**Name of Project: R.O.O.T.S of Sunflower County**

**Date of Interview: June 22, 2016**

**Location of Interview: Indianola, MS**

**Name of Interviewer(s): Cornivion Bracey**

**Name of Interviewee(s): Tasha Gardner (Parent)**

**Name of file used for transcription** (audio and/or video file): Audio file Tasha Gardner

[0:18] CB: Are you originally from Sunflower County?

[0:22] TG: No, I’m originally from Washington County.

[0:23] CB: What is it like in Washington?

[0:32] TG: It was ok because I like sunflower county best.

[0:34] CB: What brought you to sunflower county?

[0:37] TG: Well we moved here when I was 16 years old.

[0:47] CB: Can you tell me a little bit more about that?

[0:49] TG: Yes,my mom was working here at mortarline at the time and we moved here so she could be closer to work. I’ve been living in Indianola ever since.

[0:50] CB: So went to Gentry High School and graduated from Gentry High School?

[1:02] TG: Yes, I did.

[1:05] CB: You don’t you like about Sunflower County?

[1:09] TG: Umm. What do I not like about Sunflower County? It’s not too much of nothing that I don’t like.

[1:26] CB: Are there things about sunflower county that you would change if you could?

[1:33] TG: Actually teachers. We need more of the older teachers in the school than we do the younger teachers. The older heads will actually help push the kids to do better. A lot of the young ones will say, ‘I have my education, you need to get yours’. But I don’t think that that is something that an adult should actually say to a child. The child know that they need to get their education but that adult is there to help get that education. Not tell them ‘ I have mine you need to get yours’.

[2:10] CB: That was wonderful. So, I was thinking, growing up what were your expectations that you had growing up.

[2:22] TG: Same as yours.

[2:26] CB: Same as mine?

[2:27] TG: Yes yours.

[2:27] CB: Well, probably so.

[2:35] CB: What do you think about the African American – the young African Americans?

[2:43] TG: I think that they could do great things in life if they continue down the that they are going—the ones that I know. Well you know if they keep a straight head. Stay in school get their education. You know, do something in life. Instead of just saying well ‘ I know my mama going to do this for me, I know my daddy going to do this for me’. Nah, do something for yourself and better yourself in life that way you can achieve ahead.

[3:15] CB: So, I noticed that they have a youth court over there. And the guy I interviewed yesterday talked about how there is reapeatedly the same people that come to youth court. What do you think about the youth court?

[3:30] TG: Well if it’s the same ones constantly repeating the same thing, maybe they need someone in their life to talk to them and encourage them that they don’t have to do the things that they are doing. They can do something better.

[3:45] CB: Do you feel that it’s safe around sunflower county?

[3:49] TG: sure.

[3:49] CB: You feel safe? Will you live here in the future?

[3:56] TG: I sure will.

[4:00] CB: Has things changed here since back when you were younger?

[4:05] TG: Uhm, a little bit not much.

[4:07] CB: Can you explain?

[4:08] TG: Well when I was younger-- Talking about school wise something like that? We had awesome teachers. Well, they have good teachers now. Some teachers you know to be right there with the child to make sure they are doing what they’re supposed to do and stuff. Some of them are good and some of them are bad. Like they don’t care. I guess because they actually graduate right out of college and go right into the school teaching. Or graduate from high school and go into the school teaching. But it’s about the same.

[4:47] CB: what could you do as an individual to help your county—to help sunflower county? If you could do something what would you do?

[4:58] TG: I would run for Mayor.

[5:00] CB: Explain that. What you’ll do if you become the mayor.

[5:01] TG: A whole lot of things. Actually make change in Indianola. Make sure all of the streets are fixed in Indianola. Because you drive around on these different streets and these different roads here in Indianola, you’ll tear the front of your car up. But that’s one thing that actually needs to be done in Indianola. All these streets need to be fix. And it’s all about politics and a lot of the people coming against each other. It’s not, you know it’s getting late. Time is winding down it’s almost time for us to get own out of here to be serious. But we need to come together as one and stop pulling apart.

[5:42] CB: What do you think about the law enforcement here? Do you think they do their job well?

[5:46] TG: No, some of them do and some of them don’t.

[5:50] CB: Why do say that?

[5:59] TG: Because they be parked talking, probably sleep instead of what they supposed to be doing. Instead of riding checking out places and stuff like they supposed to do. I guarantee you they don’t do it.

[6:15] CB: So if you had a class where you could talk to young people about things, what are some things you would talk to them about?

[6:18] TG: I would actually let them know that they are somebody. That they could be something in life. That they can achieve whatever they put their foot forth to do, they would be able to do it. But if they put God first.

[6:35] CB: Is there anything that you want us to know, that we don’t know, that you can give us information to leave home with?

[6:41] TG: First of all when you first get up in the morning, you suppose to thank God for allowing you to see another day—first of all. Pray and ask God to lead you and guide you through whatever task that you have in front of you going on that day. Ask him to shield and protect you throughout the day and you won’t go wrong in life.

[] CB:

[] TG: