

MS. MORGAN: My name is Jamesie Morgan, and I'm with the ACORN organization. ACORN stands for the "Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. "I was in Detroit when the riot broke out.

I was living at Fourteenth and Elmhurst. I was in the center of it. I had to pack up my son, which was a year old, and leave town. I went to Port Huron, Michigan, where I was originally from. Leaving here I saw types of things happening, burning and looting and shooting and beating and killing; and when this report came, I was glad to come here because I was thinking, you know, they say the more things change, the more things remain the same. And I see that in Detroit we've come a long ways, but yet it's still -- we haven't come to where we need to be.

We have all types of things happening here in Detroit right now that is affecting each and every one of us. We have foreclosures, which was the housing problem back when the riots happened. It wasn't foreclosures, but it was a housing problem where we didn't have adequate housing. Now, we buy homes and whatever, and we've got an epidemic of losing them -- these ARMs rates and everything.

Jobs were a problem back then. Where it was mostly factory jobs for blacks, if they could get in, all the other jobs weren't available to them, just about. You were lucky if you could get anything other than a factory. And now we have job problems again.

Factories are closing, laying off. We also had police problems back then.

The big four was, you know, beating and taking over -- injustice, really. They would stop you, and if you didn't have adequate ID, they would beat you or take you to jail mostly. We still have that going on. I mean, people are stopped for no reason at all just because they're black. We have a great injustice being done to black people, Latinos, and all races that aren't white. And this is a lot of discrimination, and our government doesn't do very much to bridge this gap we have between us, but we still have the same problems.

Schools. Our schools aren't being funded. They're being closed down. We are forced to get charter schools and different things. Public schools make a difference to our kids. I mean, we get a chance to have our kids be around different cultures and everything, but nowadays we're losing our schools. Our public schools are being closed.

Prisons are being overcrowded, and that was something we had back in the '60s also. Our stores -- I mean, we don't get the same quality of food, produce, meats and everything in our stores as our white counterparts get in their stores. I think, you know, we need to address the issues that the government needs to come forth and for one time in government history champion a fight for the poor.

Blacks aren't the only ones that are affected, and blacks in Detroit are not the only ones affected. Blacks, Latinos, Chinese, whatever ethnic race other than white is affected; and a lot of low-range whites are affected also in this. I mean, we need a government that

will come forth and say, "We're going to help the poor. "It's always the talk about the middle class and the rich. Poor people make up more of this country than the rich and the middle class, and we are really being just overlooked. To help Detroit, you got to help everyone because we all need each other.

Every state in our country needs the other state to be doing good. Every city in our country needs the other city to be doing good.

So I think we've got to get on our lawmakers and our, you know, President and get them to try to do something to help the poor. Then we can help the black, the Latino, the poor old white, the Jews that are poor, whoever. Then we can try to get Detroit together. But just trying to work on Detroit is not going to happen if we've got the rest of the nation against us. So I think we need to make our lawmakers come forth. And this is all I have to say about the situation.