

Mayor's Committee on Race Relationships

In 1960, Stan Brookshire formed a Mayor's Friendly Relationship Committee in response to the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement in Charlotte. Two years later, this committee became the Mayor's Committee on Race Relationship. This collection contains letters to and from Dr. John R. Cunningham, who chaired the committee, memorandums, committee minutes and pamphlets on the subject of race relationship that were used by the committee in developing their awareness of the issue. This collection contains important information regarding the city's changing attitudes towards integration and the impact these changes had on the community. Some of the letters do contain racist sentiments from opponents to the committee and integration as a whole. However, the historical content is irrefutable and provides great insight to Charlotte during the early days of the Civil Rights Movement as it spread across the country.

Box 1

Contains the papers of John R. Cunningham, Chairman of the Mayor's Community Relations Committee 1960-1965

MCRC Box 1 Folder 1

Bethlehem Center Picnic – July 29, 1963 – Description of events that took place with staff and children of The Bethlehem Center and the members of the Charlotte Police Department. A letter regarding the need for access to the swimming pool at Revolution Park by the Center is also in this folder.

MCRC Box 1 Folder 2

Chamber of Commerce article: Charlotte & the Civil Rights Revolution (July-August 1964)

MCRC Box 1 Folder 3

A list of nominees to the Committee on Race Relations. No date.

MCRC Box 1 Folder 4

Guidelines for the Carolina Carousel Parade for Honorary Princess Car Decoration.

MCRC Box 1 Folder 5

Test of a speech by D.E. Coltrane on May 21, 1964 at the Equal Job Opportunity Forum that was sponsored by the Mayor's Community Relations Committee [sic]

MCRC Box 1 Folder 6

Copies of the Charters for both the Mayor's Friendly Relations Committee & the Mayor's Committee on Race Relations.

MCRC Box 1 Folder 7

Statement of support by the MCRC following the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The statement was unanimously approved by the committee and released to the public. (multiple copies)

Mayor's Committee on Race Relationships

MCRC Box 1 Folder 8

Copies of the names and addresses of the committee members along with various memorandums to the committee from Cunningham.

MCRC Box 1 Folder 9

Committee Minutes of March and April 1965

MCRC Box 1 Folder 10

Memorandums and Committee Minutes of January – October, December 1964

MCRC Box 1 Folder 11

Memorandums and Committee Minutes of January – August, October – December 1963

MCRC Box 1 Folder 12

Memorandums and Committee Minutes of January – June, August – December 1962

MCRC Box 1 Folder 13

Memorandums and Committee Minutes of August – December 1961

MCRC Box 1 Folder 14

Memorandums and Committee Minutes of April – July 1960

MCRC Box 1 Folder 15

By-laws of the Community Betterment Committee of Laurinburg, North Carolina from September 12, 1959.

MCRC Box 1 Folder 16

Paper regarding the issue of two separate community colleges in Mecklenburg County.

MCRC Box 1 Folder 17

Contains names of attenders and the activities in Race Relations Problem Solving that took place during Committee Orientation on May 20, 1965.

MCRC Box 1 Folder 18

Report released by Herbert Hitch, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Managers of Good Samaritan. It contains an account of an incident where Dr. F. Richard Jackson, as hospital staff member, allowed photographs of the hospital's interior. The board requested that Dr. Jackson explain the reasoning behind the photographs, but he declined. His hospital privileges were terminated. April 2 – May 9, 1962.

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Box 2 contains the correspondence to and from various members of the committee and civic leaders in the city of Charlotte.

MCRC 2:1

Letter from Dr. George L. Abernathy, Department of Philosophy at Davidson College to Dr. John R. Cunningham. 21 July 1960. Dr. Abernathy wishes Dr. Cunningham good luck with the committee.

MCRC 2:2

Letter from Dr. John R. Cunningham to Mrs. E.S. Alexander on 30 July, 1963 regarding the integration of Charlotte's municipal pools.