

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hassell-Thompson, Ruth, 1942-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson,
Dates:	December 1, 2016 and November 7, 2016
Bulk Dates:	2016
Physical Description:	11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:20:47).
Abstract:	Civic leader and political official Ruth Hassell-Thompson (1942 -) served for eight terms in the New York State Senate. In 2016, she became the special advisor for policy and community affairs for New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Hassell-Thompson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 1, 2016 and November 7, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2016_081
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civic leader and political official Ruth Hassell-Thompson was born on November 6, 1942 in New York City to Branon Hassell and Thelma Crump Hassell. She attended Bronx Community College in the Bronx, New York and Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York.

In 1963, Hassell-Thompson began working as a pediatric nurse and substance abuse counselor at Montefiore Mount Vernon Hospital in Mount Vernon, New York, where she worked for thirty-six years. Between 1971 and 1980, she worked for the Westchester Community Opportunity Program, serving in a number of positions, including director of an infant daycare center and assistant to the executive director. Then, from 1980 to 1987, Hassell-Thompson served as executive director of the Westchester Minority Contractors Association. Hassell-Thompson joined the Mount Vernon City Council in 1993, where she served as council president and acting mayor of the City of Mount Vernon. In addition, Hassell-Thompson served on several council committees, in addition to serving as vice chairperson of the Urban Renewal Board and Real Estate Board. In 2000, she was elected as the Democratic representative of New York's 36th District in the New York State Senate. Serving for eight terms, Hassell-Thompson was instrumental in the passage of New York's marriage equality legislation. She also chaired the Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections Committee and was a ranking minority member on the Consumer Protection and Judiciary committees. In 2016, Governor Andrew Cuomo appointed Hassell-Thompson as special advisor for policy and community affairs of New York State Homes and Community Renewal.

In addition to her political career, Hassell-Thompson served as president and CEO of Whart Development Company, Inc. and The Gathering, a women's center in Mount Vernon. She also served as a health educator for the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center and as a consultant to Automotive Consultant, Inc. Hassell-Thompson was the recipient of two honorary degrees from Mercy College and Eastern Theological Consortium. In 2007, she

was appointed by the Akwamu Traditional Council in the Eastern Region of Ghana as their Mpuntuhemaa, or Queenmother for Development. Hassell-Thompson also received the Joseph P. Gavrin Memorial Award.

Hassell-Thompson has two daughters.

Ruth Hassell-Thompson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 7, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 1, 2016 and November 7, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Civic leader and political official Ruth Hassell-Thompson (1942 -) served for eight terms in the New York State Senate. In 2016, she became the special advisor for policy and community affairs for New York State Homes and Community Renewal.

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:

Hassell-Thompson, Ruth, 1942-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hassell-Thompson, Ruth, 1942- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Policy Advisor

State Senator

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 The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, December 1, 2016 and November 7, 2016. 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 Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_001_001, TRT: 1:29:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_001_002, TRT: 2:29:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_001_003, TRT: 3:29:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_001_004, TRT: 4:29:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_001_005, TRT: 5:24:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_001_006, TRT: 6:29:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_002_007, TRT: 7:22:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_002_008, TRT: 8:29:29 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_002_009, TRT: 9:30:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_002_010, TRT: 10:33:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Section A2016_081_002_011, TRT: 11:32:40 ?