

### **Devin Roth interviewing Patti Wilson-Aden clip 3**

#### **Topic: Experiences with the University of Delaware**

[Patty Wilson-Aden sharing some general thoughts on Newark at the end of the interview.]

**Patty Wilson-Aden:** Newark needs to turn its eye back on itself. For George Wilson to be the only Black city council member says something about Newark. I used to say that he was the first Black city councilman, but for him to have been elected in the Sixties and for there not to have been any other Black person in a significant, influential, political office in Newark says something. It says something about the Black folks who felt that they had to leave in order to accomplish something, but it also says something about how power is exercised in Newark. So, there's that. And, you know, it's a conversation that, I think, really needs to be expanded. The purposeful erasure of the traditional Black neighborhood is something that needs to be discussed as well. And while I appreciate projects like yours, there have been a number of projects done by students at the University of Delaware that really have used the Newark Black Community as sort of a laboratory, and not in the best sense of the word. They have been removed from and, you know, looked through a microscope at rather than... You know, given my museum background I'm a great leader in community curation. You know, a community having a role in and being empowered to be a part of decisions regarding interpretation in how we are presented and how we think strategically about the future, and that has not been the case. You know, we have been studied but we have not been able to contribute to decision-making and I think that's problematic.