

## Guide to the Aaron Williams Papers

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Williams, Aaron , 1921-2011
<b>Title:</b>	Aaron Williams Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00276
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1965-1981
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1966-1976 (bulk)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.92 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.83 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Aaron Williams Papers (1965-1981) consist of scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, certificates, newspaper clippings, reports, and programs. Many of the clippings and some of the correspondence contain references that give insight into the role of women in North Las Vegas and Clark County, Nevada during the late 1960s and early 1970s. The scrapbooks and newspaper clippings document Williams' career as well as issues he dealt with as councilman and commissioner. These issues include those related to community and infrastructure development, such as airports, sewage treatment plants, senior citizens, health, and urban planning as well as North Las Vegas and Clark county political activities during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

### Preferred Citation

Aaron Williams Papers, 1965-1981. MS-00276. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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Aaron Williams was the first African American elected to a local municipal position in the history of Nevada when he became North Las Vegas City Councilman in 1968. Williams served on the

council until he was elected to the Clark County Commission in 1971. Williams was educated in Texas and served in the South Pacific with the United States Army during World War II. Upon leaving the service, he worked in the steel industry in Detroit, where he was the assistant superintendent. He resigned from the steel industry to open his own supermarket and, after five years, relocated to Las Vegas. He was initially employed as a porter and then as an orderly at Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital (now University Medical Center). After leaving the hospital he went to work for Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company (REECO) as a clerk, advancing to senior clerk, clerk supervisor, material control agent, buyer, and senior buyer.

Williams' community interests included National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Nevada Lung Association, Optimist Club, National Black Caucus, and the Clark County Democratic Central Committee.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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Aaron Williams Papers (1965-1981) contain papers of the first African American elected to a local municipal position in the history of Nevada when he became a North Las Vegas City Councilman in 1968. Williams served on the council until he was elected to the Clark County Commission in 1971. The scrapbooks and newspaper clippings document Williams career as well as issues he dealt with as councilman and commissioner. These issues include those related to community and infrastructure development, such as airports, sewage treatment plants, senior citizens, health, and urban planning as well as North Las Vegas and Clark county political activities during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In addition, many of the clippings and some of the correspondence contain references that give insight to the role of women, particularly black women, in North Las Vegas and Clark County during the late 1960's and early 1970's.

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## Arrangement

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Material is in chronological order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1987 by Aaron Williams; accession number 87-36.

### Processing Note

Carol Corbett, October 5, 1995. In 2017 Joyce Moore revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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## Related Materials

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### Separated Materials

One publication, "City of North Las Vegas Celebrates It's 25th Silver Anniversary" (1971), was removed and transferred to Government Publications, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- African American politicians -- Nevada
- Women
- Clark County (Nev.) -- Politics and government
- Affirmative action programs -- Nevada -- Clark County
- photographs

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Newspaper clippings, 1965-1977 and undated	box 1	folder 1
Correspondence, 1966-1976	box 1	folder 2
North Las Vegas City Council: News clippings, 1969	box 1	folder 3
North Las Vegas City Council: photos (color), 1969	box 1	folder 4
Scrapbook #1, 1969-1971	box 1	folder 5
Certificates, 1969-1981	box 1	folder 6
Scrapbook #2, 1970-1971	box 1	folder 7
Miscellaneous, 1971, 1973, 1975, and undated	box 1	folder 8
Affirmative Action Program, 1972	box 1	folder 9
County Commission: election congratulations and cards, 1972	box 1	folder 10
Morgue facility, 1972	box 1	folder 11
Newspaper clippings, 1972	box 2	folder 1
Scrapbook #3, 1972	box 2	folder 2
Scrapbook #4, 1972-1974	box 2	folder 3
Scrapbook #5, 1972-1974	box 2	folder 4
Newspaper clippings, 1973	box 2	folder 5
Newspaper clippings, 1974	box 2	folder 6
Newspaper clippings, 1975	box 2	folder 7
"Poor People Pulling Together Salutes Aaron Williams" program, 1975	box 2	folder 8