

Verizon  
Up To Speed Live

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>> HEY, MOM, CAN YOU HELP ME WITH --  
>> WHAT THE HECK?

>> HEY!

>> WHO ARE YOU?  
>> I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M SEEING HERE --  
>> I HAVE A TWIN?  
>> I'M OBVIOUSLY THE BETTER-LOOKING ONE.

>> OH... I GET IT -- TWIN CITIES.

>> OUR STAYCATION ROAD TRIP IS DESIGNED TO BRING SMILES AND FUN TO EVERY DESTINATION WE VISIT AND WE WILL CERTAINLY DO THAT. MINNEAPOLIS, OF COURSE, KNOWN FOR ITS MANY LAKES, ITS MUSICAL ROYALTY, THANKS TO PRINCE AND AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO SAY THIS AS A BEARS FAN, THE VIKINGS ARE COOL TOO. I'D BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T MENTION THAT THIS VIRTUAL VISIT SHOULD COME WITH REFLECTION AND A CLOSER LOOK AT RACIAL JUSTICE.

>> THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD IN MINNEAPOLIS SPARKED NATIONWIDE PROTESTS AND PROMPTED ALL OF US TO EXAMINE WHAT IT TRULY MEANS TO BE BLACK IN AMERICA. YOU MAY RECALL OUR CEO HANS VESTBERG SHARING THIS EMOTIONAL MESSAGE.

>> I WANT OUR BLACK EMPLOYEES TO KNOW THAT THEY MATTER AND THEY ARE VALUED. ALTHOUGH, I DON'T SHARE THE SAME LIFE EXPERIENCE, I WANT TO LISTEN, UNDERSTAND, AND HELP.

>> IT BROUGHT TO THE FOREFRONT OUR DEDICATION TO ENGAGE IN HONEST DIALOGUE.

>> I THINK, YOU KNOW... WHAT HAPPENED TO MR. FLOYD WAS TRAGIC. I THINK WHAT IT HAS DONE IS REALLY MADE EVERYBODY THINK ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

>> THE WORK IS FAR FROM OVER, BUT VERIZON CONTINUES TO FORGE A PATH TOWARD STRONGER CONNECTIONS AND REAL CHANGE.

>> IT'S REALLY HARD TO FIX SOMETHING, UNLESS YOU FIRST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT, YOU KNOW... PARTS OF THE SYSTEM JUST AREN'T WORKING AND OVERALL, IT'S NOT PRODUCING THE RESULTS THAT I THINK ANY OF US WOULD WANT.

>> THERE'S A LOT TO UNPACK AND HERE TO GIVE US SOME PERSPECTIVE ON ALL THAT'S GOING ON IN MINNEAPOLIS, OUR FRIEND AND VERIZON COLLEAGUE, TANYA LAHTI. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, BUT AS FAR AS RACE RELATIONS GO, WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN PERSPECTIVES AND OUR OWN WALKS OF LIFE AND IT'S GREAT, YOU KNOW... THAT WE'RE ABLE TO HAVE DIALOGUE LIKE THIS IN A VERY OPEN MANNER.

>> I AGREE, ANDY. AS A WHITE WOMAN, I RECOGNIZE, I DON'T SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THOSE MOST-IMPACTED BY POLICE BRUTALITY. AND... THAT -- I DON'T THINK THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS HAS REACHED A HEALING POINT YET, BECAUSE... THE SOURCE OF THE CITY'S PAIN, REALLY, REMAINS UNADDRESSED. AS A VERY PROUD V TEAMER, I'M ENCOURAGED BY ALL THE WAYS WE'RE SHOWING UP IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

>> BEYOND YOUR WORK WITH VERIZON, YOU'RE SO CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE COMPANY'S COMMITMENT TO BRINGING REAL SOCIAL CHANGE, CAN YOU SHARE WHAT WE'RE DOING IN MINNEAPOLIS?

>> TANYA: WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE WHAT WE WERE DOING ON A MONTHLY BASIS WITH OUR FRIENDS, PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE, THE LARGEST TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FACILITY IN THE MINNEAPOLIS AREA, WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE THAT WORK AND TRANSFORM IT TO THE VOLUNTEER PLATFORM THAT VERIZON HAS PROVIDED TO US, IN A DIGITAL WAY AND SO... WHAT WE DID, WE GOT OUR FRIENDS THERE TO PROVIDE A LINK TO A TARGET SHOPPING LIST, COVERING VERY BASIC NEEDS. YOU CAN GO ONLINE, DONATE TO THE CAUSE, HAVE A LITTLE FUN SHOPPING, SPEND AS LITTLE AS \$2, BUT IT'S PROVIDED A RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE, NOT JUST IN MINNEAPOLIS, BUT FOLKS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, TO HELP OUR FRIENDS THERE, AND MAKE AN IMPACT IN AN AREA THAT WAS HARD HIT AND FRANKLY, FOLKS THAT NEEDED IT THE MOST.

>> ANDY: WHAT DRIVES YOU, TANYA? WHEN YOU GET UP EVERY DAY AND YOU'RE LOOKING TO GIVE BACK? WHAT TRULY DRIVES YOU?

>> TANYA: TWO NAMES FOR YOU, ANDY, SIERRA AND MCCAQ, THAT'S MY SON AND MY DAUGHTER. AND THAT IS WHY I COME TO WORK EVERY DAY. THAT'S WHY I CONTINUE TO WORK HARD, FIGHT HARD. MY CHILDREN ARE BI-RACIAL AND SADLY FOR ME, THE EVENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE MADE ME TAKE A STEP BACK AND

REALLY WONDER, OUT LOUD, HOW I COULD BE AND CONTINUE TO BE, A BETTER PARENT, A BETTER EXAMPLE, A BETTER CHAMPION IN MY COMMUNITY. I'VE ACTUALLY USED MY PRIVILEGE TO AMPLIFY BLACK VOICES TO REALLY BE A VOICE IN THE COMMUNITY.

>> ANDY: I KNOW YOU MENTIONED EARLIER THAT THE CITY DOESN'T FEEL HEALED. WHAT DOES HEALING LOOK LIKE TO YOU? WHAT WILL MINNEAPOLIS LOOK LIKE AS THOSE SCARS CONTINUE TO HEEL?

>> TANYA: IT'S HOPEFUL. I HAVE A FEELING WE CAN GET TO A PLACE OF REALLY TAKING A STEP TOWARD CREATING MEANINGFUL CHANGE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

>> ANDY: IN THE SPIRIT OF THAT HEALING, I WANT TO MAKE SURE WE CELEBRATE ALL THE DIFFERENT THINGS AND PLACES THAT THE TWIN CITIES CAN OFFER. CAN YOU SHARE WITH US, YOUR FAVORITE THINGS TO DO IN MINNEAPOLIS?

>> TANYA: SURE THING. ANDY, YOU NEED TO CHECK OUT THE WALKER ART CENTER, THAT'S A FOR-SURE, MUST-SEE. HOW ABOUT PAISLEY PARK? EVERYBODY LOVES PRINCE AND THE WORD ON THE STREET IS THAT THE BASEBALL SEASON IS STARTING UP. CHECK OUT TARGET FIELD, FOR SURE.

>> ANDY: WHAT'S THE IMPRESSION YOU HOPE PEOPLE HAVE WHEN THEY THINK OF MINNEAPOLIS, TODAY, AND TOMORROW?

>> TANYA: ONE OF HOPE AND EQUALITY, ANDY. A CITY THAT CAN TAKE A TRAGIC EVENT AND TURN IT INTO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL.

>> ANDY: TANYA, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU DO AND REPRESENTING VERIZON IN THE TWIN CITIES. YES... I'LL BE GOING BACK TO THAT WALKER ART CENTER. THAT'S THAT BIG SPOON, RIGHT?

>> YOU GOT IT!

>> ANDY: MOM AND I HAD A GREAT TIME VISITING THE WALKER ART CENTER'S FAMOUS SCULPTURE PARK JUST A FEW SUMMERS AGO. IT WASN'T TOO LONG AGO, VERIZON HELPED CONNECT FOOTBALL FANS TO THE BIG GAME AS MINNESOTA PLAYED HOST TO SUPER BOWL LII. LAST SPRING AND SUMMER, IT WAS ALL ABOUT BRINGING 5G TO THE TWIN CITIES, VERIZON BUSINESS GROUP LEADER TAMI ERWIN HELPED LAUNCH 5G IN MINNEAPOLIS BACK IN APRIL OF 2019. THEN JUST A FEW MONTHS LATER, ST. PAUL, HOME OF THE PEANUTS, JOINED THE 5G PARTY AS WELL. GOOD GRIEF, THOSE MINNESOTA SPEEDS ARE FAST, BUT... DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT. HALL OF FAMER AND FORMER VIKING RANDY MOSS GOT A FIRSTHAND LOOK AT THOSE 5G SPEEDS ALL WHILE SHOWING OFF HIS OWN FOOTWORK AT U.S. BANK STADIUM. AND HEY, CHECK OUT THAT QUARTERBACK, RANDY?

>> RANDY: STRAIGHT 5G, HOMIE, YOU'RE UP TO SPEED.

>> ANDY: NOW, RANDY'S NOT THE ONLY ONE GETTING EXCITED ABOUT HOW VERIZON'S SHOWING UP FOR CUSTOMERS. FROM ONLINE CHAT TO TOUCHLESS RETAIL, WE'RE GIVING CUSTOMERS MORE WAYS TO DO BUSINESS WITH US AND WE'VE BEEN GETTING GREAT FEEDBACK. CHECK OUT THIS TWEET FROM VERIZON CONSUMER GROUP LEADER, RONAN DUNNE. WE'RE USING THE HASHTAG HERE FOR YOU TO SHARE EXTRAORDINARY VERIZON CUSTOMER EXPERIENCES. POST YOUR CUSTOMER STORIES WITH A HERE FOR YOU HASHTAG OR SEND THEM TO OUR MAILBOX GOOD@VERIZON.COM.

OUR SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT WILL DEFINITELY GET YOU DROOLING. GET YOUR TASTE BUDS READY FOR MINNEAPOLIS' OWN DROOLIN' MOOSE.

>> MY NAME IS MISSY WETTSTROM. OUR COMPANY IS DROOLIN MOOSE CHOCOLATE DROPS. WE WANTED TO BRING SOMETHING NEW TO THE CHOCOLATE INDUSTRY THAT SERVICES ANYBODY THAT LOVES HIGH QUALITY CHOCOLATE AND IS LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT ITEM. RUNNING A SMALL BUSINESS IS A CHALLENGE. I'D CALL IT MORE OF AN ADVENTURE. THE CHALLENGES ACTUALLY MAKE US BETTER AT WHAT WE DO. COVID-19, IT CHANGED -- IT CHANGED A LOT. ACTUALLY, OUR CUSTOMER BASE, I THINK, EXPANDED. BECAUSE WE STARTED DOING FREE DELIVERIES, ONLINE ORDERING, CURBSIDE PICK-UP, DELIVERING SAMPLES TO THE PARKING LOT -- WE STILL WANTED TO MAKE OUR BRAND STAND OUT. DONATING AND REALLY SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY IS A BIG PIECE OF WHO WE ARE. DURING COVID, WE WANTED TO GIVE PART OF OUR PROCEEDS BACK TO THE HEALTH CARE WORKERS. OUR CUSTOMERS WOULD NOMINATE PEOPLE IN THAT INDUSTRY AND THEN 10% OF EVERYTHING WE SOLD, STARTING ON MARCH 16TH, FOR THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS, WE'D DONATE 10% BACK.

VERIZON HAS BEEN A FANTASTIC BUSINESS PARTNER AND IT HAS BEEN REFRESHING TO SEE WHAT THEY HAVE DONE FOR US SO FAR. WE USE VERIZON FOR, NOT ONLY OUR CELLULAR SERVICE FOR ALL OF OUR PHONES, BUT ALSO, IT'S BEEN IMPERATIVE WHEN WE'RE DOING OFF SITE SALES FOR ALL OF OUR PROCESSING, SO... WE CAN DO SALES REMOTELY. WE HAVE A VERY STRONG FOLLOWING ON FACEBOOK. LOYAL CUSTOMERS WHO ARE ACTIVE AND HAVE FANTASTIC OPINIONS AND ARE SO SUPPORTIVE. A BIG PIECE OF OUR BUSINESS IS TO SHOW THESE GUYS THAT WE NOT ONLY HAVE A GREAT PRODUCT, BUT WE ENJOY WHAT WE DO EVERY DAY. SINCE MINNEAPOLIS AND MINNESOTA, IN GENERAL, HAS SUCH A SMALL-TOWN VIBE TO IT, CUSTOMERS DO UNDERSTAND, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE BUSINESSES GOING, THEY HAVE TO SUPPORT THEM. BUT... IT'S GOTTA BE A GIVE AND TAKE. IT CAN'T BE ALL UP TO THE CUSTOMER. ALMOST TEN YEARS IN BUSINESS, OUR CUSTOMERS ARE THE

MOST-IMPORTANT THING TO THIS BRAND. THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.  
AND SUPPLYING A PRODUCT THAT PEOPLE CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH.

>> ANDY: WE'RE GOING TO PURCHASE 100 OF THOSE FAMOUS CUPS  
OF DROOLIN MOOSE CHOCOLATE ALL TO GIVE AWAY NEXT WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 5TH TO THE FIRST 100 FAMILIES THAT STOP BY DROOLIN MOOSE'  
ST. LOUIS PARK LOCATION. IT'S A SMALL WAY TO SAY THANKS TO A  
BUSINESS THAT BRINGS SO MANY SMILES TO THE TWIN CITIES.

>> ANDY: YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE RICH TO BE MY GIRL, YOU  
DON'T HAVE TO BE COOL --

>> ANDY: IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG DRIVE DOWN SOUTH ON THE  
NEXT STAYCATION ROAD TRIP -- IF THERE'S NO RADIO IN THERE.  
LET'S ROUND OUT MINNEAPOLIS WITH A LOCAL MUSICIAN, HERE'S  
FINDING NOVYON.

>> I JUST MIGHT WALK THERE.

>> SOUNDS A LOT BETTER WHEN PRINCE IS PLAYING.

>> THIS IS MY LIFE... IT'S REAL LIFE. I GOT SOMETHING,  
TRYING TO LAUGH TO THE BANK.

>> I'M FINDING NOVYON. I'M A 28-YEAR-OLD RAPPER, PRODUCER,  
ENGINEER. I'M FROM MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

>> CONCENTRATED, FOREVER FAMOUS. I'M HELL AND HATED,  
UNDER-RATED, BUT STILL A FAVORITE.

>> I WOULD DESCRIBE MY SOUND AS FUTURISTIC, URBAN,  
ECLECTIC, MY MUSIC IS REFLECTIVE OF EVERYTHING I LIVE THROUGH  
AND GO THROUGH.

>> THINK I WAS BORN AT BEING THE GREATEST, DON'T KNOW WHY I  
LOOK MY FANS RIGHT IN THE FACE, BUT I'M THE BRAVEST. WHY ARE  
PEOPLE WHO GET CELEBRATED SEEM TO PLAY IT SAFEST?

>> MY ACTUAL, LIVE, OFFICIAL STUDIO ALBUM WAS CALLED SINK  
OR SWIM. IT CAME OUT IN FALL OF 2018. THE ALBUM COMES FROM HOW  
WE KIND OF NAVIGATE THROUGH LIFE, LIFE CAN GET CUT-THROAT, AS  
WE'RE ALL EXPERIENCING NOW. WE MIGHT WANT TO GIVE UP SOMETIMES,  
BUT... THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IN LIFE IS KEEP GOING AND KEEP  
SWIMMING.

>> TOOK THE BROOKLYN OUT THE PARK... BEEN WORKING ON MY  
CRAFT... THESE RAPPERS ARE SOLDIERS, DIDN'T KNOW WE MUST BE A  
SERGEANT. AIN'T EVEN GOT THE BARS TO SIT DOWN YOUR ENTIRE  
SQUADRON.

>> OUR MUSIC SCENE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN VERY DIVERSE, VERY, VERY PRESTIGIOUS. FIRST AVENUE HAS THE BEST SHOWS I'VE EVER SEEN. IT'S JUST SO INTIMATE. FUN FACT IS THAT ONE OF PRINCE'S LAST SHOWS HE EVER WENT TO IN THE MAIN ROOM WAS ONE OF MY SHOWS. I THOUGHT PEOPLE WERE LYING, BUT... LIKE, PRINCE WOULD ALWAYS HAVE LIKE THIS MYSTIQUE ABOUT HIMSELF, HE WOULD JUST SHOW UP AND YOU WON'T EVEN KNOW.

>> ALL MY LIFE, I FEEL ALIVE. BUT THINGS BACK HOME HAVEN'T BEEN THE SAME WITHOUT ME.

>> MINNEAPOLIS STARTED SOMETHING VERY REVOLUTIONARY. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS KIND OF LIKE OUTSPOKEN, THIS KIND OF -- HAVE THIS FIRE WITHIN US. BEING A MUSICIAN IN MINNESOTA, IT'S IMPORTANT TO USE OUR VOICES. GEORGE FLOYD, YOU KNOW... IT'S TRAGIC, IT'S SOMETHING THAT, YOU KNOW... HAPPENS FAR TOO OFTEN IN OUR COUNTRY. WHEN IT COMES TO POLICE, AND HOW THEY INTERACT WITH CITIZENS, I JUST THINK THAT THERE SHOULD BE NEW LAWS IMPLEMENTED AND PEOPLE SHOULD BE TRAINED BETTER. WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

>> LOOK TO THE SKY, AND IT DIDN'T SOLVE ANYTHING. LOOKED IN YOUR EYES AND YOU LIED ABOUT MANY THINGS. I REALIZE THAT LOVE AIN'T ALWAYS GOING TO BE GLITTER AND GOLD. GLITTER AND GOLD. I KNOW YOU LIED TO PRETEND IT WAS THE ENEMY, BUT I WAS FINE AND MY MIND WAS THE ENEMY. I REALIZE THAT LIFE AIN'T ALWAYS GOING TO BE GLITTER AND GOLD, GLITTER AND GOLD. LOVE IS A LOSING GAME, BUT YOU KNOW, I HELD YOUR HAND THROUGH THE FLAMES. I COULD HAVE DONE YOU THE SAME. DISGUSTED BY EVERYTHING YOU BECAME, NOW I'M LOOKING TO CONTAIN IT. SHE SENT ME HER SALUTATIONS. I NEVER COULD VALUE FAVORITES, THAT'S NOT IN MY CALCULATIONS. LOOK... YOU WANTED TO ESCAPE, BUT I DID NOT COME WITH A CAPE. I WANTED TO KICK. SHE ONLY CARED ABOUT DATES. I MOVED OUT-OF-STATE, I GUESS THAT I NEEDED MY SPACE. NOW IT'S NOT THE SAME. BOTH OF OUR FEELINGS ERASED. BUT... IT STILL BOTHERS ME, HOW YOU GOING TO TRY TO BLAME ME FOR YOUR FAULTS? GIRL, THAT'S MONOTONY. ANEW DOESN'T EVEN LOVE YOU AT ALL. IT WASN'T ROBBERY. TALKING ABOUT THE WAY YOU STOLE MY HEART. I'M A MONSTROSITY. YOU SHOULD HAVE NEVER GOTTEN ME FROM THE START. IT DIDN'T SOLVE ANYTHING. LOOKED IN YOUR EYES AND YOU LIED ABOUT MANY THINGS. I REALIZE THAT LOVE AIN'T ALWAYS GOING TO BE GLITTER AND GOLD. GLITTER AND GOLD. I KNOW YOU LIED TO PRETEND IT WAS THE ENEMY. BUT I WAS FINE AND MY MIND WAS THE ENEMY. I REALIZED THAT LIFE AIN'T ALWAYS GOING TO BE GLITTER AND GOLD. GLITTER AND GOLD. YEAH YEAH.