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Walter P. Reuther Library

Guide to the AFSCME Local 1: Washington D.C. Records LR002935

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	AFSCME Local 1 (Washington, D.C.)
Title:	AFSCME Local 1: Washington D.C. Records
ID:	LR002935
Date [inclusive]:	1954-1970
Physical Description:	3.5 Linear Feet (3 SB, 1 MB)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	AFSCME Government Workers Union Local 1 represented public employees within Washington D.C. The founding local of the Government and Civic Employees Organizing Committee-CIO (GCEOC) in 1950, Local 1 became an AFSCME affiliate after the AFL-CIO merger in 1955. By 1960, the Local was focused on organizing efforts, particularly in the Department of Sanitation, intended to eliminate racial discrimination in hiring and promotion for skilled positions and pay increases. The records consist of the business and official records of AFSCME Local 1's administrative and advocacy staff. Records include contracts and negotiation material; contract administration and enforcement materials; employee grievances; dues collections and rates; budgets, proposals, and financial statements; correspondence; meeting minutes; publications; job descriptions; salary information; convention materials; and informational pamphlets.

Citation Style

"AFSCME Local 1: Washington D.C. Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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History

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) traces its roots to Madison, Wisconsin where, in 1932, a small group of professional state employees organized to protect and promote the civil service. AFSCME received its AFL charter in 1936. AFSCME Government Workers Union Local 1 represented public employees within Washington D.C., which included registered nurses, medical technicians, aides in homes for senior and disabled individuals, university and hospital cafeteria and food service employees, community health social workers, mechanics, groundskeepers, animal control workers, sanitation workers, and similar. The Local was founded in 1950, as the founding local of the CIO-affiliated Government and Civic Employees Organizing Committee (GCEOC), and at that time primarily consisted of federal employees who organized in a bid to prevent Communist organizing efforts in their federal departments in the 1940s. In 1955, the AFL-CIO merger and the subsequent merger of the GCEOC and AFSCME resulted in many existing members joining a different local for federal employees and Local 1 shifting its organizing focus to District of Columbia employees. By 1960, Local 1 was focused on organizing efforts, particularly in the Department of Sanitation, intended to eliminate racial discrimination in hiring and promotion for skilled positions and pay increases. The Local had achieved significant results by 1966 and had increased its membership from 200 to about 2,500 across the District of Columbia. Local 1 was placed under trusteeship in early 1970, overseen by William Lucy, then Executive Assistant to AFSCME President Jerry Wurf. The trusteeship ended in the spring of 1971 when the Local was restructured as AFSCME Council 20 with seven locals. By that time, membership had grown to nearly 5,600.

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Scope and Content

The AFSCME Local 1: Washington, D.C. records consist of the business and official records of the Local's administrative and advocacy staff between 1954 and 1970. The records are primarily correspondence between the Local and various employers, including units of municipal government that handled public employee human resources, related to unit recognition, contract negotiation, implementation of collective bargaining agreements and enforcement of the contract related to particular employee grievances. The records include correspondence between the Local and the AFL-CIO and AFSCME International, as the records cover the periods of time when its international affiliation changed from the Government and Civic Employees Organizing Committee and the CIO to AFSCME and the AFL-CIO. There are significant records related to the Washington D.C. Departments of Public Health, Buildings and Grounds, Public Welfare, and Sanitary Engineering. There are also significant internal records, which include local committee minutes, unit minutes, membership and dues records, and information and correspondence related to Local 1's outreach and coordination with other Washington D.C. locals. Also present are records regarding Local 1's work in ensuring racial equity and justice within its units, including grievances related to racial discrimination and negotiation with employers regarding racial sensitivity training. Included are contracts and negotiation material; contract administration and

enforcement materials; employee grievances; dues collections and rates; budgets, proposals, and financial statements; correspondence; meeting minutes; publications; job descriptions; salary information; convention materials; and informational pamphlets.

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Arrangement

Folders are listed by their original order within each box. The record creator arranged folders into subjects. Any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition

AFSCME Local 1 records were placed in the Walter P. Reuther Library by AFSCME International in 1975. The Reuther is the official depository of the AFSCME International records.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Elisa M. Gomez and Stefanie Caloia on March 30, 2020.

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.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

AFSCME Office of the President: Arnold Zander Records; AFSCME Office of the President: Jerry Wurf Records; AFSCME Office of the Secretary-Treasurer: Government and Civic Employees Organizing Committee Records; Peter John Moralis Papers

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Controlled Access Headings

- AFSCME
- Moralis, Peter John
- AFSCME District Council 20 (Washington, D.C.)

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