

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Michael Scott, Sr.

PERSON

Scott, Michael, Sr., 1949-2009

Alternative Names: Michael Scott, Sr.;

Life Dates: September 4, 1949-November 15, 2009

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Work: Chicago, Illinois

Occupations: Civic Leader

Biographical Note

Cable industry executive and president of the Chicago Board of Education, Michael Scott, Sr. was born September 4, 1949, and raised on Chicago's West Side. Following his graduation from Hales Franciscan High School, Scott attended Fordham University, where he earned a bachelor's in urban planning. While still in high school, Scott also considered a career as a professional athlete, having drawn attention from coaches for the St. Louis Cardinals and the Pittsburgh Pirates, though an injury prevented him from following through with this.

After earning his B.A. from Fordham, Scott began working for the Pyramid West Development Corporation, where he served as vice-president and became highly involved in the North Lawndale community of Chicago. In this position, Scott was instrumental in the rehabilitation of 1,500 housing units, building a senior center and establishing the Community Bank of Lawndale. In 1978, Scott became director of community development of the Lawndale People's Planning & Action Council, where he remained for four years. During that same time, he was elected to the Chicago Board of Education.

His involvement in the community was recognized by then-Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, and Scott was appointed deputy director and later director of the Department of Special Events. He also served as special assistant to the mayor in charge of communications. Following Washington's untimely death, Scott remained active in city politics, and during Richard Daley's first year in office, he was named chief cable administrator for the City of Chicago's Office of Cable Communications.

Leaving the government, Scott remained in the cable industry, taking a position with AT&T Broadband and continuing on in his current position as vice-president of

regulatory affairs for Comcast.

Scott would again return to public service in Chicago, serving as president of the Chicago Park District, and in 2001, he was named president of the Chicago Board of Education. During his tenure there, Scott worked to actively involve parents in the education process, and the Chicago Public Schools rapidly increased attendance, funding and overall rating nationwide as a school district.

Scott passed away in Chicago on November 16, 2009.

Related Entries

Pyramid West Development Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to ?]

Vice President

Chicago Board of Education [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1984]

Chicago Mayor's Office of Special Events [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199607 to ?]

Deputy Director

Chicago Mayor's Office of Special Events [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Director

City of Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Special Assistant to the Mayor in charge of communications

City of Chicago Office of Cable Communications [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Chief Cable Administrator

AT&T [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Comcast [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Vice President of Regulatory Affairs

Lawndale People's Planning & Action Council [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1978 to 1982]

Director of Community Development

