

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Alvin Brooks

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Brooks, Alvin L., 1932- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Alvin Brooks, |
| Dates: | November 5, 2019 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2019 |
| Physical Description: | 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:30:13). |
| Abstract: | Political and civic leader Alvin L. Brooks (1932-) served as a Kansas City, Missouri police officer for ten years, worked for Kansas City government for twenty-seven years, and founded the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime in 1977. Brooks was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 5, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2019_126 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Political and civic leader Alvin L. Brooks was born on May 3, 1932 in North Little Rock, Arkansas to Thomascine Gilder and Wilbur Herring. He was adopted by Estelle and Cluster Brooks, and they moved to Kansas City, Missouri. Brooks attended Dunbar Elementary School, R.T. Coles Vocational High School, and Lincoln Junior College. He went on to receive his B.A. degree in history and government in 1959 and his M.A. degree in sociology in 1973, both from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

From 1954 to 1964, Brooks served as a district police officer and later a detective with the Kansas City Police Department. In 1964, he left the police department and joined the Kansas City School District as a home school coordinator in the department of pupil services. After one year, Brooks joined the staff of the division of urban education as coordinator of parent, student and community interpretation. In 1968, after Kansas City's riot, Brooks was appointed to organize the first Kansas City Human Relations department and became the first Black department director in Kansas City government. Brooks served as human relations director until 1972, when he was appointed assistant city manager, where he served until 1991. In 1977, Brooks founded the grass roots, community-based organization the AdHoc Group Against Crime (AdHoc) in response to violent crimes in the African American community, where he became director in 1991. Brooks was later appointed by President George H.W. Bush to a three-year term on the President's National Drug Advisory Council. In 1999, Brooks was elected to the Kansas City council representing the 6th District At-Large and was appointed mayor pro-tem. He was re-elected in 2003. In 2010, he was appointed to the Kansas City Police Department's Board of Police Commissioners, and served as president for two years, before being elected as a director on the Hickman Mills C-1 School Board.

In 1976, Brooks was appointed to serve as chairperson on the Missouri Human Rights Commission. From 1980 to 1986, he served on the Missouri Supreme Court Advisory Committee. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Brooks was named one of America's 1,000 Points of Light by President George H.W. Bush in 1989, and an Outstanding Kansas Citian by the Native Sons and Daughters in 2017. He received the Carl R. Johnson Humanitarian award from the NAACP in 2001, the Annual Peace Award from the Crescent Peace Society in 2007, the Harry S. Truman Service Award from the City of Independence in 2016, and the Kansas Citian of the Year Award by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce in 2019. He has received honorary degrees from Park University, Rockhurst University, University of Southern Missouri, and William Jewell College. In 2016, the Kansas City council declared May 3rd as Alvin L. Brooks Day.

Brooks and his late wife Carol Rich Brooks (of sixty nine years), are the parents of six children, seventeen grandchildren, forty-one great-grandchildren, and seventeen great-great grandchildren.

Alvin Brooks was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 5, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Alvin Brooks was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 5, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Political and civic leader Alvin L. Brooks (1932-) served as a Kansas City, Missouri police officer for ten years, worked for Kansas City government for twenty-seven years, and founded the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime in 1977.

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:

Brooks, Alvin L., 1932-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Brooks, Alvin L., 1932---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civic Leader

Political Leader

HistoryMakers® Category:

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 Alvin Brooks, November 5, 2019. 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 Alvin Brooks, Section A2019_126_001_001, TRT: 1:29:18 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Alvin Brooks, Section A2019_126_001_002, TRT: 2:31:13 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Alvin Brooks, Section A2019_126_001_003, TRT: 3:30:31 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Alvin Brooks, Section A2019_126_001_004, TRT: 4:30:09 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Alvin Brooks, Section A2019_126_001_005, TRT: 5:29:58 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Alvin Brooks, Section A2019_126_001_006, TRT: 6:29:42 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Alvin Brooks, Section A2019_126_001_007, TRT: 7:29:19 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Alvin Brooks, Section A2019_126_001_008, TRT: 8:31:03 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Alvin Brooks, Section A2019_126_001_009, TRT: 9:29:00 ?