

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Lee P. Brown

PERSON

Brown, Lee P.

Alternative Names: The Honorable Lee P. Brown;

Life Dates: October 4, 1937-

Place of Birth: Wewoka, Oklahoma, USA

Residence: Houston, TX

Work: Houston, TX

Occupations: Mayor

Biographical Note

The first African American Mayor of Houston, Texas, Lee Patrick Brown was born on October 4, 1937, in Wewoka, Oklahoma. His parents, Andrew and Zelma Brown were small farmers. A high school athlete, Brown started his professional life as a police officer in San Jose, California in 1960. That same year, he graduated from Fresno State University with his B.S. degree in criminology. In 1964, Brown earned a master's degree in sociology from San Jose State University where he became assistant professor in 1968. At the University of California, Berkeley, he earned his master's degree in criminology in 1968 and his PhD in 1970.

Brown became chairman and professor of the Department of Administration of Justice at Portland State University in 1968. In 1972, he was appointed associate director, Institute of Urban Affairs and Research and professor of Public Administration and director of Criminal Justice programs at Howard University. In 1974, Brown was named Sheriff of Multnomah County, Oregon, and in 1976, director of the Department of Justice Services. As public safety commissioner of Atlanta, Georgia, from 1978 to 1982, Brown and his staff cracked the Atlanta Child Murders case.

As Houston, Texas' chief of police, from 1982 to 1990, Brown developed Neighborhood Oriented Policing, a program employing community policing techniques. From 1990 to 1992, he was police commissioner of New York City. President Clinton appointed Brown director of the White House Office of National Drug Policy or "Drug Czar", a cabinet level position from 1993 to 1996. After spending some time teaching at Texas Southern University and Rice University, Brown was elected mayor of Houston, Texas, in 1998. As mayor, he was able to build the Metro

light rail system, attract a new NFL team, and expand his philosophy of neighborhood oriented government.

A founder of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), Brown has organized around the needs of African American police executives. Today, Brown is chairman and CEO of Brown Group International, which uses the extensive expertise of its founder to develop solutions to complex problems in public safety, homeland security, crisis management, government relations, international trade, and other concerns.

The father of four grown children with his late wife, Yvonne, Brown now lives with his wife Frances in Houston.

Related Entries

Fowler High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

H.S.

Fremont Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

California State University, Fresno [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

San Jose State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A.

University of California, Berkeley [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

University of California, Berkeley [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Brown Group International [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

CEO

Rice University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Professor; Visiting Scholar

San Jose Police Department [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1960 to 1968]

Police officer

Portland State University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1968 to 1972]

Chairman and Professor

Multnomah County Police Department [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1976 to 1978]

Director

Houston Police Department [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1982 to 1990]

Chief of Police

New York City Police Department [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1990 to 1992]

Police Commissioner (Mayoral Appointee)

Office of National Drug Control Policy [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1993 to 1996]

Director (Drug Czar)

City of Houston, Texas [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1998 to 2004]

Mayor

United State Conference of Mayors [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board

International Association of Chiefs of Police [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

President, Executive Board

Howard University College of Arts and Sciences [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Visitors

National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Founding Member

International Association of Chiefs of Police [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

President

National Minority Advisory Council on Criminal Justice [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Chairman

