

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Charles Morrow, III

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Morrow, Charles, III, 1956-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Charles Morrow, III,
Dates:	July 21, 2000
Bulk Dates:	2000
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:38:12).
Abstract:	State representative The Honorable Charles Morrow, III (1956 -) represents the 32nd district of Illinois and was first elected in 1987. Prior to that, Morrow worked for People's Gas and the Coca Cola Company for eighteen years. Morrow was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 21, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2000_057
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Charles Gay Morrow III was born on July 21, 1956 in Chicago, Illinois. His mother worked for the Chicago Housing Authority for twenty-six years, and his father was an assistant to Illinois Representative Raymond Ewell. The oldest of two children, Morrow attended De La Salle High School and was an honor student despite suffering from a speech impediment. In 1974, he entered the Illinois Institute of Technology, which at the time had only sixty-seven African American students.

Upon graduation, Peoples Gas and the Coca-Cola Company hired Morrow, where he worked for eighteen years. Then Morrow worked for the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Chicago. Morrow's interest and expertise in sanitation and public works made him a viable political candidate and would shape the focus of his political career.

Despite opposition by then-mayor Eugene Sawyer, Morrow was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1986 from the 26th District. Since then, Morrow has acted as chairman of the Appropriations-Public Safety Committee, co-chair of the Legislative Printing Unit and the vice-chairman of the Public Utilities Committee. A participant in the National Conference of Black Legislators, Morrow also finds time for membership in his neighborhood block club. On July 17, 1993, Charles Morrow married Sherri Harris. They are the parents of three sons, named Charles Jr., Michael and Stephen.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Charles Morrow, III was conducted by Adele Hodge on July 21, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. State representative The Honorable Charles Morrow, III (1956 -) represents the 32nd district of Illinois and was first elected in 1987. Prior

to that, Morrow worked for People's Gas and the Coca Cola Company for eighteen years.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Morrow, Charles, III, 1956-

Hodge, Adele (Interviewer)

Bieschke, Paul (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Morrow, Charles, III, 1956---Interviews

African American legislators--Illinois--Interviews

African American politicians--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews

Illinois Institute of Technology

Chicago (Ill.)--Politics and government

Streeter, Allan

Illinois. General Assembly. House of Representatives

State governments--Officials and employees--Interviews

Washington, Harold, 1922-1987

Apportionment (Election law)--United State--Illinois

African American politicians--Illinois--History

Political campaigns--Illinois

Early childhood education

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Illinois

Occupations:

State Representative

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Charles Morrow, III, July 21, 2000. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Charles Morrow, III, Section
A2000_057_001_001, TRT: 0:30:55 ?

Charles Morrow describes his childhood as he names high and low points of his youth. He discusses his parents' personalities and how they influenced his move into the political realm. Morrow talks about his formal education and lists teachers who inspired him along the way. He remembers his experiences at the Illinois Institute of Technology and talks about his academic career there as well as his social life during that time. Morrow explains his first job after graduation and talks about how he transitioned into politics.

African American legislators--Illinois--Interviews.

African American politicians--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

Illinois Institute of Technology.

Chicago (Ill.)--Politics and government.

Streeter, Allan.

Illinois. General Assembly. House of Representatives.

State governments--Officials and employees--Interviews.

Washington, Harold, 1922-1987.

Apportionment (Election law)--United State--Illinois.

African American politicians--Illinois--History.

Political campaigns--Illinois.

Early childhood education.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Charles Morrow, III, Section
A2000_057_001_002, TRT: 0:30:40 ?

Charles Morrow discusses his early years on the political scene. He talks about being disliked by fellow representatives and of the strides he made to secure himself in good standing with his peers. Morrow details his nomination as representative for the State of Illinois. He remembers experiences during his first years in Springfield, Illinois and talks of some lessons he learned in making and voting upon legislation. Next, Morrow talks about the effects of Chicago's Democratic machine on downstate politics. He gives details to a situation that arose with Alderman Allan Streeter and how he was able to save his political integrity. Morrow names his political mentors in the Illinois state legislature and speaks in detail about Harold Washington.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Charles Morrow, III, Section
A2000_057_001_003, TRT: 0:30:59 ?

Charles Morrow details the rules for redistricting and how it affects his constituency. He then profiles today's African American politicians, citing examples on how they've changed over the years. He then discusses how he separates his family life and political life and mentions ways he regulates his work schedule now that he's married with children. Morrow talks about the accomplishments for which he would like to be remembered. Next, he gives advice on how to get young people more involved in local politics. He explains why his mother had to nominate him on his first run for the Illinois state legislature. Morrow narrates photos documenting his childhood and political career.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Charles Morrow, III, Section
A2000_057_001_004, TRT: 0:05:38 ?

Charles Morrow narrates photos from his career.