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# Street Books Oral History Collaboration: Pop-up interview with Jeffrey Richard Reed Kautrolis VI

Narrator: Jeffrey Richard Reed Kautrolis VI

Interviewer: Devin Busby

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Transcribed by: Teresa Bergen

Busby: My name's Devin Busby. I'm here with Jeffrey Richard Reed Kautrolis VI and we're at the Trinity Episcopal Church. And you're going to respond to one of our prompts today.

Kautrolis: Okay.

Busby: And the question we have for you is what changes have you witnessed during your time in Portland?

Kautrolis: My time in Portland in the last two years from 2022 to 2024 has been interesting. I have been coming into Portland since the age of ten, which would be about 1972 with my first visit. I'm from Vancouver, Washington. I graduated from Fort Vancouver in 1980. I joined the 104<sup>th</sup> Training Division, Vancouver Barracks. Released in '86. So the Rocky Horror Picture Show was my first trip to Portland. That was my first experience.

In 2022, I came here. I joined the labor union, the 737 local labor union as a flagger. So I do traffic control services. With that being said, I've had different training and whatnot, but I've never really had a place to stay.

Back in 2011, I came here to Portland Community College to get a reeducation at the community college. And I was on the cuff of the streets for the first quarter, having a hard time maneuvering all the campuses, a place to stay and everything else. So I found this place called R2D2. Which was Occupy Portland time. It was in Chinatown. And there on the corner is where actually I found a place to actually sleep for a night. I then got in Transition Projects Day Center across from the Union Station. And the last

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time I was at the Union Station was when there was a Halloween party there. I actually participated in that years and years ago.

So in 2022, 2023, and the school educational thing was in 2012, 2011. So that's when I first actually became sort of a transient resident of Portland. Since 2022, I came here and went to TPI and was granted shelter at the navigational transition center on Naito Parkway. I stayed there for about four months. I then left for some personal reasons of my youngest daughter was getting, trying to get through a relationship.

So Portland for me has been a real savior as far as looking at the transitions over the last couple of years with the politics, the financial business, the urban developments, the continuations and reconstructions and the legalities of the state legislature, legislation and the governor's offices to sort of allow certain things to happen and allow things to do with the little keep Portland progressive on the freedom and right of free choice. So free choice is something that's really big for me, and respecting the right of others to have that choice is tremendously represented here in Portland like I've seen in no other country, state, town or enterprise as far as business or corporations go. So, I'm grateful. I'm grateful to be in Oregon. I'm grateful to be in Portland. And I'm grateful to be a resident of Portland.

Busby: That's wonderful. Thank you so much for answering that question. Did you want to talk about anything else? Or does that sum up what you wanted to say?

Kautrolis: Well, something important I wanted to say is thank you for allowing me to share my little brief history of 43 years. And I hope that others find your way through and I hope that you respect other people's freedom of choice.

Busby: Absolutely. Thank you so much. We appreciate it.

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[End Interview.]