Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Veronica Airey-Wilson

Airey-Wilson, Veronica, 1953-

Alternative Names: Veronica Airey-Wilson;

Life Dates: August 4, 1953-

Place of Birth: Kingston, Jamaica

Residence: Hartford, CT

Work: West Hartford, CT

Occupations: City Council Member

Biographical Note

City council member Veronica Airey-Wilson, former deputy mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, was born on August 4, 1953, in Kingston, Jamaica, to Narciso and Clariana Airey. Moving to Hartford in 1960, Airey-Wilson attended both Brackett Elementary School and Arsenal Elementary School. Airey-Wilson was a member of the National Honor Society and captain of the cheerleading team at Weaver High School from which she graduated in 1972. Attending Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York on a full scholarship, Airey-Wilson graduated in 1975.

In 1976, Airey-Wilson was hired by Aetna where she rose from claims adjuster to equal employment opportunity counselor. Leaving Aetna in 1985, Airey-Wilson started her own business, Verjen Boutique, in Hartford’s Richardson Mall; she later returned to the insurance business by opening an AllState Insurance Company franchise, which eventually became the Airey-Wilson Insurance Group, a full service financial agency.

In 1994, Airey-Wilson was elected to the Hartford Court of Common Council, where she was the first Jamaican to serve as the city’s deputy mayor; in 2003, she served as co-chair of the Youth Workforce Development Task Force. Airey-Wilson has served as an executive member of the Capital Region Council of Government Joint Policy Steering Committee; chair of the Republican State Convention; and an executive member of the Capital Region Council of Government Joint Policy Board. Airey-Wilson was vice president of the Association of Caribbean American Leaders and a member of the NAACP. In addition to her professional activities, Airey-Wilson has raised two children.
Related Entries

Weaver High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Brackett Elementary School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Arsenal Elementary School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Ithaca College [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Aetna, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1976 to 1985]
  Investigator

Verjen Boutique [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1985 to 1989]
  Founder

Allstate Insurance [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1989 to ?]
  Operator, Hartford Franchise

Hartford Court of Common Council [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1993 to 2011]
  Member

Independent United Order of Mechanics [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]
  Member

Association of Caribbean American Elected Officials and Leaders [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]
  Vice President

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]
  Member

Urban League of Greater Hartford [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]
  Member

St. Monica's Episcopal Church [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]
Member