

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Audrey M. Edmonson

PERSON

Edmonson, Audrey M., 1953-

Alternative Names: Audrey M. Edmonson;

Life Dates: January 27, 1953-

Place of Birth: Miami, Florida, USA

Residence: Miami, FL

Work: Miami, FL

Occupations: City Commissioner; Mayor

Biographical Note

Audrey M. Edmonson was born on January 27, 1953 in Miami, Florida. She graduated from Miami Jackson Senior High School in Miami, Florida in 1971. Edmonson earned her A.A. degree in psychology from Miami Dade College in 1991, and her B.A. degree in psychology from Florida International University in 1994. Edmonson received her dual M.S. degree in marriage family therapy and mental health counseling from Barry University in 1997.

In 1997, she was elected as a councilperson to the Village of El Portal City Council in Florida. In 1999, she was elected mayor of the Village of El Portal, Florida and became the city's second African American mayor. During the same year, Edmonson began working as a trust specialist in the Miami Dade Public School system. Edmonson was re-elected three successive terms and became the municipality's first mayor to be elected by residents rather than by the members of the Village Council. Under her leadership, the Village hired its first Village Manager. In 2005, when she was elected as commissioner for the 3rd District on the Miami-Dade County Commission. She was re-elected three more times and in 2010 and 2016, she was elected to serve as vice chair. In 2018, Edmonson was elected to serve as president of the Miami-Dade County Commission.

Edmonson was chairwoman of the Housing and Social Services Committee and the Building Safer Neighborhoods Sub-Committee. She also served as vice chairwoman of the Transportation and Public Works Committee and the Chairman's Policy Council, and as a member of the Youth Crime Task Force. She served as the vice chairwoman of the Miami Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) Board of Directors. Edmonson was

appointed to the Miami-Dade County HIV/AIDS “Getting to Zero” Task Force and served as Chairwoman of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) I-395 Signature Bridge-Aesthetic Steering Committee. She also serves on the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust and the Public Health Trust nominating councils, the Public Health Trust/Miami-Dade Annual Operating Agreement Committee, the Jackson Health System Obligation Bond Citizens’ Advisory Committee and the County Advisory Task Force for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program Planning and Implementation Project which is referred locally as Project PEACE: People Engaged and Advocating for Community Empowerment. Vice Chairwoman Edmonson serves as the Vice Chair of the International Trade Consortium Board.

In addition to her work as a city commissioner, Edmonson was also involved in many different community organizations. She was a member of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and the Links, Incorporated. She also helped create the Miami Children’s Initiative in 2006, where she served as a board member. Edmonson served as a board member for the Frost Science Museum, the JMH Citizen’s Advisory Board, and the JMH Nominating Committee. Edmonson was recognized for her community work by South Florida Magazine, which named her one of “South Florida’s 50 Most Powerful Black Professionals.” Edmonson has two children, Dr. Ebony Nicole Dunn and Louis Ivory Edmonson and three grandchildren.

Audrey M. Edmonson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 10, 2017.

Related Entries

Barry University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

M.S.

Florida International University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Miami Dade College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Miami Jackson Senior High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Georgia Jones-Ayers Middle School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Lenora Braynon Smith Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Liberty City Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Eastern Airlines [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1972 to 1987]

Flight Attendant

AT Services [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1987 to 1991]

Owner

Village of El Portal [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1997 to 2005]

Council Member/Mayor

New Horizons Community Mental Health Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1997 to ?]

Counselor

Miami Dade Schools [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1999 to 2017]

Trust Specialist

Miami Dade County [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2005 to 2017]

County Commissioner

Top Ladies of Distinction [MEMBEROf]
[from 1991 to ?]

Member

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority [MEMBEROf]
[from 1994 to ?]

Member

The Links, Inc. [MEMBEROf]
[from 2010 to ?]

Member