

S1 E3: Walters Is History In The Making

(AJ II & Hashim Walters)

Previously recorded on Saturday, August 19, 2017

Intro Song: 'To The Max'- Drake

0.23 AJ: Yo! Everyone stop what you're doing and tune in because this is *Max Out Time*. This is AJ II coming at you with a special episode on Patreon.com including a young brother who is putting the world on alert. Straight from the Bayou (WHO DAT) I'm joined on the phone by the youngest candidate in this year's New Orleans campaign for Mayor, Hashim Walters, @Hashim4Mayor. Welcome to the show! What's going on bro?

0.46 Hashim: What's going on brother? How you doing? How you doing?

0.48 AJ: Man I'm doing great man, I just wanted to come in and talk to you, just to let these people know that you're no different than anybody else out there. You graduated this Spring from Birmingham Southern College, 22 years old, just like me. I'm glad I got some time to spend with you today and to talk a little politics and maybe some sports and also the 'Elephant in the room' that is always, Donald Trump and his wild beginnings to the Presidency. So, Hashim, let's go ahead and *Max Out*, tell these people who you are and why you.

1:22 Hashim: My name's Hashim Walters, I'm a 22 year old mayoral candidate here in the city of New Orleans. I'm born and raised in New Orleans. I'm from the West Side of New Orleans known as Algiers. I've done a lot of community service work here in the city. I consider myself a voice of my generation out here in the city out here in New Orleans. I graduated from high school in 2013 and I graduated from The Birmingham Southern College in 2017 and I'm very very honored and very privileged to have this opportunity to represent my city and represent my generation.

2:00 AJ: So why politics? Why the Mayor? What what did you major in, in college?

2:07 Hashim: My major was Mass Communication but I had a - a lot of my extracurricular activities dealt with government. I also studied Political Science, so Mass Communication and Political Science pretty much goes hand-in-hand.

2:20 AJ: Okay, well I did Broadcast Journalism so I can see the Mass Communications there. I can tell you've done a couple of news releases and everything that are on Twitter so

I've seen your communication skills, so you definitely have that going for you. But what is your main goal in running [for Mayor]?

2:37 Hashim: My main goal is really to unify the city and for New Orleans to be a catalyst for a movement across America and for millennials to get out and vote and participate in politics and be a voice in their community. To truly start a movement where everybody wants peace and prosperity around America. I know it sounds cliché but I really do believe that this generation is a generation that is going to cause that spark around the world.

3:12 AJ: What is your daily life nowadays? You just graduated from college and now you're trying to be in this Mayoral campaign right now. As a young adult, what do you do from day to day, and how have you progressed from college into the real world into something huge that you are trying to tackle right now.

3:33 Hashim: What I like to do is I like to ask a lot of my elders as well about how did they handle things but also it's just putting myself into the community man. I think it is our job as politicians to be public servants. We have to go out and talk to people and figure out what the issues are in the community. And that's the only way we're going to come to a consensus and figure out what our community needs. Talk to our peers, talk to the people who are working at the manufacturing jobs and see what they need. Talk to the mothers, and see what they need in their community, what they need for their children, and the education system. So, basically dealing with my citizens is my number one way to prepare for this job and to prepare to run for the Mayor of the city of New Orleans, and do a whole lot of homework as well.

4:18 AJ: So what's your pitch? What is your exact model that you are running on? What do you tell the people when you go out there, and ask for their vote?

4:28 Hashim: Um definitely I so I have a five-point platform but the first thing that I always tell them is that my name is Hashim Walters, and I truly believe that it's time for something different. We have to take a different approach to politics, and to people, if we want to see a different outcome here here in society. And I'm running on my political platform is public safety, educational reform, affordable housing, economic opportunities, and focusing on mental health issues here in the community.

4:58 AJ: Interesting, why mental health issues particularly?

5:02 Hashim: Particularly, because here in New Orleans, since Hurricane Katrina, we've had an absence of mental health care here in the city. It's definitely noticeable,

especially in our generation, we are called the 'Katrina Kitty' and we are still under a lot of trauma from that hurricane. You can see a lot of a lot of citizens are actually homeless here in New Orleans, or or the remaining homeless citizens that actually have mental health issues and we can see that they are not getting the adequate healthcare that they need. That needs to be brought to the forefront because we have to have citizens who are mentally stable, and they need that help. Mental healthcare gets overlooked in a lot of in a lot of in a lot of communities. It is something that I really have to focus on.

5:52 AJ: So Hashim, take us right there, what was it like in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina hit? What do you remember? What was the atmosphere like and what change have you seen since then?

6:03 Hashim: The atmosphere in 2005, it was definitely something that I'll never forget. Of course, the event was was was a disaster. I, myself, had to evacuate from Hurricane Katrina so i wasn't here during the storm but I still felt the spirit of my city, I still felt the spirit of the people. I felt the anguish that my people went through, that the citizens went through and it was it was definitely a scene that that was unbearable. From then on, I knew I wanted to make it my duty to to make sure we didn't go through that again--

6:49 AJ: Hashim, I'm sorry, it's interesting to say that you had to evacuate. Can you tell us where you evacuated from? Reason being, because there were so many people who came to the Washington DC area including Odell Beckham Jr. He went to the same high school I graduated from for about 7 or 8 months in 2005, so a lot of people came up to our area. We've been affected by it as well, trying to help people from New Orleans. Where did you escape to?

7:13 Hashim: So I had the opportunity to go to Beaumont, Texas, and I was there for a good while before we came back to New Orleans. The people there they were they were so hospitable, and they were so nice and they were so caring. But, while I was out there, I was saying that there is no place like New Orleans and the overall responses was absolutely heartwarming.

7:36 AJ: So your campaign now, you're running off of just wanting to give back to your community in a way that hasn't been able to be done so far. We were just in New Orleans, and it looked like there were still parts in places that were still in disarray, is that correct?

7:54 Hashim: True, true there are still places in the lower ninth ward that still need to be revitalized, that still need to be revitalized, [like] private homes. We definitely will implement a plan man that can help solve a lot of those issues in those communities. We have been

fortunate to have numerous numerous amounts of non-profit organizations or volunteers come here, and help to clean up some of the plight here in the city of New Orleans. I want to put a strategic plan in place that will actually clear up most of the plight here in the city, and that that is definitely one of my main goals, to make sure we are up to tip top shape here in the city of New Orleans.

8:33 AJ: Okay, so you know you have your strategic plan in place, you're out there campaigning, you're out there social media, you're involved in the community for sure. You said you just came from a debate, who instilled that in you? Who inspired you to to admire politicians and be a politician for yourself?

8:56 Hashim: Definitely, our former Mayor Marc Morial I've only had a chance to meet him once when I was an interning over at City Hall. But I loved the way that he ran the city of New Orleans. He was absolutely phenomenal, he did he did a phenomenal job as New Orleans son. From from cleaning up plight himself handling infrastructure problems in the city to educational reform, and creating opportunities for our young people, making New Orleans a tourism hub, making New Orleans a great destination for college students, and even collegiate making opportunities post-graduation. He is now the CEO of National Urban League and he has done a phenomenal job there. Before that, he truly brought back that spark to New Orleans and gave everyone hope.

9:42 AJ: Speaking of hope, what are your views on President Obama, and how he has given everyone hope, the whole entire black community? He served us for 8 years, and he ran on hope and change in his campaign. How did he inspire you and how has that reflect in your campaign today?

10:02 Hashim: Definitely, I would say this, he was definitely a spark for a lot of young politicians in across America, especially for me. Matter of fact, in high school, I believe, his presidency for me opened the door up for me to actually become president in high school. It really gave me hope to become a decent politician one day and he has had such a resounding effect not just on America but on the world. Just his overall demeanor and the way he steers himself. The way he treated citizens was absolutely phenomenal. He is definitely a role model for little boys and girls everywhere and young men like me, and I think he has encouraged plenty of young people to be engaged in politics.

10:54 AJ: I know he has given inspiration to each and every kid in DC, across the world who looks like you and me, that anything is possible, dreams can come true. Going back to your background in Birmingham Southern, you said Mass Communications, you know, it's funny

how we actually met. It was actually at the Bleacher Report party during the NABJ Convention, the National Association of Black Journalist Convention, which was in your hometown this year. What did you think about the convention and the parties and the atmosphere and what was going on this weekend?

11:31 Hashim: The convention was absolutely phenomenal, it was the first time I attended the convention. It just so happened that it was in New Orleans this year, it was absolutely phenomenal. There were some amazing journalists apart of NABJ some amazing journalists who have a rare skill and overall, it was great. It was very well organized, and it also give journalists a great opportunity to connect with people. Definitely, I look forward to going again.

12:02 AJ: So yeah, I mean if you get the gig and want to make more appearances then NABJ is definitely the place to be, Detroit next year. Going back to politics, you know, *Max Out Time*, we talk a lot about sports and social issues, and the movements, and the changes that are going on outside of the actual game. So, a headliner, one of the most popular athletes right now, Kevin Durant, I covered his parade the other day in Seat Pleasant, Maryland just two days ago. They were celebrating the Larry O'Brien trophy and him winning for golden state and bringing it back to the city and everything. He came out later that day and said that he will not be attending the White House with the Golden State Warriors. People are making statements right now, Marshawn Lynch sat down the National Anthem, also Michael Bennett did the same as well, and he has been outspoken about it. What do you think about these athletes being so outspoken about social issues, and also condemning the president as well? In addition to that, do you think that any New Orleans athletes are going to stand with a KD, a Colin Kaepernick, Michael Bennet, what are your thoughts on some of the social justice issues going on within sports today?

13:24 Hashim: Everybody deserves to be heard, and everybody deserves to to to protest without a doubt. I think more than anything, I think everybody ought to look into the context of why these guys are are really are really doing the protest. They really want their voice to be heard in their communities. I believe everyone can definitely relate to that. We're in turbulent times right now where everyone is really voicing their opinions and doing protest. I think it's a great time in America where we can truly realize that we can realize that and we have to come to some point to make sure that our children have a better future. More than anything, you do have the right to freedom of speech, we all have to respect that right, we have to. No matter what, we have had too many politicians comment on it and say that's

their American right. I think more than anything, we need to come together, and come up with solutions to solve the racism issue here in America, systematic racism.

14:39 AJ: I mean yeah all of that is true, we have so few athletes doing it right now, KD, LeBron, Kaepernick, Marshawn Lynch, Michael Bennet, my boy from the Eagles as well, Malcolm Jenkins, but we need more. We definitely need more, it has to be more of a force. What about some of your guys? AD, Boogie Cousins, do you think any of these guys would step into the limelight and say, 'I'm going to stand with these people as well,' you know, anybody from the Saints or other teams down in New Orleans? How can we get more people to be activists?

15:13 Hashim: Definitely, I think the decision is completely up to them and I can't speak for anybody. But, like I said before, a lot of people did want their voice to be heard, Colin Kaepernick, he just wants people to really understand what's going on in America. Definitely, injustices that are going on, people are not being held accountable for things that are going on. He believes in America, he believes in the principal, he just wants someone to be held accountable for the things that are happening, that's merely what it is. I guarantee you, Colin Kaepernick believes, he wants America to be held up to the highest to the highest point. He believes in America but he just wants his voice to be heard because he has seen his peers, and people that in the judicial system fall victim, and he wants those ideas to be addressed. I think that humanity should just take that into consideration. He really just e really is just begging to be heard and he wants to be heard and he wants a certain group of people, really all people, to be held accountable. He really wants peace here in America.

16:40 AJ: What do you think about this idea of having white allies though? Most people are saying it's great to have Kaepernick, and all these guys sit down for the national anthem. But also if there was a Tom Brady or a white ally or a white figure prominent figure to go out, and do some of these things ,maybe we would actually get some change. So you're right there in New Orleans, you have Drew Brees, the quarterback of the Saints, you know future hall of famer, what if he took a stand and said 'I'm going to stand with these players,' what effect do you think that white ally would do for us?

17:16 Hashim: I don't think anybody is trying to disrespect America or the American flag, like I said the people who are doing the protest, they believe in America and what was written in the constitution. They believe in that. What they are merely trying to do, is bring attention to the issues. I think it would be great if a man of the calibre would do that, it would show how unified we are in America and how unified we can be. That's the most important thing, we should all come to a consensus, and I think so if an athlete of that caliber did that, no matter

who it is, especially of a different race it will show how just how inclusive we really can be and how we are considerate of everyone's issues.

18:11 AJ: Yeah, I think it's an issue that probably won't ever go away but as long as we get more of our prominent figures who everyone looks up to, to keep standing with and against injustice, then we can cultivate this change, and keep moving forward in the discussion. But, sticking with the White House and that notion, April Ryan at NABJ was awarded the journalist of the year, she was a White House Correspondent, black woman from Baltimore who is right up there, covering President Trump and all of his mishaps or whatever you want to call it. But I want to ask you, what do you feel about President Trump, and what are your general thoughts on his presidency so far?

19:00 Hashim: So far, from a I'm an independent candidate, I don't have any ties to a political party so far, it has been a failure. I have never seen a time where I've seen people so divided and based on someone's words and I think it's really a wakeup call for America, in that we really need to unify. There's a lot of rules that have been broken in the White House, and we should really hold the President to a higher standard because that's a very very honorable position to have. It's the highest office in the land, in the world, you're the president of the free world, and we really ought to start holding him accountable. I don't know him personally but I've seen his actions and things on social media is not conducive to somebody who is a great leader for people around the world. He has to set a different example for our kids for our children, for American citizens because the President definitely sets the tone for the world. We can't set a tone of hate and tyranny. We can't set that tone.

20:15 AJ: It is clear to me that he has this dictatorship mindset, where if someone disagree with him, then he's got to get rid of them. If someone looks different from him, then his got to get rid of them. Whether it's Muslims or Immigrants, his White House staff so far, these last five weeks has been crazy with all the firings, and people leaving and everything. He has this mindset, that this isn't a democratic society, this is a dictatorship, and that this is Trump's world almost, which is not the case at all. What advice, what would you say to President Trump if you were sitting with him right now? What advice would you give him and kind of ask him to just almost set things straight?

21:01 Hashim: I would say listen to people, I think the biggest thing that a leader can ever do is listen to this constituent. You have to know where people are coming from, you have to know what people are going through. Once you listen, then you can analyse, you can figure out what exactly people need. If you listen to people, you can also see where they are coming from and you can also connect to them emotionally. I think that's the disconnect that

he has right now, he has not emotionally connected to the citizens, and figure out what is going on in their community. Once you have that on the table, once you have that equality on the table, you can do a whole whole lot for his constituents.

21:44 AJ: So the president is in the limelight, 24/7, all the time, recent comments about condemning or not condemning about the racist attacks in Charlottesville, and everything and how he has gone about that. The abluion of the manufacturing council this week. Everything that is going on this week, stemmed really from these Charlottesville, Alt-right, Nazi attacks. What would you do as 1) Mayor of Charlottesville and 2) UVA campus, what if this happened at Birmingham Southern campus, what would be your strategy in combating all this? If you were quote on quote president or mayor of Birmingham Southern or or or Birmingham or what if this was New Orleans, what would your practices be?

22:37 Hashim: Birmingham Southern was actually hosting a community forum, and that's something that you really have to do. We have to address the 'elephant in the room', and that is the racism issue here in America. We have to address that because it's here, it's still prevalent and it doesn't have a place here in America. We had to host a town hall because people have to get to know one another and figure out each other's ideologies and figure out how we learn more about each other and understand one another. Once we have understanding we can reach a consensus of love. I think a lot of people tend to have a hatred for one another because they don't know each other, we have to step inside each other's worlds, and I think that's the first thing. Once you can actually get to know someone, you can emphasize with them and see how things are going from their point of view. That'll be the first step; start the healing process, and just figure what's going on and figure out what's going on in the community as far as racism is concerned and inequality. Figure out a way to come to a consensus and build a society that's better for our children.

23:58 AJ: Yeah, no, I completely agree, we have to find whatever healing processes are out there, it has to be implemented as soon as possible. Because like you said, to end it off with, it's about the children. If we can't combat this today, then they will be at a loss later on in life, and the cycle will just continue. I thank you for saying that and bringing up those points. I want to wrap everything up today because I know you have a busy schedule so far, what else do you have on tap for today?

24:30 Hashim: On tap for today, I have a couple of fundraisers to go to. Couple of community events. Really, just going to the neighborhood, I always like to do drop ins on neighborhoods and talk to my constituents. Being here in the city and being on the campaign trail, there are so many amazing stories and they have so many ideas to share with me. I

make it my duty to make sure that I go to a lot of these impoverished neighbourhoods, and figure out what the people want and what they need and how I can make their lives better.

25:00 AJ: This is 'Hashim4Mayor,' he is for the people, for the culture and guys, please please please, you have to go out and vote. If you know anyone in the New Orleans region and Louisiana, please, spread the word about this young brother who is on his way.

25:18 Hashim: Appreciate it and thank you for having me again. Hashim Walters number 48 on the ballot, you can visit me at Hashim4mayor.com and also Hashim4mayor, that'll be my Twitter handle and my Instagram handle as well.

25:30 AJ: Shout out to KOB studios, Filthy Rich and Keyzondabeat producing right now. As always, my special guest Hashim4Mayor, on all social media, please, follow, like, share, subscribe. Do whatever you have to do, to get this brother in the office. Seriously, he is for the culture and for the people. Please continue subscribing to Patreon.com. Thank you Patreon as always for the initial platform. I want to give a special shout out to Joan Woods and everyone out there who's been helping me with this podcast so far. We're going to try to keep it going. Vote for Hashim4Mayor. I am @ArthurJonesII on social media. Like me on Facebook, like me on Twitter. We got to do this thing right, so vote Hashim4Mayor and get this brother into office. AJ out!

26:17 Outro Music: 'To The Max'- Drake

26:29 --END--

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