

S3 E14: He's A Good Win For DC

(AJ II & Marcus Goodwin)

Previously recorded on Saturday, May 26, 2018

0:00 AJ: On today's episode, DC's next elected official discusses his commitment to the people. My fellow St Albans Bulldog, Marcus Goodwin, needs your vote beginning on June 4. Tune in, *Max Out Time* starts...

0:13 Intro Song: 'For the City'

0:50 AJ: Let's get down to business! You already know what time it is folks, today we got one of my brothers from way back stopping through. If you weren't aware, Marcus Goodwin is out here on the campaign trail running for DC council at large as a democrat. He is here to share his plans for the people of my city and yours. So Marcus, welcome to *Max Out Time*, how've you been bro?

1:08 Marcus: Hey, good afternoon, Happy Memorial Day weekend!

1:10 AJ: Happy Memorial Day to you too man, I know it's been a whirlwind of events these last couple of months. We're just trying to get your plans for this city. Like I said before, it's my city, it's your city, it's everyone's city out there. What are you going to do? Why are you a 'good win' for DC?

1:27 Marcus: Well I grew up in the city, I'm the fifth of eight kids in my family. I grew up between my mother's house in Columbia Heights in ward 1 and my father's house in Congress Heights in ward 8. I've seen both sides of the city develop in ward 1, ward 8 and went school in ward 3. I understand the problems that we are facing regarding growth and affordability. We've seen the socioeconomic disadvantaged people in our city, minorities in our city, be the first ones to be displaced and we need the leadership that is going to be intentional about how do we address these issues. I want to focus on, as far as housing, building and preserving more affordable units. For homeowners, ensuring that the property taxes are lowered so that they can continue to live in the city and age in place.

2:14 AJ: What made you want to run for council in the first place? Is this something you've always wanted to do? Has politics always been your agenda?

2:22 Marcus: My career has been in the private sector. I focused on building and preserving affordable and mixed income housing units. So, in that experience, I've seen the problems that communities and individuals are faced with. I didn't have any intention of being a career

politician, I want to be a public servant. When I learned that the council seats were up and the chairing housing committee was up, I jumped at the opportunity. I think it's time for millennials to step up to be servants in our community.

2:53 AJ: So, is it housing, you work in that industry, is it housing? Is that our most pressing issue in DC?

2:58 Marcus: For most Washingtonians, housing is their largest single expense. Housing, childcare, healthcare, public safety, these are the biggest concerns that people have. Housing being the biggest singular cause is the biggest thing that drives people to displacement around housing issues.

3:16 AJ: What are you going to do specifically though to make these changes? Are you going to use your connections that you've always done? What is your strategy?

3:24 Marcus: For seniors, I'm going to focus on ensuring that we have a housing fund set aside for rental subsidy assistance. For homeowners, I want to continue to freeze property taxes for low income seniors. Currently they get property tax relief, but if you're low income enough and you've been a long time home owner and you're a senior, you should not be paying property taxes at all. It should be frozen at the level it's been, not growing every year. For renters, I want young people and growing families to be able to find more affordable units. We need to invest as a city and developing the properties we own, not giving the properties away, but ground leasing or developing it as a city. I'm talking about a policy shift and how we look at housing because we need more focus on displacement and stopping it in its tracks.

4:14 AJ: You've mentioned living all across the city, are you going into those neighborhoods each and every day? Because, Marcus, let me tell you, I see your signs everywhere, I see your video posts, your Facebook posts, everything. Are you on the front lines in these neighborhoods teaching the communities about housing?

4:33 Marcus: Yeah, I'm absolutely speaking door to door, which people in DC, really respect because we are a touch, feel, shake city. People have to touch you, they have to feel you, they have to understand that you are coachable and you're genuine. That's the best way to reach out to voters but I'm also focused on the digital aspect as well to get the youth voter engagement because a lot of them live in big apartment buildings and you can't get to their door and shake their hand. So I'm on social media @goodwinfordc, Facebook, Instagram,

Twitter, trying to get media content up to boost votership of young people, to try and get as many door to door interactions for people that live in homes.

5:13 AJ: You mentioned about millennial and youth engagement, you're a millennial yourself, what do you say to the naysayers or the people who think you can't beat an Anita Bonds or someone who is more experienced than you?

5:25 Marcus: I'm running against someone who's entrenched in DC politics, who's been in DC politics for 40 years. I am excited and focused at the opportunity because more people I touch they see the value of having young and inspired hard working people and the more people I touch, the more people that are inspired to support me. I think going against the machine and going against the entrenched folks has been effective for me and I'm going to continue to keep pushing. I've been bouncing around between cookouts today, touching people in different communities and that's what I am going to continue to do.

5:57 AJ: Okay, name some at the cookout today, what kind of food are we talking about today? I'm getting a little hungry in this booth right now.

6:03 Marcus: Unfortunately or fortunately, I am fasting for Ramadan so I haven't been able to touch the food. It's chicken, it's uh uh short ribs, it's fried shrimp, it's corn on the cob –

6:19 AJ: It's hot in here Marcus and I had nothing to eat all day, don't go on anymore!

6:22 Marcus: And it's Crab season so people are out here really making it happen at these cookouts.

6:30 AJ: So Marcus, we have got less than a month, we got about 3 and a half weeks or so--

6:35 Marcus: 24 days.

6:40 AJ: Until voting day. How are you going to make it through this final stretch?

6:43 Marcus: So, June 4th to 15th is early voting and June 19th is Election Day. I'm I'm squarely focused on getting young people out, getting seniors to the polls, and getting families engaged in understanding they have a plan for education, I have a plan for healthcare, getting more support and funding for a hospital in ward 8, that has obstetrics, that has the ability to have a child to be born east of the river which we currently don't have through a hospital. Really, it's about motivating people, people will say that they support you but you have to put the mechanism in place to ensure that they get out there and we have hundreds of young, excited, charismatic people that are going to be out there getting

involved in the democratic process. Seeing that a fellow millennial is stepping up to the plate and they have a voice in DC council.

7:37 AJ: Well hey, I've seen plenty of people out there screaming your name and marching with you and campaigning for you, going door to door for you and I know-- I know people are going to get out and vote for you as soon as they can. I'm a type of person who is very optimistic, who sees into the future and sees things happen, so when you are elected, what's the first thing you're going to do?

8:01 Marcus: The first thing I am going to do is focus on setting aside monies for seniors to be able to live in rental apartments. It's incredibly important, they're the most vulnerable population of this displacement we see, especially African American low income seniors.

8:16 AJ: Okay and so like I said before, you're young, you're for the people, charismatic, running for DC, you're up here with with congress and the white house and everything. In 2028, can we see a run for the presidential election?

8:31 Marcus: I'm focused on DC council on June 19th, I don't entertain any other thoughts in my mind right now.

8:38 AJ: I like it, I'm just thinking visionary but I love it though. As always, my special guest democrat for DC council at large, Marcus Goodwin, do you have anything to leave us with, any inspirational words?

8:49 Marcus: We need to focus on ensuring that our next generation gets the kind of support to step up in the leadership roles. It's time for new ideas and a new vision on the council, it's time for a good win for DC. Stay in touch, stay tuned and stay involved. Thank you, Arthur.

9:05 AJ: Anytime my brother. STA all day baby. Please continue subscribing to *Max Out Time* with AJ II on iTunes, add @goodwinfordc on social media and march to those polls for early voting between June 4th and June 15th. Like on Facebook, follow on IG and Twitter rate and review this podcast on all podcast streaming services today, AJ out!

9:30 Outro Song: 'For The City'

9:57 –End–

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