Watkins Family Collection (AC53)

Introduction


Descriptive Summary

Creator: Watkins Family
Title: Watkins Family Collection
Dates: 1936-1981
Size: 0.3 linear feet, 1 box
Collection Number: AC53

Donor Information

Found in collection.

Citation Note

Watkins Family Collection (AC53), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.
Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Biographical Sketch


Bruce Riley Watkins (1924-1980) was a dedicated public servant to the people of Kansas City and Jackson County, Missouri. One of the founding members of Freedom, Inc., in 1962, Watkins was also one of the first African Americans elected to the City Council of Kansas City, Missouri, in 1963. Watkins served in numerous civic roles during his distinguished career. In 1979, Watkins became the first African American to run for mayor of Kansas City, narrowly losing to opponent Richard Berkley.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of three series arranged by item type.

This series consists of textual materials related to Watkins Bros. Funeral Home, the life and career of Bruce R. Watkins, and the Spirit of Freedom Fountain. The majority of materials in this series concern the Bruce R. Watkins’ 1979 mayoral campaign, including campaign brochures, bumper stickers, flyers, and posters. Oversize bumper stickers have been withdrawn to oversize box 2; oversize posters have been withdrawn to map cabinet drawer 3.

Series 2: Photographs, 1936-1980

This series consists of photographs of Theron B. Watkins, Oliva Watkins Shaw, Bruce R. Watkins, and Watkins Bros. Funeral Home. A framed photograph of Bruce R. Watkins, ca. 1970s, is located at the back of the collection box.

Series 3: Artifacts, 1979

This series consists of artifacts, including a Watkins Bros. Funeral Home address book and Bruce R. Watkins mayoral campaign buttons.

Collection Inventory


f. 1 Watkins Bros. Funeral Home advertisement and brochure, ca. 1950s
f. 2 Watkins Bros. Funeral Home fans, n.d.
f. 3 Bruce R. Watkins military training and service documents, 1944-1945
f. 4 Bruce R. Watkins mayoral campaign brochures and flyers, 1979
f. 5 Bruce R. Watkins mayoral campaign bumper stickers, 1979 (withdrawn to oversize box 2)
f. 6 Bruce R. Watkins mayoral campaign correspondence, 1979
f. 7 Bruce R. Watkins mayoral campaign event flyers, 1978-1979
f. 8 Bruce R. Watkins mayoral campaign posters, 1979 (withdrawn to map cabinet drawer 3)
f. 9 Tributes, 1980, n.d.
f. 10 Bruce R. Watkins Foundation reservation card, 1981
f. 12 Spirit of Freedom Fountain dedication, 1981

Series 2: Photographs, 1936-1980

f. 14 Oliva Watkins Shaw, n.d.
f. 15 Bruce R. Watkins, ca. 1944-1980
f. 16 Watkins Bros. Funeral Home, n.d.

Series 3: Artifacts, 1979

f. 18  Bruce R. Watkins mayoral campaign buttons, 1979