Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Patricia Hill

Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator: Hill, Patricia
Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Hill,
Dates: June 25, 2002
Bulk Dates: 2002
Physical Description: 4 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:57:32).
Abstract: Community activist and police officer Patricia Hill (1951 - ) is chair of the African American Police League. Hill was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 25, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification: A2002_081
Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

The oldest of three children, Patricia Lynne Hill was born on July 10, 1951 in Chicago, Illinois. Her parents, Lucille Fleming and Hercules Richardson, migrated from the South. Hill (then Richardson) earned a diploma in 1968 from Harlan High School. As a youth, Hill excelled in athletics, touring the nation with Chicago's Mayor Daley Youth Foundation track team, where she was mentored by Olympians Willye White and Ira Murchison. Hill barely missed making the U.S. Olympic Team in 1968 at the finals in Pomona, California. In the 1970s, she was a pioneer in women's professional basketball as a member of the Chicago Debs.

Hill attended Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, but moved back home to finish her B.S. at Chicago State University. She spent her last year as a physical education instructor in the Chicago Park District, and then used her degree to become a public school teacher in 1974. Finally, Hill turned to a career in law enforcement in 1986, serving as a bodyguard to Mayor Harold Washington in 1987.

An outspoken community-oriented police officer, Hill served as both president and executive director of the African-American Police League. She brought her views on racial profiling of drivers and controversial shootings of civilians by police officers to such venues as the Medill School of Journalism and the Chicago Headline Club. She is a sounding board for the black media on important crime and safety issues.

A member of the Black United Front and the National Black Police Association, Hill has also worked with Demico Youth, a cultural arts program serving the Cabrini Green housing project, where she developed the now famous Near North Little Leagues. She threw her hat into the political arena in 1999 when she unsuccessfully ran against Dorothy Tillman for the Third Ward aldermanic seat. Hill has three adult children: Trennie, Stacy and Ronald.

Coyle, Daniel. 'Hardball.' 1987.
Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Patricia Hill was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 25, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacam SP videocassettes. Community activist and police officer Patricia Hill (1951 - ) is chair of the African American Police League.

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:

Hill, Patricia
Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)
Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Hill, Patricia--Interviews

African American civic leaders--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

Organizations:
Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Patricia Hill

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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


Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2013 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, June 25, 2002

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Hill, Section A2002_081_001_001, TRT: 0:29:55
2002/06/25

Patricia Hill discussed her family background, parent’s occupations, her childhood of growing up throughout the city of Chicago and fondest memories of her childhood. Patricia Hill’s family background includes her parents, maternal and paternal grandparents. Patricia Hill’s family moved from the West Side of Chicago to the South Side then finally settled in Princeton Park in 1960. Hill’s mother worked as a factory worker and her father as an automobile porter. Despite segregation and racism throughout Chicago neighborhoods, Hill and her family were able to enjoy family outings, which sometimes took place
in the surrounding neighborhoods.
Education, Elementary.
Chicago (Ill.)--Social life and customs.

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Hill, Section A2002_081_001_002, TRT: 0:29:40 2002/06/25

Patricia Hill discussed her early education, classmates and childhood. Hill also discussed her career as an athlete, which began at the age of thirteen, and almost qualifying for the Olympics in Mexico City. Hill’s athletic career began as a runner for the Mayor Richard J. Daley Foundation Track Team. Hill discussed her introduction and involvement with the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Panther Party, how she was an organizer in college at Northern Illinois University. Hill left NIU and sat out of school before attending Chicago State University, where she was named one of America’s outstanding athletes before graduation. After graduation, one of Hill’s first teaching assignments was as a physical education teacher at Clemente High School.
Black Panther Party.

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Hill, Section A2002_081_001_003, TRT: 0:28:32 2002/06/25

Patricia Hill discussed playing semi-pro basketball and being recruited to play for the Debs, the precursors to the WBA. Hill discussed changing careers from teaching as a physical education teacher to becoming a Chicago police officer. Hill taught in the Chicago Public School system from 1974-1986. Hill also discussed the challenges of being employed with the Chicago Police Department. Hill stated that the racism and sexism at the police department was overt. Hill was recruited by the Afro-American Patrolman’s Group to protect Mayor Harold Washington along with a team of highly recommended officers. The following year Hill was appointed as the first female President of the Afro-American Patrolman’s Group. Hill persevered beyond administrative attacks from her superiors and peers to discredit her from the force after Mayor Washington’s death. The Afro-American Patrolman’s Group later renamed the African American Policeman’s League continues to focus as advocates for police and the community.
African American police--Illinois--Chicago.
Police brutality--Illinois--Chicago.
African American civic leaders.

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Hill, Section A2002_081_001_004, TRT: 0:29:25 2002/06/25

Patricia Hill discussed overcoming controversy within the police department. Hill was attacked by administration that brought allegations against her despite the corrupt goings-on of other officers in the precinct. Hill was singled out. For example, Hill mentioned a six a six year long case of police brutality brought against an officer in her precinct and the department settled with the officer but she was boldly named as a disgrace to the department. Hill’s plan for the future includes running for city council as an alderperson to address and facilitate through city government to address the needs of people in the community. First run, Hill was second to the incumbent out of nine candidates. In 2003, Hill will run again and if not successful will retire from the CPD and develop a business,
a bookstore.
African American police--Illinois--Chicago.
African American educators.
Police brutality--Illinois--Chicago.