**Nashville City Cemetery**

**Connecting Our Past, Present, and Future**

**(Slide 1)**

Good Afternoon Everyone,

My name is Marvin Short and I’m here to talk to you today about the Nashville Cemetery.

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Have you ever walked through a cemetery and seen all the names etched in stone and wondered “Hmmm… I wonder what happened to them?” Well, if you’re anything like me, you probably cringed at the thought of even being in a cemetery. Am I right? They’re dark, they can be scary, overgrown with weeds, and let’s just be honest... they’re usually the scene of horror movies.

Well, my whole perspective on cemeteries changed after jumping into the world of Data Analytics. I had the opportunity to obtain burial data from the Nashville City Cemetery, and I must admit… my eyes have been opened, and my perspective has changed.

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I no longer see death, sorrow, and gloom. Through data, I see the rich color that history provides. The Nashville City Cemetery connects our Past, Present, and Future. But how?

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**Connection to Our Past**

The Nashville City Cemetery was established in 1822 and is more than just a resting place for those that are no longer with us. It’s history and legacy. Through the burial record data, we know that Nashville’s founder, James Robertson is buried there. And we also know that former President James K. Polk is buried there.

Digging a little deeper into the data, we can find that one of the oldest burial entries on record is the infant daughter of a man named William Smith that passed away of unknown causes in February 1846. It’s not surprising that her last name is Smith because the Top 5 most frequent last names buried at Nashville City Cemetery are 1) Smith, 2) Brown, 3) Johnson, 4) Jones, and 5) Williams. Now, what I also noticed with the data is that the cause of death of infants in the early days of Nashville was either an unknown, still born, or teething. But later in history, Cholera outbreaks would cause burial numbers in the range of 1500 per year, which was extremely high for such a small population in the early days of Nashville.

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**Connection to Our Present**

Nashville City Cemetery today is a small slice of old historic Nashville being squeezed in from all directions by a booming and thriving new Nashville with urban sprawl and double-digit property value increases.

What is Nashville City Cemetery doing to sustain itself today? They offer guided themed tours with actors dressed for the period, host events with historic themes, and host a Memorial Day 5K Dash. They also actively solicit people and organizations for sponsorship.

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**Connection to The Future**

There is a Board of Directors that governs all major decisions and expenditures to ensure fiscal responsibility now and in the future.

Investments in the restoration of tombstones, landscaping, and a groundskeeping staff have helped to preserve the cemetery but it’s a nonstop battle against the weather and vandalism that MUST be sustained so future generations can enjoy visiting the cemetery.

So, I invite you to come to the Nashville City Cemetery. Take a walk and explore the historical archives, read the stories, and enjoy nature.

And if you feel so inclined, consider donating to our cause so we can continue to

1. Preserve the Past
2. Enjoy in the Present
3. Keep Stories Alive for Future Generations

Thank you.