

Westside Mothers Records
7.5 linear feet (6 SB, 1 MB, 1 OS)
1967-2005, bulk 1970s

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Dallas Pillen on September 10, 2013.

Accession Number: UR002384

Creator: Selma Goode and Westside Mothers

Acquisition: Material donated to the Reuther Library on January 10, 2013.

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.

**RESEARCHERS MUST SIGN A RESTRICTED USE STATEMENT.
NO NAMES OR OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION FOUND IN
THE RECORDS MAY BE USED.**

Notes: Citation style: “Westside Mothers Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: 1 folder containing photographic negatives transferred to the Reuther’s Audiovisual Collection.

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

Westside Mothers is a welfare rights organization located in Detroit, Michigan. It was founded by its coordinator, Selma Goode, in December 1965, and advocates for people who receive public assistance, such as food stamps, Medicaid, childcare, Supplemental Security Income, and disability. Westside Mothers works with various local, state, and national welfare rights organizations to aid welfare recipients in receiving sufficient benefits and in protecting their civil liberties. The organization holds meetings, organizes rallies, contacts legislators, and provides legal defense at court hearings in its efforts to protect the rights of welfare recipients in Detroit and Michigan.

The Westside Mothers Records collection contains material related to the Westside Mothers and affiliated welfare rights organizations, such as the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO) and the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO). Material included in the collection consists mostly of paper records documenting the administrative functions of the Westside Mothers, MWRO, and NWRO, including meetings, rallies, conferences, special committees, and legal efforts. Also included are correspondence between Selma Goode and various welfare rights organizations, religious and community organizations, and government agencies. The collection also contains some photographic prints and ephemera.

Important Subjects:

Civil rights
Detroit (Mich.)
Public welfare
Welfare recipients
Welfare rights movement—United States
Welfare rights organizations

Important Names:

Bragg, Ella
Goode, Selma
Michigan Welfare Rights Organization
National Welfare Rights Organization

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.