

M-65

Inventory to the Waterbury Civil Rights Collection, 1963-1970 and 1978

Processed by and finding aid created by Stephanie Crawford, September 2020

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Brecher, Jeremy (1946-), The City of Waterbury

Title: The Waterbury Civil Rights Collection

Dates: 1963-1970 and 1978

Collection Number: M-65

Quantity: 1 linear foot (1 records center carton – 8 volumes, and 13 folders)

Abstract: This collection documents the 1968 State Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities public hearings in Waterbury. The commission was concerned with four areas: Housing, Education, Employment, and Police-Community Relations. The collection contains the 8 volumes of verbatim testimony, reports and responses, as well as contextual newspaper clippings in the 1960s and 1970s.

Language: English

Repository: Max R. Traurig Library and Archive, Mattatuck Museum. Advance notice required.

Collection History:

In 1968 the State Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities held public hearings in Waterbury. The commission was concerned with four areas: Housing, Education, Employment, and Police-Community Relations. The hearings provided a forum for anyone who lived in Waterbury to voice concerns over these issues – though the vast majority of people who testified were under subpoena. Witnesses spoke about police violence, segregation, inequality, discrimination in housing, lack of opportunities.

The Commission then took the findings from the hearing to the Executive Committee and Legislative Committee. In addition to the hearings, an Interim Report was issued

summarizing the findings in which Police – Community Relation and Housing were the two areas of great focus with conclusions and suggestions.

The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities was originally called the Inter-Racial Commission and was founded in 1943. On May 21, 1945 the commission held a similar hearing in Waterbury.

Scope and Content Note:

The Waterbury Civil Rights Collection was compiled by local historian Jeremy Brecher about racism in Waterbury during the 1960s. The collection is composed of two types of documents: the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities Hearings and responses, and a general collection of documents and newspapers about racism.

The collection is entirely paper based and consists of 8 volumes of verbatim commission hearings, newspaper articles, correspondence, and a pamphlet.

References and Related Collections:

More records of the Inter-Racial Commission and Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities can be found at the Connecticut State Archive.

[RG 154](#), Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 1954-1989, bulk 1945-1984.

Name and Subject Tracings:

Discrimination in housing

Segregation

School integration

Equality

Justice

Waterbury, CT

Police Violence

Systemic Racism

Administrative History:

Processing Note: Police Violence and Systemic Racism are not LOC Subject Headings. I used them to designate themes in the collection. Additionally, to prevent further damage, the volumes of commission records have been stored flat.

Preferred Citation: Waterbury Civil Rights Collection. M-65. Max R. Traurig Library and Archive, Mattatuck Museum.

Provenance: Jeremy Brecher donated the collection in 2017.

Restrictions: None.

Container List: This section provides descriptions of the materials found within each series. Each series description is followed by a container list, which gives the titles of the folders and their locations in the numbered boxes that comprise this collection.

Box Volume

1 1-8 Waterbury Public Hearing Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, June 10, 1968 – August 5, 1968 [totaling 1,921 pages]

Box Folder

1 Index to witnesses, 1968

2-3 [4 copies] Interim report on hearings, 1969

4 Interim report draft, 1969

5 Waterbury's response to report, 1969

6 Interim report published in full, *Sunday Republican*, March 16, 1969

7 Correspondence about Reverend Floyd, circa 1970

8 Education – Integration, desegregation, busing; 1963, 1968-1969

9 Education, Housing, Police Relations newspaper clippings, 1967

10 Elections, circa 1970 and 1978

- 11 Housing, 1965-1969
- 12 Police Relations, 1964-1968
- 13 Police Relations – Summary, 1968 [from hearings, unofficial]
- 14 Police Violence, 1970