

Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation

Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records

1939-1964, undated

Title Statement

Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation A Guide to the Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records MG 54

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MG 54

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1939-1964, undated

Unit Date

Date acquired: 07/19/1982

Language

English

Abstract

Founded in 1945 as an interracial organization designed to address concerns with education, health, and housing among the Afro-American community in Norfolk. Predecessor to the Norfolk Human Relations Council. Includes correspondence, newspapers clippings, minutes, reports, pamphlets, and membership lists. Bulk of the organization's records are in the archives at Norfolk State University.

Creator

Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation (Norfolk, Va.)

Extent

0.60 Linear Feet

Extent

1 Hollinger document case boxes

Repository

ODU Community Collections

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Open to researchers without restrictions.

Conditions Governing Use

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Source of Acquisition

Mrs. H. M. Silverman

Method of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. H.M. Silverman, president of the organization from 1955 to 1957. Accession #A82-13

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Box [insert number], Folder [insert number and title], Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Biographical or Historical Information

On April 17, 1945, eight black and eleven white women met in the vestry room of Ohef Sholom Temple in Norfolk. Mrs. Vivian Carter Mason had invited these women in order to consider forming an interracial committee. All the women present were active in civic organizations, and came from different religious backgrounds.

At that first meeting it was decided that such an interracial group could indeed be beneficial to Norfolk. Furthermore, they decided that their organization should be autonomous - not affiliated with any other organization, but working in cooperation with them.

Mrs. Mason was appointed temporary chairman and the group held meetings in May, June, and September. The first two meetings were devoted to establishing a constitution and coming up with a name. By December, there were 86 members.

Early in 1946, the WCIC was becoming active in the public school system, and worked with the public libraries and the Boy Scouts to notify the public of their humanitarian goals. These goals were: to improve city facilities for education, recreation, employment, and health; improve interracial attitudes; to seek equality of opportunity for everyone; and to work towards full citizenship privileges for all

The WCIC implemented these goals by calling attention to the need for more blacks in civic occupations; worked with health organizations in providing testing for diseases and public health information; held public meetings and other activities with nationally known speakers to advance the ideas of integration; and met with city officials concerning proper housing for the poor. For the first two years the group met in different churches and kept their files and printed materials in the homes of its officers and chairmen. Finally the WCIC was able to get space for an office and meetings at the YWCA. This lasted for several years.

As stress in Norfolk over the desegregation of public schools reached a climax, the WCIC found itself pitted against many opponents of desegregation. It became more difficult to find meeting places open to such a group. Also, when they did find a place, they often could not advertise their meeting because of criticism and possible censure it would draw towards those who allowed such a meeting to take place at their establishment. Consequently, for a period of time, the WCIC worked more "behind the scenes" than in the public eye. However the effectiveness of the group endured and through their studies and reports of other cities with integrated school systems, the group helped Norfolk overcome the crisis in 1958 when the public high schools were shut down.

Note written by Jan Halecki

Scope and Contents

The Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation (WCIC) was an organization of white and black women devoted to fostering racial harmony. The records include the organization's constitution, minutes of meetings, correspondence, speeches, annual reports, member lists, booklets, pamphlets, programs,

invitations, newspaper clippings and published articles. Of interest is a transcribed panel report titled, "How Norfolk Opened Her Schools," dated February 2, 1959, and Susan Slaughter's personal account of the "First Fifteen Years of WCIC." In addition, there is material relating to the inception and early history of the Human Relations Council, which superseded the WCIC.

Related Materials

Vivian Carter Mason Interviews (MG 53)

Edith R. White Papers (MG 109)

Keywords

Women--Virginia--Social conditions

School integration--Virginia--Norfolk--History--20th century

School integration--Massive resistance movement

African Americans--Civil rights

Norfolk (Va.)--History--20th century

Norfolk (Va.)--Politics and government--20th century

Virginia--Politics and government

Race relations--History--20th century

Virginia--Politics and government--1865-1950

Racism--Prevention

Human Relations Council (Norfolk, Va.)

Mason, Vivian Carter (1900-1982)

Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation (Norfolk, Va.)

Description of Subordinate Components

Box 1

Unit ID Box 1

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62584

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Folder 1: Annual Reports Constitution Rules Etc.

Unit ID Folder 1

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62586

Unit Date 1945-1959

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 1, Annual Reports Constitution Rules Etc., 1945-1959, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 2: Annual Reports Commission on Community Relations

Unit ID Folder 2

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62587

Unit Date 1963 September 4-1964 June 22

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 2, Annual Reports Commission on Community Relations, 1963 September 4-1964 June 22, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 3: Board Members and Other Lists

Unit ID Folder 3

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62591

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 3, Board Members and Other Lists, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 4: Booklets and Pamphlets WCIC and Virginia Council

Unit ID Folder 4

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62592

Unit Date 1963-1964

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 4, Booklets and Pamphlets WCIC and Virginia Council, 1963-1964, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 5: Board Minutes

Unit ID Folder 5

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62593

Unit Date 1960 September 14-1964 April 19

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 5, Board Minutes, 1960 September 14-1964 April 19, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 6: Correspondence Clippings to Dwight D. Eisenhower

Unit ID Folder 6

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62594

Unit Date 1964 March 14

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 6, Correspondence Clippings to Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1964 March 14, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 7: Correspondence to and from Sen. Hubert Humphrey

Unit ID Folder 7

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62599

Unit Date 1964 June 1

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 7, Correspondence to and from Sen. Hubert Humphrey, 1964 June 1, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 8: Correspondence Concerning Printed Materials

Unit ID Folder 8

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62602

Unit Date 1962 February 15

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 8, Correspondence Concerning Printed Materials, 1962 February 15, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 9: Correspondence and Potential Speakers

Unit ID Folder 9

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62603

Unit Date 1951-1952

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 9, Correspondence and Potential Speakers, 1951-1952, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 10: Correspondence and Potential Speakers

Unit ID Folder 10

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62604

Unit Date 1952-1955

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 10, Correspondence and Potential Speakers, 1952-1955, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 11: Miscellaneous Correspondence

Unit ID Folder 11

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62605

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 11, Miscellaneous Correspondence, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 12: Innovations

Unit ID Folder 12

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62606

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 12, Innovations, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 13: Magazine Articles

Unit ID Folder 13

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62607

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 13, Magazine Articles, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 14: Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID Folder 14

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62608

Unit Date 1954 December-1958 November

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 14, Newspaper Clippings, 1954 December-1958 November, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 15: Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID Folder 15

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62609

Unit Date 1959 January 1-20

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 15, Newspaper Clippings, 1959 January 1-20, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 16: Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID Folder 16

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62610

Unit Date 1959 January 2-30

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 16, Newspaper Clippings, 1959 January 2-30, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Box 2

Unit ID Box 2

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62585

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Folder 1: Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID Folder 1

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62588

Unit Date 1959 January 30-1959 February 21

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 1, Newspaper Clippings, 1959 January 30-1959 February 21, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 2: Newspaper Clippings

Unit ID Folder 2

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62589

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 2, Newspaper Clippings, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 3: Norfolk Human Relations Council

Unit ID Folder 3

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62590

Unit Date 1964 September

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 3, Norfolk Human Relations Council, 1964 September, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 4: Norfolk Story: "How Norfolk Opened Her Schools"

Unit ID Folder 4

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62595

Unit Date 1954 February 2

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 4, Norfolk Story: "How Norfolk Opened Her Schools", 1954 February 2, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 5: Photographs

Unit ID Folder 5

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62596

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 5, Photographs, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 6: Programs and Miscellaneous Events

Unit ID Folder 6

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62597

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 6, Programs and Miscellaneous Events, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 7: American Red Cross Certificate

Unit ID Folder 7

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62598

Unit Date 1939 March

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 7, American Red Cross Certificate, 1939 March, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 8: Speeches

Unit ID Folder 8

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62600

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 8, Speeches, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 9: YWCA Material

Unit ID Folder 9

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/62601

Unit Date 1961 July 7

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 9, YWCA Material, 1961 July 7, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.