



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

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Anthony W. Hall
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Anthony W. Hall,
Dates:	August 9, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	5 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:13:50).
Abstract:	City attorney and city council member Anthony W. Hall (1944 -) was the third African American man to be elected to the city council in Houston, Texas. He became 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, 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 W. Hall was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 9, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Anthony W. Hall was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 9, 2007, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 5 Betacam SP videocassettes. City attorney and city council member Anthony W. Hall (1944 -) was the third African American man to be elected to the city council in Houston, Texas. He became 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.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Anthony W. Hall--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

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 Anthony W. Hall, August 9, 2007. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/9/2011 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, August 9, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony W. Hall, Section A2007_229_001_001, TRT: 0:29:40
2007/08/09

Anthony Hall discusses his family's background. Hall's maternal grandparents were farmers. Hall remembers not being invited to adult conversations as a child. Hall addresses the importance of women in the black family. Hall's mother was an educator in the public schools, and a graduate of Texas Southern University. It was a custom in the family that kids in the countryside would go to high school in the city of Houston because of greater educational opportunities in the city.

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 Anthony W. Hall, Section A2007_229_001_002, TRT: 0:29:00
2007/08/09

Anthony Hall discusses his childhood education. Hall attended segregated schools throughout his childhood and loved school. He belonged to Greater Zion Baptist Church and played in the church band. Hall was involved in Young Men's Christian Association and Reserved Officers Training Corp activities. His favorite subjects were math and science. During his senior year of high school, Hall was president of student council and the National Honor Society. For college, Hall was accepted at the University of Texas, Morehouse College, and Howard University. Hall did not attend the University of Texas because the dormitories were segregated; he did not attend Morehouse because it was not co-educational. Hall chose Howard University, where he majored in economics and minored in math. While in college, Hall participated in one civil rights demonstration and was arrested. Hall's intention after graduating from college was to be a military general.

Segregation in education--Texas--Houston

Segregation in higher education--Texas

Howard University--History

African American college students--Political activity

Video Oral History Interview with Anthony W. Hall, Section A2007_229_001_003, TRT: 0:29:00
2007/08/09

Anthony Hall discusses school integration in Houston, Texas. Hall notes that an unfortunate consequence of integration was that it reduced learning opportunities for black children. Integration removed dedicated teachers from the black schools, and these teachers had been supervisors of extra-curricular activities. Without them, exposure opportunities for black students decreased dramatically. Hall remembers when Judson Robinson was elected to city council in 1971—first African American elected to city council since Reconstruction. In 1970, Hall served as administrative assistant to the Harris

County Commissioner. Hall was twenty-eight when he began serving in the legislature; he was a State Representative for three terms from 1972 until 1979. Hall began law school in the same year he began his work for the Houston City Council: 1979. He served two terms as a district councilmember in the Third Ward and then three terms as a Houston city-wide council member.

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 Anthony W. Hall, Section A2007_229_001_004, TRT: 0:29:00
2007/08/09

Anthony Hall discusses the opportunities for young black professionals and remembers receiving the Cotton Hook Award from the International Longshoremen's Association in 1973. Hall reflects on his Houston City Council service. The main issue was police-community relations. He speaks about his role as chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Authority during the 1990s and recalls Congressman Tom Delay prevented them from receiving funding for a rail system in Houston; Hall is hopeful that the expansion of rail in Houston will begin soon. Hall shares memories of Texas Governor George W. Bush and political opponent Sylvester Turner. Hall became City Attorney of Houston in 1998, when Lee Brown (the only black mayor of Houston) was mayor and was selected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Coastal Corporation in 1999. Hall became Chief Administrative Officer of Houston, a position comparable to deputy mayor, in 2004, while Bill White was mayor.

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 Anthony W. Hall, Section A2007_229_001_005, TRT: 0:17:10
2007/08/09

Anthony Hall discusses his hopes for the future; he would like to revive inner city neighborhoods with an organization called Houston HOPE. Hall mentions his service with several organizations, including The Sunny Side Foundation, which has an endowment of over \$700 billion and chairs the Governor's Commission for The El Paso Corporation. Hall hopes that the African American community will return to its roots by defining and enforcing what is right and wrong and emphasizes a demand for quality education. Hall reflects on his involvement in the Boule Foundation. Hall discusses his family. He has been married for forty-two years to Caroline Dorothy Middleton Hall, a retired public school teacher. Hall's daughter is a lawyer and associate municipal judge; she graduated from Wellesley College and South Texas College of Law. Hall's son is thirty-four years old; he graduated from Howard University with degree in Business Administration and MBA from Dartmouth.

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