

My name is LaKeisha Florence. I am a native Detroiter, born and raised. I am a certified public accountant and I consider myself to be a rule follower. I think about my childhood. It was a very happy time. I remember as a child, my aunt would come and get me and we'd go out and she'd take me to lunch and take me shopping. But it was treating me as a kid, like an adult. And so I sort of followed in her footsteps a little bit. She's an accountant. I'm now an accountant, a CPA. But what drives me is just trying to be an example to young students. Coming up today in Detroit, the school system isn't great. And so anything that I can do, any little bit that I can do to help those students, to give them some sort of vision, because a lot of these students don't think college is an option - and it really is.

I was born in the 80s, so I wasn't around during a lot of, you know, the uprising and things that happened, so I came around after that. But there's always been this separation in Detroit, very clear separation between Black and White. It's a place where you had to be strong in order to survive. But then if you don't have all of those things, there's lots of people around to lend a hand to help. And I think that's what Detroit is all about. We've been through a lot as a city, but we're coming out of that and we're coming out of it together.