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Summer 2000
Juliet Gregory: There was so much antagonism and obstruction to what I was trying to do that I became really desirous of getting out from under the mayor’s job. I went home one night, and I was telling my husband how terrible it was to fight these people in order to try to do them some good in spite of themselves. Because the programs and things that I was trying put over were constructive, but they were perpetual anti-Gregory, and they inhibited anything that I could do. So I said, “I’d just like to go back in the morning and resign.”

He said, “You just can’t do that.” He said, “You would give these people satisfaction, and they’re such a minority group and they aren’t constructive at all in any way. They’re just a protest group. They’re doing it publicly and privately to get you down.” So he said, “Look at the people who are progressive and who backed you and look at the people who voted for you. Still you don’t whether they’re backing you now or not, but at least they’re not obstructing you.” So he said, “You can’t do that. You have to represent those people. Then because they were supporters of yours and people that have turned from being against you in the vote are now pro, so you just have to represent them too. You represent the whole community. You can’t resign and let those people down that have supported you.”

Pamela Frasier: Oh, you didn’t tell me about her.

JG: At the Stop and Shop.

PF: No.

JG: She’s dead now. She was quite a prominent madam here, and she would come up to get her rooming house license from the city hall. She would drop in and talk to me a little bit. But when she saw me on the street, she would just give me a bare nod and smile. She didn’t want to embarrass me, because there has always been a stigma to that difference between an individual and being in the prostitution game. She didn’t want to embarrass me. Well, she was a taxpayer. I was entitled to speak to her, and she was entitled to speak to me. I felt that. It didn’t bother me, but she was afraid it would hurt me. These were double shelves—jams and spices on each side—and they were open. She would stand in front of one side, and she’d say...We didn’t make any date, but she would get there and she’d wait until I’d come there, so I knew that she wanted to talk me. I’d get on the other side, and she’d say, “Mrs. Gregory, just give them hell. You’re a damn good mayor. You’ve got more sense they have, and you’re keeping the city clean.” Here she was...Because I told her what I had told the police to tell them what to do, and so she came to me and asked me if what he said—the police chief—if what he said was true. And yes. But I corrected a few things and added a few things. She would say similar
remarks like that every time we would be in the Stop and Shop. So I’d get it either through the spices or through the jams.

[End of Interview]