Alison: If you could just please say your name and just start with a little bit about yourself

Tyrone: Tyrone B, Upstate New York born and raised. I’m 45. I’ve been in the state of Colorado for 7 years

Alison: Do you mind telling me what brought you to Colorado?

Tyrone: I would have to say Marijuana. Marajuana yes. I was inpatient and outpatient basically my whole life for the use of marijuana. I’ve never agreed with things that they said so as soon as there was a state that even sounded like me I ran to them, you know. And I’ve been here ever since.

Alison: And did you find it a good place to be when you got here?

Tyrone: Well, when I moved here I had a place to stay. I lived in Montbello. I wasn’t always homeless. I think life has ups and downs. When I first lived here I lived on Eagle Street. I went from Eagle to Troy Street and that was Montbello area. From there I went to Glendale area, I wanna say Kentucky. Yeah I was on Kentucky. I’ve also lived in Aurora. I lived on 13th off of Champa by Colfax. I lived on Fulton. My last apartment I went through eviction due to pandemic and loss of job. And I was at Ivy Crossing over there at Yates and Quebec area.But I was on East Harvard to be exact.

Alison: Do you have family in Denver?

Tyrone: No.

Alison: OK. So you lived in so many different places before here. Have you experienced homelessness in Denver before now?

Tyrone: Yeah, like I said, I think life has ups and downs. I think it’s like… I think this is something that has occurred before I was even thought of or even born. These are issues that can be handled but it’s gonna take man to handle it like when I say man I’m talking about humans like humanity, cause this is an ongoing problem. I’m not saying that people owe me anything or the next man or anything. I’m just saying, when you hire us for these jobs you could at least pay us a decent fee where we could afford rent. I’m just saying because a law allows you to constantly lift up rent don’t mean that you have to be greedy and pit me and humanity in certain situations and look down on us as if we’re in the wrong, when you’re actually full of greed. These situations are caused due to greediness. You can have all the currency in the world but you’re still gonna die.

Alison: Given the approach you have and where you’re coming from I’d be curious, how do you define “homeless”?

Tyrone: Homlessness is basically when... In my head it’s when you don’t have a place to lay your head, as far as like an apartment, lease, room in a house, or studio. But since being here in the state of Colorado I’ve learned that even if you do have that over your head or you go rent a room in a motel month to month, you’re still considered homeless because you don’t have a mailing address. So in the state of Colorado, if you don’t have a residence where you have a mailing address, you’re still considered homeless. The way that they still consider label us as homeless, when they do give us an address, they tell us to use like, 2323 Curtis which is Francis center or Father Woody which they call it Haven of Hope now because of the history of Father Woody in this state.

Alison: So is that how the city of Denver defines homlessness? Do you agree with that definition?

Tyrone: I mean, that’s what I’ve learned. Honestly I appreciate the tent, you know, it’s the best that the state of colorado has done for me. Cause the shelters are, I mean, I appreciate everything but, if you’re not creating a safer environment for me, which the shelters don’t provide. Um…. Another problem I see in these homeless shelters is the people they put over people. You don’t put… I mean, I understand I may have a history of using drugs, and I went through recovery supposedly, but you don’t put these people over people’s lives. You understand? Cause we’re talking about lives. You got people dealing with people’s lives that can’t even deal with their own life.

Alison: Do you have an example, like a story that shows that?

Tyrone: I mean, I’m the example. I have no criminal record. They’re good at labeling you if they don’t like you, they give you hell.

Alison: You mean shelter staff?

Tyrone: Yes. They’re hiring, they basically put homeless people with a history of drugs, et cetera, in a position of power over people that’s already powerless, and it makes them feel like they have power. It’s just a problem in, I wanna say the state of Colorado, but I’m sure it’s bigger. It goes bigger than homlessness, you know, you get a person who gets a supervisor job, the first thing hits his mind, oh,“i could fire you” this and that, it’s a superiority thing. But it’s false, you understand? It creates problems. Sometimes I hear statements like “black lives matter.” It pisses me off. I’m a black man. Every time I see that sign it pisses me off because I’m a black life, I don’t have no criminal record, I’m attacked on jobs. Matter of fact I’m just quit my job due to systematic racism. My last day was like two days ago. That’s normal. I quit a job, I get a new job. Or I get a new career. This is like my fifth career. I think that a lot of the false power within the system of the United States needs to be removed, you understand? There’s a reason why we have Congress, et cetera, because we don’t believe in a person having a bunch of power over lives. And the reason why I’m sayin this is because, whoever’s listening to this, or if you’re writing, whoever’s reading it, I hope they’re good, I hope they’re at least middle class for when they do fall, cause homelessness, it can hit anyone. When you live this and you get to see everything I’m talking about, I want you to understand something. Your chance to do something was when you heard me. Once you’re in the shelter system, once you’re in the system of being homlessness, you have no word. That person that is less than you, that you won’t say that’s less than you because you’re trying to be nice, well they’re pretty much gonna give you hell. You may wanna catch the bus all night until it stops and walk around cause it’s not safe out there, and you put yourself on a tent list, and when you get in a tent city.

Alison: How long were you on the list to get into SOS?

Tyrone: I’d say it took me at least a half of a year

Alison: How did you find out about SOS?

Tyrone: Well, actually, I was receiving help from a place called Jesus Saves. What a coincidence. Jesus never saved me. I was nobody Jesus saved, but that’s faith for you. Faith but no results. So I go there, and they put me in one of their shelters. I get robbed on Christmas for a battery charger. By the way I’m surrounded by one race, so I say “hey man, one of these white boys robbed me” “oh, you’re a racist”. So on Christmas I got kicked out at twelve o’clock in the morning, I walked around, I called a friend, he let me stay on his motel floor. After that, I walked around for a few days. I ran into this place on Pearl Street and 16th, I want to say, and umm basically was crying, didn’t know what to do. Like I said people create situations and the reason I ended up there is cause the next day I went back to this place I’m like “yo, they kicked me out” “well, you can’t go to no shelter” “whatchu mean I can’t go to no shelter?” “well we control all the shelters.” Once again, you’re giving power to a bunch of, trying to say this nice, a bunch of… hurt people hurt people. This dream that you have of a hurt person being healed helping hurt people is ludicrous. It has never worked for you. I don’t know why you keep bumping your head. That’s the definition of insanity. For you to keep doing something rapidly over and over expecting different results. I see you on the news “oh we gonna get this motel, we gonna get this program.” Program after program, program after program, you’re doing programs because somebody is eating from these programs saying screw the people at the bottom, you understand? There’s no way in hell you’re rapidly doing the same thing over and there’s not a group of people benefiting. The problem is, the people that you claim that you want to benefiting, you’re not benefiting them, you’re keeping them oppressed within a system, you understand? It’s sad for me to say this because I’m in a majority White state, so that means the majority of your homeless are White caucasian men and women. These are your children, these are your families, you understand? So I’m pointing out stuff that not only I’m living, but I’m seeing.

Alison: So, do you have ideas for how it would… you said, take away that kind of middle level?

Tyrone: I do. Ain’t it funny how you can pay taxes for a road but you cant’ pay taxes to help your own people? Ain’t it funny how you could spend more money to feed a dog than an inmate? Ain’t it funny how you make all this money off these prison systems. Ain’t it funny how you make all this money off this marijuana when I sold drugs, I was a drug dealer. You sell drugs, you’re a budtender. When I sold drugs, my house was a dope house. You sell drugs, your house is a dispensary. When I smoke my weed, I was an addict. I come around you, all of a sudden I’m a recreational smoker. And if I want to be a medical smoker, oh, just walk in, give the lady a few dollars and give the state thirty and there you go. I hate to say this, I hate how America look down on me as a black man for doing shit to survive, but when they doing the same thing, it’s acceptable. It’s not acceptable for me and my people to come up. You look at every race. Every race has received reparations but yet in still, when it comes to my race, you say not reparations. But then you want to tell me Black Lives Matter. I can’t even get a job and be treated decently. I can’t even go to work and just come back. You’re concerned about who I am, and what I’m doing, but you have no benefits for me. It’s frustrating. Your faith. I hate your faith. Faith with no works are worthless to me. I don’t care what religion you are. I dont’ need you to build my faith. I don’t need to be happy in oppression. I don’t need to be in poverty. I need to be happy in the equal life that you have. Now they say your laws wasn’t made for me, whoopidee doo. It’s not benefiting your people either. So upgrade. Really, upgrade. Change your thinking. I stay in Colorado because it’s a lot safer than where I’m from. I’ma say due to systematic racism, poverty, people are driven into situations they’re forced to live a life. If I take all your jobs away from you in the state of Colorado cause, where I’m from, we had a high economy. There was at least three big companies that basically employed the whole city. They took our jobs, gave them overseas, all of a sudden people are poor. They wasn’t drug dealers, they wasn’t murderers. The situation that people agreed which you don’t want to hear, you know, you wealthy people, who just can’t get enough, you may have a steak and a potato on the side, but you know you just need an extra steak. It ain’t enough for you. Nothing is enough for you, you’re not satisfied. You’re like a tapeworm. Nothing is good enough. You could be a millionaire you’re still not good; you become a billionaire, you still ain’t good. You try to be a trillionaire. And the sad thing is, I want you to know, your currency is fake. Once upon a time it was backed up by a gold seal. But your currency has no value. The only value it has is a group of people with a lot. Your people give your currency power. And your power is false. The existence of America, majority of your existence, is negative. You’re known for killing people. Change. Maybe people will like you. Stop mistreating people. Stop this superiority thinking, maybe people will like you, cause you’re not liked.

Alison: Do you think that the SOS camp offers some kind of space away from these systems, in any way?

Tyrone: The SOS camp. I think it’s rather sad that you got a group of people that gotta create an SOS camp in 2021, and then you look at me and tell me Black Lives Matter.

Alison: Tell me more about, what is SOS…

Tyrone: I mean think about it. I mean, it’s 2021, now look at the history of America. You need to upgrade. Why are you stunting growth? Either you’re an idiot by nature, or you’re an idiot due to greed or… just a fucking idiot, I don’t know how to say it, I mean. A king is just, on the care of his people. That’s what makes a great king. Now do you understand why you have a president instead of a king because a president isn’t great. You have nothing great. You have a bunch of people on control trips. Look at it. President, congress, supervisor, police, and look at your news. It’s not benefiting you. 2021, your internet is exposing you, so nobody cares about if “oh I don’t wanna hear that, oh oh don’t say that” - it’s being said, it’s exposed now. It’s exposed at least, I’d say at least every five minutes there’s some bullshit about America. So this big idea about you not being racist, change your news. Learn to touch something and make it grow. Cause everything you touch you have destroyed. Look at your news, change your news. Every article don’t have to be about some innocent man getting killed. Or some kid getting beat.

Alison: What kind of news would you change it to?

Tyrone: Well, I’m part of society, I am the news. You don’t see me on the news. This is the closest I come to news. I’m 45, I don’t have a criminal record, my son about to turn 21, I’m about to be done with child support. Come on. I mean, I’ve been here for seven years, I’ve seen people try to label me, but you know, the same people that say “oh he’s angry and violent” these are your child molesters, these are your rapists, these are your murderers, these are your gangbangers. Did you know they’ve got a homebred gang called Two Eleven[?] That’s against Black. Do you know the history of Colorado? So, I’m not trying to be funny, if you have a history of racism, and you have a Klan that was created in Colorado Springs and you’re still standing, don’t sit here and tell me you’re not racist. You understand? If I can’t go on my job and work and not be bothered without you giving excuses cause, it’s always an excuse, you’re always right, you know. I’m not impressed. I think your supremacy is fake, I think you’re a poor leader, I don’t think you have any leadership skills. I am not my ancestors. I don’t want to be your friend. Make me want to be your friend. Treat me better. Would you want to be my friend if I treated you the way that you treated me? There’s nothing wrong with me. I’m an able body. I’m not disabled. Why am I in a tent? Why are you in a home? So don’t tell me Black Lives Matter.

Alison: I’m wondering, you said earlier, people labeling you.

Tyrone: It’s a thing. Like, Bill Cosby, he just got out of prison for false prosecution, right? But yet and still this is the same man that, you can look this up on Youtube, he created some type of documentary about how America was out to kill black boys. You may not like what I just said, but look at your news. So stop covering things up you can’t cover it up no more. You’re disliked for mistreating people. You’re not disliked for your complexion. You’re disliked for your thinking. You’re not disliked because of your sexuality. This big thing about the LBGQ, they done took so many letters I don’t even know If I can spell anymore. It’s sad. It’s sad when you’re defining yourself by your sexual preference instead of who you are.

Alison: Speaking of labels, I’m wondering about the name of “SOS Camp” for Safe Outdoor Spaces.

Tyrone: I’m just learning that

Alison: Yeah, what do those words mean to you given your…

Tyrone: It’s exactly what they’re saying.

Alison: But does safety have a certain meaning to you, or outdoor space

Tyrone: It’s safer than a shelter. Which is sad cause, you don’t understand, you don’t know that these shelters are getting a lot more money than these people, you understand?

Alison: You mean the people living in them? Or which people do you mean?

Tyrone: The shelters within the state of Colorado, no matter what city, I think they are receiving more money and more help than these camps. The “SOS”. And you can’t produce year after year who’s getting the money. Huh? I mean, if I got to a job, and I work and don’t produce, they fire me. You do this shit decade after decade within another century and you’re still doing it which are excuses. And you’re still allowed to do it? You can’t produce. You’re worthless.

Alison: Do you think more money should be put toward more SOS camps? Or, or is that not the answer.

Tyrone: Yeah. I think this is cheaper, it’s less on tax payers, it produces better.

Alison: Tell me about how it produces better. What’s better here?

Tyrone: I haven’t had a crackhead kick me out. I don’t have staff constantly bothering me. I’m able to use my food stamps and eat comfortable without a person saying “oh something’s wrong with him we don’t like him”. See another thing with Colorado is it’s a crowd thing. I’m not a people’s person so I don’t want to be in no crowd. You won’t see me amongst no gangs or nothing. I may know a few people that’s involved in some of that stuff, but we have boundaries. You understand, I don’t do crowds, I stand alone. I stand alone, and I fall alone.

Alison: So here kind of lets you do that more, at the SOS?

Tyrone: Here I don’t have no one harassing me. Here if I have a issue with staff, it’s looked into. I’m not automatically kicked out and this that staff word. You’re actually in a position to where you can compare SOS to your shelters. And I want you to ask yourself a question. How in the hell do these shelters have a record for creating more homeless? Claiming that they helping these people. Two three weeks later they back on the street. I want you to go to the Jesus Saves and look outside and see how many people are sitting outside sleeping on the ground that could tell you that they got kicked out. I want you to sit on that same side and explain to me how you can watch a person bag up drugs, sell drugs in broad daylight and everything’s ok. That’s systematic racism. It’s set up, it’s set up for oppression. You don’t want no people to come up. You’re eating off of dem people. I don’t know who’s eating. I don’t know how… Yeah I know how they’re eating, but I know this much. Your claim is false, you’re like a church. I go there, you give me all these damn promises and take my money. 10% of my earnings. That means every $100 I made I gotta give you $10. That mean if I make $1,000 I gotta give you $100, off of faith. Faith ain’t no difference than the bullshit that they tell y’all. How they helping the homeless. If I was one of these people, donating my money? I would stop, and look at them and say “I believe that I can do more by myself for these people than you” why? Cause think about it. You walk on the street. I’m not saying do this for anybody, you know, I wouldn’t do this for no drug addict. I’ll watch a person like a working man or something, a family man type of thing, but think about it. How much do it take for you to get an apartment? More than likely you’re sitting in.. how much is your home? Cheapest home I mean I’m pretty much behind, but the cheapest I saw was $350,000. It’s still the same. OK so you can afford a $350,000 home at a minimum but you going to tell me that you cant’ take a homeless man or woman off the street overnight. Think about that. Think about how much a year lease costs. You say you don’t want that person in a tent on your street. Say that they just so messy, creating a mess. Looks to me like you just sitting on a problem.

Alison: Have you experienced that in this neighborhood with SOS? What has it been like living in Park Hill?

Tyrone: SOS? This is Park Hill?

Alison: Yeah, like the other people living in this neighborhood, have you had… experiences?

Tyrone: The majority of the crowd wherever you go is fake. No matter what situation. Within a crowd you gonna see, I’d say at least one percentage who’s not going to care what you think and they’re going to express theyself. Let’s just say uh, it feels good to finally be able to take a shower like I’m about to and wash my clothes like I’m about to cause people in this community they just back and forth through court, back and forth through we don’t want you you can’t take a showe. Honestly I think I’m only here because of the church. And you know, churches they… a church is a business like a college. I was dealt reality hard man, you know, break my neck to go to college. I’m in there nope just nothing. $70,000 owed to a bank. And you know they’re shutting peoples accounts down. So all you people listening with your homes, I want you to look this up: banks are shutting your accounts down, taking your money, not giving you nothing in return and it’s legal. Remember your first oppression, remember I told you you had real currency. You went from your real to the fake. The fake is where you’re at right now. Pay attention, they constantly talking bout crypto crypto crypto, so they trying to change your currency again.

Alison: I’m wondering cause you’ve been in Denver seven years you said, Colorado seven years, that about 5 or 6 years before COVID started. How did you see COVID start to affect, or how did COVID ch…

Tyrone: You want me to be honest with you about COVID. America, you are known for putting fake currency over lives, man. Show me a virus. I go coast to coast, walk comfortably. Show me a virus. I think you’re giving it to people. Show me a virus. How long, you said five years? I haven’t had nothing.

Alison: No, it’s been a bit over a year.

Tyrone: You know why I haven’t had nothing? Because there is nothing.

Alison: Even if there is nothing, how would you say that other people thinking there is something, how has that changed your community?

Tyrone: America is known for putting people in false fear. The gang currency. They’ll create war, the gang. You don’t believe me, look it up. All your wars was about money. They didn’t care about the lives so they would kill you, your loved ones, and you will smile about it because they’ll tell you your loved one is a soldier. He’s fighting for the country. Put yourself in your loved one’s position and tell me, did you really fight for your country? Cause it seems to me like a lot of y’all knew that you were fighting over oil with that Desert Storm. Lof of you knew that you was fighting over that heroin, that poppy seeds.

Alison: So, before you lived here, you were in those different apartments.

Tyrone: And I moved myself to every one of them. The state of Colorado did not help me. Well, one time the state had a, they paid one month rent for me. The DHS. Yeah, they paid one month rent for me but that was a street that I didn’t name… no I did name it, that was 13th. When I moved to Aurora.

Alison: And have you lived on the streets, not in apartments?

Tyrone: I tried, I can’t. I don’t trust people. Like I said, I’m not on drugs, I’m very clear-minded, I don’t trust people. I would stay up two or three days until I find a place to stay. I don’t sleep comfortable in no tent. Here’s it’s comfortable because it’s more like a room instead of a tent, and then you’re surrounded by a fence and you got your staff here.

Alison: If people were talking about homelessness who’ve never experienced it, and I think that’s sort of the “you” you’ve been talking to. What would you want them to know?

Tyrone: I wouldn’t want them to know nothing. I wish my life on you. Cause honestly man, you’re not going to obtain the knowledge you need unelss you live it. Some stuff can’t be spoken to you, some stuff can’t be read to you. I can tell you the purpose of these [?] but you would call it fasting. Cause it’s by choice. You say oh no I’m just fasting. You’re probably used to your regular mills. You’re used to being in control you say “I’m going to eat this for breakfast, I’ma eat this for lunch”. I’d break my neck for that. I get it, but I’d break my neck for it. But your average homeless person, they don’t control what they eat. I mean look it up. I think it was Thanksgiving they fed them Canadian geese while y’all ate turkey? [laughs]. I didn’t fall for that shit, I watch y’all eat that.

Alison: You didn’t eat any?

Tyrone: Why would I eat a Canadian geese? If you’re eating turkey. Think about that. You said I’m saying Black Lives Matter but I can’t have a turkey. I’m going to get me a turkey. [laughs]. I will starve, you could put a meal in my face, most of the people I don’t trust. I’d rather eat your potato chips. I’d rather have your pop. I don’t trust you, I know you sit there and say well, “oh I don’t know you” you have been represented by your race. Little do you know. Every time I see you, I see your people. You want me to see you in a greater light, know how to treat people. Stop having excuses to mistreat people. Cause, it’s kinda funny, they say karma. Because people have their views and opinions, and they think that one thing is… like, example: when it came to Colorado paying reparations - look this up - people said “I have nothing to do with that, I didn’t do that to them people”. Would you believe the news people actually looked up they history and proved them wrong? What did Colorado do? They stood by it. When you’re in a country in 2021, and you’ve got different parts of your states saying “screw you, we’re going to do reparations, that’s an embarrassment because all these places are people of color, so how do Black Lives Matter if you’re not part of the movement. When you wanted reparations, it was good. What’d you call it, the Holocaust, all of that shit. It was good. To this day, it was good ain’t it. We talk about it, it’s your history. You want me to acknowledge your pain. You want me to acknowledge all of that. But one race, you are lame. I’m not my people. I see you as a lame. I’m not scared of you, I don’t care what you can do to me. I think you’re lame. I don’t think you can produce. I don’t think you’re a great leader. Because the majority of people in this state is your people. You can’t lead. You’re only good at.. You’re no different than the Blacks in the hood. The Blacks in the hood, they sit there they sell all they drugs, they become successful. Not many, but the ones that do, they say “Oh I’m good, take care of my family. Take care of a couple of my friends”. Most of them don’t take care of they people. You’re no different. We call it a game of self. Being selfish. You’re no different than the dude in the hood with money bro. You’re selfish. And the reason I say that cause you can’t benefit your own people. If you was so much against me, OK fine, at least help your people. I should only see Black people in these tents. The way these Mexicans look at me and treat me I should only see Black people in these tents. The Italians tell me they White you look at the history you find out they sell outs.I should be the only one in this tent. The American dream is to be wealthy, have money, and not have to work. Today, I’ve got people fighting with me for a job. The slave was normity[?] Work. I’m a decendant of a slave. I’m only like three generations from slavery right? So, I don’t think it was meant for you to fight with a descendant of a slave about working on a plantation and then being proud of it and then telling me that you’re superior when you’re actually just a replacement of a slave. Indentured servants your contract is only for seven years if it’s not posted extend to your people. Why are you acting like you [?] and me. And with pride.

Alison: And I’m remembering when we first started talking you said you didn’t think anyone would want to hear your story. Do you still think that’s true?

Tyrone: They don’t want to hear my story because people don’t want to hear the truth. It’s this new movie that came out it’s called American Scam. They need to watch it. They’re not advertising it because it exposes a lot of stuff. There’s another movie, I can’t remember, wish I could remember the name, but… when America is rapidly dropping movies exposing its citizens, that means that people of power are trying to reach your dumb ass and teach you something and uprage you before you start something that you can’t finish. The last thing that you want is what you’re screaming? a race war. The largest race on planet Earth is Asians. The second is Africans. Find out where you’re at. Cause if you can only win war on American soil, you’re fucked.

Alison: I have one last question for you, and thinking about SOS and homelessness and a lot of the things you’ve been talking about, what is something I didn’t ask that you wish I would have asked you?

Tyrone: Honestly, I was just trying to help you, yo. Honestly, cause I woke up getting ready to take my shower, usually people I overlook but because you were clean like me - a lot of these people… cause you were clean, you’re presentable I looked at you different. So I said “OK let’s hear them out”, know what I mean. I don’t like my time to be wasted, that’s all it is. It’s nothing against people, it’s just like, example: I have a idea of freelancing. They tell me to talk to this lady. I go talk to the lady and I’m like “damn she dirty”. I say “what’s she supposed to do for me?” “Oh, she give you a vision” I already have a vision. You’re trying to give me faith. I need results. What can she do for me.

Alison: Can I ask what your vision is? You don’t have to tell me.

Tyrone: Don’t get mad, Colorado, but you can’t cook. You run around saying that you’re a state of food, but when you legalize marijuana, you open doors for the rest of the United States. You got people coming in and out of the state, and one of the main concerns they have is that you are not capable of feeding them. Your Mexicans can’t cook. Stop that shit. The taco’s played out. It’s like a liquor store in the hood, a barber shop in the hood, you’ve got too many. You need to get rid of them.

Alison: What do you want to see more of?

Tyrone: Whatchu mean, I need you to be more creative, have more of an idea. Just because you have and idea, doesn’t mean me, Susan, Todd, and Timothy have to do the same thing. We need to come up with our own thing. You understand? Everybody can’t be the same.

Alison: So does your vision involve having a restaurant or a food truck or?

Tyrone: A food truck, but what I wanna do is I wanna bring my city to this city. Expose a lot of stuff cause, like, there’s sauces you don’t have. There’s drinks you don’t have. There’s a lot of stuff that… You can’t even cook chicken properly! This is sad. I would like to give the people…

Alison: How do you cook chicken properly?

Tyrone: Number one you use clean grease. Number two you make sure your grease is hot enough, and then let you know when it's done is when it’s floating. And just because it’s floating don’t mean that you take it out. You may want to let it get crispy and brown, ya dig? You can’t half-cook chicken, you just care about taking my money. That’s only why I wanna do that, because these people are good for taking my money and they can’t give me a good meal. Welton street cafe, you’re overpriced. You don’t have no soul food. If Welton street cafe is your best soul food and they say Caribbean, then you look at Five Points and it’s an ex-black community? You know once upon a time they had the pictures of them. They not even a picture no more. So you don’t even have a black community but Black Lives Matter? Why did you take the Black community from the Black people? I just wanna know, I mean, you had the whole damn state, you could have gave them a new community you coulda said “You know what, you deserve better, let me relocate y’all over here, we done built y’all this up over here, and while y’all over der we’ll build this up.” You didn’t do nothing like that. Say “Fend for yourself”. I hear the stories of the people that own homes there. They tell me how you basically stole they homes with your laws.

Alison: You’re talking about Five Points?

Tyrone: Yeah. Lota people there, you tell them they can’t have grass. Now they gotta get rocks. You had all types of rules for these people to break them down. Basically dry them out. Lot of these people left your state. Lot of your own people not even happy here no more bro. The only reason people like me stay here is because your crime is actually low. And we like your marijuana, but as far as you as a people, we don’t like you. And what I mean by “we” is because here I get to meet people from different states. You know what I mean. A lot of them, they’ll bow down to you for a dollar, but you got a lot of people like me that say “nah, bro.” Lot of people say you’re headed for war? Yeah. I say you been at war. You just ain’t at the point where you’ve faced enough consequences to wake up. You understand? The reason why is because you’re fed lies. People they read about Blacks in America and they’re never told how many Whites were killed. They’re never told how many babies were killed. And if they are told, it’s just one or two stories. There’s more people than Nat Turner and Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, it gets bigger than that. I understand your “Thirty acres and a mule.” Learn that story. Learn how that man gathered up with a bunch of Blacks and killed them White families and took that land and all of that.

Alison: And your comment about there not being enough stories is exactly why it’s important that you’re telling your story.

Tyrone: They’re being influenced. It’s their upbringing. Worthless ass parents, you know, they teach their kids, you know, a bunch of false shit you know I mean like. They have no knowledge. It’s based on “I think I’m better.” Well, I don’t care about your thought. Christians think that Jesus is real. I don’t agree.

Alison: Would you like to add any last thing?

Tyrone: Do better. Put your signs down. I’m tired of your signs. Get rid of that damn rainbow. Learn to define yourself by yourself instead of your dick or your coochie. Stop trying to force me, just because I don’t wanna be part of your group don’t mean that we have to be enemies. It just means that you may want to let me be myself. Don’t mean that I dislike you, it just means that you need to let me be myself. And I would like you to respect your father. I understand you have your gay pride parade, but when Father’s Day come, put that shit down and honor your dad. If you can’t honor your foundation you worthless.