

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Marvin Pratt

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: | Pratt, Marvin |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, |
| Dates: | February 20, 2017 and February 24, 2017 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2017 |
| Physical Description: | 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:48:27). |
| Abstract: | Political leader Marvin Pratt (1944-) was the first African American acting mayor of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Pratt was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 20, 2017 and February 24, 2017, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2017_056 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Political leader Marvin Pratt was born on May 26, 1944, in Dallas, Texas to Leon Pratt, Sr. and Mildred Joyce Pratt. He moved with his family to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1959, where he attended North Division High School. After high school graduation, Pratt enlisted in the United States Air Force and served for three years. In 1968, after he received an honorable discharge from service, Pratt enrolled at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he obtained his B.A. degree in political science in 1972.

After graduation, Pratt began his political career working as an intern for Milwaukee Mayor Henry Maier. Pratt ran for his first political seat as alderman on the Common Council, in 1984; he lost that election to Roy B. Nabors. Pratt ran again in a 1986 special election for the same seat and won. Upon his election to alderman, Pratt was appointed to the Finance and Personnel Committee. As a committee member, one of the initiatives that Pratt worked on was the Residents Preference Program, which helped to create employment opportunities for City of Milwaukee residents. In 1996, he was elected as chairman of that committee, a position he held until 2000. In 2000, Pratt was elected as the Milwaukee Common Council president. Pratt remained in that position until 2004. In 2004, when Mayor John Norquist stepped down, Pratt was appointed as the acting mayor of Milwaukee, the first African American to hold that position. However, Pratt lost the mayoral election in 2004 to Tom Barrett. In 2006, Pratt began his own consulting firm, Marvin Pratt and Associates LLC, which specialized in consulting and government relations. In 2011, he was elected as interim Milwaukee county executive, making him the first person to hold both the position of mayor and county executive in Milwaukee.

In 2016, Milwaukee Public Schools named a school in honor of Pratt; the Marvin E. Pratt Elementary School. Pratt also holds the rank of major in the United States Army Reserves.

Pratt and his wife Dianne, have two children, Michael Pratt and Andrea Pratt-Ellzey, and five grandchildren.

Marvin Pratt was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 20, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 20, 2017 and February 24, 2017, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was recorded on 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Political leader Marvin Pratt (1944-) was the first African American acting mayor of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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:

Pratt, Marvin

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Pratt, Marvin--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

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 The Honorable Marvin Pratt, February 20, 2017 and February 24, 2017. 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 Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_001_001, TRT: 1:31:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_001_002, TRT: 2:28:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_001_003, TRT: 3:28:29 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_001_004, TRT: 4:27:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_001_005,
TRT: 5:28:28 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_001_006,
TRT: 6:30:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_002_007,
TRT: 7:30:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_002_008,
TRT: 8:29:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_002_009,
TRT: 9:29:15 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_002_010,
TRT: 10:09:15 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Marvin Pratt, Section A2017_056_002_011,
TRT: 11:15:32 ?