

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Terry Hillard

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616<br>info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com  |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Hillard, Terry G.  |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry Hillard,  |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | May 24, 2010   |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2010   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:32:56).  |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Police superintendent The Honorable Terry Hillard (1943 - ) served with the Chicago Police Department for thirty-five years before becoming co-founder and Partner of Hillard Heintze. Hillard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 24, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2010_036  |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.  |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Former Chicago police superintendent Terry G. Hillard was born on August 11, 1943 in South Fulton, Tennessee. One of ten children, Hillard's family moved to Chicago when he was still young. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1963 and served in Vietnam for thirteen months where he was awarded four medals and a Presidential Unit citation. After returning to Chicago in 1968, Hillard entered the Chicago Police Training Academy. He also attended Chicago's Loop Junior College where he earned his A.A. degree. He went on to receive his B.S. and M.S. degrees in corrections from Chicago State University in 1976 and 1978, respectively.

Hillard worked his way through the police ranks, becoming a patrol officer after Police Training Academy. He then served as a gang crimes specialist and was shot twice in the line of duty. In 1979, Hillard was chosen to be a member of the Mayoral Executive Security Detail and served under Chicago Mayors Jane M. Byrne and Harold Washington. He was later promoted to Intelligence Division Sergeant, 6th District commander, and became Chicago's first African American chief of detectives. He then became coordinator of the Chicago Terrorist Task Force. He was serving as lieutenant in gang crimes and narcotics when Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed him as the police superintendent for the city of Chicago where he served for five years before retiring. In 2004, he co-founded and became partner at Hillard Heintze.

Hillard has received several awards for his courage in the police force including the Blue Star Award, the Police Medal, and the Superintendent's Award of Valor. He holds Honorary Doctoral degrees from Lewis University, Saint Xavier University, and Calumet College of Saint Joseph. In 2005, he contributed to the book *Chicago Police: An Inside View – The Story of Superintendent Terry G. Hillard*, written about his leadership in the Chicago Police Department.

Hillard lives with his wife Dorothy and their two children, Terri Lee and Dana.

Terry Hillard was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 24, 2010.

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Terry Hillard was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 24, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Police superintendent The Honorable Terry Hillard (1943 - ) served with the Chicago Police Department for thirty-five years before becoming co-founder and Partner of Hillard Heintze.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Hillard, Terry G.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hillard, Terry G. --Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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## The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Chicago Police Dept.

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### Occupations:

Police Superintendent

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### HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry Hillard, May 24, 2010. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry Hillard, Section A2010\_036\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:34 ?

The Honorable Terry Hillard was born on August 11, 1943 in South Fulton, Tennessee to Lelia Mae Hillard Drew and Max Bowman. His maternal

grandmother, domestic Charlie Bell Hillard, and maternal grandfather, a handyman, owned a home in Tennessee, where they grew cotton and strawberries. His paternal grandmother, Ophelia Bowman, was a strict disciplinarian who lived near Hillard's home in South Fulton. Hillard had little contact with his father while growing up, and was raised by his stepfather, Alfonzo Drew. His stepfather was a cook on the Illinois Central Railroad, where he met Hillard's mother through her work as a dining car server. They married when Hillard was six years old. Until that time, Hillard's maternal uncle, Leonard Hillard, served as his father figure. Hillard had four siblings, and grew up in the all-black neighborhood of South Fulton, where he recalls sitting in the segregated section of the theater, and ordering food at restaurants from a separate window for African Americans.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry Hillard, Section A2010\_036\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:21 ?

The Honorable Terry Hillard grew up with two brothers and two sisters in South Fulton, Tennessee. On the porch of his family's home, he often listened to radio broadcasts of the Brooklyn Dodgers' baseball games against the St. Louis Cardinals, 'The Gillette Cavalcade of Sports' program and Sugar Ray Leonard's boxing matches. Hillard attended South Fulton's Rosenwald School, where he was influenced by his teacher, Miss Mason, and was active in the Cub Scouts. He played sports like baseball and basketball, and his maternal uncle, Leonard Hillard, built a basketball court in the family's backyard. In 1954, Hillard's family moved to Chicago, Illinois in search of better educational opportunities. Initially, they lived in a four bedroom apartment at 3616 South Parkway in the Bronzeville neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, where he enrolled at Wendell Phillips Elementary School. Hillard also remembers following the DuSable High School basketball team's winning streak that year.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry Hillard, Section A2010\_036\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:43 ?

The Honorable Terry Hillard and his twin brother, Jerry Drew, attended services and Sunday school at Olivet Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois under pastor Joseph H. Jackson. Hillard studied at Wendell Phillips High School, and earned money delivering papers for the South Side branch of the Chicago American newspaper. After his route's collection payment was stolen, his twin brother recommended him for a position at the NAACP office on South Parkway. There, Hillard ran errands for individuals such as businessman Dempsey J. Travis and Reverend Carl A. Fuqua. He later joined the organization in their protest to integrate Chicago's Rainbow Beach Park. While picketing, he was ordered to leave by the police, and was arrested after he refused. The NAACP posted his bond money, and his case was later dismissed in court. Hillard also remembers Chicago Police Department officers Sylvester Washington and Robert M. Harness, both of whom were African American.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry Hillard, Section A2010\_036\_001\_004, TRT: 0:33:23 ?

The Honorable Terry Hillard was arrested at a demonstration; and, soon after, left his position at the NAACP office in Chicago, Illinois at the insistence of his stepfather, Alfonzo Drew. Hillard's high school counselor discouraged him from applying to college; and so, upon graduation, he moved in with his older brother, James Drew, and found work in the office of Joseph E. Seagram and Sons, Inc. After his older brother was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1963, Hillard enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was sent to boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in California, where he thrived under his drill instructor's strict

discipline. He was deployed to the front lines of the Vietnam War as an MOS 0331 machine gunner, and was eventually assigned to the Third Marine Regiment. He served overseas in Vietnam for thirteen months, and returned to the United States in 1965, where he was stationed at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and promoted to sergeant E-5.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Terry Hillard, Section A2010\_036\_001\_005, TRT: 0:29:55 ?

The Honorable Terry Hillard was discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1967, and returned to Chicago, Illinois, where his mother encouraged him to join the Chicago Police Department. He entered the Chicago Police Academy; and, after completing his training in 1968, was assigned as an officer to the Near North District. He initially served with other African American officers, but was later paired with a white partner who refused to eat lunch with him. In 1969, Hillard joined the Area Two Task Force in the South Side neighborhood of Burnside, where he was under the command of African American lieutenant Lee Harvey. There, he received mentorship and training in basic police work from experienced officers, and made high risk felony stops. Hillard attended Loop Junior College, where he received an associate's degree in 1973. He also met and married his wife, Dorothy Brown Hillard, in 1970. Her brother, Jesse Brown, later became the secretary for veteran affairs under President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton.