

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Renault Robinson

PERSON

Robinson, Renault.

Alternative Names: Renault Robinson;

Life Dates: September 8, 1942-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Community Activist; Police Officer

Biographical Note

Renault A. Robinson was born on September 8, 1942, in Chicago, Illinois, to Mabel and Robert Robinson. He performed a leading role in founding the African American Patrolman's League. Robinson is known for successfully bringing a civil rights lawsuit against the Chicago Police Department for discrimination against African Americans and Latinos. His work was instrumental in increasing the numbers of minority Chicago police officers.

After graduating from Hyde Park High School in 1960, Robinson joined Chicago's police force in 1964. His superiors recognized him as bright and respectful. However, this attitude towards him changed in the wake of the riots that followed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968. The brutality of the Chicago police caused Robinson and other black officers to form the Afro-American Patrolman's League. Although he felt persecuted by senior officers, Robinson continued to work for the Chicago police. During this time he served the National Black Police Association as a national information officer. In 1983, he left the police force to become chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority under the administration of Mayor Harold Washington.

Robinson pursued a business career in 1989 when he went to work as the vice president of ASI Personnel Service. In 2000, he founded his own temporary staffing agency, Renault Robinson Staffing. Robinson holds a bachelor's degree from Chicago's Roosevelt University. He and his wife, Annette, have four children: Renault, Jr.; Brian; Kivu; and Kobie.

Related Entries

Corpus Christi Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Hyde Park Academy High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Roosevelt University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Roosevelt University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Chicago Police Department [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1964 to 1983]

Police officer

Chicago Housing Authority [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1983 to 1987]

Chairman

ASI Personnel Service [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to 1999]

Vice President

Renault Robinson Staffing [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2000 to ?]

President

Afro-American Patrolman's League [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Founder