

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Lorri A. Burgess

COLLECTION: 4700.1617

IDENTIFICATION: Former Metropolitan Councilwoman for District 10, lifelong resident of South Baton Rouge

INTERVIEWER: Natalie Clark

SERIES: McKinley High School Oral History Project: Social Organizations.

INTERVIEW DATES: June 25, 2002

FOCUS DATES: 1960s – 2000s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 3201, Side A.

Introduction; born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on January 25, 1963; single, not married; from family of five children; religion important in family; parents and grandparents from South Baton Rouge; list of schools she attended were St. Agnes Catholic School, South Boulevard Elementary School, St. Francis Xavier Catholic School and McKinley Senior High School. all in South Baton Rouge; LSU for undergraduate degree; the whole neighborhood raised the children; kids' activities: kickball, basketball, vacation Bible school; sense of community; wants to improve South Baton Rouge's reputation; bought house in neighborhood a few years ago, loves her neighborhood and it's ideal location; surmising that neighborhood nickname "The Bottom" came from drainage problems on low-lying land; what she has gleaned from studying the civil rights movement: do unto others as you would have them do unto you; her activities as councilperson include literacy programs, Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, and other organizations; biggest turning point in South Baton Rouge community, so many people leaving after they got their education; Burgess has a degree from LSU and also finished their paralegal training program; education of great importance in her family; educational background of parents, both had advanced degrees; expectation that all their children would complete college, which they did; more organizational affiliations like Kiwanis Club, National Council of Negro Women, working with AIDS/HIV prevention; has had to relinquish membership in some organizations due to conflict of interest with her political position; sororities came about due to few social outlets for African Americans; passionate about social services; takes both leadership and support roles in organizations, wherever she can fit in; goal is to improve people's quality of life; last year her office was able to respond to 600 requests from organizations for various types of help; types of relationships she's developed with community members; social clubs and organizations benefit the community; definition of success is to keep trying and don't sit by idly; her advice to others: outdo yourself, define your success, and make it work for you; willingness to supply interviewer with articles and photographs; end of interview.

TAPES: 1 (T3201)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 31 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 16 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Correspondence; Interviewer's notes (2 pgs); photographs (12)

RESTRICTIONS: None