Video

In Conversation with the 2020 ULI Prize Laureate, Anthony A. Williams

Date: October 13, 2020

00:00:21 --> 00:00:26:	I'm Jodie McLean. I'm joined today with Mayor Anthony Williams.
00:00:26 --> 00:00:30:	This year's recipient of the ULI Prize for Visionaries in
00:00:30 --> 00:00:31:	Urban Development,
00:00:31 --> 00:00:35:	the most prestigious in respective award in the Land Use
00:00:35 --> 00:00:37:	Planning and Development Community.
00:00:37 --> 00:00:43:	The award recognizes an individual who's made distinguished contribution to
00:00:43 --> 00:00:45:	community building globally.
00:00:45 --> 00:00:49:	Who's established visionary standards of excellence in the land use
00:00:49 --> 00:00:51:	and development field.
00:00:51 --> 00:00:56:	And his commitment to creating the highest quality built environment
00:00:56 --> 00:00:59:	has led to the betterment of our society.
00:00:59 --> 00:01:04:	Inspiring innovation and creativity. The $100,000 prize is awarded annually
00:01:04 --> 00:01:06:	by ULI to encourage developers,
00:01:06 --> 00:01:11:	planners and community leaders to think more deeply about how
00:01:11 --> 00:01:15:	Urban Development affects our quality of life and helps to
00:01:15 --> 00:01:17:	build the spirit of community.
00:01:17 --> 00:01:20:	This year's recipient is Tony Williams,
00:01:20 --> 00:01:21:	who served as a mayor.
00:01:21 --> 00:01:24:	Washington DC from 1999 to 2007.
00:01:24 --> 00:01:28:	He is widely credited with leading the comeback of Washington
00:01:28 --> 00:01:33:	DC during his two terms restoring the districts finance while
00:01:33 --> 00:01:36:	dramatically improving city services,
00:01:36 --> 00:01:38:	he laid out a vision for the city,
00:01:38 --> 00:01:43:	which included in the ambitious goal during 100,000 new

residents
00:01:43 --> 00:01:46: to the district within a decade,
00:01:46 --> 00:01:49: and led the revitalization of the urban core,
00:01:49 --> 00:01:54: attracting new recreational commercial. Residential development,
00:01:54 --> 00:01:59: including expansive new mixed use communities along the Potomac and
00:01:59 --> 00:02:00: Anacostia Rivers,
00:02:00 --> 00:02:04: reconnecting the city with his waterfront.
00:02:04 --> 00:02:08: Mayor Williams is currently the CEO and executive director of
00:02:08 --> 00:02:10: the Federal City Council,
00:02:10 --> 00:02:14: a non for profit organization that draws upon the creative
00:02:14 --> 00:02:19: and administrative talents of Washington's business and professional leaders to
00:02:19 --> 00:02:23: address major issues facing the US capital city.
00:02:23 --> 00:02:26: Mayor, I'm honored to be here with you more than
00:02:26 --> 00:02:27: once or twice.
00:02:27 --> 00:02:31: I've heard you refer to the Japanese proverb vision Without
00:02:31 --> 00:02:33: Action is a Daydream.
00:02:33 --> 00:02:36: Action without Vision is a nightmare.
00:02:36 --> 00:02:39: I love that thing. So what is your best advice
00:02:39 --> 00:02:43: right now to civic leaders and creating a vision?
00:02:43 --> 00:02:48: My best advice to civic leaders trying to create a
00:02:48 --> 00:02:50: vision is to.
00:02:50 --> 00:02:53: Put in place that vision by listening consulting.
00:02:53 --> 00:02:56: You know one of the things I like.
00:02:56 --> 00:03:00: prize in the Japanese way is going out there listening
00:03:00 --> 00:03:01: to best practices,
00:03:01 --> 00:03:05: not reinventing the wheel. So when I became mayor I
00:03:05 --> 00:03:07: went on my talk to the best mayor as I
00:03:07 --> 00:03:11: talked to the best developers to get their ideas of
00:03:11 --> 00:03:15: what made cities work. Number 2 hire the very best
00:03:15 --> 00:03:15: people.
00:03:15 --> 00:03:18: So we building the planning office,
00:03:18 --> 00:03:21: rebuilding the organ organizations. Well,
00:03:21 --> 00:03:25: in the processes that help you not only immerse yourself
00:03:25 --> 00:03:26: in the best thinking,
00:03:26 --> 00:03:30: but very importantly, and this is actually action.
00:03:30 --> 00:03:34: Part of this. You're able to actually implement ideas,
00:03:34 --> 00:03:37: so we had great ideas for the Anacostia waterfront.
00:03:37 --> 00:03:40: But we had to put in place the organization that
00:03:40 --> 00:03:41: people,
00:03:41 --> 00:03:45: the process of partnerships, the frameworks to make that

happen.
00:03:45 --> 00:03:48: You have right now during this moment in time,
00:03:48 --> 00:03:50: I'm thinking about the challenges.
00:03:50 --> 00:03:53: There's so many cities are facing as a result of
00:03:53 --> 00:03:53: covid,
00:03:53 --> 00:03:56: and I think that you have some expertise in some
00:03:56 --> 00:04:00: great insights about those challenges when you became the CFO
00:04:00 --> 00:04:02: of the city of DC in 1995.
00:04:02 --> 00:04:05: I think my notes say the city had a deficit
00:04:05 --> 00:04:09: of 722 million dollars and was taken over by the
00:04:09 --> 00:04:11: Federal Control Board by 1997,
00:04:11 --> 00:04:15: in large part because of your leadership in the role
00:04:15 --> 00:04:15: of CFO,
00:04:15 --> 00:04:18: the city was able to have a balanced budget,
00:04:18 --> 00:04:22: and when you wrapped up your second term as mayor,
00:04:22 --> 00:04:26: I believe you were able to celebrate ten consecutive years
00:04:26 --> 00:04:30: of a balanced budget and accumulative fund balance.
00:04:30 --> 00:04:33: That swung from a deficit of 518 million.
00:04:33 --> 00:04:37: In the 1996 fiscal year to a surplus of nearly
00:04:37 --> 00:04:38: 1.6 billion in 2005,
00:04:38 --> 00:04:42: I think that there are lot of mayors out there
00:04:42 --> 00:04:45: who would love to look at your track record,
00:04:45 --> 00:04:49: but more importantly are open to your advice what.
00:04:49 --> 00:04:53: What kind of insight and advice can you give them?
00:04:53 --> 00:04:57: And looking to financially rebuilt their cities?
00:04:57 --> 00:05:01: Would I tell other leaders of cities both here and
00:05:01 --> 00:05:04: around the world that I've talked to is?
00:05:04 --> 00:05:06: If I've got a community there,
00:05:06 --> 00:05:10: always investors looking to come into my community the beginning.
00:05:10 --> 00:05:12: There's a line of investors right there,
00:05:12 --> 00:05:15: be the beginning of the line is a pioneer investor,
00:05:15 --> 00:05:18: the Pioneer Investor. All they want to know is that
00:05:18 --> 00:05:20: things aren't going to get worse,
00:05:20 --> 00:05:23: so you don't have to preach the world that things
00:05:23 --> 00:05:26: are going to miraculously improve in three weeks.
00:05:26 --> 00:05:29: You have to set the tone that we're paying our
00:05:29 --> 00:05:29: bills.
00:05:29 --> 00:05:32: We're meeting our responsibilities businesses in order.
00:05:32 --> 00:05:35: The business of government, so to speak,
00:05:35 --> 00:05:38: is in order. And people will start to invest.
00:05:38 --> 00:05:40: You start improving public safety.

00:05:40 --> 00:05:44: You start improving public service services and more people when
00:05:44 --> 00:05:47: that line start investing and before you know it,
00:05:47 --> 00:05:49: you have over 100,000 people.
00:05:49 --> 00:05:53: But you have to get that blind started by establishing
00:05:53 --> 00:05:54: trust,
00:05:54 --> 00:05:57: confidence, good stewardship. So knowing what you know now,
00:05:57 --> 00:06:01: what advice would you have given to your TV to
00:06:01 --> 00:06:05: the 1995 Mayor Williams with the 1997 Mayor Williams?
00:06:05 --> 00:06:08: Why I'm a always tell the story of the collapse
00:06:08 --> 00:06:10: of the American city,
00:06:10 --> 00:06:14: many of them after World War Two because of everything
00:06:14 --> 00:06:15: from federal subsidies.
00:06:15 --> 00:06:18: People wanted a bigger house,
00:06:18 --> 00:06:22: racial distancing, bad management and pathology of crime in the
00:06:22 --> 00:06:23: cities.
00:06:23 --> 00:06:26: All these things conspired to really put cities in a
00:06:26 --> 00:06:27: bad place.
00:06:27 --> 00:06:30: Well, at the same time you had the decline of
00:06:30 --> 00:06:33: the American city you also had in a way the
00:06:34 --> 00:06:36: deindustrialization start starting.
00:06:36 --> 00:06:40: Outmigration of manufacturing in the United States.
00:06:40 --> 00:06:42: This really hurt American cities,
00:06:42 --> 00:06:46: particularly because you no longer had the plentiful,
00:06:46 --> 00:06:51: ample supply of jobs available where you could support your
00:06:51 --> 00:06:53: family with very little education.
00:06:53 --> 00:06:57: That's important for a city like Washington DC.
00:06:57 --> 00:07:01: Because the only way you could really bring your city
00:07:01 --> 00:07:04: up was to bring in new investment and with that
00:07:04 --> 00:07:07: new investment you had to balance that new investment with
00:07:07 --> 00:07:11: displacement. So you couldn't have.
00:07:11 --> 00:07:14: The growth in the economy that we've been talking about
00:07:14 --> 00:07:16: without the investment,
00:07:16 --> 00:07:19: but with that investment, particularly with new residents,
00:07:19 --> 00:07:22: new businesses, there was displacement.
00:07:22 --> 00:07:23: We tried to dampen it.
00:07:23 --> 00:07:25: We try to control it.
00:07:25 --> 00:07:26: We tried to restrain it,
00:07:26 --> 00:07:29: but there was displacement. So if I had to talk
00:07:29 --> 00:07:31: to myself 2530 years ago,
00:07:31 --> 00:07:34: I would say spend much more attention to.

00:07:34 --> 00:07:38: As you do, these re generations of neighborhoods of waterfront.
00:07:38 --> 00:07:42: The downtown cost effective sustainable ways to try to make
00:07:42 --> 00:07:46: these as much as possible mixed income communities.
00:07:46 --> 00:07:50: We worked mightily to do it probably could have done
00:07:50 --> 00:07:50: more.
00:07:50 --> 00:07:53: What role do we need to think about?
00:07:53 --> 00:07:57: Was racial equality playing in a healthy community?
00:07:57 --> 00:07:59: When we think about planning in our cities,
00:07:59 --> 00:08:02: the concentration of poverty itself is a problem.
00:08:02 --> 00:08:06: You're treating public safety issues in this concentrated poverty area
00:08:06 --> 00:08:09: differently because of poverty and race in URLs.
00:08:09 --> 00:08:11: You are elsewhere in the city,
00:08:11 --> 00:08:15: but I think it's also a problem because with concentration
00:08:15 --> 00:08:16: of poverty.
00:08:16 --> 00:08:19: Oh, younger children don't have role models.
00:08:19 --> 00:08:22: Families don't have support systems at all of us rely
00:08:22 --> 00:08:24: on in our neighborhoods,
00:08:24 --> 00:08:27: so there are a number of things that government can
00:08:27 --> 00:08:27: do,
00:08:27 --> 00:08:30: but I think we have to start talking about what
00:08:30 --> 00:08:33: people can do at businesses can do one because we
00:08:33 --> 00:08:36: don't have an infinite amount of money and two because
00:08:36 --> 00:08:39: people have to have businesses have to play a greater
00:08:40 --> 00:08:40: role.
00:08:40 --> 00:08:43: You and I've had conversations about.
00:08:43 --> 00:08:47: The importance of predictability. But you've also said public trust
00:08:47 --> 00:08:51: and accountability are at the core of any successful city.
00:08:51 --> 00:08:55: Nationally, we seem to have a major trust issue with
00:08:55 --> 00:08:58: our police departments in our public safety.
00:08:58 --> 00:09:02: What advice you have for civic leaders relates to police
00:09:02 --> 00:09:03: reform.
00:09:03 --> 00:09:06: Where do we start? How do we accomplish that?
00:09:06 --> 00:09:10: Which seems to be an absolute priority to the stability
00:09:10 --> 00:09:12: of our cities in our communities?
00:09:12 --> 00:09:15: Cities good into what budget bind?
00:09:15 --> 00:09:19: No, they're short of cash negotiating with unions.
00:09:19 --> 00:09:23: You started making promises in terms of Labor agreements.
00:09:23 --> 00:09:26: Arbitration is one. You start making promises in terms of
00:09:27 --> 00:09:28: pensions is another well.

00:09:28 --> 00:09:30: These all come back to roost.
00:09:30 --> 00:09:34: Pension certainly come to roost because a big burden on
00:09:34 --> 00:09:35: many cities.
00:09:35 --> 00:09:38: Now is your pension exposure and liability,
00:09:38 --> 00:09:42: but this negotiation terms of police unions is another problem
00:09:42 --> 00:09:42: most.
00:09:42 --> 00:09:47: The overwhelming majority of police men and women are fantastic.
00:09:47 --> 00:09:50: People that are out there doing a fantastic job but
00:09:50 --> 00:09:52: there are bad apples in every bushel.
00:09:52 --> 00:09:55: Write an because of many arbitration agreements,
00:09:55 --> 00:09:59: police Chiefs, an officials in various cities and counties can't
00:09:59 --> 00:10:01: get rid of the bad apples,
00:10:01 --> 00:10:04: and I think these arbitration rules and some of these
00:10:04 --> 00:10:07: protocols have to be changed to get around it.
00:10:07 --> 00:10:11: I think the second thing is it's not about defunding.
00:10:11 --> 00:10:14: The police is about thinking about new ways.
00:10:14 --> 00:10:16: Or to approach public safety,
00:10:16 --> 00:10:18: the police have their role,
00:10:18 --> 00:10:23: mental health, social services professionals have their role and part
00:10:23 --> 00:10:26: of that is going to be rebuilding not just more
00:10:26 --> 00:10:26: funding,
00:10:26 --> 00:10:30: but we building in a modern way using modern approaches.
00:10:30 --> 00:10:32: A lot of our human service,
00:10:32 --> 00:10:34: social service or delivery systems,
00:10:34 --> 00:10:37: and I've often heard you referred to as one of
00:10:37 --> 00:10:41: the best and most successful mayors in US history.
00:10:41 --> 00:10:44: But there are some that were point to the gentrification
00:10:44 --> 00:10:45: of DC.
00:10:45 --> 00:10:48: And say, perhaps vision left some people out.
00:10:48 --> 00:10:53: What are your thoughts about gentrification versus development?
00:10:53 --> 00:10:56: I know this is something we deal with.
00:10:56 --> 00:10:59: We talk about all the time at Edens is how
00:10:59 --> 00:11:01: do we really continue development.
00:11:01 --> 00:11:04: But yet we do it in a very thoughtful way,
00:11:04 --> 00:11:09: so it's gentrification, inevitable? When you're looking to run a
00:11:09 --> 00:11:11: city like Washington DC,
00:11:11 --> 00:11:16: you have two ways of bringing economic development and prosperity.
00:11:16 --> 00:11:17: One is kind of intrinsic,
00:11:17 --> 00:11:20: an organic and you're growing.

00:11:20 --> 00:11:24: You know your workforce, you education of your workforce are

00:11:24 --> 00:11:27: able to get better jobs in other ways to bring

00:11:27 --> 00:11:30: people and businesses in to make new investments.

00:11:30 --> 00:11:33: And there is there is some displacement from that.

00:11:33 --> 00:11:36: I think some amount of it is inevitable,

00:11:36 --> 00:11:39: but a lot of it can be avoided and should

00:11:39 --> 00:11:40: be avoided.

00:11:40 --> 00:11:42: It. I will say, you know,

00:11:42 --> 00:11:44: when I started out we were we had a high

00:11:44 --> 00:11:46: level of inequality.

00:11:46 --> 00:11:49: The difference has been. A huge amount of investment that's

00:11:50 --> 00:11:52: not gone into tax cuts for the rich Willie in

00:11:53 --> 00:11:53: Washington DC.

00:11:53 --> 00:11:56: It's gone into harvesting that Sir.

00:11:56 --> 00:11:59: Plus from that economic growth and completely re modernizing our

00:12:00 --> 00:12:00: school system,

00:12:00 --> 00:12:03: building new schools, improving our school system,

00:12:03 --> 00:12:07: getting every one of these human service agencies out of

00:12:07 --> 00:12:10: receivership because we were properly funding them.

00:12:10 --> 00:12:13: One of the things we're doing at the Federal City

00:12:13 --> 00:12:16: console to learn some of these lessons in terms of

00:12:16 --> 00:12:17: displacement is,

00:12:17 --> 00:12:20: you know, working with the private sector.

00:12:20 --> 00:12:22: Companies like yours, you know,

00:12:22 --> 00:12:25: companies you know all over the DMV to create the

00:12:25 --> 00:12:29: Washington Housing Initiative where we're going out ahead of the

00:12:29 --> 00:12:34: real estate curve and making investments that improve affordability before

00:12:34 --> 00:12:37: the cost of affordable housing really is prohibitive.

00:12:37 --> 00:12:39: With the wisdom of experience.

00:12:39 --> 00:12:42: Anything you wish you had done differently,

00:12:42 --> 00:12:45: I was invited to go on a lot of trade

00:12:45 --> 00:12:46: missions overseas.

00:12:46 --> 00:12:49: I think it actually helped the city of your improving

00:12:49 --> 00:12:50: the fundamentals.

00:12:50 --> 00:12:54: And you're telling everyone you're improving the fundamentals.

00:12:54 --> 00:12:57: I think that help improve Washington DC as a business

00:12:57 --> 00:13:00: investment center real estate center in the world.

00:13:00 --> 00:13:01: I definitely think it did.

00:13:01 --> 00:13:04: That said, after a couple of trips I would have
00:13:04 --> 00:13:06: delegated that to someone and I would have set up
00:13:06 --> 00:13:08: a special office in Southeast.
00:13:08 --> 00:13:10: I had a nice problem when I was married.
00:13:10 --> 00:13:13: The complaints were it was kind of like well,
00:13:13 --> 00:13:14: you cleaned up the living room.
00:13:14 --> 00:13:17: You cleaned up the kitchen and you didn't get to
00:13:17 --> 00:13:18: my room yet.
00:13:18 --> 00:13:21: That's a nice problem to have people feel.
00:13:21 --> 00:13:23: You know you haven't served me.
00:13:23 --> 00:13:25: You haven't come to me and I needed to show
00:13:25 --> 00:13:28: that attention I think would have helped build more harmony
00:13:28 --> 00:13:30: that we need right now in the city.
00:13:30 --> 00:13:32: You don't give do overs in life,
00:13:32 --> 00:13:33: but that's a do over.
00:13:33 --> 00:13:35: I would have done. You know,
00:13:35 --> 00:13:38: the thing I I really respect is how you've stayed
00:13:38 --> 00:13:41: involved with the city and you haven't moved on or
00:13:41 --> 00:13:41: beyond us.
00:13:41 --> 00:13:45: And I think your role of Federal City Council gives
00:13:45 --> 00:13:48: you an opportunity to have huge influence,
00:13:48 --> 00:13:50: both civic and in the business community.
00:13:50 --> 00:13:53: How did you think about taking on this role?
00:13:53 --> 00:13:55: What made you take it on?
00:13:55 --> 00:13:57: And as you look forward,
00:13:57 --> 00:14:00: what do you hope to accomplish in this role?
00:14:00 --> 00:14:03: I certainly wouldn't have gotten this award.
00:14:03 --> 00:14:07: If we hadn't had continuity of good government since my
00:14:07 --> 00:14:08: time in Washington DC,
00:14:08 --> 00:14:11: Mayor Fenty, Mayor Gray, now Mayor Bowser,
00:14:11 --> 00:14:14: I think, is doing a remarkable job with this covid
00:14:14 --> 00:14:15: challenge.
00:14:15 --> 00:14:18: One of the primary impulses behind this continuity has been
00:14:18 --> 00:14:20: the Federal City Council.
00:14:20 --> 00:14:23: The things that I thought I found becoming about it
00:14:23 --> 00:14:27: were one the gram families involvement they there are tremendous
00:14:27 --> 00:14:29: force for good in the city.
00:14:29 --> 00:14:33: One of the greatest parts of being mayor was getting
00:14:33 --> 00:14:33: to know.
00:14:33 --> 00:14:36: Catherine Grams and the other thing that I find really
00:14:36 --> 00:14:38: becoming about the Fertile City Council with.

00:14:38 --> 00:14:41: It really isn't this big giant organization.
00:14:41 --> 00:14:45: It's really, you know, were four or five people who
00:14:45 --> 00:14:49: work with and through our trustees an relationships to tackle
00:14:49 --> 00:14:50: big problems,
00:14:50 --> 00:14:53: spin off a solution, tackle another problem,
00:14:53 --> 00:14:57: spin off a solution. the DC Policy center tax provision
00:14:57 --> 00:15:00: the Washington Housing Initiative.
00:15:00 --> 00:15:05: Police Foundation the Economic club one after another after another.
00:15:05 --> 00:15:08: So we we always stay lean and hungry and mean.
00:15:08 --> 00:15:10: But we have a big impact.
00:15:10 --> 00:15:12: I mean, most recently you know we were.
00:15:12 --> 00:15:16: We really led the effort to refund the Metro the
00:15:16 --> 00:15:19: same little organization created the Metro.
00:15:19 --> 00:15:22: So it's a great organization to be be affiliated with
00:15:22 --> 00:15:25: and to lead and to be able to build a
00:15:25 --> 00:15:27: great team that I think I have.
00:15:27 --> 00:15:30: Yeah, in closing what I would say is there is.
00:15:30 --> 00:15:34: Never been a moment in time where this country has
00:15:34 --> 00:15:37: needed strong mayoral leadership.
00:15:37 --> 00:15:39: So as you think forward,
00:15:39 --> 00:15:44: you think about coming out of the carnage of Covid
00:15:44 --> 00:15:46: What are the what is the 1 two or three
00:15:46 --> 00:15:50: real true pearls of wisdom that you want to share
00:15:50 --> 00:15:52: with our mayors in America?
00:15:52 --> 00:15:55: You know when you were little when you wanted to
00:15:55 --> 00:15:56: ride a bike,
00:15:56 --> 00:15:59: you had to take a risk and pick up some
00:15:59 --> 00:16:01: speed in order ride a bike without.
00:16:01 --> 00:16:04: You know, training wheels if you want to ski down
00:16:04 --> 00:16:05: the Hill,
00:16:05 --> 00:16:08: you gotta pick up some speed or you're never going
00:16:08 --> 00:16:09: to really ski.
00:16:09 --> 00:16:11: I say to politicians you know,
00:16:11 --> 00:16:12: why are you in office?
00:16:12 --> 00:16:14: You in office to make a difference?
00:16:14 --> 00:16:17: Chakeres, I say that because right now we really need
00:16:17 --> 00:16:20: our leaders to take a stand and to make some
00:16:20 --> 00:16:21: priority.
00:16:21 --> 00:16:24: So when you're I think one of the things that
00:16:24 --> 00:16:28: served us well in Washington DC through trials and tribulations
00:16:28 --> 00:16:30: as we made some real priorities.

00:16:30 --> 00:16:33: The people are smarter than you think they are.
00:16:33 --> 00:16:35: They really are 80% of the time.
00:16:35 --> 00:16:38: As mayor, you're the maitre-d'.
00:16:38 --> 00:16:40: If you want steak, you got steak.
00:16:40 --> 00:16:42: You wanted medium. Well you got it medium.
00:16:42 --> 00:16:45: Well I mean I like medium well but you're the
00:16:45 --> 00:16:46: customer whatever you want.
00:16:46 --> 00:16:48: You want a table by the window.
00:16:48 --> 00:16:49: You got it. But 20%
00:16:49 --> 00:16:51: of the time as mayor,
00:16:51 --> 00:16:54: you have to leave. Now you're able to lead that
00:16:54 --> 00:16:54: 20%
00:16:54 --> 00:16:57: of the time and make some tough decisions.
00:16:57 --> 00:16:59: If you do everything people want that 80%
00:16:59 --> 00:17:01: of the time, don't take that for.
00:17:01 --> 00:17:03: Granted, I would. I would say to people.
00:17:03 --> 00:17:05: And last but not least.
00:17:05 --> 00:17:08: I wouldn't say key functions in your city and I
00:17:08 --> 00:17:11: would say finance is a function like that.
00:17:11 --> 00:17:13: Planning is a function like that.
00:17:13 --> 00:17:16: Business Regulation is a function like that.
00:17:16 --> 00:17:19: You really should as your legacy in your city.
00:17:19 --> 00:17:24: Try to depoliticize these functions so that they have predictability.
00:17:24 --> 00:17:28: So that people can make investments around where your community
00:17:28 --> 00:17:28: is going.
00:17:28 --> 00:17:30: I think those three things.
00:17:30 --> 00:17:32: So here are you in good stead.
00:17:32 --> 00:17:35: They help me. This is the most prestigious,
00:17:35 --> 00:17:39: respected award in land use planning and development.
00:17:39 --> 00:17:42: What does it mean to you to be awarded to
00:17:42 --> 00:17:47: recognize for the ULI prize for visionaries and over in
00:17:47 --> 00:17:48: development?
00:17:48 --> 00:17:50: It means a lot because a lot of the business
00:17:50 --> 00:17:52: leaders in you'll I you know,
00:17:52 --> 00:17:55: our friends of mine who I know and respect,
00:17:55 --> 00:17:57: and you know when I found that I got the
00:17:57 --> 00:17:59: award and I look back at a number of the
00:17:59 --> 00:18:00: award.
00:18:00 --> 00:18:03: Easier. Actually people that I went and talked to as
00:18:03 --> 00:18:05: I got into office to learn best practices.

00:18:05 --> 00:18:07: You know, talk to Al Ratner,
00:18:07 --> 00:18:09: talked to and got to know Richie daily.
00:18:09 --> 00:18:12: Talk to and got to know a mayor Riley down
00:18:12 --> 00:18:14: and you know Charleston SC?
00:18:14 --> 00:18:16: I mean these were all people who were mentors to
00:18:16 --> 00:18:19: me and to get the same award I mean.
00:18:19 --> 00:18:21: Oh great, well thank you Mayor.
00:18:21 --> 00:18:23: Thank you for your time.
00:18:23 --> 00:18:27: Thank you for the energy in the passion that you
00:18:27 --> 00:18:31: continue to bring not only to our city here in
00:18:31 --> 00:18:32: Washington DC,
00:18:32 --> 00:18:35: But really throughout this country.
00:18:35 --> 00:18:39: I am so happy and joyful and grateful to be
00:18:39 --> 00:18:43: able to share with everybody the new recipient.
00:18:43 --> 00:18:48: This year's recipient of the ULI Prize for Visionaries and
00:18:48 --> 00:18:49: Urban Development.
00:18:49 --> 00:18:52: Mayor Tony Williams thank you appreciate it.

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