

Tracy Watson Adkison – 16 avril 2020 April

I have three sisters. And my mom was anemic. And so my mom and dad were my shade, but two of my sisters are several shades lighter. (laugh) So, very interesting dynamics and my mother or my grandmother was albino. Anyways, that was just, that was obviously a very dynamic interview. Now the Great Migration so let me tell you about me. Well, I just shared a little bit about my family. I have three sisters, and my father's deceased but my mother still living and she's here and we moved her here to Atlanta with me. I have one ,– I'm from Ohio. And I have one sister who still lives there. And one lives here with me and one lives in North Carolina. She used to live here with me as well. And when I say with me, I mean in Atlanta, not in my house, but the other one did live with me after she graduated college, my baby sister. So, um, I am married and my husband is over there. He's working at home as well. I have three stepchildren and one grandbaby. No children of my own, I have two doggies (laugh). They are napping. Here's one. The other one is probably up under dad. He's a daddy's boy. And we are on top of all of this Nicolas in the middle of selling our current home of 17 years and purchasing a new home. So just before I got to you, we were feverishly e-signing documents, okay? Yes, I'm a little all over the place. So bear with me while I rant over my, my thoughts but we, I, as I told you, I lived in Ohio and I moved here to Atlanta in 2000. And I met my husband here and I literally packed up my things and drove myself here for the move, but I want to back up to why. My mother is from Ohio. My dad who died of cancer, he was from Louisiana. Louisiana. So we would go every summer down to visit my grandmother and all of my cousins and I have a kazillion of them there. We'll actually be going for Memorial Day. Assuming the country, the world opens back up, right. Just to visit my cousins and my family. My mother's mother, my albino grandmother was from Beaumont, Texas. And you see where I'm going with this right? And my mother's father, my grandfather is from North Carolina. So heavy, heavy Southern roots in my family tree and both of my grandmother's my dad's mother and my mom's mother were known for, well many things (laugh). But both of them were very much known for their benevolence and their cook cooking skills . And without sounding like I'm bragging but I have pretty good cooking skills (04:40), Um, but they would literally take somebody off the streets and feed them and make sure that they were okay. You know, and send them on their way help them out. That's where I came from, and very much have that spirit. So I tell you that because I feel like, I've always felt like I'm a southerner at heart. (laugh) Even though I was born ,– actually, when I was born, my father was in the Air Force. And so we traveled quite a bit. At four years old, we were stationed in Philippines. So, yeah, exposed to culture at a very young age. I was exposed to culture at a very young age and still love to travel the world. My husband and I just got back from a cruise before this really went bad if we had a blast. But this leads me to tell you about my experience a little bit. So I grew up in Ohio and I followed my father's footsteps and went into the air force as well. I did military intelligence and Morse code and signals. And I got out after eight years. I was stationed in England for three years. Hawaii for three years and Virginia. So after being on both ends of the planet seemingly, so far away from home I wanted to be close to home for a while so I moved back to Ohio when I got out of the military. Plus, that was the start of my dad's battle with cancer. So I knew I don't know at what age I knew, but I always knew I would probably migrate down south. Um so after being back home for two years because I got out in 98 and I moved here in 2000. Okay, um, I started working administrative jobs here in Atlanta and got a really good job with an environmental engineering consulting firm as an administrator. I pursued my bachelor's degree and got my master's degree, MBA, both with a concentration in marketing which I love. If you give me just about anything of any genre, I can figure out how to either help you sell it, frame it, talk about it, draw it, you know, I don't draw, I'm not that creative. I just have the creative mind and how to help you promote it. However, I my career really has gone deeply into more of the business

management side of things. Project Management. I worked for that company for 12 years and got into project management then got laid off because the economy in 2012 and reinvented myself in a bit of an IT role, but still project management, and did a few contract, did some contract project management work, worked for an Atlanta city councilman as a special project director. And now, we'll fast forward to now, I work at the airport and I am an asset manager. My company does the facilities management and operations management for the Atlanta airport. And I specifically do the asset management. So let's see. That's my experience. I told you the why. I'll tell you some differences in living in the north and living in the south. So ,– and really Ohio, sometimes it's called the Midwest. It is north of the Mason Dixon line as they call it, but um but not really North when you're looking at New York or Jersey. So, even from the extreme north to Ohio is quite different. Midwest, more, a little more rural and laid back. family oriented, not so fast. So wasn't that big of a job to move down here, socially, I think. A lot of the same principles, a lot of the same way. But a little, I will say a little slower. I hope my husband is not listening. He might disagree. But I would venture to say that many probably assume I've been here all my life when they meet me. And I do feel at home. I would like to move further south to Florida. Just because I love the warm weather. And that was a big, another big part of the why. Besides just the yearning to live in the south. It was to get away from Ohio winters. Any questions for me?

Yeah, I do actually. So you said that you've always known you would live in the south eventually. Why is it Choose Atlanta specifically in the south. Or did you consider any other areas? Maybe?

Good question. Yes. So I knew I wanted to live in the south and I'm adventurous enough to go on my own. But I did not want to be completely on my own. So it was ,– I narrowed it down to Atlanta or Houston. And I specifically chose those two places because I knew I had family in those two cities. So I ended up ,– Atlanta ended up winning over Houston because of the I-75 corridor, I could get from Atlanta to Ohio to get back to see my dad, who insisted that I go on and move and not cancel my move because of his health. But I knew I could get home with an eight hour drive versus Houston, I would have to get on a plane or drive by myself for 16 to 18 hours back to Ohio.

And so you have family or you had family before moving to Atlanta you had family living in the city?

Yes. Hmm. I had a cousin who lived here. She's originally from North Carolina. So she's back in North Carolina. And, and my father's cousin lived here and I've lost contact with her. And I used to go to a Bible study at her house. Weekly, weekly or monthly, I don't remember.

And I was also wondering you, you mentioned that you visited the south as a child, I suppose.

Louisiana and North Carolina, dad's family a mom's family.

Right and so what memories Do you have of those trips? Because I assume it was like very different to go from Ohio to Louisiana?

Yes, and so visiting my family in Louisiana ,– so my dad, okay. Besides the social differences, um my dad ,– How can I say that? So he literally grew up in what they call the sticks. And I took a cousin of mine with me one time to go visit. She was from Ohio as well. I took her to

Louisiana with me to go visit and as we were driving off of the four-lane, state road, okay, onto a dirt road, she looked at me like "Seriously?!" And, you know, we drove some, you know about maybe three quarters of a mile until the dirt road split into ,– we had to make either left or right. And on the other side of that was probably a swamp. And then another left to get to my grandmother's house and property, and my aunt's. They all had their own little house on the same property. So she said, Well, how do they get their mail? Yeah, yeah. So quite, quite different and very fond memories of just playing in the dirt and having fun. Yeah, no internet No, no games. But still lots of fun. Lot of good eating as well. My grandma, we would come out with our shotgun [??? 0:16:30] when we saw some if somebody sprayed snake come out shoot snake] um well she would also come out and grab a chicken and you know break its neck and take it in there and do whatever magic she did for us to have that delicious fried chicken for dinner. Yeah, very different.

And so your, your interest in cooking comes from your grandmother?

Grandmothers, grandmothers. Both of them whenever it was a holiday like Easter, Thanksgiving, so forth and so on. Everybody in the family came to their house. One is in Ohio one is in Louisiana. Same, same thing.

So that for you is a southern is more of a southern thing?

Well, because my grandmother in Ohio was from Beaumont, Texas, you could say that. Yeah. That's a that's a very rich Southern tradition. But I think that that happens everywhere. Maybe not everywhere, but you know, I don't think it's just a southern tradition.

And so I was also wondering about the place where you grew up in Ohio. Can you tell me about the neighborhood where you grew up?

Sure. So Springfield, Ohio, is ,– I was actually born at Wright Patt Air Force Base, which is about 25 minutes from there. And I told you we traveled. You know, we were stationed in California, we were stationed in Mississippi where the next sister under me was born. We were stationed in the Philippines and back to Ohio, and we stayed in Ohio because that's where my mom's from. She wanted to be close to her family. They met, my parents met at the NCO club, the officers club on the base. That's how she met my dad. That's how she met my dad. Because he was from Louisiana, but he was stationed in Dayton, Ohio. Fairborn, Ohio. And so and I was born there at the base. And then we traveled the world and came back after my second sister was born. My dad said, that's it. We can't do all this traveling with all these children! So we settled down in Ohio. And Springfield was not a large city. Definitely not a metropolis. Okay. It was around 50-50 black white. Yeah, you get a bonus. Me going to college. I went to ,– I started at A historically black (laugh) HBCU in Prairie View a&m University and back to Houston. Right. And that was a culture shock. Oh my god, black people all day every day everywhere. Yeah, it was like wow. But Springfield was a, you know, the Midwest, especially in the 70s and 80s was a wonderful place to raise a family. There were so many manufacturing jobs. Yeah, warehouses. It was like Pennsylvania and Ohio and Indiana. That beltline there was a great place to raise a family in those days, and then drugs, drugs. Horrible in the 90s. And that industry tanked because also Michigan, the car industry, you know, we got a little bit of that as well. We still had ,–my one of my sisters works at a car or some kind of vehicle manufacturing company to this day so it still is there. It's just not booming like it was in the 70s today. So my dad was, when he was in the Air Force, he was an electrician. And he always wanted me to be an electrical engineer. I didn't want to be ,– "I don't want to be an engineer!" (laugh) That did

not interest me at all. Um, but so we had just the, I don't know just I had both my parents my entire you know my entire life, much of my childhood life. And they were married until he died 36-37 36 years. So my schools I don't know, it was just I don't know. I don't know how I would, how I would if I could describe it in one word. Very family oriented and, and laid back. With barbecue, we listen to a lot of music, play games. My mom worked the family business. My grandmother, my grandmother, the albino Lin my mother's mother. She went to business school and she started her own business. She started boarding homes, boarding home slash nursing home. And my mother worked in them. She had four boarding homes. She ran four boarding homes.

Was she born in Ohio? Or did she move from Texas? Oh, you're right. And she moved to Ohio and in she went to business school there or in Texas.?

I believe in Ohio. That's a good question. I believe in Ohio. She slept on the floor. She slept on the floor in the church.

Really?

The first time.

Wow. And then she managed to go to college and?

Yes, sir.

Wow, that's impressive.

I was gonna show you a picture but we packed it up (laugh)

So then you moved to Atlanta in 2000 you said?

Yes.

And yeah, I was wondering how did you choose which neighborhood you would live in.

I live in the city. Love, love, love, loved it. Not downtown, but you know, kind of on the outskirts but in the city until I met my husband and we fell in love. And he was at that time, a police officer for one of the prominent counties outside of Atlanta, just east of Atlanta. And so of course, when Um, I moved in with him. He purchased the house and I moved with him.

So where in Atlanta is the house?

DeKalb county

And which part of the DeKalb county?

Lithonia.

Okay, gotcha. Yeah.

Are you familiar with it?

I mean, that's Yeah, I was trying to focus my research on this very part of DeKalb county like South East DeKalb County because this is the part of metro Atlanta where you have a very important number of black newcomers who moved from the north.

Actually, Nicolas. We went to – so when I met my husband and because I was not from Atlanta, you know, Georgia at all, um, one of my close girlfriends that I've worked with, who was fifth generation Atlanta. Her dad was actually famous. I asked her about the church that my husband attended. And she said, if there was a top five of churches that that church was in it. And I tell you that because I, of course, after he proposed, I joined the church and we live in the same zip code as the second church that they built. They have one in Atlanta on the west side, and then one in like Lithonia and they would highlight that this zip code that we live in right now that we're ready to leave is the second most affluent or highest – What is it? Eric has the second highest number of African Americans in whatever, you know, income, high a high-income level. (talk to her husband) What did you say? Yeah, second most affluent black county in the US second to Prince George Maryland. Yeah.

Right. Yeah. And can you tell me about the neighborhood where you live right now, that you're about to leave.

Yeah. So our subdivision has 200 homes in it. So it's a big one. And we're probably when you turn down this street, the fourth subdivision that you would come to and then there's three more subdivisions after us (laugh). There's a lot of housing in this condensed area. And we are just north of a mall, an area called Stonecrest. That just became its own city. Mm hmm. Right, We're just, just outside of the city, the new city limits.

And so I was I was wondering, why are you leaving now this area?

I was never a big fan of this county. So if it wasn't for the love of my life, I would never have moved here. I love the city. Because he policed, he needed to be within a radius of you know, the county. So we stayed here and we raised the children here. His children were two and five when I met him, two years old and five years old, and 13. So, so now they're all grown. So we have a lot of fun memories here. However, my husband is not happy. He does not feel that our leadership takes as good care of this area as they do in other areas in the county. Was that diplomatic enough? (laugh)

You don't have to be diplomatic with me! (laugh)

I know. I know.

So I mean, are you talking about the difference of treatment between the south of the county and the north of the county?

Yes. Not in treatment. Bringing new businesses, the care of parks. Roads. Yeah. What your county leadership should be doing.

So where are you moving now?

Snellville, so a little farther, not far from here, but a little farther north into the southern part of Gwinnett County.

Okay, and so what type of neighborhood is it?

Uh, it's a beautiful neighborhood. Yes, swim-tennis community that we found, that we fell in love with.

And is it also a predominantly black area or not as much as it is here?

Nope. It is not at all.

Okay. And how do you feel about that?

Mixed emotions probably. Not really. I don't really care at this point. Yeah, we just want to relax and enjoy each other enjoy life. We looked for homes for quite some time. We started last October. We started last October. Yeah, we took our time you know, getting our house. It took some time to get our house ready to sell. But the first people who saw it fell in love with it and so, um, but we didn't show it until March And so um, they are actually moving here from Boston, they got a job opportunity, the people that are purchasing our home? So we close on this home before we close on our home because it took us a little while.

I was also wondering, so you mentioned that you found a job in Atlanta and I was wondering if you had a job before moving to Atlanta?

(...?) on faith?

So you just like literally just drove yourself to Atlanta and just –

Yes, so my dad helped out a gentleman. And I don't know, I don't remember how they met. But I think they met through my dad's job, but I'm not 100% sure on that. So I don't know if my dad helped him get the job and he let him stay with us for a few weeks while he got on his feet. So he got his own place. And so believe it or not, when I moved here, I stayed with him and his family. For a month or two, until I found a job and got my own place. I moved here Labor Day in 2000. And I moved out of their house right before Thanksgiving. So two months. And they lived – Lord have mercy ,– They lived down in Hampton, Georgia, way south of the city.

So it was not like city life?

No.

Like rural area, or –

Yes. A very nice subdivision. Very nice home. They had a little five or six year old son, seven year old son. Yeah.

Um, so what made you want to I guess moved to Atlanta. So I like why. Let me rephrase that. Because I was like, I'm thinking that you just moved to Atlanta without having a job in the first place. And you just like drove yourself there ,–

Let me tell you quick question. So. And in 2000, I had the pleasure of working the 2000 census, I was a recruiting manager and this was one of those jobs that kind of ,– one of those

defining moments in your life. That job, I was the director of recruiting for the local census office for Hamilton County, which is ,– so let me back up. When I got out of the military, I stayed at home for a few months with my parents and then I moved to Cincinnati because I had now traveled the world in the military, and so little bitty Springfield was not big enough for me. So I moved to Cincinnati. So I was close enough to get home in an hour and a half. Right? But far enough to have my own life. My own business. So I worked the 2000 census, I was the director of recruiting, I had 28 people working for me. And we met our goal early, you know, wonderful, wonderful, right. That ended like in June, recruiting, you know, it's all on the front end after that, it's the operations, getting out, getting the census forms in, you know, going to homes, etc, etc. So there really wasn't anything for me to do, unless I wanted to apply for an operation. Yeah. And coming from being a director. Yeah. So the timing just worked out. You know, I was like, Okay, well, I might as well ,– If I'm gonna look for a job, I might as well move here and look for a job here and not try to find another job in Ohio.

Did you feel like it would be easier to find a job in Atlanta?

At that time? Yes.

And was it indeed?

Yes. I moved here, Labor Day. I think I worked two little temporary jobs. I signed up at every temporary agency I could find. Hold on, Nicolas. Hold on. Okay, I want to make sure that the dogs didn't get out of the yard. Yeah, I think I work two little temporary jobs, two temporary gigs and then actually got hired to permanent position with the company that I was with for 12 years, the environmental engineering consulting firm. And I went from an administrator, administrative assistant to a senior administrator to project coordinator to a senior operations liaison or something like that. They gave me some title.

Okay, I see. And can you tell me about your experience with the Black Newcomers Network?

I don't have a lot of experience. Let me tell you since Nicholas since middle school, I have loved, love, love having memberships in organizations and associations. So in middle school, I was part of the Black History committee. I was in the band. My dad bought me a flute and I did something else in high school. I was in Student Government, Black History committee again. I used to go to Kiwanis club meetings with my assistant principal who was a, older white man (laugh) and marching band and playing sports. I played softball. So – and that continued on. I have help start non-profits and I just actually – a year ago, next month will be a year ago. A year ago, I was president of the League of Women Voters in Georgia. Chairwoman of the Board of Directors. 13 local leagues in the state from Macon to Dalton, GA, from Augusta to Cartlon, GA. I have local leagues that – they ran their local business but I ran the state! (laugh) And we have a national office and I've been invited and nominated to serve on the National Board but I haven't accepted that yet because if you're running the state, it's hard to do the state and national so. But I probably will do that, one day, when the time is better. But I don't remember doing a lot with the BNN. I'm sure I joined 'cause that would have definitely piqued my interest. But I don't remember going to any events or helping organize anything.

And I was wondering if you thought that it was hard to meet people in Atlanta 'cause some people mentioned that before.

Not at all. Not at all. I was very fortunate. Remember my girlfriend that I worked with that I mentioned who was 5th generation Atlanta? Her father was Julian Bond.

What?!

Yeah (laugh)

Oh my god, you said he was famous but I didn't think he was that famous!

Yeah, yeah. She was actually at my wedding. And we actually went to one of the national NAACP conferences with him.

Wow.

That was really cool! (laugh) Anyways, she taught me a lot about Atlanta and she obviously got me into circles that I probably would not have gotten into on my own. (laugh)

Some people did mention that they felt like there was a bit of a tension between locals and newcomers.

Yeah, let me tell you. Atlanta has gatekeepers. Every city – I won't say every city but some cities, especially large cities and then Atlanta is a black Mecca and so there is this – how would I say? Not a sense of entitlement but there is this inner circle of people born and bred. Like I said, she's 5th generation. There is a respect that goes with that, especially if your dad is Julian Bond. So I got to see it up close and personal. And in there, there's the people who come, they may be outsider but they build something: a successful business or they make a name for themselves somehow and they kinda get brought into the inner circle honorarium (laugh). And then for me, it's just kind of – it's who you know. So, that's everywhere really, it's who you know, to help get a job and things like that. I didn't know her before I moved here. I met her through work so I already had a job (laugh). And nobody helped me get that job. I got it through (53:47:...) I would say it was God (laugh), it was divine, it was divine appointment. But being associated with her got me into those circles. If I ever started a business and really tried to work those associations, I could. I could. I'm not – some people are entrepreneurs at heart, that is their core of who they are, they were born and bred for it. I'm not that person (laugh). I like the structure 9 to 5, I can dabble and dabble in some business because of my experiences but having that mindset and that gut, that spirit to just get up and create my success every day, no. I do have a high drive for success but to create my own, no (laugh). I like to achieve, I am an over-achiever. If you talk to anybody about me, they will tell you that but I like a structure path. Does that make sense?

Yeah, it does, for sure!

Ok, ok. I may change on the path, I may do some – but I may create my own path within the path (laugh). That's about as adventurous as I get in that regard.

I was wondering about your experience in — you said you studied in a HBCU?

I started, I started. I started at Prairie View A&M University. And I think I started with psychology 'cause I love to talk, I love people. When I was in the military, I started attending – I started doing course work while in the military with the University of Maryland, just because

that was who was on base while I was stationed in England. But it was just a course here, a course there 'cause I worked shift work, intelligence is a 24/7 thing so we had shifts. And then, it wasn't until I got here, met my husband, got the house, very stable 9 to 5 and then I said "Okay, it's time to get it done." So I completed my bachelors in 3 years and my masters just under two years.

Here in Atlanta?

Yeah. DeVry University, graduate school of management because it had to be convenient. 9 to 5, I work and 6 to 8, go to school, and go back home. So that was my life for 5 years until I got it done.

Must have been exhausting.

I'm glad I did it. I wouldn't have it any other way. I mean I wish I would have finished when I was a youngster. And then dedicated those early professional years to getting certifications. That's the only thing I would change. So now I have – here, moving here and this is probably something you've heard, after you move here, then you realize, even after you have the master's degree that probably 60% of the people here have master's degree. So how then do you distinguish yourself as the most qualified person for the job? So, I have two certifications that I wanna get.

You mentioned that when you moved to Texas, you were surrounded by black people all of a sudden and so I was wondering –

It was just like "A Different World." Have you ever watched that show?

I've heard of it.

It was just like that. I was in the freshman girls dorm. In the lobby of the dorm, there would be card playing going on, card games, domino game, the boys would hang out there to watch the girls come and go (laugh). And my first week there, there was a party on the tennis court, party on the basketball court, party on the purple pit where the food is served. Party every night.

So you really wanted to go a HBCU? What made you choose to go there?

Nicolas, I graduated high school with honors, I graduated bachelors and my MBA with distinctions. High school, by the time I got half-way through my senior year, I had two bags full of letters with scholarship offers. Like I said, I also played softball and that became a really big thing in college 'cause this was 1990 when I graduated high school, it was just becoming a thing. I was really good so some of those letters were for soft ball for me to come and play softball, some of them were academic and so I went to Prairie View on a partial academic scholarship. Because my family did not have the money to pay for me to go to college.

Maybe one last question: you know how the reputation of the South is all about the KKK, and more racism and more conservative. I would like to have your perspective on that, knowing that you lived outside of the South and in the South. Do you have thoughts on that?

So, Georgia. OK, first let me tell you this. I said my hometown was 50-50. My high school – a lot of my close friends were black, white and Hispanics. I think we have a very small population of Hispanics but it was very very – I was not exposed to much racism as a child. I knew it existed, my parents were very leery – I'll just be very frank – very leery of white folks. Now that's how they were raised. When I worked the census in Ohio, I wasn't at the Cincinnati office downtown, I was at the county office. There's so many people in the city, there was one office for the city and then there was an office for all the unincorporated areas in the county, townships and areas outside of the city of Cincinnati. So that was my responsibility. And then you have the counties surrounding Hamilton county which was – Hamilton county is Cincinnati. So you had three counties surrounding Hamilton county and there was an office for that area. Because my team, we finished early, two weeks early we met our goal, they asked me to go help the city office and the surrounding county office. When I met with that local office manager for the county, the county surrounding, AH! I said "Well can you take me to drive around the area so I can get some ideas of how to get people to sign up to work for the census and respond to the census?" He said "Well, I could but there would be some areas where you might have to duck." Okay? Okay. So needless to say, we didn't do that. So racism was very real in Ohio but in the more rural areas. When you are in the towns where there was at least a good mix of the population, then you don't have too many issues but you get outside of there, you better your back! Georgia (sigh) I would hear about areas and cities that – you wanted to be careful in. Why? Oh girl! Don't go over there! That's where the KKK is. Yeah. I would hear that.

In cities in Georgia?

Yes, small towns. Outside of the city and even I would say outside of the larger counties like Dekalb. North Fulton? Be careful, be careful! Atlanta is Fulton county but North Fulton, it used to be, be careful up there and of course, South Georgia and so incidentally my husband is from – not quite South Georgia, he's not from Atlanta, he is from Perry, GA, which is just about 100 miles south of Atlanta, right off I-75, south of Atlanta by 100 miles. But it is the home of the state fair and... I don't know. (talks to her husband) Eric, what would you say the make up of your city is, of Perry? (Eric answers in the background) So about half and half black and white. So that's the same demographics I grew up in. When did you move to Atlanta? Mid-90s. And I didn't move until 2000. So he was established here when I met him. Nicolas asked me about the KKK and racism here in the South. I told him I had been told to be careful in this area, be careful in that area, the KKK is out there. (Eric says something). Would you say that as well? (Eric answers). He says he already knew, he's from Georgia (laugh). So yes, you were told that as well Eric? 'cause you weren't familiar with Atlanta? (Eric answers) He knew about certain parts of Atlanta. He says mostly up North. See I said mostly down South of Atlanta. He said mostly up North in the mountains.

I guess that's it for the question I had. Is there anything that you want to add or anything we haven't covered that you think might be relevant to understand your experience?

I think that there was a Great Migration and I think it happened in the 1990s and 2000s. I think that there's been another migration. I think that one of the hot cities in the late 2000s became Charlotte, North Carolina. And that's where my baby sister moved to a few month ago. I heard about so many people getting jobs and going and pursuing jobs in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Is it like Atlanta? The idea that there are more opportunities for black folks?

Yeah. Yes. And I read article where they said that the area grew bigger than the infrastructure grew. Exact thing that happened here. But I think that there was more room to grow in Atlanta by virtue of size.

Would you consider one day leaving Atlanta to go to Charlotte or another place?

No. I was born under the water sign so I love the beach so if I were to move again, I would want to move to Florida. I'm ready to retire! (laugh) I would not go to North Carolina unless – I do have one more business goal. I do want to be in somebody's C-suite. I do want to make it to that executive level, vice-president. That's been the goal since I was 13 years-old.

I think that's it for me. Can I just ask you what year you were born?

1972.

Than you really much for your time!