

ACORN Baltimore Child Prostitution Investigation Transcript

Shira (sp?), James, Kenya, Tonja (sp?)

Shira: Hello how you doin?

James: Hello

Kenya: Hi

James: Hey how are you today?

Shira: Fine

James: Uh we have an appointment to see uh i think Shira.

Shira: That's me How ya doin?

James: oh hello

Shira: Nice to meet you

James: Nice to meet you

Kenya: Oh it's hot in here

Shira: you can take your top off

Kenya: yeah...

Shira: Please you can take your top off... [Unintelligible] that's so different its so nice

Kenya: Oh I'm Kenya

Shira: How you doin? did you bring your information in?

James: Hi uh well i wanted to talk to you about some things first. do you have a bathroom by the way?

Shira: yeah its right through there

James: Okay. just one moment please. Oh here is your phone that I had in my pocket

Kenya: thank you

Shira: you thought it was going to be cold in here but its hot??????

Kenya: Well this morning it was overcast and cloudy but it defiantly got hotter which i like

Shira: you like hot weather

Kenya: yea i do you don't? why

Shira: i hate hot weather

Kenya: oh i love tropical places

Shira: well i am completely... [Unintelligible]

Kenya: i love the sun

Shira: i have never liked... [Unintelligible] or the sun cause i have allergies really bad

Kenya: oh so you know pollen and all the allergies and everything that comes with that yeah i understand that's kind of how my mom is

Shira: yea

James: so umm can we sit and talk with you for a little while

Shira: yes you can talk to me... joe come on in

Shira: i really love that top its...

Kenya: thank you

James: you have one of these iphones you seen these iphones

Shira: No I can't operate my own phone too good

James: Oh well they got all these cool applications on them you can download and tell you the weather the wind

Kenya: yeah he's like here listen to this song and I'm like how much did that cost you?

James: Well this one is only a hundred bucks they have got a pretty good deal on them

Shira: Only...okay

James: well i am doing pretty well for myself but i am coming to talk to you about my girlfriend my girl Kenya here we have kind of a unique life situation. We read through some of the paperwork you were talking about and the qualifications and everything but we just wanted to talk about our unique situation and see if we still qualify and you could still help us

Shira: Hold on one second let me go [Unintelligible]...Go ahead

James: So I don't know if you wanna...

Shira: Go ahead

Kenya: Okay uh he is moving into town. I am not from here. And um..He wants me... He is going to be going to Johns Hopkins for graduate school. Graduate school right?

Shira: congratulations

James: Yep Law.

Kenya: and he wants me to come but he doesn't want me around... Like he doesn't want everyone to know that he I am with him here

Shira: um hmm

Kenya: which brings us to why we need a house I can't afford to be on my own kind of thing. So I was kind of wondering what you guys have in the way of loans and housing

Shira: First time home buying?

Kenya: yes For me yea

Shira: Okay Let me tell you the class is April the 8 th

... August the 8th

Kenya: Oh August the 8th

Shira: there is a class that you have to go to which entails tells you about the program how it operates and what specific and they are really good people really great people you can't...excellent. Not because I work here but because of their mannerism professionalism and everything that goes with it

James: but are they from ACORN as well?

Shira: Yes

James: Oh they do?

Shira: ACORN hires them ACORN housing.

James: okay

Shira: yes so we are like ACORN and they got ACORN housing

James: Okay

Shira: so yes and anyone who goes to the class... And they will have inspectors their and tell you about first time home buying what you need to do. And they wont put you into a house that you can't afford

Kenya: that I cant afford? Okay. They will put me in a house that I can afford?

Shira: exactly Yes and they will actually look for the housing

Kenya: Okay..hang on

Shira: and you may go to the class but you may not be buyer ready

Kenya: right

Shira: so they will let you know

Kenya: I mean I can get money

Shira: Yes but still you want you don't want say like they can get you into a 20...you can maybe get money now and then if you cant afford the house you'll be like oh ay know if the house you maybe can afford is like 200 thousand now but then if you don't have the job to keep it up you still lose the house but then they will still work with you...

Kenya: I mean I can I mean I work. And I hope I will be able to work here I mean I think I will be able to work here

James: Well its not so much well she is in a situation wehre she has a unique line of work. I am running for campaign I am running for student government.

Kenya: what about when you are done with school?

James: Well..

Shira: then you all r gonna live together

James: Eh...Well here is our situation I wanna run for campaign I wanna go to school go to law school I wanna run for congress one day but she is in a unique business. Unfortunately we have been to a lot of other...

Shira: We are not like that

James: HM?

Shira: we are not prejudiced

James: You're not prejudiced?

Shira: toward any kind of work that anybody does

James: Oh thank god because you dont understand that we have been to so many like you

Shira: We are not like that we dont sit down here. We are not here to judge what somebody do

James: you're not..?

Shira: No

James: Well every place we have been has denied us

Shira: well we are not like that....we are a non profit organization. What do you do?

Kenya: Well I can just well we I

Shira: its okay

Kenya: well I have clients...male clients

Shira: It's a job isn't it

Kenya: its a job...I am making money

Shira: You know what? It's a job it's a job

James: Yea but the problem is that it

Kenya: I could get in trouble I have gotten in trouble with it before but it makes money it pays ya know

Shira: do you have a 1099

Kenya: whats a 1099?

Shira: taxes. Do you fill out your taxes?

Kenya: No.

James: well she gets paid mostly in cash.

Kenya: yea cash

James: She makes a lot of money though so we could afford some

Shira: Okay let me get somebody here from taxes so they can talk to you about how you need because you really need that. Okay first of all before we fittin to go on

James: but we are still going to be able talk to you

Kenya: will you still be here?

Shira: yea yes but she is gonna be in here yes

James: uh huh

Shira: okay but they can sit down and help you... [distant] excuse me Tonja.

Kenya: [whisper] Oh my God... tax fraud?

James: [whisper] tax fraud

Shira: She is back here this is she okay

Shira: & Tonja: [Unintelligible greeting]

Tonja: hi how are you?

Kenya: I'm Kenya

Tonja: Tonja nice to meet you

James: I'm James

Tonja: Nice to meet you James

Shira: She is in a line of work where she doesn't do taxes but she is in here line of business but she has a job and so how can she start

Tonja: okay so let me ask you a question so you have a job and does your job do you have any dependents... no?

Kenya: People that depend...I don't have any kids

Tonja: and nobody that you claim on your taxes

Shira: she hasn't done taxes yet

Kenya: my job is cash

Tonja: okay you say you have a job that is cash... are they reporting it

Kenya: No

Tonja: they are not reporting it?

Kenya: I mean I get the cash and I keep it

Tonja: okay. you have a job or you have your own business

Kenya: I ummmm..

Tonja: there is a difference. They pay you with a check

Kenya: no with cash.

Tonja: they pay you with cash. And they are reporting this to the government?

Kenya: No who?

James: the clients

Kenya: my clients

Tonja: No the person that is paying you

James: the clients

Tonja: the job that's paying you

Kenya: well people pay me different people every day

Tonja: well there is a difference between having a job and having your own business

okay so tell me

Kenya: well I guess before it was a job. There was this guy that people would give me money and I would give money to him. But now I am just kind of well I met him (James) and now I am trying to get away from that guy

James: I am trying to help her out maybe give her a place to go where she can perform her work maybe a house where she can go where she doesn't have to get targeted by this other guy you know you know what I am saying?

Tonja: okay if the business is not...does the business have an ID number?

James: no

Tonja: okay so there is no taxes or nothing being put to government so the government really knows nothing about this business

Kenya: no they dont know anything about me... hopefully

Tonja: okay so you are just starting this business

Kenya: well no I have been

Tonja: you have been doing this for a little bit

Kenya: yea

Tonja: okay how old are you

Kenya: um 19

Tonja: so why you wanna file taxes

Kenya: I don't...

Shira: cause she needs to get a house she needs to get a house

Kenya: yea i just wanna get a house

James: we just want to give her a house and she tax returns to get a

Tonja: oh so you want to get a house so you need your tax return so like if we say you 19 and you like have this cash money you dont really have to report that because

James: well we wanna get a place to go

Tonja: right so you wanna get a house so you do need a tax return so what you do is. For '08 how much did you make do you know..guesstimate.

James: is that by herself or is that gross with the money she gave to that guy...this guy who has been harassing her

Tonja: that guy..don't worry about that guy because if he doesn't do a quarterly report

James: &Kenya: uh huh

Tonja: he is not reporting that money

James: well its all off the books

Kenya: right

Tonja: so he is not reporting that money so don't use that money just the money you made

Kenya: [to self] 12 months

James: how much do you think you make in month. Right now she is on my boat she is living on a boat do her work... so I am trying to think

Tonja: okay

Kenya: um..how many weeks are in a month?

Tonja: four weeks in a month

James: three to four

Tonja: so the whole year you were by yourself

Kenya: mm hm

Tonja: each month about how much you think you made

Kenya: four weeks in a month... 8

Tonja: about 800 dollars a month

Kenya: 8 grand a month

Tonja: 8 grand a month okay so that is gonna put you and about 8000 9600 for the year. Nine thousand six hundred for the year so you would that'll be good. But you gonna have to pay self employment taxes and you

had expenses that you had to meet the commodities so you should have a business loss so you really shouldn't have to have no self employment taxes to pay. So you can have a business loss. Okay

Kenya: so what?

Shira: shes the tax lady

James: shes the expert

Shira: shes the tax lady

[Unintelligible voices together laughter]

Tonja: okay so you file a tax return you gonna file a tax return as a business. You have a name?

Kenya: for my business?

Tonja: don't worry about it if you don't

Kenya: I'm a... I provide a service

Tonja: mm kay. You don't have to. So we will put down that you made the 9600 for the year. Then we put your expenses which would include advertising office expense

Kenya: there is not I mean unless my clothes are like advertising

Shira: she is the tax person so listen to her

Tonja: do you have business cards or did you put out flyers or did you do an Internet website or something like that... nothing like that?

James: its all referrals

Tonja: what about do you have any office expenses do you have to buy paper ink pencils pens all that kind of stuff

James: condoms

Tonja: okay

James: we have to buy condoms

Tonja: what kind of a business is this

Kenya: I provide a service to male clients

Tonja: okay so what about do you got to put out for clothes... see it depends on what the business is what you can write off. That's why I need to know

Kenya: okay so I can write off my..

Tonja: it depends you can write off your clothing in certain businesses.

Shira: I am gonna go talk to her and when you are finished then talk to me

James: okay I wanna continue talking to you

Shira: okay yea because she's a bus-she actually does accounting and everything so she will give you her card. So when you finish talking to her then I will talk to you about the housing program.

James: alright

Tonja: in the business that you do you have to have a certain clothing...so we can write that off. You have to have a certain grooming so that can be written off.

Tonja: um do you provide do you give like little gifts. Do you provide incentives or something for your clients you could write off stuff like that

Kenya: well I mean since I moved onto his boat I mean it is always a plus to have a yacht a sail boat

Tonja: mhmm

Kenya: ...that they go to... so docking fees for the boat but I know its his boat

Tonja: but it's not in her name

James: no it's not in

her name

Tonja: it has to be in your name

Kenya: yeah I mean no

Tonja: transportation?

Kenya: no they provide the transportation

James: they pick her up

Tonja: so you don't have to go from one place

Kenya: they

James: they pick her up

Tonja: okay um well between clothes and grooming

Kenya: my cellphone

Tonja: your cellphone and you don't do advertising you don't have an office expense, and you don't have to pay for rent for anything do you? And you don't have to buy for or to rent any equipment do you?

Kenya: no it's like a free ride

Tonja: okay what about um you have no employees...i need to look at the schedule to see last ...excuse me

[Telephone call in background]

James: [unintelligible whisper] we have to bring it up a notch and start talking about doing illegal things with the taxes

Kenya: [whisper] well just think of [unintelligible]

James: [whisper] yeah

Kenya: [whisper] lets get her to give us a list of advice and get her to follow through with it. We'll ask her to write down a list of things we can write off and

James: okay and then I can... what do you have in mind

Kenya: you take it over from here because I am definitely like drawing a blank right now

James: okay

Shira: and when she finishes I am going to talk to you about the housing but she is a tax consultant and she is good

Kenya: I was gonna ask you about like

James: We just have a

Kenya: I dunno where is ---- but I was like maybe she could give me a list so I could like follow up

Shira: oh she will help you she is good. Actually she has her own business...

James: our problem is that we just want to make sure that

—

Kenya has a unique line of work. We have been discriminated against

—

no one has provided us because it is against the law

Shira: she is not like that

James: No law enforcement is very prejudicial toward us

Shira: Well she is gonna make this like a legal business

James: yea but how can she do that though

Shira: Because she um she is good I'm gonna tell you

—

uh Tanja she wants to know how you gonna make it legal. She's really good she's not gonna get in trouble her own self she is not going to trouble her own self that's why

James: wait say that again

Shira: she is good and she is not gonna get in trouble. She is very legit. We do not discriminate. So you have one of the best persons

Kenya: so she is not going to get in trouble or I am not going to get in trouble

Shira: no you are not gonna get in trouble

Kenya: Kenya: so neither of us okay

James: I mean we have walked into banks before and they have called the cops

Kenya: just because of the way I look

James: because how the maryland laws are working they discriminate against people who do this type of work so we don't wanna be.

Shira: tell them Tanja

Tonja: so you want to why you wanna make this legal

James: because we want a place for her to go. Because right now she has got to stay on a boat.

Tonja: okay

James: and we have been discriminated against by every housing provider that you could possibly imagine

Kenya: and when he is in school and when he runs for congress I want to be reality close to him

Tonja: so the type of business okay... the type of business or service you provide let me make sure that there is a code for it okay

James: a code for prostitution?

Tonja: well yeah I have to have a name and a code number

James: well I don't know that there will be a code for it

Tonja: but I'm gonna look in there let me get my list

Shira: she is good that is what I am saying

James: the other thing that we have to deal with is this guy she was working for he is very abusive. And this guy has been giving us a lot of problems

Kenya: ever since I left

James: and now she is trying to start her own thing. And we are trying to get her a house and she can work with other girls and she can make right now this guy is being very harassing so that is why we have got to do this as fast as possible

Kenya: which is I know you guys offer housing and loans and stuff but would they be in safe neighborhoods? Or would they?

Shira: first of all you be lookin for your own house. Once they say you are buyer ready you will be looking for your own house the good thing is you'll be looking at your own house where you are gonna be living

Kenya: okay

Shira: and the thing I tell everybody is do not ever ever whatever you line of business you in... be proud of it.

Kenya: okay

Shira: You nineteen years old be proud of it. Okay don't feel like because you still have a job you are not robbin nobody not hurtin nobody not stealin from nobody okay?

Kenya: okay

Shira: don't feel like that ever

James: see you are one of the most supportive people because we have been to so many banks and real estate agencies and they just constantly tell us about

Kenya: well its just that we walk in and its get out

Shira: but you know you see

Kenya: and the thing is you know its not like I am trying to rob anybody

Shira: no you doin

Kenya: I just want somewhere to live

Shira: exactly exactly

Tonja: they want you

Shira: okay

Tonja: okay lets see what we got here: combination business food service and drinking places um...[mutter]...we might have to name it something else

Kenya: uh

Tonja: in order for you to file a return for business

Kenya: whats a return

Tonja: a tax return. In order for you to file a return for the business you have to

Kenya: so I am returning taxes to the government

Tonja: no you have to pay taxes on the money you make

James: is their any way around that though

Tonja: yeah don't file them and you continue doing cash

James: okay okay

Kenya: but that's what I have been doing but what about your house

Tonja: that's your problem you don't have cash money to buy a house because if you had cash money to buy a house then you wouldn't have a problem you wouldn't necessarily have to file a tax return on that

Kenya: but if I had

Tonja: you know what I'm saying

Kenya: but ill be needing a loan

Tonja: by you not having they cash money to buy a house outright they want a tax return to do some borrowing and stuff like that

Kenya: I mean I can make payments in cash back to whoever lets me into the house

Tonja: I understand what you are saying but okay what I am saying is that you cant get a house without a tax return unless you gonna pay cash full out

James: mmhmm

Tonja: or check or however you gonna pay for it up front

Kenya: are there people who give cash loans?

Tonja: there are some people who give cash loans yes

Kenya: but do you guys?

Tonja: no we don't but there are some places like I know loans for cash or cash for loans or something like that

James: well we don't wanna we have gotten in trouble she has gotten in trouble before with loan sharks and shady deals

Kenya: I don't want anyone and I also

James: and before we get too much into detail there is another variable

Tonja: how bout if you wanna do that okay they got other amusement and recreational services

James: we could probably be classified under recreational services right

Kenya: amusement..

Tonja: that would be including golf courses skiing facilities arenas fitness centers and bowling centers skating rings and miniature golf courses...hmmm

James: hmm

Tonja: amusement parks and arcades the gammon industry...performance arts...lets see independent artists you could be that

James: you're an artist of sorts the way you move your body

Kenya: I am very independent well I am now that Sonny is gone

James: yeahhh

Tonja: you know what...um dancing

James: its not dancing trust me

Tonja: but dancing is considered an art I mean you know

James: sex is kind of like dancing right

Tonja: yeah some----

so I am thinking if you were working in what's the name of that place
downtown

James: a strip club?

Tonja: they usually go under performing artists or yea they usually go under performing arts which will be what
you are a performing artist

Kenya: but would I have to work at one of those buildings

Tonja: no no no no you can do it on your own

James: so we could potentially qualify as performing arts or the other one was?

Tonja: right you could go under performing arts as the principle business and there is a code for that so that if
you wanna file a tax cause you need to do a schedule C which is a profit or loss form for business

James: the other thing is could we

Kenya: do you have notes...

Tonja: these are somebody else's I don't want to give you their stuff

Kenya: yea...well go ahead

Tonja: basically

James: well I want to ask you a question there is another variable here that Kenya should we should talk to you about which may complicate our taxes is that we have a couple of girls overseas who are coming over and they are very young you know what I mean. We don't wanna put them on the books

Kenya: they are kind of dependent

James: they are from El Salvador

Tonja: okay

James: there is like 13 of them and they are probably going to move into the house that we get

Kenya: just for like a year while they get on their feet

James: just to get them on their feet so they can do this type of thing

Tonja: so do you want to ...so why you all even wanna do taxes oh cause of the house

James: because we want a house and everyone else has been discriminatory but the point is that there is gonna be 13 El Salvadorian girls coming into the house and we don't want them to cause any trouble

Tonja: as far as

James: as far as anything as far as the feds coming in

Tonja: as far as feds coming in mum that's as far as tax part to cover yourself on that part you can issue them a sheet of 1099s

James: but they are not even legal citizens

Kenya: well I mean couldn't they like if I am a performing artists cant they be like

Tonja: if they don't have Social Security numbers then you don't have to worry about them because they cant file taxes anyway.

James: we don't have to worry about them

Tonja: you don't have to worry

about them if they gonna an ID if they gonna get an Social Security number for anything even for working

James: but these girls are like 15

Tonja: oh then you don't have to worry about it cause they not old enough

James: okay we don't have to worry about that

Tonja: right

Kenya: I mean they would only be with me a year maybe two depending on if I like some of them

James: just enough time to make some money get their feet off the ground and they will prolly go back to El Salvador

Kenya: and by the time they are older they are not my problem

Tonja: ok ok

James: but we are going to be putting a roof over these peoples a roof over their head in addition to Kenya

Tonja: well then you know what you can always claim them as dependents I mean you cant do all of them

Kenya: well then can we just claim some of them and still have the other ones there

Tonja: sure okay if you gonna do this if you gonna start this business the name of the proprietor would be you the principle business would be performing arts the address would be what for right now the boat?

James: the boats on the
chesterfield

Tonja: alright then the amount of money that you make....right now you dont have any employees but when the girls come they are not really gonna be employees because you arent gonna issue them W2s at the end of the year

Kenya: I don't even know what that is

Tonja: they under sixteen so you don't worry about that but on the other part of the form you can use them as a dependents because they live in your house they are under 16 and they are living in your house. Well you live in a boat but because you are taking care of them so you can use them as a dependent

James: What if they are going to be making money because they are performing tricks too

Tonja: but if they making money and they are underage then you shouldn't be letting anybody know anyway

Kenya: well that's true cause

Tonja: you shouldn't be letting anyone know anyway

James: well that's what happen we told the bankers and they kicked us out

Tonja: right because its illegal. So I am not hearing this I am not hearing this. You talk too much don't give up no information you are not asked

James: Kenya if I don't give the information and you guys discriminate against us for all this stuff promise me that you wont discriminate against us

Tonja: we can only discriminate against something if we don't have the information then how are we going to discriminate? You see what I am saying if I don't know

James: and I have already given you the information

Tonja: well yea you given me if they don't know what you brinin in or whatever nobody is tellin it then they wont know to come look for you

Kenya: that's kind of true because when I was working when I was young I couldn't tell anybody

James: right and she has been working since she was about 13

Tonja: so if they under sixteen then they not legal to work here anyway

Kenya: so its like they don't even exists

Tonja: right like they don't exist

James: and they can be in the housing that we get

Tonja: right

James: we apply for it and they can be in the housing and we can use the house for them.

Tonja: you can use the house you can put them on your taxes as dependents to help lower your rate

Kenya: how many of them am I allowed to

Tonja: three

Kenya: three

James: 3 as dependents?

Tonja: 3 that you are gonna get credit for

James: So if we got 13 of them in the house we are going to have to just not exist 10 of them?

Tonja: I did not put 13 because that is gonna put a flag. Okay how she got 13 people how she got 13 ppl living with her you know that's gonna kinda look kinda funny. You file a tax return and you

put 13. u could put 13 dependents if she was a little older if she was like in her 40s or 50s I could do that like relatives or something like that

Kenya: dont scare me like that

Tonja: with only being 19 I cannot put 13 bc that is going to put a flag

James: who is it gonna flag who will it flag who are we gonna get in trouble with

Tonja: the federal govt.

James: really?

Tonja: if I put 13 ppl on there they are gonna say —hold up if she only 19 how is she gonna have 13 people livin off this 19 year old girl

Kenya: well what if I was a ya know kind hearted

Tonja: there are not that many kind-hearted 19 year olds okay trust me

James: so who we gotta be afraid like of from federal government

Tonja: because you are not gonna use all of them you are gonna use three of them they are gonna be under 16 so you is eligible to get child tax credit and additional child tax credit

Kenya: I am turning 20 soon so I will be a little older

Tonja: okay well I still wouldn't say more than three

Kenya: okay

Tonja: and you are gonna have to say they relatives.

Kenya: well I mean they are little latinas

James: they dont even speak english they just come to this country to do their business

Tonja: and they dont have SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

James: no

Kenya: no they are not

Tonja: okay we are not gonna use any of them then

James: okay

Tonja: okay cause they dont have SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS or IT numbers when they come here

James: no but they bring in money though

Tonja: but when they come here they are gonna come with a passport and ID# right

James: no they don't have anything they are shipped over

Tonja: then we can't use them at all because we have to have some sort of ID number for them too.

James: okay

Tonja: so don't even worry about them

Kenya: so

Tonja: don't even worry about them

Kenya: okay

Tonja: the only way u can use them is if they an infant because infants don't have SS#s anyway

James: they are close to infants 13 14 some of them

Tonja: so you wanna use this cause you wanna get a house

James: that's right

Tonja: so we'll use this so no advertisement no cards record expense. What about legal or professional expenses you don't have to get licenses or nothing like that no okay

what about supplies..yes

James: condoms...how many condoms did you buy last month

Tonja: and travel you dont travel

James: they travel to her

Tonja: so you dont go nowhere right so yeah we could probably write off 7 at least 7

Kenya: oh wow

Tonja: okay

Kenya: okay

Tonja: I need you to fill out some logistics information that can go in your 08 return let me go get the form like your name your address and stuff

Kenya: since we are like doing this for us can we talk to her about housing and stuff

James: some of the general housing stuff

Kenya: so like I can figure out where and how and

Tonja: so if you still wanna do the for just let me know

Kenya: yea

Tonja: okay no problem

James: and I just wanna thank you so much because people have just been so discriminatory toward us

Tonja: it's sweatin hot I'm hot in here

James: thank you so much

Tonja: [laugh] she wanna talk to you first then she gonna talk to me again

Shira: 1 okay do you feel better now

Kenya: let me just

James: yes

Kenya: I mean chairs and offices freak me out clocks on the wall

Tonja: that clock don't work

Kenya: I'm just saying offices you guys really put me at ease she did so close to my heart

Shira: she's a good person

James: she is

Shira: like I said she will get you anything you need

Kenya: and she asked like she wasn't just like oh well..she was like well she analyzed the situation and ask the tough questions that are so critical

Shira: that's why I got you that person that's why I got you that person so that t you can get your help

James: she knows her stuff because she said that we what we can do is that we would be able to classify it as not prostitution but as ahh recreation or what was it?

Kenya: no no as performing artist

James: performing arts

Shira: yes see

James: and then we could get the right tax codes

Shira: yes

James: so that is wonderful we had some more questions

Shira: the classes go to the class

Kenya: what yea

Shira: its from 11-4 on august the 8th 11-4

Kenya: 11-4 on august 8th what day is that?

Shira: its like a saturday

Kenya: Saturday?

Shira: sat morning 11-4

Kenya: that's like a workable time

Shira: they will do like a one on one and see what the papers looks like

Kenya: my credit

Shira: yea

Kenya: well I don't have...

Shira: well that's fine because we will work with you. You will have Ellen and she is a person who very nice everybody here is we don't look at people as Oh my Gosh no.

you are here as a client she will treat you like a client

Kenya: that will be very nice for me to be treated like a client

Shira: we don't treat you like first of all let me tell you something my job is not to judge people. i have kids. I mean I don't like when people judge-

James: how old are your kids

Shira: 39 and 31

James: congratulations

Shira: I don't like nobody to judge me so therefore I don't judge nobody else. I don't let no body compare me to somebody

James: well here is the problem not only does Kenya have her business do her thing but she works with girls who are like 14 15

Kenya: well there are like 13 girls from El Salvador that I have kind of gotten wind on the street that they are coming and I have let the right ppl know that I am interested in taking care of them and getting them used to the area and getting them used to society

Shira: that you keep to yourself

Kenya: okay

Shira: let people know. I am gonna tell you about business some things because you are young some things you know nothing.

Kenya: that's kind of she was like —I am not hearing this!!

Shira: yea Some things when you get older you like you realize that you don't need to you know what I mean you don't know

James: I am only 22

Shira: that's I'm you don't know you don't know

James: okay

Shira: is such and such I don't know

James: that doesn't affect our ability to get a house even though we are going to have these 13 El Salvadorian girls in the house

Shira: no they could be houseguests

James: even though they will be doing jobs

Kenya: yea they could be like company

Shira: whatever whatever I don't want to know. Houseguests

James: okay houseguests so that is what we are going to tell the people at the conference then

Shira: no you are going to tell the people that this is going to be a residential place

James: okay

Shira: this is gonna be your house where you reside where you live at

Kenya: so we don't talk about this at the conference

Shira: no no no no this is gonna be your house to live in

James: do you promise not to tell anyone?

Shira: I am not- I don't care I really don't care this is a house when you

James: you don't understand no one else has helped us you're the one who has allowed us to do this no one else has helped us because they have heard this and they don't wanna do it

Shira: you know you reside in the house and you gonna live in the house and this is gonna be a permanent residence

Kenya: So this is my house and these are just guests that come and like

Shira: you don't even worry about the guest; this is the house that you live in

Kenya: okay because I will be living there longer than them

Shira: they could be exchange students I mean they could be anything

Kenya: okay

James: okay

Shira: they come to your house they are exchange students

James: exchange students maybe we can classify them as that

Shira: exactly

James: okay

Shira: so don't worry you are fine

Kenya: thank you

James: so what are we gonna do about this pimp who has been bothering us

Kenya: well that's what I was gonna are the doors open where is this conference August 8th

Shira: its at the library downtown you know the main library its at 400 Cathedral St.

Kenya: okay

Shira: in the mean time I would get a place I would move in with somebody who does not know your last name

Kenya: I am on his boat right now

Shira: okay do he know where the boats at

James: where the boat is?

Shira: the location.

James: He does know the location that's where stems the danger

Kenya: yea and its. The thing is if I come somewhere in public

James: he came just last week and he beat up one of her client

Kenya: I mean coming here he escorted me I mean being some places is fine being with other men is fine I mean I feel safe and I know my roots and umm but being somewhere in public will there be security?

Shira: at the library there probably gonna be a whole bunch be like 200 people there

Kenya: 200 people

Shira: mmhmmm

Kenya: and are there like going to be police officers there

Shira: No!

Kenya: okay

Shira: and first of all they don't know you from Adam

Kenya: right

Shira: you not stick out like Adam you are just there to purchase a home for yourself you there to learn

Kenya: right I want a home just like the rest of them

Shira: Exactly you just gonna come on that's all that is required in class is that you you are not there for no body to sit down and to judge you

James: now listen to what this lady has to say bc she has got some good stuff about the pimp what do we do about this guy because that is why we come in here asking for help with housing because right now he is harassing us wherever we go. What do we do what do you recommend

Shira: what part of town does he live in

Kenya: he lives where ever her wants to live

James: no he's actually from out in whats the name of the place

Kenya: he has a mobilized group

Shira: anonymously anonymously ever tip off that this person is a

Kenya: right that's why I feel

Shira: No you don't use your phone-don't use your phone don't you never ever my mama was a my mama was in [garbled]rule number one: never ever use anything that yours. It can be traced back

James: what do you

—

like what?

Shira: if you wanna report something like you know he's disa- never use a cell phone

James: what else? What else do you recommend?

Shira: When she sees him basically try to get him with a crowd

Kenya: in a crowd

Shira: in a crowd...like you gonna be in this class

Kenya: I feel so left out when I am in a crowd. I like people are like walking away from me cause they are

Shira: you know it's you its cause your 19 and you think people know your profession but its not.

Where ever you are be proud. Don't feel self-conscious

Kenya: okay

James: what about those ppl that hit us with the argument all the time like my political friends somehow it has gotten out

Shira: well then you don't bring it up

James: listen and then they hear about these el salvadorian girls coming over

Shira: you don't tell them or you stop

Kenya: we have to stop talking about them

Shira: you stop talking about. I wanna tell you you gonna be running for business you don't want anybody knowin anything about you you know he did such and such down the road so you cut that out

–

anything that you don't want anyone to know or run a scam on - you cut it out. You dont need you know like everybody has something in their closet they dont want to talk about

Kenya: which we had an argument and that is why he wants me off the boat but he still wants me around close

Shira: you don't want nobody to sit down any time that there is a business you don't sit down there and discuss nothing loosely. Loose lips sink ships.

James: if I didn't discuss this with you and it came up during the approval process and then they say sorry sorry we can't do it

Shira: No no no no you don't bring that up. She is purchasing a house. Do not. She is buying a house to live in

James: okay

Shira: okay

James: we understand

Kenya: okay no phones no El Salvadorian girls ...crowds

Shira: no nothing

James: well they still exist but you just don't talk about it

Kenya: I know

Shira: That is between you and whatever. What ever you do you do not you do not discuss it...

what ever you do somebody sit down and say well you know yep well how about the ravens? Okay? Oh you know what I saw such and such it was really pretty

Kenya: [unintelligible]

Shira: yea anything but do not discuss that

Kenya: okay okay

Shira: don't discuss anything that will make you the object of anything.i mean I do that sometimes like you know yea well —whats your husband doll I said I went shoppin last week and I tell people my business is not my thing to discuss

James: you know my thing I know you do good in your life but I want to make sure ACORN abides by that policy too

Shira: First of all ACORN again your buyin the house you purchasing the house this is your house you gonna live in this house

Kenya: and i-i'll pay. I'll have money

Shira: you'll have a mortgage. Okay? this is gonna be your house this is all you need to concern yourself with okay this is all you need to concern yourself with. You are 19 years old you still got a lot to learn you never you never talk I don't care who you go in front of you never talk about business in front of people

James: this business

Shira: this business or any other business. Whatever happen in my house stays in my house

Kenya: okay

Shira: I don't care whatever happen my gas and electric is off I am gonna come to work you not gonna know my gas and electric was off cause and I am not going to tell you. I am not gonna come well guess what my gas and electric was off I am not gonna tell you. This is my house I am not

going to discuss what happened on my street on my block where I live at...

Kenya: what if some of my girls get in trouble though and it comes back to me and somehow gets back to them

James: to you and it damages you guys

Shira: first of all its not gonna damage us because we not gonna know

James: okay

Shira: and with your girls you tell them be careful. Train them to keep their mouth shut

James: these girls are like 14 how can we trust them

Kenya: 14 15 I'll be you know I speak Spanish so I'll be teaching them you know

Shira: be careful

Kenya: its kind of good that they don't speak English right now I guess so they don't

James: so they don't tell people but there are Spanish people in the neighborhood

Kenya: yeah I guess that's true

Shira: just be very very careful just whatever you do always keep your eyes in the back of your head

Kenya: okay

James: cause you know what happened in NY State with you know what was his name the governor up there remember

that got out and he got in trouble and I don't wanna get in trouble

Shira: always keep your eyes in the back of your head always

James: yea

Shira: okay um basically just keep you eyes in the back of your head and make sure you have somebody that knows whats going on and who you can trust like help and he knows the laws so if something happens they are here for they you know

—

i don't know I had no idea

Kenya: yea

Shira: you know you guys don't know you guys get out there something happens I don't know who you are I cant come to your rescue you guys don't know I cant come to your rescue I can't be I cant take that fall for you let them know that you know I cant do it

Kenya: I mean I wanna ya know help them but at the same time I don't- can't get in trouble and I cant have my house taken away and I cant I don't want his life ruined.

Shira: You gonna have to start coverin your ass start coverin your ass and you are gonna have to sit down and think okay if something happens the assistant rule I can't get involved. The police are gonna put pressure on you and I can't cover you if they say... ya know?

James: is it against the law in Maryland prostitution?

Shira: yeah anything that the government is not getting money from is always against the law

James: but if I wanna know specifically I think of course it is cause they have always called the law—the cops on us before

Shira: right and anything that is not government approved is always against the law that is rule number one and remember that

James: yeah

Shira: that's rule number one and you be squeaky clean always always be squeaky clean

Kenya: mmhmm. Like physically or

Shira: whenever stuff come up always be squeaky clean like don't be opinionated

Kenya: like smart squeaky clean

Shira: exactly be smart squeaky clean

Kenya: smart squeaky clean remember that one

James: smart squeaky clean

Shira: right cause you don't want to spend the rest of your life in jail if something comes up

James: you know what they could get us for with these 13 Guatemalan girls they the feds could come right in

Kenya: that's what she was saying

James: and they could get us they could put us in prison for 50 years

Shira: exactly that's why you wanna think about this

James: this racketeering stuff

Kenya: I am not going to racketeering I am going to be acclimating them to our community

Shira: right but think about yourself you are 19 years old you are a pretty girl

Kenya: thank you

Shira: you do not want to go to jail for something that

James: so the solution is don't talk about it

Shira: you are 19 years old you are of age but you don't want you want to keep them clean. Let them go to school. Make sure they go to school.

Kenya: okay

James: but they can still work

Shira: they can still work but they need to go to school um basically... you want them to go to school you want them to get an education

Kenya: do you think that street smarts are better than book smarts

Shira: I think you need to have both

Kenya: both

James: & Kenya: hmm

Kenya: certainly a sobering conversation

Shira: yes but both let them you don't want them they came over here to get an education you can say you didn't know it because they are going to school

Kenya: okay I could say when they are at school and time after if they I could say I don't know they are doing recreational activities.

James: well they usually have recess right

Kenya: well that's kind of

high school that I am talking about but high schoolers can get out of school kind of early and maybe they can work then like in between

James: they could work on the weekends they could work week nights

Kenya: yea

James: that's when they get the most

business is at night

Shira: make sure they go to school

James: what's that?

Shira: make sure they go to school cover your ass

James: we'll make sure they go to school but after they get out of school they gotta work

Kenya: yea but after they get out to school I mean that's kind of down the road so they can be out of my hands so they will probably be

Shira: so when are they gonna be here

Kenya: um next couple of months maybe like the next two or three months

Shira: think about it. Take a week think about it really really for both of y'all

Kenya: There is some of them already here but they are not with me yet but the rest of the load will be here in the next 2-3 months

Shira: think about it though

James: think about?

Shira: taking young ladies in think about it because she is of age

James: yea

Shira: you are 22 years old

James: yea

Shira: you wanna be in politics

James: yea

Shira: you can always save another one and just keep your business you yourself

James: we wanna help these girls out though we wanna give them a better life

Shira: you wanna help them out but think about it. If I was your mother or I was your father because you know that you want to be in politics and she wants other things besides what she is doing later in life

James: mmhmm

Shira: so therefore think about it. You don't want her record to show up with your face and a number on it

Kenya: well part of the house he is not really going to be associated with the house

James: I am not going to be involved with the house that is why I am trying to get her independent

Shira: then get an older person in there

Kenya: an older person

Shira: to be like a-

Kenya: to be like a chaperone? For the girls?

Shira: a chaperone exactly... to cover your ass

Kenya: I mean sonny the guy I used to work for he was older. I can't

Shira: no I mean get a woman get a woman a woman an older person

Kenya: do you know anybody

Shira: no. who cooks cleans and does stuff

Kenya: I can cook and clean and I love

James: yea but you are so busy working

Kenya: I know

Shira: somebody that cooks and cleans and makes sure they get their homework done you have to have a chaperone. Cover your ass. You are in Baltimore cover your ass. And that is plain and simple

James: is there something different about Baltimore

Shira: no but for the line that she is in cover her ass.

James: okay

Shira: get someone who is matronly who doesn't give a shit about nothing who sees nothing knows nothing hears nothing.

James: are there people like that

Shira: yes

James: I work at Johns Hopkins how am I supposed to find people like that?

Shira: Call me maybe later and life and I'll see okay?

James: alright well when is this conference?

Kenya: August the 8th

Shira: I mean we do ask that you join ACORN

Kenya: okay

James: okay

Shira: okay it is \$120 a year or set

—

do you have a bank account

Kenya: no

Shira: we can do the cash thing if you want to I don't care

Kenya: didn't bring any cash

Shira: okay

James: we can come back tom

—

uh come back monday and give you cash if you want

Kenya: that be fine come back monday

James: alright

Shira: I am gonna talk to my daughter she has a business license too. And she can tell me some things too.

James: she has a what?

Kenya: your daughter has a business license?

Shira: yes and she can tell me some things too she is a very nice girl she is 31 years old she is very nice

Kenya: and what does she do

Shira: she actually she works for the government so she can give you some rules. And she is a very sweet girl my daughter is calm. My daughter is one of the most accepting persons I have ever known

Kenya: you are very passionate you are very direct too which I appreciate

Shira: she is the kind of person who can sit dow and say I remember a long time ago when she was a little girl she say this is-----[unintelligible]. She is just I don't pass judgement on nobody I am not here to pass judgement I am not God but you are very pretty and you are a very nice girl - so keep it simple keep it plain make sure everything goes cool. You want somebody in the house to say hey they are all going to school so in the end as long as the school calls

Kenya: and you know I can hop

—

like I am living paying the house and I'll have money on my own but hopefully I can maybe make a little bit more profit also

Shira: and put money in the bank like a pay check

Kenya: but I don't want a bank

Shira: you do want a bank account you got a house you want a bank account but you wanna put

James: we wanna use a lot of the money that we are getting

Shira: you don't wanna use all of it

James: no I am saying we want to use a lot of the cash for my campaign

Shira: but what I am saying is put like maybe 200 in the bank every week

Kenya: Every week 400 yeah..

Shira: yea but don't put a whole lot in the bank cause then the government

Kenya: cause like if all of a sudden cause I cant put all my cash that would be like I could not part with it.

Shira: put like 400 in the bank when you

James: and that way the government wont know

Shira: exactly cover your ass

James: got it. That's really helpful I cant thank you enough

Kenya: so monday we join ACCORN

Shira: yeah so let me get Tonja for ay but cover you know so they can say yea she has a house...
but you know cover your ass

James: thank you so much

Kenya: [whisper] how are we going to deal with this right now

James: [whisper] they are coming closer

Kenya: Time or Live Acme oh look at that its Looney Toons like when we were little

Tonja: This is me that's Tonja Thompson that's me

James: Oh do we have the Weather woman's business card does she have a card too

Kenya: well she is out in the front

James: oh shes out well we'll talk to her later

Tonja: let me explain to you...once you guys get a tax return

Kenya: [whisper] Tonja Thompson. [audible] who is Andrea?

Tonja: that is my partner who is back there

James & Kenya: okay

Tonja: if you after you get your tax return done you are gonna go though them to your housing.

Kenya: she talked about August 8th which we would go to the library

Tonja: and then they would go through the price and everything okay from now on when you are talking about your business performing artist dancing because if you say prostitution cause it is illegal you are going to get shut down.

James: by whom?

Tonja: anybody

James: but not you guys?

Kenya: that's because they are helping us

Tonja: she is not gonna say prostitution. See you are telling us this because we know what to say

Kenya: the system

James: you know what to say to whom?

Tonja: to people that you need to like the for the housing purposes for the tax purposes

James: okay

Tonja: you see what I am saying

James: so you are taking care of this for me

Tonja: I don't want you to say it to nobody

Kenya: we cant be like they are working a special favor for us we just need to know amongst ourselves that they are doing a favor for

Tonja: and if anyone asks you your business is a performing artist which you are okay so you not lying

Kenya: that is kind of boosting my ego saying

Tonja: performing artist. So stop saying prostitution

James: got it

Tonja: cause as soon as you say that people will shut you down because after you say that people don't want to hear what you are saying that is why the banks shut you down like they did because that is considered illegal

James: okay okay

Tonja: whereas a performing artist is not. So it's just a play on words sometimes

James: you got it we will comply

Tonja: so that's what you...And oh—

normally and I dont know if this is going to be a problem but to do a tax return for scheduled fee is normally 150 dollars but since you are trying to start out I am going to charge you 50 dollars okay alright. So I need some information. So you wanna do this now or are you gonna wait?

James: can we

—

we are going to come back on monday because we have cash we are going to bring cash to pay for our membership

Tonja: okay

Kenya: so she said 120 to join ACORN and you said how much?

Tonja: 50 I am just gonna charge you 50 because you are just starting out and its just you you got a small income so their shouldn't be a lot of paperwork to do ok so I am just going to charge you 50

Kenya: could you write 120 down too so that I remember and just write ACORN next to that?

Tonja: for housing... and this is for taxes.

Kenya: okay

Tonja: and you are coming when?

Kenya: monday

Tonja: monday is the..

Kenya: July ...what is today? Is today friday

Tonja: today is the 2Tonja: th

...25 27? Today is the day of my sisters birthday I remember that

James: did you call her?

Tonja: what time you coming here?

Shira: 12

Tonja: you told them 12?

Shira: I was gonna tell them 12 O'clock

Tonja: is 12 good for you

Kenya: uh just yes I'll work for you guys

Tonja: between 12 and 12 30 I will be here between that time

James: alright

Tonja: This is my number if you need me. What's your name

Kenya: Kenya

Tonja: and you?

James: James

Tonja: okay so that's in case yall call me I will know who you are. That's my number here I mean that's my cellphone number the number here you can reach me at-

Kenya: oh and does your email work?

Tonja: yes email. that's my email

Kenya: (to James) You have an email address right?

James: I do

Tonja: yeah that's my email my address that's my phone number because I do this from home. What you need done I do this from home. Cause you just dont have a regular tax return. ok

Kenya: right

Tonja: then I put the prices here this is the time for you to come back between 12 and 12 30 on the 29th the 27th?

Shira: um Monday

Tonja: I got 29 that's 27th okay

James: All right we will be back

Tonja: alright you got what you gonna say from now on alright

Kenya: we are not gonna talk about the girls and the girls

Tonja: right okay

[laughter]

Kenya: performing artist and the girls don't exist

Tonja: there you go yes

Kenya: and we are going to put them through school and which you know maybe I can mature a little bit you know putting girls through school.

Shira: after you pay for [unintelligible] then you can start paying for things or you can put it with proper name

Kenya: so once I start establish myself I can

Tonja: yeah once you establish yourself and you got money flowin in... and you got a house and you got other things that will be fine because you got paperwork to start to establish with so every year

Kenya: so have the established paper

Tonja: right we doing it this year for 09 every year we do a tax return it don't have to be a lot of money

Kenya: we can just like

Tonja: we can increase it a little

Kenya: its all cash so I can just decide what I want to

Tonja: right so increase it like 100 dollars each year you know what I am saying so you dont have a whole lot of income

Kenya: so maybe I could buy my next house in cash

Tonja: exactly

Kenya: wow that's exciting

Tonja: cool?

Kenya: thank you

James: let me give you a hug too

Shira: don't she look just giddy

Tonja: I told you she is just as cute as she can be

[Laughs]

Tonja: okay take care

Shira: see ya on Monday

Kenya: okay

James: Hannah I am going to get you in front of that ACORN sign

Kenya: a picture?

James: yea

Kenya: ok and by the roadrunner it is so funny

James: that's right

<http://biggovernment.com/2009/09/10/complete-acorn-baltimore-prostitution-investigation-transcript/>