

MR. HOLLINS: Good morning. Good morning. My name is Harvey Hollins. I'm the vice president of Government and Community Relations at Wayne State University, and I want to extend a special welcome to you and particularly the Eisenhower Foundation for choosing our university to host -- to sponsor this event.

Over the past 100 years, two events really have changed the city of Detroit. Most graphically, the first is the creation of the assembly line that revolutionized the American manufacturing and began the migration into the city from all over the world. And the second is the 1967 riots or rebellion: A violent outpouring of anger and frustration that changed the city forever. The phrase "civil unrest" is too innocent of a euphemism for what happened in that long ago July 1967. As stark and disturbing as that uprising was then, the long-term consequences have been no less than catastrophic.

In Detroit the world turned upside down.

The reverse of migration that began almost immediately succeeded in draining this city's vitality, and some of the shadows still linger today. However, there is a "but." And I like that conjunction because the city didn't say die. It didn't throw in the towel. It didn't wave a white flag. It didn't turn off its lights. For more than 40 years, men and women of goodwill have worked to put this city back together.

And there have been many heroes in the city's struggle to be reborn.

And Frederick Douglass once said that "If there's no struggle, there can be no progress." And people who profess freedom but they depreciate agitation are people who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without the lightning and thunder.

You'll meet some of those folks today who engage in that struggle; and I speak for everyone here when I thank them for their faith, their inspiration, and their never-say-die attitude. Fortunately we can see progress in the city of Detroit today, that Detroit is turning a corner. If you and I were on top of this building instead of in this auditorium, you would see that residential and retail development has taken place on all sides, businesses are opening, families and working professionals are moving back in, and people are coming downtown for restaurants and going to sporting events and breathing new life in this city all over again.

Wayne State University didn't have to come back. We never left. We have been here for 139 years, and we intend on being here for much longer than that. We have always known that our destiny and the city's destiny is inextricably woven together. We have been and forever will be citizens of the city of Detroit. We are proud to be a partner in this city's renewal.

Wayne State University is an urban university -- thirty-three thousand students at this university and the most diverse university in the state of Michigan. Detroit is our

campus. We plan on being here for a long time and participating in the contributions of this great city. And so without further ado, I want to thank again the Eisenhower Foundation, and I hope that you will enjoy this discussion, participate and testify, and have a great day. Thank you.