very

S: Well, we've had numerous persons who have campaigned vigorously for positions. But I suppose when you look at the ratio, and I'd have to go back and look at the census, but we're talking in a neighborhood or a county where you probably have at this point in time now somewhere close to 150,000 people, but you're only talking 7 to 8 percent are black, the chances of you being voted in become very minimal at best. Until you can concentrate on a certain area, the commissioner [Errol Jones], I think if he had been running for an [at] large position, he probably wouldn't be there. He just wouldn't have the votes, and not because of the person not being qualified, but I think it's simply because of a matter of race. That makes a difference there.

M: Now obviously this church was very historical, especially in the civil rights movement. I'm assuming, that many of the older members of your congregation probably were involved in that. In talking to them, have they told you how things have changed, have things have moved on from there?

S: Yes, there have been some changes. For instance, we frequently have the mayor of the city to worship with us. That's a major change. We have had the police chief to worship with us. Those are changes, good changes. I would like to put a feather in the mayor's cap to say that he visits with us, worships with us during off-campaign years, so it is not a political issue with him. I think it's his faith that he believes, also to be a part of this community, also to support the community, and I can see that in other areas as well. There is a Fort Mose [a fort north of St. Augustine where the Spanish allowed runaway slaves to live] Society, that's basically focusing on the historic movement and existence of blacks within the community. And we have several non-blacks with that. Just this past Tuesday, we had the opening of the Excelsior Culture Center. We had several persons from the community involved in that, and those are changes that I'm sure that one can point to and say it's a difference from 2005 and 1964, they simply didn't exist back in those days. And as far as being able to frequent the establishments within the area, of course you know as well as I do that there were several businesses that were basically off-limits to the blacks during the Civil Rights Movement. So there are older members of the congregation that have been able to identify and can definitely specify areas where changes have been made. Those are just some of them.

M: Changing tracks, in the 1960s, in 1964 in St. Augustine and St. Johns County, the Ku Klux Klan and the White Citizen's Council were very active. Now they don't appear to be very active anymore in St. Augustine, but do you know of any other similar organizations or any other similar people in the community that may still have some influence or are active in the city?

S: Well, I sort of beg to differ with you that you say the KKK is not active. They're not visibly active. And this comes from a reliable source. In fact, within the surrounding perimeter of St. Augustine, and I'm gonna say St. Johns County, Flagler County, I don't know about Volusia, but I'll name those two, St. Johns County and Flagler County, I understand there is still quite a bit of activity of the KKK. Groups that would probably be considered, I won't go as far as to say they're Neo-Nazi groups, but similar.

M: White Supremacist, at least.

S: To identify their actual location, I would not be privy to say, because I have not seen it for myself. I have heard that in some areas of the Northwest portions of St. Johns County.

M: Northwest, really?

S: That's quite amazing, because when you talk of the Northwest, we're talking about World Golf Village, we're talking about Fruit Cove.

M: You're talking about Julington Creek.

S: Julington Creek. But then keep in mind also that within that Northwest region there's still quite a bit of pristine farmland, and they use that as a haven to practice and to, I guess, stage their desire to do whatever they desire to do. And like I said, this comes from a very reliable source, I would not be privileged to share that source with you right now. But I'm not so naive to think that it doesn't exist. Unfortunately, I wish that it didn't. It's there, it's there. We won't see them marching up and down the streets everyday or causing any problems, but I think the fact is that it's still there.

M: Do you see them having any marginal influence or any marginal impact or

S: On the way things are?

M: Partially. On the way things are, the way things are changing.

S: At best, I would say marginal. I'm a very optimistic person, and until proven otherwise, I would give the citizens of St. Johns County the benefit of the doubt. I think for the most part they want to see things get better. I don't know why they are not better, because if you sit and talk to anyone, there seems to be a desire to see changes for the better. Unfortunately, when there comes an opportunity to add persons placed in strategic positions within the county as far as the workforce is concerned, you don't see them being replaced with blacks or other minorities. So I guess they are holding onto their positions for security for themselves.

M: Now the St. Johns County School system was integrated in 1970. But there is still a huge discrepancy between, say, Nease High school which, I think there's like twenty black kids there, and St. Augustine High School, which is much more integrated. Is your impression that the school system is equally fair to everyone, or is the difference due to something other than housing patterns?

S: I think the strategic locations of the schools have been a major difference. For instance, you mention Nease. If we look at the geographical location of Nease, the black population there is simply not there. At best, you may find three hundred, maybe four hundred black families in that school zone. And you understand that. For instance, if you go to St. Augustine High, you look at the boundaries of that school zone. You have a larger ratio of blacks there, so naturally it's going to be an imbalance in the population. I think if they had placed the schools in other locations, the racial balance would have been better.

M: That brings up a different question. Pedro Menendez is one of the newer high schools. What's their zone? Do they zone part of West St. Augustine in their district, or are they more concerned with southern St. Johns County?

S: I don't know where the dividing lines may be, but I would say at the extreme southern end of West Augustine would probably be zoned for that.

M: So since most black people live in St. Augustine, the majority of them would be zoned for St. Augustine High School.

S: Right. I'm gonna give an example on the elementary school level, which is something I'm a little more familiar with. There's a school out in Hastings, Hastings Elementary. I think the mindset of Hastings Elementary was out of sight, out of mind. Of course it was rural St. Johns County. High ratio of migrant and transient persons. When the school was in Hastings, the population was normally 60/40 [minority to white students.] 60/40. This past year, a new school was built in _____. This is the first year that the new school was there. Now when the population of Hastings Elementary was 60/40, several of the persons living in the Hastings area or the Flagler Estate, they had their children taken to other school districts, out of the Hastings School district. The new school comes along, and all of a sudden, they bring them back. So the ratio has probably reversed. Now for a predominately black institution like Hastings Elementary, an opportunity for new teachers now becomes available, I think at the best, there was only one black person hired for the whole school. And that's just an indication of how things will take place. School location is a major thing as far as seeing a racial balance. And I suppose when you look at areas like Nease and other schools where you don't have the population, you can't do anything about that. If I was a parent who had children in school right now, I wouldn't want my child bussed way out of district just to balance things out. What I would fight for is to get a school within the area where I am that is credible, and will attract others

from other areas and maybe balance out things. I think we see that where the identity changes with different schools if they moved them out of their areas. Unfortunately, we have a total difference in racial balance of the schools.

M: Just a few more questions. Mayor Gardner told me to talk to you because he named you as one of the leaders of the black community. Who else do you see as a leader of the black community in this town?

S: In the area of being a minister?

M: No, just as a leader. Also mentioned I think was Lorenzo Laws and Linda James. Just various professional or

S: I would say we have a member within this congregation named Otis Mason. He was a school superintendent, would be considered a leader within the community. We have another named Arnett Chase who is certainly respected and...I wouldn't say revered [laughter] but he's highly respected in the area. Ronald Stafford is a minister at New Mount Zion Ministries, a pastor. The minister at First Baptist, O'Connell, would be considered a person who I think people will listen to and be willing to hear. Somewhat of unsung heroes, the Russells, I'm trying to think of the first name now, but they were in the public school system, both are retired now. Eugene Motley is a member at First Baptist is a person I would consider a key member of community.

M: You mentioned before the factionalism, and if you said reasons why, you would have a white congregation, but what do you see these people striving for? What do you seem them working towards?

S: Just in general?

M: Obviously they're going off in different directions. So what do you see being done, in general but also individually. You don't have to go through them one by one.

S: As a whole, I see them working for an identity that would be respected. Case in point, the Fort Mose Society is certainly one that wants to bring recognition to _____ and the history of Florida and also the nation. The group which is called the Friends of Excelsior is to striving bring recognition and pride...

[End of Tape A, Side 1.]

S: Back to the community of Lincolville, Excelsior being the old high school for this area—and in doing so, to share the history and heritage of the black community. So there's a concerted effort to let people know that we are important, we have played a role in society. So I see that as being a common goal within the

community. Individually, I think everyone is striving to better him or herself by wanting to be gainfully employed and [to] be able to contribute back to the community, not only on a economical level, but educationally as well. To make the community stable and also attractive for others to come. I do know that there's a group of persons from within the county school board who've gone out and tried to recruit other minorities to bring [in] to bring about a balance. I think overall, that if we had that, with everyone working towards that, it would make the community more stable, and unified and diversified as one.

M: What do you see for St. Augustine in the future?

S: I see St. Augustine as being a very diversified community. But the change is probably going to come from outside more so from within. I cannot, and I guess if you look in the surrounding areas, we're seeing more and more persons relocating to this area, either from the north or northeast, and also southern Florida. As the community becomes more diversified in its population, with different cultures and resources, we'll probably see the community being developed to the point that certain things simply will not be tolerated, at least that's what I hope to see anyway.

M: Do you see the city becoming more integrated?

S: I would say, yes, however in order for that to happen, we're going to have to take some risk in involving persons in color in key roles, and when that happens, we can probably attract [other minority residents.] For instance, if we had someone [in the leadership] on the Sheriff's Department in St. Johns County who was a black, someone in the police department with some status and position there, and someone in the city and county government, and I'm not asking for token individuals. Persons who come with credentials that would prove themselves worthy of the assignment. I think as a whole, you will probably see the community sort of rallying around that, and also become a magnet to attract others to come and take a risk of investing in us. For the most part, right now, when the young folks graduate from high school and they go off to better themselves in institutes of higher learning, they are not stimulated and motivated to come back to St. Augustine. So the question is, what am I going to do there? There's nothing to do there. I wasted my time to go become better to do nothing. That has to change. I think we're going to have to take some risks on investing in people and involving the _____, and people will respect that and honor that.

M: Final question. Today, do you still see St. Augustine as a segregated town?

S: I'm going to say yes and no [laughter]. In some instances yes, and others no. And I can't help but go back to the police department. Usually, this is an area where you would find . . . this is an organization or entity where they usually

would be able to pull from [multiple groups, thus] having integration take place in law enforcement. That has been pretty much a given. In a time when you're seeing major cities with blacks and non-blacks in key roles and here in St. Augustine don't have any, basically. I would have to say its segregated.

M: I'm sorry, did you say non-blacks in key roles?

S: Yes, for instance, I'm not just saying the process of integration, we're talking about humanity. And of course when you have Latinos. We're a very diversified community, Latinos are here, Whites are here, Native Americans. So across the whole spectrum, I guess you're going to have to dig deeper into the background of some of the people to find out. I think it needs to be up front and well known. And maybe this is a Latino in the community, not maybe but definitely, this is a black, and they are in key roles. When you look for that, and for a community to be integrated and diversified, you look for that. I think that's a drawback to the city, actually. If its going to attract certain people, other won't come because we lack [thorough integration.] The fire department is not, the police department is not, the Sheriff's Department is weak, the school system is And I don't know about the private sector, when you go up to Northrop-Grumman, I would hard-pressed that you had more than twenty-five blacks in that large employer.

M: You also have to ask, what jobs do they have?

S: Right. Again, I think if it was well known, and I can say that because when we the celebration of the Martin Luther King Day here in St. Augustine, and as representation from Northrop-Grumman, they're not black. That tells me that you probably don't have anyone in the executive role, senior staff role. In that sense, I would have to say that the city still remains segregated. But in the sense of being able to move about the area freely and patronize hospitals or other things of the area, so you don't have to worry about when the doctor's offices are open, you don't have to worry about that. But there's something subliminal that is there, and if one looks hard enough, I think they will find it, and you're going to have be [aware.] [laughter]

M: Well, thank you very much Pastor Simmons.

[End of Interview.]