

*DETROIT FREE PRESS REPORTER SCOTT TALLEY ON COVERING ARISE
DETROIT AND OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS*

Scott Talley is a veteran journalist and communications professional, who recently returned to the Detroit Free Press as a neighborhoods reporter. Scott's first Free Press story in his new role was a feature story about ARISE Detroit!, published Oct. 24. Scott spoke to ARISE Detroit! about that story, his new job, his connection to Detroit and more.

ARISE Detroit!: Scott, is the story you wrote about ARISE Detroit! the type of story we can expect from you regularly as a neighborhoods reporter for the Detroit Free Press?

Scott Talley: I sure hope that is the case. With the ARISE Detroit! story, I had an opportunity to write about three amazing Detroiters—ARISE Detroit! Founder Luther Keith; Mrs. Evelyn House, president of the Stoepel Curtis-7 Mile Block Club; and, the “Real” Coach Mims, a force of nature and simply one of the most unique and committed Detroiters that you will ever meet. And while telling the stories of those special people, I had an opportunity to chronicle the history of ARISE Detroit! and announce the organization's upcoming Neighborhood Summit. In some small way, I hoped to inspire our community and provide information about the upcoming Summit that could enhance the lives of anyone that decides to participate online on Nov. 6. The ARISE Detroit! story had amazing photos taken by Kimberly Mitchell, who I always enjoy working with and I was blessed to be able to submit the story to Senior News Editor James Hill, who loves Detroit as much as I do. The entire experience was a blessing and that experience makes me even more excited about future stories.

ARISE Detroit!: Scott, can you describe your connection to Detroit and the Free Press?

Scott Talley: Outside of the four years I spent living on the campus of Michigan State University, Detroit is the only place I have called home, and I am most proud of my Detroit home! I attended Bagley Elementary, Region Five (Hally) Middle School and Cass Tech, and as a middle school student I visited the Free Press for the first time with my class. I was already interested in being a writer/reporter, but I was totally convinced I had chosen the best career for me when I was stopped as my class was leaving the Free Press. Someone at the paper selected me to model a bandage that had just been created for Black and Brown people called Soul-Aid. The next day a picture of me wearing the bandage was in the Free Press on the same page with stories about Mayor Coleman Young and President Jimmy Carter. Right then I felt I may be destined for the newspaper business.

ARISE Detroit!: Scott, what do you want ARISE Detroit! Members to know about you?

Scott Talley: I want ARISE Detroit! members, along with everyone in the city of Detroit to know that I love Detroit and that I value the humanity of every resident. I want your audience to know that I am hungry to tell their stories and I want the narrative about our city to be truthful and reflect all of our dimensions. I am honored to cover Detroit's neighborhoods and I hope to engage with as many Detroiters as I possibly can. I want to write about people and subjects that are important to Detroiters and I humbly ask for our community's feedback and direction to help determine the stories I write about in the Free Press.

Scott Talley is a native Detroiter, a proud product of Detroit Public Schools and lifelong lover of Detroit culture in all of its diverse forms. In his second tour with the newspaper he grew up reading as a child, he is excited and humbled to cover the city's neighborhoods and community. Contact him at STalley@freepress.com or his new Twitter home @STalleyfreep

