

[0:00:03] spk\_0: awesome. I'm gonna pull it. Mhm. Yeah. Hey, awesome. Get started now. Sorry, I just had to pop up, wants to do a shutdown. We're not gonna do a shutdown. Okay. Hello everyone. My name is caramel green Founder and Ceo of poly platform and today we're back at it with another one thursday thoughts. Um A good friend of mine um we just recently I would say develop this relationship. Um you know, she's on today, do you mind introducing yourself and telling us who you are?

[0:00:41] spk\_1: Yes. Hi everyone. I'm Naomi faye, I'm the city clerk here at the city of Mill Creek At uh in Washington State. I'm originally from New York Brooklyn actually, and I've only been here for three years. Um I have a family, I have three Children. Um they're grown, my youngest is 20, I have a 23 year old and a 26 year old and I was really happy to raise them in the Hudson Valley in New York. So I'm happy to be here with all of you.

[0:01:15] spk\_0: Awesome. Well, Naomi, the biggest thing with thursday thoughts is we want to, you know, we typically interview someone who works within the public sector because we feel like a lot of times because interviews with people in the private space and things like that and you know, a lot of times when you hear local government or even state federal, whatever it may be. You know, people just have their own convoluted thought On what that may look like. And so that's what we wanna do, we want to learn more about who you are, what you do. Um and so, you know, to get going and and again, I would preface to this is 100% authentic, it's genuine. And so give us your real answers. Um and so can you tell us a little more about yourself, who is Naomi

[0:01:56] spk\_1: the other side of me, even before I went into local government, which was a big surprise, but after you go around the whole circle, you realize it's really not a surprise. Um but I um graduated with a journalism degree because I knew I was going to write a book one day when I was little. So that was like a very big thing for me. I'm a very creative artistic being, I love arts, I love music and I love writing. I have a published book. I just published a book with a friend of mine who lives in Switzerland. Um It's called Sacred Codes in Times of Crisis. And I actually wrote that book in transition from my work in new york to coming out here in Washington. I just delved into my artistry. So, I'll tell you my artistry is really um a surprise in a way of how it was developed. I'm an ordained interfaith minister. I went to a two year seminary in new york city. Um I was attracted to it because it was part of the United Nations were an NGO with the United Nations. And um after doing my journalism degree and working for a political newspaper and the editor was telling me write this story because they're taking an ad. I was like, I'm not doing this. I was like, no way I'm not going into politics and nobody's gonna tell me what to write. I actually actually landed um with a uh a nonprofit progressive educational program and it's called, it was called Resolving Conflict Creatively Program. And I was in my twenties and I was like a sponge and I worked with really progressive new york city teachers and there I was trained in conflict resolution peace education. So I was attracted to the seminary and come back around which is an N. G. O with the United Nations and somebody said, did you ever think of becoming a minister? I was like, heck no that's not me. I was like I don't, you know, I grew up catholic and it was very or or authoritative and I never saw myself as somebody that would lead or take that

kind of role. So um I was raising my Children, my friend kept saying that for like three years we bought a house I was moving and I said to myself, oh nobody knows me where we're going to move, it would Naomi wannabe what should Naomi be like, I don't have to only be a

[0:04:30] spk\_0: mommy. And

[0:04:31] spk\_1: That's how I found out about the seminary. So that was back in 2005, I've been an ordained minister for over 15 years. Um, but the beauty of it was not a religion was more of a peace initiative, a spiritual organization where I got to actually merge my conflict resolution skills and my teaching skills with more of a deeper aspect of it, more of a spiritual base. Um, so I just created programs for Children for adults. I started my first women's circle just because I was on a quest to be happy. Basically.

[0:05:13] spk\_0: This is the main reason why we do this thursday thoughts, why we want to interview people in the public space because once everyone has a story and what you just did noted is amazing because who would have thought, right, I again, and just to let you all know in the crowd. This is not scripted. I had no idea about this. This is insane. And so you mentioned that you just published a book. Can you elaborate on what that book is? What does it talk about? Um, and where consumer, our viewers access this book?

[0:05:42] spk\_1: Yeah. So it's called Sacred Codes in Times of Crisis. And I co wrote it with a woman that I was part of another nonprofit was an international nonprofit um organization, um, called the mentors of love and wisdom. So a spiritual being. I was always a lifelong learner. I took this program. I did this program for over 10 years. It was for my own spiritual growth and development. Self help development. Um, so during that time I worked with this woman for a long time. We meditated together, We talked, we cried together. We um she's all the way in Geneva Switzerland and her life was very similar to mine. She had three Children. She was going through a divorce, just like me. It was, it was kind of crazy. And I was telling her about this idea that I had and she says, oh, I have all the artwork with it. And I was like, well, okay. And then it was the artwork and my words and we were putting this whole program together and I said, we're gonna do this whole online platform. And because, you know, I have, I have a lot of ideas, let's let's just say I have a lot of ideas and that kind of just developed when we had a lot of content. And I said, I think we have a book here. And she says, oh no, no, no, you're going to write the book, I'm not the writer, we're not gonna do this book. And I was like, okay, that's fine. And like, three days later I was contacted by um an acquisitions editor on facebook. They didn't have my phone number because I was known in the community of the work that I was doing. And they said, hey, you know, do you ever think of writing a book about your work? And I just had to pack up, like, seriously? So yeah, so then I knew it wasn't really me pushing it, I knew there was something bigger that there was a message that I had to put out there, but I didn't write the book yet, that was the whole thing, so she was like, okay, you know, come up with a proposal, so I had to sit down, I was like, well what am I going to

[0:07:48] spk\_0: write?

[0:07:50] spk\_1: And actually, the inspiration came from my work in local government, because it was a surprise that I was in local government, I I did it for my family, I never thought I wanted to work for local government, and was that was even though it was a full time job, that wasn't who I really was, that was my side job, but all that experience of just working in a distressed um in Newburgh new york, and being part of the leadership really made me think like, well what are we going through and how can I make it authentic through my own process?

[0:08:28] spk\_0: Interesting, interesting, and we're going to get into that too, like what is the why? And then what is authentic even mean to you? But I'm curious to, kind of still here, and so, is this book published? Is it is it complete,

[0:08:39] spk\_1: it is, it was published just june of this year, I believe, with mango publishing, you can find it on amazon, there's an audible, there's uh an audible book with it, but basically it it's not a book that's logical or sequential where you read chapter one all the way to the end. It's more about different topics and we received messages from our higher selves, you know, just like, you know, when you have a profound thought or wisdom and you write that down, that was pretty much the whole book. Um

[0:09:14] spk\_0: yeah,

[0:09:15] spk\_1: so it's a channel text. Yeah,

[0:09:17] spk\_0: that's awesome. And what can you say the name again for the viewers and listeners?

[0:09:21] spk\_1: Sacred codes in times of crisis.

[0:09:24] spk\_0: Okay, awesome. We'll put that in the description. Okay,

[0:09:27] spk\_1: great, awesome.

[0:09:28] spk\_0: Well, so in kind of your elaboration, you touched on how local government was kind of a side job. You didn't know that that was something that you even wanted to do. And so, you know, this shifts into like the next curiosity that I have is like, well, how in the world did you get into local government? Like, make that make sense for me? How did that, how did that happen?

[0:09:47] spk\_1: Yeah, I think it was kind of by mistake, you know, just like becoming a minister was not never what I ever thought. I mean, the only plan I really had was to write a book and I didn't know how that was gonna happen. Um and I did self publish a book called blessing of the Day before. Sacred codes in times of crisis. And I wrote that book before, Covid. So it was very timely in in the whole pandemic. But your question, how did I get into local government? I was a mommy. We bought a house and and my ex husband was like, well you need to get a job. I was like, but I can't just work, I can't just do anything, you know, because I was, I went into seminary when my Children were little. Um it was a two year program, but I was able to do it and I was like, no, you need to do this. And since I'm a

writer, I I could type really fast. And there was an ad that said senior typists, this is what local municipality, they have these really archaic job titles. So Naomi thought, well she was going to do is like, I'll go in there and I'll type and then I'll leave and I can still,

[0:10:58] spk\_0: because local government is simple, you know?

[0:11:02] spk\_1: Yes. Okay. So and it was a part time job too. So I was like, yeah, apply, okay, fine, you have to take a test. So I thought I was just coming in to take a typing test, but it was like a three hour test. So you take a three hour test. I think there were like 60 people that took the test. Um there was maybe three people that 6 to 3 people that passed the test. And I got the interview.

[0:11:29] spk\_0: Okay.

[0:11:30] spk\_1: And then as a senior typist, it was for the engineering department and during the interview, the engineer said, well what do you know about engineering? I said, well, I know not to call you an architect. And he just started to laugh. I was like, I just got to make sure I'm not gonna call you an architect because I had friends who are um has a PhD structural engineer. So I knew about it and engineering actually, I'm very curious about it. I'm curious about how things are invented in the structure of it. But my ability to learn is big. I may not know everything, but my ability to learn is really big. And um I guess I was I could type and the person he really wanted could not. I got the job.

[0:12:18] spk\_0: And so so what are you working? So you work for the city of Mill creek in Washington state? Yes. And so what do you do exactly? What is your role, what does that that scope of work look like from the day to day basis?

[0:12:29] spk\_1: Okay. So I started an engineering department in in new york in local government. And after four years of that I was promoted to the executive assistant to the city manager and to the city council. The mayor and the city council. I did five years of that. And and during that time then I took a pause, wrote the book and I was called out to come to Washington to be the city clerk. So I took that role um as an interim just to see if I even liked um the area. So in, in Washington here, city clerk, I did a lot of the same roles where you assist the city council and the city manager for the day to day operations of the city. So it's kind of like the right hand of what is needed, not only to the city manager but to the leadership group or the management group. So I'm kind of like what people say around here is like, oh, Naomi is the glue. So the official thing that the clerk does is um is the holder of the record. So I'm I'm pretty much the seal of all of the city that attest to all the records that come into here. And I don't take that lightly because if I'm the record keeper, then I have to make sure that I'm sharing that information. Right? So I'm a writer already. So this is I'm kind of the channel to the department heads and other staff to the executive office as well as to our citizens and the people that I serve

[0:14:03] spk\_0: basically. And so you touched on something that's important and you know, this, we've done multiple interviews, you know, throughout the time. And I think the biggest thing too is a lot of the residents, you talked about, you know, citizens, residents,

etcetera. What is something that you want residents to know when it comes to resources when it comes to, you know, local government as a whole, there's gonna be some viewers and listeners on here that may not work in the municipal space but can benefit from it because for the most part people live in either a town city or it might be unincorporated, who knows? But for the most part cities and towns and so what would you want residents to know when it comes to resources and things that actually can be a benefit for them?

[0:14:44] spk\_1: Yeah. I think the ability, it's process when residents know what the process is then then it's not all jumbled and confusing. Um and then once you know the process then you have more and more access to information,

[0:15:02] spk\_0: which is which is hugely important and you know, I I just got off, you know, a call earlier today and you know, I was talking speaking with another city and I you know, they talked about, you know access and I think this goes into the why, why I'm doing this podcast, Why even created the company that I have. And I think you touched on something really important because access to information, especially in this day and age, which is even more apparent. Um and when you don't have that access, especially from a governmental standpoint, your power diminishes. And so can you elaborate on the importance of access to information?

[0:15:34] spk\_1: Yes. So I think that's the biggest resource we are here to serve, right? But people don't really understand that or how to get it? Right? So that access to information? Because whatever information you want can be varied could be very different. I mean when I'm just talking with my friends, I have a lot of information from about sewers to parking to everyday life. Of what your how your everyday life of what you need, right? And anything could be like, oh you need that. You should find about find out about this. Not so much that there's um that they're okay if you want something Notarized. Okay that's fine. The city clerk could do that but actually you can get it for free if you come into the city hall instead of going to um you

[0:16:24] spk\_0: know,

[0:16:25] spk\_1: Do you see or you go to your local mailing company they're gonna they're gonna charge you \$10 per signature and you have all these documents and you're paying \$60 for somebody to notarize when you could have went to city hall and they would have done it for free. You know, stuff like that. You know and whatever your your question is or that you're curious about. I can help you where I feel that's what municipal government should do is give access. Tell people give the information of where they can find what they're looking for.

[0:16:59] spk\_0: And I think that's important is the transparency that allows for that, right? And that goes into, you know, you mentioned alluded a few times when talking about yourself is authentic. Right? And so my question to you is you know, what does living an authentic life mean to Naomi? What does that, what does that mean?

[0:17:20] spk\_1: Yeah, that's really big for me. I think that's my biggest mission and purpose. If if you were gonna ask, you know what is Naomi's mission and purpose is to live an authentic life that is in my own integrity, that is of service um to myself and others in the most viable, vibrant, enthusiastic as well as truthful,

[0:17:51] spk\_0: wow, that one, I think that was poetic and that and that was deep, but I think it's it's what's needed, right? Especially with so much stuff that goes on. I you know, I think that just you know, the information overload sometimes it may diminish even our moral compass or why we're doing what we're doing. And so the fact that that is a mission for you is to be authentic with so much artificiality around this is beautiful to hear. Um you kind of touched on it, but you know, I would like to kind of hear it articulated as well as what is your goal in life? From a, from a profession standpoint, from a career standpoint. Do you feel like you wanna moreover, you know, be a writer, do you want to be a city administrator? Are you content with what you're doing now? What does that look like? You

[0:18:35] spk\_1: know, I think it does go back to living an authentic life where um I'm somebody that always asked the question of like, okay, where will I serve, where will I best be needed? I mean I had a lot, I have a lot of goals, you know, and I have a mission and I'm going to do this, but as as I've gotten older now, I kind of stepped back like, where am I needed and where, what is the best expression of

[0:19:02] spk\_0: me? Okay,

[0:19:04] spk\_1: so um do I want to be a city administrator? No. Did I ever want to be a city clerk? No. Um but do I want to be a writer? Absolutely. Do want to do, I want to express my creativity. Absolutely. So however, I can do that. Um then I'm, I'm living that authentic life. Do I see myself in local government longer. No, and when I first went into local government, I thought I would only be there for two years, right? So I'm kind of cautious to say Naomi wants to do this because you know, the universal say, oh really, you really think you want to do this because during a time where as an interfaith minister, I was doing many, many weddings, I was teaching programs. Um I had a radio show, an internet radio show. I published my own book, I was doing all this stuff and, and I did weddings for famous people. So um I was like, I got this, you know, I was like, yeah, I got this spiritual stuff and the universe like, oh you really think you got this like, okay, so we're gonna be promoted into the executive office in the city of Newburgh and we're gonna see if you really can walk your talk and model what you say in a place where everybody is telling, you know yes, you can teach people that, want to learn Naomi, but like can you be in a place where everybody is going to be resistant to change or or being authentic because authenticity takes courage and then the more that you're authentic, you have confidence in that because you're you know yourself more, that's what authenticity is,

[0:20:46] spk\_0: you just say something that I think is is heavily important because a lot of times, you know, I I think that this goes into like my theory on how I how I conceptualize things is that I think most people you know have an intention to do good and to be good um however, if you don't know yourself, i e. Being authentic with yourself to be able to look into

the mirror to be able to reflect how can you bestow that in the world. And so I think logically speaking, right, A plus B equals C, you know, to just start at B and say I want to help people, but you don't even know yourself, you might be doing something that that could that could be potentially problematic, that can be counterintuitive and so authenticity. You hear that a lot from a cliché standpoint, however, you don't actually hear people necessarily articulate like that's their goal in life, right? It's kinda typically the B and the C. Like after authenticity. And so the fact that you've articulated, I think that that is extremely powerful. That's one of the things that I'm gonna take, because I think in order to do whatever you want to do in the world, right? I want to change the world as as broad and cliché that is, but I need to first be able to evaluate who Camel Green is and look in the mirror and so for you to articulate that today man, that's that's powerful um and beautiful. For sure. Um as we close things out, um I always tell people right, this is not just me interviewing you um are there any questions you have for me and I just into the crowd, I just threw on the spot for this one. So, you know, it's coming up, you know, potentially you know slower, but you know, again it's it's free flow. What question do you have for for come out?

[0:22:26] spk\_1: I think that came very clear and I think that's why I was why I fell like he's my friend right when we were talking because I was very like inspired by what you were creating. So my question would be like what you want to change the world, but like what really inspires you to choose every choice that you make, right and and what you want to manifest in the world. I mean creating policy platform like who does that? Like who really doesn't

[0:23:01] spk\_0: know? I think you touched on something that that's important. I always recite, um, I can distinctly remember um, in my debate class in high school, um, the Gettysburg address four scores and seven years ago our forefathers brought forth from this continent, a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all all men are created equal. Um however, yes, 100%. Um, I think all men are created equal to a certain extent. Um, and I think when we start to look at it at even micro levels, like even starting with, you know, american itself, you know, there's there's obviously a lot of disparities, disparities and discrepancies across the, you know, from a, from a lot of demographic standpoint, racial standpoint etcetera. And so for me, the conceptualization of policy platform, what that brings is the bill for residents at any demographic level. For the most part to have access to information to have access to government in this day and age power is government. They're the ones who dictates legislation. They're the ones who dictate policy and for me in order to make the plane feel more level so that people can have access to this quote unquote american dream. They first have to have access to have control what potentially may happen to them from a governmental standpoint? And so a war is fought on multiple different fronts. And so, you know, my front is I want to be able to afford the knowledge to, you know, the people on on, on the lower social economic standpoint to the mid to the high, I wanted to be more representative. And so that's why policy platform is here is so that, you know, more, you know, residents have the ability to know what's going on within, there'll local municipality as we know, you know, you're the stronger, the main form of government that you face every day is not necessarily federal state, it's your local

government. Um, and so that's kind of why we built that. And that's just the first, the first goal that I have, you'll hear a lot, you know, and you know, again, this is moreover, a strong means to an end to allow and facilitate this access to information which you've denoted very well throughout this interview. And so hopefully that context answers your question. It

[0:25:12] spk\_1: does. The inspiration comes from you to empower people because, you know, we heard this knowledge is power, everybody hears, oh, knowledge is power. But then you have a stereotype of what you think that knowledge is right and that you think you need to go to to like a four year school or get a PhD or, or anything like that when the knowledge is going to your local government and asking so how do I actually get this sidewalk fixed or um right? That, you know, it's it's very basic and simple but very profound to know, and you're empowering people through information, which will give them confidence to know themselves even more because it's everybody's divine, right? That's what we're saying. We're we are this equality, it's our divine right, and we're here to remind people that this is one of your rights.

[0:26:08] spk\_0: I don't even need to continue speaking after that was well articulated again, I'd say poetic, I think this is the second time, but that was it. And so, you know, as we conclude this, I want to say, thank you Naomi fe um city clerk for the city of Mill Creek in Washington state. Thank you so much.

[0:26:25] spk\_1: Thank you. I really enjoyed this

[0:26:28] spk\_0: awesome, wow, I'm gonna stop that record.