

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hall, Anthony W., 1944-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr.,
Dates:	August 9, 2007 and May 6, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2007 and 2014
Physical Description:	11 Betacame SP videocassettes uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:42:38).
Abstract:	City attorney and city council member The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. (1944 -) was the third African American man to be elected to the city council in Houston, Texas. He was the first black and minority chairman of Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority, served as city attorney from 1998 to 2004 and was the chief administrative officer for the city. Hall was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 9, 2007 and May 6, 2014, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_229
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Attorney Anthony William Hall, Jr. was born on September 16, 1944 in Houston, Texas to Quintanna Wilson Hall Alliniece and Anthony William Hall, Sr. Hall received his B.A. degree from Howard University in 1967, and served in the military from 1967 to 1971. While in the military, Hall attained the rank of captain and received the Purple Heart as well as three Bronze Stars. After his military service, Hall worked for the Harris County Commissions Office in 1971 and served as a State Representative from 1972 until 1979, when he was first elected to the Houston City Council. Upon his appointment, Hall was the third African American, after Judson W. Robinson, Jr. and Ernest McGowen, to be elected to the city council in Houston.

Hall obtained his J.D. degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in 1982. In 1990, he became the first African American chairman of the Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority, an agency which was created as a response to the public's desire to have an efficient and reliable transportation system that would replace the existing malfunctioning busing system. During this time, Hall also became one of only three African Americans among the 50 partners in the Houston law firm, Jackson Walker, LLP. The firm, which has offices in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Angelo and San Antonio, represents clients in litigation for intellectual property, health care, labor and employment, technology, bankruptcy and numerous other fields. Hall served as the City Attorney for the City of Houston from 1998 until 2004, when he became the Chief Administrative Officer for the city. Hall's key responsibilities included implementing some of the Administration's significant priorities, participating in the budget process, and overseeing the Houston community's safety issues.

Hall is also the Chairman of the Boulé Foundation and is involved with Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, serving as the past national president of the organization, and is currently on the board of trustees. He has devoted many years of his

life to public service and has been given several awards for outstanding civic work. These awards include the Fifth Ward Enrichment Program's Heart of Houston, the Black Achiever Award from the YMCA, the George "Mickey" Leland Community Service Award from the Barbara Jordan—Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University in 2006, and the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Marks of Excellence Award for Public Service Leadership in 2009. After years of public service, Hall returned to private practice law in the city of Houston in 2010.

Anthony Hall was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 9, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 9, 2007 and May 6, 2014, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 11 Betacame SP videocassettes uncompressed MOV digital video files. City attorney and city council member The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. (1944 -) was the third African American man to be elected to the city council in Houston, Texas. He was the first black and minority chairman of Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority, served as city attorney from 1998 to 2004 and was the chief administrative officer for the city.

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:

Hall, Anthony W., 1944-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Hall, Anthony W., 1944- --Interviews

African American legislators--Texas--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Houston (Tex.)

Houston (Tex.). City Council

Occupations:

City Attorney

City Council Member

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers|PoliticalMakers

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

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., August 9, 2007 and May 6, 2014. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
A2007_229_001_002, TRT: 0:29:02 ?

The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. first attended A.B. Marshall High School in Angleton, Texas, where his mother taught mathematics. Following his family's move to Houston, Texas, Hall attended Sunnyside Elementary School, and then William E. Miller Junior High School. He learned to swim at Houston's South Central YMCA. He worshipped at Greater Zion Baptist Church, and played trumpet at St. John Missionary Baptist Church. During Hall's years at Jack Yates Senior High School, he was head of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, National Honor Society president, and participated in a summer National Science Foundation program. His classmates included government official Edwin Dorn and U.S. Army general Milton Hunter. Houston's public schools were desegregated just after his high school graduation. Hall received a Worthing Foundation scholarship to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C. On the campus, student organized civil rights activities were occurring, many of which were led by Stokely Carmichael.

Segregation in education--Texas--Houston.

Segregation in higher education--Texas.

Howard University--History.

African American college students--Political activity.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
A2007_229_001_003, TRT: 0:29:04 ?

The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. He ended his involvement in civil rights activities, following an arrest at a demonstration that caused him to miss class. Hall first studied chemistry, but decided against a career in medicine, and changed his major to economics. After graduating in 1967, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Hall served in the Vietnam War starting in 1969. There, he was captain of an infantry unit, and received a Purple Heart after being wounded in battle. Hall returned to Houston, Texas in 1971, and was hired as administrative assistant to Harris County commissioner Jamie H. Bray. In 1972, he attended the Democratic National Convention, and was elected to the Texas Legislature. Hall served alongside black legislators such as Mickey Leland, Curtis Graves and Craig Washington. Inspired by his experience in the Texas legislature, he enrolled at Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston in 1979.

School integration--Texas--Houston.

African American politicians--Texas--Houston.

City council members--Texas--Houston.

African American legislators--Texas.

Leland, Mickey--1944-1989.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
A2007_229_001_004, TRT: 0:29:02 ?

The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. won the Cotton Hook of the Year award in 1973 while serving in the Texas Legislature. During the 1970s and 1980s, his hometown of Houston, Texas elected progressive mayors such as Fred Hofheinz and Kathryn J. Whitmire. In 1979, Hall won a seat on the Houston City Council, and worked with Whitmire and her police chief, Lee P. Brown, to improve police-community relations. Whitmire appointed him as chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County in 1990, and he advocated for an expansion of the county's rail system. During the 1990s, as more Republican politicians were elected in Texas, Hall worked with George Walker Bush as well as Congressman Tom DeLay, who voted against federal funding for rail projects. In 1998, he became city attorney under Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown, who commissioned the construction of new athletic stadiums and improved local rail transportation. Mayor Bill White appointed Hall as Houston's chief administrative officer in 2004.

City council members--Texas--Houston.

Mayors--Texas--Houston.

Local transit--Texas--Houston.

Regional Rail System (Houston, Tex.).

Railroads, Local and light--Texas--Houston.

DeLay, Tom D., 1947-.

Texas. Governor (1995-2000 : Bush).

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
A2007_229_001_005, TRT: 0:17:10 ?

The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. joined the administration of Houston Mayor Bill White in 2004 as chief administrative officer. His priorities in this role included managing pension and healthcare systems for city workers. Hall also spearheaded the Houston HOPE initiative to develop affordable housing in select neighborhoods in the city, and offer down payment assistance to prospective homebuyers. He served on a number of corporate boards, including as chair of the El Paso Natural Gas Company, LLC and director for the Houston Endowment, Inc. Hall was a lifetime member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He served as president of his local chapter, and was involved in launching the Boulé Foundation, which focused on providing scholarships and research funding. With his wife, Carolyn Middleton Hall, a public school teacher, he raised two children, Ursula Hall and Anthony W. Hall III. He describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community, and concludes by reflecting upon his life and legacy.

Houston (Tex.)--Social conditions.

African Americans--Texas--Houston--Social conditions.

African Americans--Texas--Houston--Economic conditions.

African Americans--Education--Social aspects.

El Paso Corporation.

Sigma Pi Phi.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
A2007_229_002_006, TRT: 6:28:51 ?

The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. was born on September 16, 1944 in Houston, Texas to Quintanna Wilson Alliniece and Anthony W. Hall, Sr. His maternal grandfather secretly maintained two separate families in Brazoria County, Texas. Hall's grandparents eventually separated, and his grandmother, Rebecca Gee Austin, remarried Bose Austin. Hall's mother was born around 1916, raised in Brazoria County, and became a schoolteacher. His mother and father divorced when he was young, and his mother remarried Lartress Alliniece. Hall's stepfather grew up in Bay City, Texas, and worked at Suniland Furniture, where he had the responsibilities of a salesperson but was not given the requisite pay or title on account of his race. Hall recalls how his stepfather encouraged him to take care of his possessions, such as shining his shoes every day, and keeping his bicycle well maintained. During Hall's youth, he often spent summers in Cedar Lake, Texas with his maternal aunt and uncle, Frances Williams and Isham Williams, Sr.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
A2007_229_002_007, TRT: 7:29:10 ?

The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr.'s paternal grandfather was a circuit rider preacher in Texan cities like Brenham and Killeen. Hall's father served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and taught himself carpentry to work as a homebuilder. Hall's mother, Quintanna Wilson Alliniece, was the first in her family to attend college. Upon graduating from Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas, she taught mathematics at A.B. Marshall High School in Angleton, Texas, where her cousin, Thomas J. Wright, was principal. When Hall was a teenager, he worked for his father during the summers, providing transportation and meals for contractors. Hall's father also became a lieutenant on the reserve force for the Harris County Sheriff's Office. This force was unpaid and consisted entirely of black men, who patrolled in majority African American neighborhoods but were not allowed to arrest whites. Hall's father was friends with Houston's first black police officer, A.V. Young, and Houston Constable A.B. Chambers.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
A2007_229_002_008, TRT: 8:30:06 ?

The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. started school in Angleton, Texas at A.B. Marshall High School, where his mother, Quintanna Wilson Alliniece, was a teacher. He loved shooting marbles, and was occasionally disciplined by his mother for ignoring his chores. During summers, Hall lived with his uncle and aunt on a family farm in Brazoria County, Texas. On the farm, he picked watermelons from the field, rode horses, and helped his family raise crops to sell in Houston, Texas. Upon moving to Houston, Hall's family lived in South Union, and shopped at black commercial centers nearby in Houston's Third Ward and Fifth Ward. Hall read several black newspapers that were printed in the city, including the Houston Informer, founded by George McElroy. He recalls the 1950 legal case of Sweatt v. Painter, involving Heman Sweatt and the University of Texas at Austin. The landmark case helped in establishing Houston College for Negroes, later the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
A2007_229_002_009, TRT: 9:28:28 ?

The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. attended Sunnyside Elementary School in

Houston, Texas, where Principal Ethel M. Young, selected him as fire marshal. Starting in the seventh grade, he attended William E. Miller Junior High School. Inspired by his mother, a math teacher at his junior high school, and black doctors like Charles R. Drew, Hall aspired to a career in medicine. He continued to pursue his interest in science and math at Jack Yates Senior High School, and was encouraged to enter the field of science. Later, after Hall turned his focus to politics, he learned from community leaders like Hattie Mae White and Judson W. Robinson, Jr., who were among Houston's first black elected officials. Another inspiration for Hall was Jesse H. Jones, who served in the President Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration. Jones led a campaign to expand Houston's shipping port; and founded Houston Endowment Inc., a major area charity. Hall also describes the legacy of lawyer Charles Hamilton Houston.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
A2007_229_002_010, TRT: 10:32:05 ?

The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. was a member of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church band, which played at national Baptist conventions. He briefly played on his junior high school football team before joining the Reserve Officers' Training Corps in high school, where his mentors included Alfred Brailsford and Cameron Wells, Jr. Hall matriculated at Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1962, where he was arrested during a civil rights protest in 1963. Later, he became involved in government, serving ten years on the Houston City Council. Lee P. Brown appointed Hall as city attorney in 1998, and Brown's successor, Bill White, promoted him to chief administrative officer in 2004. Hall's duties as chief administrative officer included hiring and firing personnel as well as managing issues within the city's crime lab. He was also active in the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity's Boule Foundation, which sponsored scholarships and relief funds for disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and the 2010 Haitian earthquake.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
B2007_229_001_001, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr. was born on September 16, 1944 in Houston, Texas to Quintanna Wilson Alliniece and Anthony W. Hall, Sr. His maternal grandmother, Rebecca Gee Austin, owned a small farm in Brazoria County, Texas, where Hall's mother was born in 1916. She later moved to Houston to attend Yates Colored High School, and earned her master's degree from Texas Southern University in Houston, becoming a public school teacher. Hall's paternal grandfather was a traveling minister who eventually settled in Bastrop, Texas. His father worked as a carpenter, and was the lead singer of the Spiritual Gospel Singers of Houston. Hall's parents divorced when he was four years old, and his mother was remarried to Lartress Alliniece. As a child, he lived in the Sunnyside neighborhood of Houston, which bordered the Third Ward, and spent summers in Brazoria County, where he worked on his maternal grandparents' farm. He talks about the history and changing demographics of the wards in Houston.

African Americans--Education (Secondary)--Texas--Houston.

African Americans--Economic conditions--Texas--Houston.

African American families--Texas--Houston.

Public schools--Texas--Houston.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Anthony W. Hall, Jr., Section
B2007_229_001_001E, TRT: