William Beckham Jr. Papers
1.25 linear feet (1 MB, 1 SB)

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Finding aid written by Katelyn on August 20, 2013.

Accession Number: UP001756

Creator: W. Beckham Jr.

Acquisition: Papers were donated to the Reuther Library in September 2001.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library Rules for Use of Archival Materials. Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

Notes: Citation style: “William Beckham Jr. Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: New Detroit, Inc. Records

The oversized photograph of William Beckham with Congressmen Hawkins was transferred to the Reuther’s Audio Visual Department.

PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.
Abstract
William J. Beckham (1940-2000) was originally from Cincinnati, Ohio. He was educated at the Detroit Institute of Technology (1959-1960), Wayne State University (1960-1962), American University (1962-1964), and the University of Maryland (1965-1966). During these years he took courses in political science. Beckham went on to pursue a career in politics at both the local and national level. In 1964, Beckham worked on Senator Phillip Hart’s campaign and then joined his staff from 1965-1973. Later in his career he would serve as Deputy Mayor to Coleman A. Young, Assistant Secretary of Treasury, and then Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transportation under President Jimmy Carter. In the private sector, Beckham was Vice President of Unisys Corporation, COO of Envirotest Systems Corp., and President of New Detroit (1995-1999). Towards the end of his life, he became heavily involved in Detroit Public School system reform, leaving New Detroit in 1999 to become President of the Skillman Foundation. Beckham died suddenly in 2000 on the way home from a family vacation.

The Beckham Papers include clippings and programs from meetings, conferences, and award ceremonies that span the length of his career, but focus mainly on his time in the U.S. Department of Transportation and his efforts to reform the Detroit Public School system. During his time in the Department of Transportation, Beckham frequently spoke publically and at conferences, and the collection includes some of the speeches and remarks he gave during the year 1980. Also included are photographs from his service at the national and local level.

Important Subjects:
Transportation.
Community development, Urban—Michigan—Detroit.

Important Names:
Beckham, William James, 1940-
Young, Coleman A.
Carter, Jimmy, 1924-
United States. Department of Transportation.
New Detroit, Inc. (Detroit, Mich.)
Detroit Public Schools.
Skillman Foundation.

Arrangement
Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.
Box 1

1  Beckham interview and tribute, 11/1999
2  U.S. Department of Transportation
3  Detroit Public Schools reform
4  Programs; conferences, award ceremonies, 1982-1999
5  Programs; conferences, award ceremonies, 1993-1998
6  Memorial tribute
7  Black Business Leadership
8  National Government programs and newsletters
9  Coleman A. Young; funeral attendance instructions
10 Department of Transportation news and programs
11 Clippings
12 Clippings
13 Clippings
14 Scrapbook (1 of 2)
15 Scrapbook (2 of 2)
16 Remarks- Detroit Press Club, 8/29/1980
17 Remarks- Michigan Delegation, 6/12/1980
18 Invitee List for Luncheon, 6/13/1980
19 Luncheon speech, 6/13/1980
20 GM Urban Forum; speech, 6/13/1980
21 Mass transit
22 Highways
23 Rail
24 Remarks- Businessmen, Mayors, and Selectment, 5/16/1980
25 National League of cities; speech, 6/14/1980
27 SmithKline Corporation, 10/28/1980
28 Remarks- Governor's Conference on Tourism, 10/28/1980
29 SmithKline Press Release
30 Remarks- Department of Transportation (UMTA), 10/29/1980
32 University of Michigan, 1/14/1981
33 Economic Development Conference; speech, 10/22/1980
34 Remarks- Ridesharing Awards, 10/23/1980
35 National Ridesharing Conference, 10/23/1980
36 Remarks- Presentation of Efficiency Award, 10/23/1980
37 Press release and report of National Task Force on Ridesharing
38 Highway Safety Symposium; speech, 6/24/1980
40 Fulcrum Corporation investment; speech, 7/11/1980
41 Federal Economic Assistance conference; speech, 10/11/1980
42 Memphis Information
43 Coast Guard Officer's Wives Club; speech, 10/14/1980
44 Delta Nu Alpha Transportation Fraternity, 10/16/1980
45 The Milwaukee Sentinel; speech, 4/28/1980
46 Remarks- City of Moraine, Ohio, 4/30/1980
47 Memo, 4/30/1980
48 Statement
49 Bob Hall's statement
50 Memo to Jack Watson
51 Fact sheet
52 Remarks- National Advisory Committee, 5/15/1980
54 Ford dealer leasing and rental convention; speech, 4/16/1980
55 Remarks- FAA (Technical Center), 5/29/1980
56 Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.; speech, 4/26/1980
57 Speaking engagements index
58 FHWA Office of Civil Rights; speech, 1/22/1980
59 FAA Office of Civil Rights; speech, 1/30/1980
60 Michigan Department of Transportation; speech, 2/22/1980
61 Mid America Council on Economic Development; speech, 2/28/1980
62 A Public Affairs Executive Critiques his Job; speech, 1/11/1984
63 Remarks- Black Elected Officials of Ohio, 8/9/1980
64 National Black Caucus; speech, 7/12/1980
65 Remarks- Women's Management Development Program, 7/17/1980
66 Automotive News World Congress; speech, 7/29/1980
67 Women's Transportation Seminar; speech, 9/25/1980
68 Remarks- Department of Transportation, 9/30/1980
69 Remarks- Inter-Agency Minority and Female Recruiters Association, 10/2/1980
70 Remarks- Department of Transportation Office of Civil Rights, 10/22/1980
71 Assistant Secretary of the Treasury award, 1978

Box 2
1 Photographs; events
2 Beckham with Mike Blumenthal
3 NATO Summit, Brussels, Belgium, 11/23/1980
4 W. Beckham portrait
5 Detroit Free Press Photographs
6 Mexican border
7 U.S. Coast Guard
8 Conference images
9 U.S. Customs
10 Department of Transportation
11 City of Detroit
12 German American Heritage Foundation International
13 Skillman Scholars
14 William Beckham portrait

AV Materials
1 William Beckham with Congressman Hawkins; oversized signed photograph