



FINDING AID FOR

Susie LaBord papers

2015.0063

2015.0063

Susie LaBord papers. -- 1970s-1991 and undated. -- 0.25 Cubic feet (1 box)

Scope and Content

The collection consists of the papers of Susie LaBord which include records pertaining to LaBord's service as the first voting resident Board Commissioner for Atlanta Housing, her awards, biographical materials, memorials, and newsclippings and newsreleases.

BIOGRAPHY:

Born in Alabama May 29, 1911 as one of 14 children to a sharecropper, Susie LaBord was appointed the first public housing resident in Atlanta to serve as a voting Atlanta Housing Commissioner member by Mayor Sam Massell in the 1970s. She received national recognition as an unflinching and determined spokesperson for the rights and needs of disadvantaged Americans. LaBord fought alongside people to help them break out of poverty affirming that it was through programs of community action that, "poor people of all races get a chance to stand on their own feet, learn, earn, and carry their share of the load."

LaBord started in her community work back in 1933 during the time she and her husband Gus operated the Fourth Street Rib Shack at Fourth and Cain Streets. They held a collection from Atlanta businesses in the Fourth Ward to distribute among the community's poor. In 1951, when her husband was stricken with cancer, LaBord moved with him to Grady Homes and continued to dedicate her life to helping others following his death. Affectionately known to many Atlantans as "Mama LaBord," Atlanta Housing Vice-President Jack F. Glenn, in a 1976 Board resolution wrote her advice and counsel was "sought by political, religious, and business leaders as well as by ordinary people, young and old."

She served as president of the Grady Homes Tenants Association for over 25 years and director and organizer of the Susie LaBord Day Care Center for over 28 years. Mrs. LaBord received national attention in her support of programs aimed at low income families, rights of the poor, and her advocacy of federal legislation for community action programs. She prevailed relentlessly upon President Richard Nixon for drug and nutrition programs. She corresponded with President Lyndon B. Johnson, often reaching the President on the telephone when many Senators could not do so, and once barged into the Oval Office to make sure President Johnson didn't cut the city's Equal Opportunity funds. She was received by President Jimmy Carter in celebration of the anniversary of the Head Start Program. Throughout the 1970s, she made several trips to Washington and St. Louis to speak to the public in the fight to maintain high levels of public housing.

At the age of 80, when LaBord passed away, the Atlanta Journal Constitution hailed her as the Great Lady of Grady Homes. "The Housing Authority was her family, her life," Bettye Davis, then the Director of resident housing for Atlanta Housing stated, and Mrs. LaBord was "a most effective fighter for the rights of public housing residents."

Restrictions

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Appointments are required when conducting research with this collection. Please contact the Archivist to make an appointment at AHAArchives@atlantahousing.org Atlanta Housing is required to legally review all records prior to admitting access to ensure they do not contain information that violates the privacy of its program's participants.

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Finding aid prepared by and described by Atlanta Housing Archives, Records & Information Management, Meredith E. Torre, Archivist.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series: 1. Papers, 2. Publications, and 3. Photographs.

Other Codes

2015.0063

2015.0063.1 Papers

2015.0063.1.1 Resident Board Commissioner. -- 1970s

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00192.pdf

2015.0063.1.2 Outstanding Tenant nomination. -- circa 1973

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00193.pdf

2015.0063.1.3 Susie LaBord Day and opening of the Susie Labord Center. -- 1977

2015.0063.1.4 WXIA-TV Alive Community Service Award. -- Apr. 1987

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00195.pdf

2015.0063.1.5 The Alexis de Jocqueville Society Award. -- 1989

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00196.pdf

2015.0063.1.6 Susie LaBord's induction into the Academy of Women Achievers. -- 1989

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00197.pdf

2015.0063.1.7 Memorials. -- 1991

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00198.pdf

2015.0063.2 Publications

2015.0063.2.1 Newsclippings and newsreleases. -- 1970-1991 and undated

2015.0063.2.1.1 Mrs. LaBord's Election to National Post Lauded by U.S. Senator and Fulton Commissioner. Resident's Viewpoint. -- May 1974

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00208.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.2 "National, County Officials Laud Mrs. Labord's New Post" AHA Residents News and Views. Vol. 3 No. 5. -- May 1974

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00199.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.3 "The Searching Photographer." Mrs. Susie LaBord on What is important in encouraging tenants to become involved in their community?. -- Feb. 1975

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00205.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.4 "Community Leader Visits White House". The Atlanta Voice. -- Nov. 15, 1975

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00210.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.5 "Citizens Honor Miss Susie" The Atlanta Inquirer. -- Mar. 5, 1977

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00211.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.6 LaBord battles officials for 'powerless' by Gayle White. -- July 23, 1984

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00212.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.7 LaBord Receives Award for Grady Homes Work. Atlanta Journal Constitution. -- Feb. 15., 1989

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00207.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.8 AHA activist mourned by 75 'children' by Holly Morris. Atlanta Journal Constitution. -- Jan. 10, 1991

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00213.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.9 Farewell to the great lady of Grady Homes. The Atlanta Journal and Constitution . -- Jan. 10, 1991

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00214.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.10 Mrs. Susie Labord, Grady-Graves Homes Tenant Association President, Former Chairman of Advisory Council on Public Housing and Former AHA Commissioner, Displays New Trophies Representing Honors Paid to Her on Recent Trips to Oregon and Utah. -- undated

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00200.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.11 "Notes from a Roving Reporter" by Harold Andrews. -- undated

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00201.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.12 Grady-Graves. -- undated

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00202.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.13 Mrs. Labord Honored by Commissioners. -- undated

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00203.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.14 Susie LaBord Appointed Full Commissioner. -- undated

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00204.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.15 AHA Newsrelease: Children, Mrs. LaBord and Senior Citizens at Grady-Graves Homes. -- undated

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00206.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.16 "Profile: Suffer the Children" by Michael Mason. Southline. -- undated

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00209.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.17 "Never forgotten at Christmas are the Children..." Clipping of Susie Labord handing out bags of fruit to children. -- undated

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00215.pdf

2015.0063.2.1.18 Miscellaneous newsclippings of Susie LaBord

Other Codes

aha_2016_doc_00216.pdf

2015.0063.3 Photographs

2015.0063.3.1 Photographs of Susie LaBord presenting Christmas gifts to the children of Grady Homes. -- undated

2015.0063.3.1.1 Susie LaBord presenting Christmas gifts to the children of Grady Homes. AHA 2014.06573. -- undated. -- Still image

Scope and Content

"Grady."

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06573

2015.0063.3.1.2 Susie LaBord presenting Christmas gifts to the children of Grady Homes. AHA 2014.06574. -- undated. -- Still image

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06574

2015.0063.3.1.3 Susie LaBord presenting Christmas gifts to the children of Grady Homes. AHA 2014.06575. -- undated. -- Still image

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06575

2015.0063.3.1.4 Susie LaBord presenting Christmas gifts to the children of Grady Homes. AHA 2014.06576. -- undated. -- Still image

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06576

2015.0063.3.1.5 Susie LaBord presenting Christmas gifts to the children of Grady Homes. AHA 2014.06577. -- undated. -- Still image

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06577

2015.0063.3.1.6 Susie LaBord presenting Christmas gifts to the children of Grady Homes. AHA 2014.06578. -- undated. -- Still image

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06578

2015.0063.3.1.7 Susie LaBord presenting Christmas gifts to the children of Grady Homes. AHA 2014.06579. -- undated. -- Still image

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06579

2015.0063.3.1.8 Susie LaBord presenting Christmas gifts to the children of Grady Homes. AHA 2014.06580. -- undated. -- Still image

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06580

2015.0063.3.8 (Unprocessed) Photographs Not On Shelf

2015.0063.3.8.1 Photographs and negatives of AHA Executives and Commissioner Susie Labord, portraits. -- circa 1985. -- (10 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_04751; aha_2014_img_04752; aha_2014_img_04753; aha_2014_img_04754;
aha_2014_img_04755; aha_2014_img_04756; aha_2014_img_04757; aha_2014_img_04758;

aha_2014_img_04759; aha_2014_img_04760

2015.0063.3.8.2 Susie LaBord. AHA 2013.00949. -- undated. -- Still image

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_00949

2015.0063.3.8.3 Susie LaBord. AHA 2013.00950. -- undated. -- Still image

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_00950

2015.0063.3.8.4 Susie LaBord. AHA 2013.00951. -- undated. -- Still image

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_00951

2015.0063.3.8.5 Susie LaBord. AHA 2013.00952. -- undated. -- Still image

Scope and Content

With children.

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_00952

2015.0063.3.8.6 Susie LaBord. AHA 2013.00953. -- undated. -- Still image

Scope and Content

Christmas tree in the background.

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_00953

2015.0063.3.8.7 Susie LaBord. AHA 2013.00954. -- undated. -- Still image

Scope and Content

Christmas tree in the background.

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_00954