Guide to the
Jackie Mae Townsell Collection
1943-1998
15.75 linear feet
Accession Numbers: 9697-039; 9899-016; and 9900-051
Collection Number: 99
Prepared by Christopher Strange
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Biographical Sketch

Jackie Mae Townsell (born Jackie Mae Howard; April 7, 1936 - October 17, 2002) was an Irving business owner who was known for her life-long dedication to public service. She was the first African American elected to the Irving City Council and was a resident and advocate for the historic African American community of Bear Creek.

Mrs. Townsell was born in Dallas and lived there until her family moved to Bear Creek when she was 13 years old. At that time, Bear Creek was still an unincorporated, African American community west of Irving. Townsell later recalled that her parents wanted to make the move because they felt that life in a small, close-knit, rural community would be better for her children than life in a large city like Dallas. Townsell remained a Bear Creek resident until her death in 2002.

Jackie and Jimmie Townsell, also a Bear Creek resident, were married in 1951. Mr. Townsell had fond memories of the small store in his childhood home of rural Chisholm, Texas, and the Townsells opened a small store, Townsell Grocery, in rural Bear Creek in 1959. Jimmie had to seek outside employment soon after the store opened, and Jackie began to manage the store full-time on her own. For the first eight years, they lived in the back of the store where Mrs. Townsell found herself treating customers as guests and serving them food she had prepared for her family. Eventually, she decided to start charging for meals, and the grocery store became a popular lunch-time restaurant.

Townsell Grocery also became a popular place for Bear Creek residents to discuss politics and the needs of the community. When telling this story to a reporter in 2000, Townsell attributed her interest in politics to her father:

“He would read the newspaper every day,” she recalled. “My father wouldn't express himself in the open, so he instilled it in me. He was afraid
that if he spoke out, he would get in trouble. He told me to learn about the workings of government. Ever since I was 16, I have been involved in politics.”

As an adult, Townsell sought to make the government work for her community. From 1963, when she became active with her local Parents and Teachers organization, until her death in 2002, Townsell served with numerous organizations addressing a variety of needs. Some of the issues she championed were education for children and young adults, affordable housing, employment, orphans, children with special needs, criminal justice, and healthcare. She was part of a group that successfully campaigned for the annexation of Bear Creek by the City of Irving in 1969, and she led efforts to get paved streets, utilities, parks and other city services for the neighborhood in the following years.

Townsell served both with private non-profit organizations and as a government official. She became the Democratic chairperson of her voting precinct in 1968. In the following years, she was appointed to various committees and advisory boards to the Dallas County Commissioners Court related to her policy interests. In 1971, she was appointed to a term on the Dallas County Grand Jury.

In 1974, she ran for a seat on the Irving City Council and lost in a run-off election. She ran again in a three-way contest in 1977 and won a majority in the first round of voting. She went on to serve on the council for eighteen consecutive years, the longest streak for any member of the Irving City Council at the time of her first reelection defeat in 1995. Later that year, the City of Irving rededicated its Bear Creek Heritage Center as the “Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center.”

Townsell did not run for office again after 1995, and she closed her store-restaurant the next year. She continued her public service by organizing litter pick-up events and hosting the annual “Jackie’s West Irving Christmas,” where she partnered with the Irving Police Department to provide meals, clothing, and gifts for needy families. At the time of her death in 2002, she was working as a receptionist at the West Irving Head Start program. In 2003, The Irving Independent School District named an elementary school for her.

Sources:

Scope and Content

The Jackie Mae Townsell Collection is dated from 1943-1998 and consists of material from Townsell's personal and family life, business, and career in public service. The material includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, newspapers, photographs, reports, agendas, minutes, meeting notes, election campaign advertisements, petitions, maps, speeches, essays, calendars, budgets, ledgers, directories, certificates, draft legislation, bylaws, flyers, receipts, bank records, programs, menus, books, business cards, textiles, plaques, and trophies.

The paper documents in the collection measure approximately 8 linear feet, and the three-dimensional objects occupy approximately 9.7 cubic feet. The collection is housed in a total of 15 boxes of various sizes:

- 1 cubic-foot - 9 boxes
- 18 x 13 x 3 inches - 3 boxes
- 25 x 19 x 3 inches - 1 box
- 22 x 17 x 15 inches - 2 boxes

The collection is divided into the following five series:

- Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998
- Series III: Personal Papers, 1943-1998

Series I: Civic Engagement consists of approximately 5.5 linear feet of paper records related to Townsell's activities with public schools, numerous non-governmental organizations, the Democratic Party, Dallas County, and the City of Irving. The records include correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, reports, agendas, minutes, meeting notes, petitions, maps, speeches, essays, calendars, schedules, election campaign advertisements, certificates, budgets, draft legislation, bylaws, and flyers. Additional material related to Townsell's public service can be found in Series IV and V.

Series I is divided into ten subseries, including seven based on subject areas of Townsell's civic engagement, one “miscellaneous” subseries, one subseries of scrapbook items, one subseries of calendars. Series 1-7 are titled:

2. City of Irving, 1971-1997
5. Housing, 1974-1996
7. West Irving Young Adults Club, 1978-1985
Subseries 1: Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Expansion consists of 14 linear inches of material related to Townsell’s efforts to ensure that Bear Creek homeowners would be fairly compensated by the airport and the federal government for the increase in airplane noise resulting from the addition of a runway on the east side of DFW International Airport in the 1990s. Although Townsell was a member of the Irving City Council at the time, and most of the material in Subseries 1 is from council meetings, the material was separated from Subseries 2: City of Irving because of its large volume. Additional material related to the airport expansion may be found in the newspaper clippings of Series IV.

Subseries 2: City of Irving consists of 18 linear inches of material related to Townsell’s city council election campaigns, her time on the council from 1977-1995, and her service on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in 1976. The material includes campaign advertisements, schedules and calendars, newspaper clippings, correspondence, agendas, minutes, reports, draft legislation, budgets, petitions, speeches, and notes.

Subseries 3: Democratic Party consists of approximately 6 linear inches of material related to Townsell’s service as a local party official and campaign volunteer for candidates in local, state, and US House of Representatives elections. The material includes campaign advertisements, schedules, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photographs.

Subseries 4: Health and Human Services consists of approximately 8 linear inches of material related to Townsell’s advocacy for the economically disadvantaged and for children with special needs. The specific issues addressed include healthcare, employment, foster care and adoption, education, and other basic social services.

Subseries 5: Housing consists of approximately 3.5 linear inches of material related to Townsell’s advocacy for safe and affordable housing for the economically disadvantaged in Irving including reports, newspaper clippings, and correspondence. The specific areas addressed include private non-profit and government assistance, the city housing code, and opposition by some Irving residents to the development of affordable housing in the city.

Subseries 6: Public History consists of approximately 2 linear inches of material related to the history of Bear Creek, the history of African American communities in the Dallas area, historical preservation, museums, and African American history-themed events. The material includes correspondence, flyers and programs, historical essays, reports, sketches, and booklets.

Subseries 7: West Irving Young Adults Club consists of approximately 2 linear inches of material related to a social club that provided young adults of Bear Creek with entertainment, opportunities to travel to places such as Mexico City and New Orleans, and career counseling.
Subseries 8: Miscellaneous Subject Files consists of a small amount of material related to each of 16 subject areas of Townsell’s civic engagement. Some areas of note are the Dallas County Grand Jury and the West Irving Improvement Association, the group that was formed to advocate for city services and other needs of the Bear Creek community. The subseries also contains a file related to awards received by Townsell and a file of miscellaneous notes and other papers.

Subseries 9: Scrapbook Items consists of loose newspaper clippings and other items related to Townsell’s interest in community affairs.

Subseries 10: Calendars consists of calendars with daily appointments.

Series II: Business Records consists of approximately 4 linear inches of material from Townsell’s grocery store and restaurant including menus, receipts, photographs, and financial records. Series V includes artifacts from the store/restaurant.

Series III: Personal Papers consists of approximately 5 linear inches of material related to Townsell and her family including correspondence, photographs, financial records, report cards, ticket stubs, World War II era ration books with stamps, and a Gilbert Grove Masonic Lodge financial book, 1953-1954. Series V includes artifacts of a personal nature.


Series V: Artifacts consists of approximately 9.7 cubic feet of three-dimensional objects. The bulk of this series was displayed in Townsell’s store/restaurant. This material includes approximately 0.3 cubic feet of business cards, 2 cubic feet of plaques and automobile license plates, and 6.5 cubic feet of trophies. The plaques and some of the trophies were awarded to Townsell for her public service. Most of the trophies are from Bear Creek schools (1955-1966) and Irving Parks and Recreation events (1980-1988). This series also includes a parking sign and name plates from Irving City Hall, name badges and pin-back buttons from conferences related to Townsell’s city council tenure (c. 1970s-1990s), paperweights, a Berlin Wall fragment souvenir, a dress, and two scarves.

Provenance Statement

The Jackie Mae Townsell Collection was donated by Jackie Townsell to the Irving Archives in three accessions: accession 9697-039 on March 21, 1997; accession 9899-016 on November 5, 1998; and accession 9900-051 on January 6, 2000.

Literary Rights Statement
Permission to publish from the Jackie Mae Townsell Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives.

**Container List**

**Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998**

**Subseries 1: Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Expansion, 1984, 1989-1995**

**Box 1**

**Folder**

1. **Airport Board, 1989, 1993**
   
   Contains photocopies of three letters from the Federal Aviation Administration to the DFW Airport board regarding a proposed runway, 1989; and a brief report on a survey of mayors about their views on local boards that would have the authority to overrule zoning ordinances of home rule cities, 1993.

   
   Contains a settlement proposal from the City of Irving to the airport board, 1991; a letter from an Irving City Council member, John Medaille, to the rest of the council regarding a settlement proposal submitted to the city by the airport board, 1992; and a fact sheet regarding the airport expansion and the airport board’s attempt to gain the authority to overrule cities’ zoning authority, 1992.

3-6 **City Council Folder, 1990-1992**

   Contains material from a folder that was addressed to “Councilwoman J. Townsell,” undated, including meeting notes and correspondence regarding mediation between the City of Irving and the airport board; a proposed city council resolution; newspaper clippings; correspondence regarding the Environmental Impact Statement related to the proposed runway; a summary of the EIS; corrections to the EIS; and correspondence related to a payment dispute with a law firm representing the city.

7 **Denver Airport, 1991**

   Contains a magazine article about the development of a large airport by the City of Denver, Colorado.

8-11 **City Council Folder, 1991-1993**

   Contains material from a folder that was labeled “Council Work Session, 2/26/92.” The presence of newer material suggests that Townsell added to this folder long after the work session. The material includes internal correspondence; letters from residents; reports on the history of the runway issue; newspaper clippings; a scientific report.
on airport noise; public relations material produced by the airport board; and a satirical troubleshooting flowchart.

12 Petition, 1992
Contains a petition urging the Irving City Council to resist the airport’s effort to build the new runway. A cover letter claims that this “partial installment” contains over 2,000 signatures.

13 City Council Folder, 1992
Contains material from a folder labeled “April 1, 1992, Work Session, DFW Airport Expansion – City Plan, Prepared by: Finance Department, Tax Department.” It appears that additional material was added after the work session. The material includes the work session agenda; one map and one aerial photo of the area affected by the proposed expansion; newspaper clippings; settlement proposal submitted to the airport board by the city dated March 27, 1991 (this copy was discarded, and an identical copy of this proposal can be found in Box 1, Folder 2); reports on how the airport expansion will affect tax revenues; correspondence from residents, attorneys, the airport board, and the Federal Aviation Administration; and a copy of a 1992 ruling in a lawsuit over a dispute between the city of Kenner, Louisiana, and the New Orleans Aviation Board.

14-17 City Council Material, 1992
Contains a collection of material from April-June of 1992 related to the Irving City Council’s dispute with the airport, including: letters written by Townsell to various public officials; press releases about Townsell’s advocacy for Bear Creek residents; letters from Irving residents; settlement proposals; reports on tax revenues in the areas affected by the airport expansion; newspaper clippings; and a draft of airport zoning regulations from the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

18 Irving Settlement Proposal, 1992
Contains a settlement proposal made by the City of Irving to the airport, with supporting documents; and a related news release from the airport.

19 Airport News, 1992
Contains news releases and news articles from an envelope labeled “News Release/Articles Related to Airport.”

20 Attorney Material 1, 1992
Contains a packet of information related to public relations and a settlement proposal from attorneys representing the City of Irving in the airport dispute.

21 Attorney Material 2, 1992
Contains a packet of information related to the Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed airport expansion and a proposed UPS facility from attorneys representing the City of Irving in the airport dispute.

22 City Council Material, 1992
Contains a collection of material from April-June of 1992 related to the Irving City Council’s dispute with the airport, including: legal documents; newspaper clippings; correspondence; and notes.

23 Airport Noise Legislation, 1992
Contains airport noise legislation proposed by members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

24 Community Meetings, 1992
Contains material related to meetings held to discuss the airport issue with residents of Bear Creek/West Irving including: flyers; correspondence; notes; and a copy of the airport’s mitigation plan that Townsell was protesting.

25 Airport Board Meeting, 1992
Contains material related to the June 2, 1992, meeting of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Board which Townsell attended, including: the meeting agenda; drafts of Townsell’s address to the board; letters written by airport officials prior to the board meeting; and a letter sent to local newspapers by Townsell about the conflict with the board.

Contains correspondence from the Federal Aviation Administration and US Department of Justice regarding a complaint by Townsell that the exclusion of Bear Creek residents in the airport’s mitigation plan constituted a civil rights violation.

29 Settlement Negotiations, 1992
Contains a collection of documents related to the City of Irving’s negotiations with the airport board, including: a settlement proposal; newspaper clippings; and correspondence.

30 News Release, 1992
Contains a City of Irving news release related to the airport board’s rejection of a settlement proposed by the city; a list of local and national media outlets with phone and fax numbers; a letter from Townsell about the airport issue sent to CNN and CBS News; and a reply sent to Townsell by CBS News.

31-35 City Council Material, 1992
Contains a collection of: correspondence; reports; legal documents; news releases; newspaper clippings; and notes. The bulk of the documents were presented to Irving City
Council members at work sessions. The subjects of the material include: litigation challenging the airport’s plans; opinions of individual residents and neighborhood associations; real estate appraisals; environmental responsibilities of the Federal Aviation Administration; Dallas NAACP’s advocacy for the residents of Bear Creek; proposed state and federal legislation to regulate airport noise; legal fees incurred by the city from the airport dispute; and the city’s attempts to negotiate a settlement with the airport.

36  Newspaper Clippings, 1992
    Contains newspaper clippings; and a news release from DFW Airport.

37  Zoning and Runway Construction, 1992
    Contains correspondence regarding the commencement of construction of the disputed runway in violation of the City of Irving’s zoning ordinances.

38  Injunction to Stop Runway Construction, 1992
    Contains documents related to a lawsuit filed in August 1992 by the City of Irving seeking an injunction against DFW Airport to stop the construction of the east side runway, including: correspondence with the airport, Irving residents, and city officials; newspaper clippings; and a legislative briefing with a historical narrative of the issue.

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Subseries 1: Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Expansion, 1984, 1989-1995

Box 1

Folder

39  Airport Proposal Outline, 1993
    Contains an outline of a proposal made by the airport to the City of Irving to settle the runway dispute.

40  Airport Proposal Outline Addendum, 1993
    Contains an addendum to the outline of the proposal made by the airport to the City of Irving to settle the runway dispute. Also contains: site plans showing the proposed airport expansion; and FAA airport noise regulations.

41-45  Airport Proposal Letters and Articles, 1993
    Contains correspondence and newspaper clippings from January-February 1993. Most are related to a settlement proposal offered by the airport to the City of Irving in February 1993. Most of the correspondence is from Irving residents expressing their approval or disapproval of the proposal.
46 City Council Meeting, 1993
Contains documents from the February 25, 1993 meeting of the Irving City Council, including: the minutes of the February 11, 1993 meeting in which the council rejected a settlement proposal from the airport; newspaper clippings related to airport; and a council resolution expressing opposition to a bill being considered by the state legislature which would give municipal airport boards immunity from city zoning regulations.

47 Zoning Legislation, 1993
Contains material related to a bill proposed in the state legislature that would give municipal airport boards immunity from city zoning regulations, including: a pamphlet; a City of Irving newsletter; a photocopy of a brief letter from Governor Ann Richards; a report on the airport’s payments to a lobbyist; and contact information of state legislators.

48-49 Chronology and Legal Strategy, 1993
Contains a chronology of the airport dispute; and correspondence and court records (sent to the Irving City Council by the city’s attorneys) related to a challenge to the Environmental Impact Statement on the airport expansion and pending state legislation that would give municipal airport boards immunity from city zoning regulations.

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Box 1

Folder

50 FEIS, 1992
Contains comments from the Environmental Protection Agency about concerns with the Federal Aviation Administration’s Final Environmental Impact Statement on the airport expansion plan.

51 Proposals, Legislation, and FEIS, 1993
Contains correspondence and reports that had been stored in a single envelope, related to: the airport’s 1993 settlement proposal; Irving’s settlement proposal from 1992; legislation concerning the airport board’s zoning authority; and Irving’s challenge to the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the airport expansion plan.

52 Runway Placement, 1993
Contains a draft City of Irving Resolution requesting that the Federal Aviation Administration reconsider the amount of space needed between runways at DFW International Airport.
Box 2

1 Photographs, 1991-1992
Contains an 8 x 10 inch photograph of Townsell and Irving City Council Members Harry Joe and John Danish on a trip to Atlanta, Georgia, 1991; and a set of 4 x 6 inch prints and negatives of photographs of airplanes flying over Bear Creek, 1992.

2 Valley View Lane, 1993-1994
Contains correspondence regarding the realignment of Valley View Lane.

Contains National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment newsletters and minutes, 1993, 1995; and a 1984 copy of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s noise assessment guidelines.

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Box 2

Folder

4 Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1992-1993
Contains a collection of letters regarding the dispute with the airport. The bulk of the letters are from Irving residents to the city council.

5 Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings, 1992, 1995
Contains newspaper articles on various DFW Airport subjects including the dispute with Irving.

Subseries 2: City of Irving, 1971-1997

6-7 1974 City Council Election, 1974
Contains material from Townsell’s campaign for Irving City Council, including: advertisements; election results; campaign activity schedule; bumper sticker; Townsell biographical information; and a program from the 1974 “Miss Black Dallas Beauty Pageant” which has a Townsell campaign advertisement on page 41.
8 1977 City Council Election, 1977
    Contains letters of support sent to Townsell before the 1977 election; letters
    congratulating her after her victory; notes; and newspaper clippings.

9 1979 City Council Election, 1979
    Contains a 21 inch square poster with voting instructions and sample ballot; and a
    letter sent to Townsell that mentions the election. Enclosed with the letter is a newspaper
    clipping about Townsell’s niece serving as a student intern with U.S Representative
    Martin Frost.

10 1979 City Council Election Notepad, 1979
    Contains photocopies of pages from a legal-size notepad and several documents
    that were stored between the pages of the notepad. The notepad contains lists of potential
    donors, registered voters, and campaign supporters. The other documents include: election results; a list
    of invitees to a campaign party; a League of Women Voters candidate questionnaire; City
    of Irving municipal election regulations; and a campaign contribution and expenditure
    statement.

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Subseries 2: City of Irving, 1971-1997

Box 2

Folder

    Contains election results; and Townsell’s certificate of election.

12 1983 City Council Election, 1983
    Contains political advertisements for Townsell and her opponent, S.M. Bey;
    drafts of Townsell advertisements; certificate of election; and an invitation to Townsell’s
    victory party.

13 1985 City Council Election, 1985
    Contains political advertisements for Townsell’s campaign; certificate of
    election; and congratulatory letters.

14 1987 City Council Election, 1987
    Contains copies of a hand-written letter from Townsell to voters; and Townsell’s
    certificate of election.
15  1989 City Council Election, 1989
    Contains Townsell’s certificate of election.

16  1991 City Council Election, 1991
    Contains an unanswered Irving Democratic Club questionnaire; election results;
    and certificate of election.

17  1993 City Council Election, 1993
    Contains advertisements; contributions and expenditures form; “Christian
    Coalition” candidate survey with Townsell’s answers; a League of Women Voters of
    Irving Voters Guide; and Townsell’s certificate of election.

18  1993 City Council Election Ledger, 1993
    Contains a ledger and documents that were stored between the pages of the
    ledger. The ledger records the Townsell Campaign’s contributions and expenditures. The other
    documents include: campaign contributions and expenditures forms; campaign calendar; list
    of contacts and campaign supporters; signed letter from an Irving Police Officer about a letter
    from anonymous Irving Police and Fire Department officials critical of Townsell; and
    invoices and receipts for campaign expenses.

*Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998*

*Subseries 2: City of Irving, 1971-1997*

Box 2

Folder

19-20  1995 City Council Election, 1995
    Contains election results; campaign advertisements; list of donors; schedule of
    campaign activities; and lists of registered voters.

21  1995 City Council Election Folder, 1995
    Contains documents that were stored in a single folder including: notes on
    campaign issues; newspaper clippings and resident-produced literature related to the
    movement to stop the construction of apartments in Irving; post-election newspaper
    clippings; and Townsell’s and other candidates’ answers to questionnaires from the Irving
    League of Women voters and an anti-apartment group.

22  Post-election Letters, 1995
    Contains letters sent to Townsell after her defeat in the 1995 election.

23  Townsell Election Campaigns, undated
Contains material related to Townsell’s various campaigns for Irving City Council, including: congratulatory letters; advertisements; list of attendees at a fundraiser; election results; financial records; candidate questionnaire from the Irving Heritage Society; and notes on issues Townsell campaigned on.

24 Other Local Elections (1 of 3), 1975-1977
Contains material from Irving municipal elections in which Townsell did not run, including: advertisements; lists of registered voters; 1975 election results; and a 1977 city council resolution declaring Marvin Randle winner of the mayoral election. Also contains an advertisement for a candidate in the 1976 school board election.

Contains material from Irving municipal elections in which Townsell did not run, including: advertisements; and election results. Also contains an advertisement and results from school board elections.

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26 Other Local Elections (3 of 3), c. 1970s-1990s
Contains undated material from Irving municipal elections in which Townsell did not run, including: program from a candidate debate moderated by Townsell; letter from Townsell asking voters to support certain candidates; advertisements; and election results. Also contains an advertisement for Gwyn Clarkston’s (Shea) campaign for state representative.

27 Board and Commission Handbook, 1989
Contains an Irving City Council member’s handbook for making appointments to the city’s various boards and commissions.

28 City Council Ethics, 1993, undated
Contains a photocopy of the state law regulating conflicts of interest of officers of municipalities; copies of the codes of ethics of Beverly Hills, Texas, and College Station,
Texas; and a newspaper article about allegations that members of the Grand Prairie City Council had violated the Texas Open Meeting Act.

29 City Council Ethics – Open Meetings, 1974-1976
Contains a packet of information about state open meetings law, including: a copy of amendments to the Texas Open Meetings Act; and internal City of Irving memos.

30 City Council Orientation, 1991-1992
Contains a draft of an orientation manual proposed by an Irving City Council member; and copies of journal articles with advice for municipal government officials.

31 Correspondence, 1977, 1991-1993
Contains correspondence received by Townsell and related to her position on the Irving City Council; and “Jackie Townsell, Mayor Pro-Tem” letterhead and envelopes.

32 Correspondence – Mayor Raper Memos, 1994, undated
Contains two memos from Irving Mayor Bobby Joe Raper concerning several issues that he wanted the city council to address.

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Folder

33 National League of Cities, 1991, undated
Contains material related to the NLC 1991 annual conference, including: registration information; correspondence; procedures guide; and directories of league members and conference exhibitors.

Contains material related to the NCTCG and its Environmental Resources Advisory Committee, including: a meeting summary; a meeting agenda; correspondence; directory of state and federal officials; and a 1992 newsletter.

35 Resident Complaints – Office Memos, 1993, 1995
Contains memos from Irving city staff concerning complaints from residents.

36 Resident Complaints – Town Hall, 1993
Contains summaries of complaints heard at an Irving town hall meeting.

37 Single Member Districts, 1978, undated
Contains information about single-member council districts, including: a journal article and an essay distributed to the Irving City Council in 1978; and advertisements for and against a ballot initiative to institute single-member districts in Irving.

38 Texas Association of Black City Council Members, 1977, 1993, undated
Contains documents related to the TABCCM, including: a draft of a Texas Municipal League resolution to add the TABCCM as an affiliate organization, 1993; IRS records, 1993; and an annual meeting agenda, undated. Also contains an invitation to the 1977 Texas Black Caucus convention; and a National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials newsletter, 1993.

Contains: memos; minutes; Town & City journal, May 1992; regional officers orientation folder, 1994; a 1994-1995 calendar of events and member survey blank enclosed within a 1995 regional officers handbook; and an annual conference planning committee meeting folder, 1995.

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43 City Council Notes, undated
Contains five pages of hand-written notes: four pages regarding city services needed in the Bear Creek community; and one page with a list of new services the City of Irving could provide its residents.

44 City Council Photographs, c. 1977-1980s
Contains 8 x 10 inch portraits of Townsell, other Irving City Council members, and city staff; a photo of Harry Field and Jack Huffman with US Senator Jim Collins; and a 13.5 x 11 inch photo of a swearing-in ceremony, undated (moved to Box 9, Folder 1.)

45 City Council – Miscellaneous, 1974-1997
Contains various items related to both the Irving City Council and Townsell’s tenure on the council including: newspaper clippings; correspondence; and agendas.
46-47 City Employee Compensation, 1992
   Contains documents related to City of Irving employee compensation including:
   City of Irving Classification and Compensation Plans; a letter from the Irving Police
   Patrolmen’s Union; and a newspaper article.

48   City Employee Cultural Sensitivity Training Proposal, undated
   Contains a detailed proposal to provide cultural sensitivity training; and a four-
   page resume of one of the two authors of the proposal.

49   City Employee Health Insurance, 1992
   Contains a packet of health plan information from an Irving City Council
   Employee Benefits Committee meeting.

50   City Employee Newsletter, 1979
   Contains a copy of Employee, a City of Irving newsletter.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

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Box 2

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51-52 Parks Board Records, 1976-1977
   Contains records of the Irving Parks and Recreation Board, including: minutes;
   correspondence; agendas; photos of Townsell testifying at a meeting of the Texas House of
   Representatives Environmental Committee and a photocopy of a State Representative’s
   newsletter that mentions Townsell’s testimony; and a copy of Townsell’s resignation letter.

Box 3

Folder

1-4 Parks Board Binder, 1976
   Contains records of the Irving Parks and Recreation Board that were kept in a
   three-ring binder. Most of the documents do not have holes punched in them but were  kept
   loosely in the binder. The dividers from the binder are labeled: Agenda; Minutes; General
   Information [consisting of correspondence]; correspondence [the documents  behind this
divider consist of Irving Parks and Recreation facilities policies; and resolutions [the documents behind this divider are related to the department’s budget]. A few pages of minutes and agendas were not filed between the dividers and were kept in the front of the binder [along with a 1968 hotel receipt that seems to have been put there by mistake]. The original order of all of the documents has been maintained.

5 Parks Department Records, 1979-1993
Contains records of the Irving Parks and Recreation Department (the bulk of which are related to funding for new facilities), including: correspondence; and reports.

6 Parks Department Ephemera, 1971-1997
Contains ephemera from the Irving Parks and Recreation Department, including: newsletters; brochures; certificates of appreciation; and invitations.

7 West Irving Study, 1982, undated
Contains a report from the Irving Planning and Zoning Commission on their 1982 “West Irving Land Use Study.” Also includes: undated notes and draft of a speech about a land use study and West Irving/Bear Creek development; and a newspaper article about zoning issues in a Dallas, Texas, neighborhood.

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8 Strategic Planning, 1992
Contains a packet of information from an Irving City Council discussion about the need for comprehensive strategic planning.

9 Zoning Cases, 1972-1983, undated
Contains documents concerning Bear Creek area properties, including: zoning ordinances, property descriptions, and plat maps.

10 Alcohol Zoning, 1981
Contains documents related to a referendum on allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages in Irving: a letter to the city council from a resident in opposition to alcohol in Irving; and an advertisement in favor of alcohol in Irving.

11 Police Community Services Programs, 1983-1994
Contains brochures, newsletters, and correspondence related to services provided by the Irving Police Department, including: youth/family counseling; teen court; and neighborhood watch.

Contains a 1991 annual report; and the 1991 and 1994 disaster and disorder manuals. These three publication can be found in the City of Irving Publications Collection, Section 4, Shelf 3. Also contains a cover letter from the 1991 annual report and two Christmas greetings, all from Chief Benny Newman.

13 Civil Service/Fire Department, 1973-1994
Contains Irving Fire Department statistics for the year 1973; a newspaper article and political advertisement related to a civil service commission election in Coppell, Texas, 1992; a 1992 report on City of Irving firefighter pay; and a 1994 Irving Fire Department management study.

14 Building Inspections – Cable TV, 1992-1993
Contains a letter related to the condemnation by the city of an apartment building in Bear Creek.

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15 Cable TV, 1992
Contains Irving residents’ complaints about the city’s cable TV franchise.

16 Capital Improvements, 1980-1992
Contains material related to the City of Irving’s Capital Improvements Program, including: two maps showing the 1980-1981 capital improvements, one with water and sewer, the other with streets and drainage; a City Manager’s report on the 1982 capital improvements, 1992; and a 1988 newspaper article about city officials, including Townsell, on a trip to New York to meet with bond rating agencies.

17 Charter Review, 1991
Contains a report from the City of Irving’s Charter Review Committee.

18 Finance Committee, 1992-1993
Contains documents from a 1992 meeting of the Irving City Council Finance Committee; and a 1993 meeting agenda from the same committee.

19  Grand Prairie, 1985-1992
    Contains documents related to Irving’s relationship with the city of Grand Prairie, Texas, including: correspondence; agendas; minutes; and newspaper clippings.

20  Hotel-Motel Tax/ICVB, 1988-1992
    Contains correspondence, state laws, and newspaper clippings about the use of the Hotel/Motel Tax; and an Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau “High-Spirited Neighbor” bumper sticker.

21  Legal, 1982-1993
    Contains court records from lawsuits involving the City of Irving.

22  Library, 1992, undated
    Contains a 1992 Public Library Advisory Board Handbook produced by the Texas State Library; and an Irving Public Library card signed by Jackie M. Townsell.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

Subseries 2: City of Irving, 1971-1997

Box 3

Folder

23  Newsletters, 1978
    Contains a City of Irving newsletter for residents; and a 1977-1978 “Year in Review” about the various City of Irving departments.

24  Public Works Committee, 1992
    Contains a packet of information from an Irving City Council Public Works Committee meeting about financing for various projects.

25  Recycling, 1993
    Contains letters from high school students about how Irving may benefit from a recycling program.

26  Sister Cities, 1985-1993
Contains material related to Irving sister cities Merton, England, and Marino, Italy, including: postcards sent to Townsell from representatives of both cities; itinerary for a 1985 visit of a Merton delegation to Irving; and background information on Merton.

27 Sports Arenas, 1984-1994
Contains a letter regarding the sale of the Dallas Cowboys Football Club and Texas Stadium Corporation, 1984; letter about proposed Texas Stadium improvements, 1993; news release promoting construction of a 20,000 seat indoor arena in Irving, 1994; and Dallas Cowboys decals.

28 Streets and Water, 1971-1992
Contains correspondence and maps related to road construction in the Bear Creek area; a 1984 City of Irving Master Street Plan map; a copy of a contract with the City of Irving to provide water service to the Townsell home in Bear Creek, 1971; and a history of the Cooper Reservoir, 1955-1992.

Box 13
Parking sign, undated
Contains an 18 x 12 inch metal parking sign that reads “City Council, Jackie Townsell.”

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998


Box 3
Folder

29 Party Positions Held, 1968-1982
Contains material reflecting various positions in the Democratic Party held by Townsell, including: Precinct Chair; Party Primary Election Judge; Convention Delegate; National Committee Contributing Member; Dallas County Democratic Executive Committee; and various other committees. The material consists of correspondence; certificates; and identification cards.

30 Criminal District Court Nominating Committee, 1968
Contains records of a Dallas County Democratic Executive Committee sub-committee for selecting a candidate for a special election to replace a judge in the criminal district court, including: correspondence; applications; and resumes.

31 Democratic Committee for Responsible Government, 1973-1975
Contains records of an unofficial organization of Dallas County Democrats for promoting conservative politics, including: identification card; directories; correspondence; and newsletters.

32 National Convention Program, 1972
Contains a copy of the program for the 1972 National Convention of the Democratic Party.

33 Miscellaneous, 1963-1992
Contains voter registration/party affiliation certificates; US Capitol visitor’s passes; and newsletters.

34 Bob Power Campaign Notebook, 1982
Contains a notebook related to Bob Power’s campaign for a seat on the Dallas County Commissioners Court that consists of: lists of contacts; donations and expenses; schedules; and speeches. Also contains an Irving City Hall directory and newspaper clippings, all of which were kept between the pages of the notebook.

35 Bob Power Campaign Folder, 1982
Contains material related to Power’s campaign for the Dallas County Commissioners Court from a single folder, including: notes; advertisements; novelties; and a Bob Power resume.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998


Box 3

Folder

36 Bob Power Campaigns, c. 1974, 1982
Contains material related to Townsell’s role in the 1982 Power campaign for the Commissioners Court including: notes; correspondence; advertisements; novelties; and invitations. Also contains an advertisement for Power’s Dallas County Community College District Trustee reelection campaign, circa 1974.

37 Democrats – A-D, 1972-1993
Contains material from various Democratic officials and candidates for office, including: correspondence; invitations to inauguration festivities at Austin; Christmas cards; and political advertisements. The material is grouped by the person it is related to and sorted alphabetically by last name. Some notable people in this folder are: US Senator Lloyd Bentsen; Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe; and John Danish of Irving.
38 Democrats – Frost, 1975-1991
Contains material from US Representative Martin Frost, including: correspondence; an invitation to a fundraising event; a bumper sticker; a newsletter; and political advertisements.

39 Democrats – Harding, 1981
Contains a letter from Texas State Treasurer Warren G. Harding with: a recording of him singing two songs on a 7-inch record; and newspaper article about Townsell.

Contains material from various Democratic officials and candidates for office, including: correspondence; Christmas cards; and political advertisements. The material is grouped by the person it is related to and sorted alphabetically by last name. Some notable people in this folder are: Texas State Senator Eddie Bernice Johnson; and US Representative Dale Milford.

41 Democrats – Orr, 1973-1977
Contains material related to Dallas County Commissioner Roy Orr, including: letters from Orr to Townsell; a copy of a Commissioners Court resolution to redraw the Justice of the Peace Precinct boundaries to allow minority representation on the court; and a program from a Roy Orr event with the text of a speech given by Townsell.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998


Box 3

Folder

42 Democrats – P-S, 1969-1994
Contains material from various Democratic officials and candidates for office, including: correspondence; Christmas cards; newspaper clippings; invitations; and political advertisements. The material is grouped by the person it is related to and sorted alphabetically by last name. Some notable people in this folder are: State Representative Carlyle Smith; and Texas Governor Preston Smith.

43 Democrats – V-W (end), 1974-1994, undated
Contains material from various Democratic officials and candidates for office, including: correspondence; Christmas cards; invitations to inauguration festivities at Austin; and political advertisements. The material is grouped by the person it is related to and sorted alphabetically by last name. Some notable people in this folder are: candidate
for US President George Wallace (bumper stickers only); State Senator Royce West; and Texas Governor Mark White.

**Subseries 4: Health and Human Services, 1971-1997**

44-46  Dallas County Child Welfare Board, 1975  
Contains a comprehensive set of records of the Dallas County Child Welfare Board, including: minutes; agendas; budget reports; activity reports; foster care statistics; children’s emergency shelter statistics and policies; and correspondence.

Box 4

Folder

Contains an incomplete set of records of the Dallas County Child Welfare Board, including: minutes; agendas; budget reports; activity reports; foster care statistics; children’s emergency shelter statistics and policies; correspondence; bylaws of the Friends of the Children’s Emergency Shelter, undated; and a Certificate of Appreciation given to Townsell, undated.

**Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998**

**Subseries 4: Health and Human Services, 1971-1997**

Box 4

Folder

2  Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center, 1973-1974  
Contains a letter dated May 23, 1974, welcoming Townsell to the Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center Board of Trustees with the following enclosures: board roster; five back issues of the Center’s newsletter, 1973-1974; and a brochure. Also contains certificates of appreciation, 1974.

3  Family Service Network, 1994  
Contains information about and a request for donations to a private, non-profit human services organization in Irving.

4  Helping Hand School – Board of Trustees Meetings, 1971-1972
Contains a file of records from meetings of the Helping Hand School’s Board of Trustees, including: agendas; minutes; reports; and correspondence. The records were not filed in chronological order and rearranging them in would require the difficult task of determining which meeting each document originated from, and the original order of the file at the time of the processing of the collection has been maintained.

5-11 Helping Hand School File, 1972-1976, undated
Contains a large file consisting of: brochures; activity and budget reports; architectural renderings; rosters, agendas, and minutes of the board of trustees; newsletters; correspondence with other welfare organizations; newspaper clippings; by-laws, school policies, and amendments; and programs. This file originally contained a brief summary of a report issued in August 1974 by the Mental Health Association of Dallas County titled “A Report on Mental Health Services for Children in Dallas County.” The full 98-page report was found elsewhere in the collection and has been added to this file.

12 Helping Hand School – March 1980 Board Meeting, 1980
Contains a meeting agenda; reports; school newsletter; and minutes.

13 Infant Intervention Center, 1989-1992
Contains material related to the Infant Intervention Center of Irving, a successor organization to the Helping Hand School, including: a strategic planning report, 1989; a letter from the board chairman to the board members, 1991; and a certificate of appreciation, 1992.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

Subseries 4: Health and Human Services, 1971-1997

Box 4

Folder

14 Irving Aid, 1976-1979
Contains material related to an agency that offered a wide array of social services, including: a brochure; board roster; three monthly activity reports; minutes; and two certificates of board service, 1976 and 1979.

15 Irving Community Hospital, 1975-1978
Contains material from the hospital’s advisory board, including: a board roster; bylaws; and a certificate of service.

16 Irving Coordinating Committee, 1974-1976
Contains material from an organization that appears to have been formed to address a wide range of needs in Irving, including: agendas; reports; minutes; and a newsletter of the Community Council of Greater Dallas.
17 Irving HELPS, 1983
Contains material from an organization formed to assist the needy in Irving, including: a tentative outline of the group’s structure; newspaper article about the founding of the group; minutes; and a member directory.

18 Irving Human Services Directory, 1993
Contains a directory of service providers in Irving.

19 Jackie’s West Irving Christmas, 1989-1997
Contains correspondence; and a proclamation from the Mayor of Irving.

20 Salvation Army Material, 1990-1996
Contains material related to the Irving Advisory Council of the Salvation Army, including: agendas; minutes; reports; rosters; and invitations.

21 Salvation Army Invitation Packet, 1992
Contains an invitation to join the Irving Advisory Council of the Salvation Army and some information about the organization.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

Subseries 4: Health and Human Services, 1971-1997

Box 4

Folder

22 Senior Citizens, 1976, 1979
Contains material related to the Irving Department of Parks and Recreation Senior Citizens Advisory Council, including: minutes; and a meeting agenda, 1976; and a newsletter from Senior Citizens Services, Western Dallas County, Inc., 1979.

23 Miscellaneous Health and Human Services, 1976-1997
Contains material related to the City of Irving, Dallas County, and various private organizations, including: correspondence; notes; a certificate; and a newsletter.

Subseries 5: Housing, 1974-1996

24-28 Rental Project Plans, 1974-1975
Contains material related to the planning of an affordable rental housing development in the Bear Creek neighborhood that was never built. Jackie and Jimmie Townsell appear to have been behind the idea. Material directly related to the project includes: notes; a project estimate from an architect; a 1972 Irving street map; plats; and a housing needs survey. This file also contains: newspaper articles and other printed material related to federal housing assistance; and a copy of the City of Irving’s “Minimum Housing Code.”

29 Printed Material, 1974-1979
Contains a city council candidate questionnaire from a homeowners group that opposed apartment construction, 1974; a newsletter from Greater Dallas Housing Opportunity, 1975; a flyer protesting the City of Irving’s rejection of federal housing funds and its Minimum Housing Code, c. 1975; and a newspaper article about corruption in the City of Dallas home improvement assistance program, 1979.

30 Minimum Housing Code, 1993
Contains material from the City of Irving Building Inspections Department, including: a summary of the division’s operations; a copy of the city’s Minimum Housing Code; and a sample inspection worksheet.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

Subseries 5: Housing, 1974-1996

Box 4

Folder

31 Resistance, 1981-1995
Contains material related to Irving residents’ resistance to subsidized housing, including: newspaper articles; and a copy of a federal court order that addressed racial segregation in Dallas-area subsidized housing programs.

32 Tax Credit Program, 1992-1994
Contains material related to applications for tax credits from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs’ Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, including: a summary of the program; and letters from the department and tax credit applicants to the City of Irving.

33 Federal Funds, 1993-1995
Contains material related to federal housing assistance funds, including: City of Irving correspondence and reports; notes; and summaries of federal programs.

34-36 City Council Federal Funds Committee, 1993-1994
Contains material from two meetings of the Irving City Council Federal Funds Committee, including: agendas; and summaries of federal housing assistance programs.

37 Valley Ranch Opposition, 1994
Contains material related to an opposition movement made up of single-family homeowners in the Valley Ranch area of Irving who wanted to prevent the construction of new apartments near their homes, including: newspaper clippings; and flyers.

38 Texas Commerce Bank, 1993-1994
Contains summaries of: a home repair loan program; and mortgages for home buyers with limited income.

39 Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, 1994
Contains an information packet from a national organization that supports affordable housing programs.

40 Habitat for Humanity, 1994-1996
Contains Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity program information; an Irving chapter newsletter; and a program from the dedication of a home built in the Bear Creek.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

Subseries 5: Housing, 1974-1996

Box 4

Folder

41 United Housing, c. 1995
Contains a packet of information from the “United Housing Program,” an affordable housing organization based in West Dallas, including: a detailed summary of the program; flyers; and newspaper clippings.


42 Townsell Heritage Center, 1990-1996
Contains material related to the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center, including: a rubbing of the “Jackie Mae Townsell” historical marker; City of Irving correspondence concerning the development of the center; event flyers and programs; and
architectural renderings. Two 17 x 11 inch sketches of the J.O. Davis and Green homes have been moved to Box 13, Folder 1.

43 Townsell Heritage Center Specifications, 1993
Contains a City of Irving notice to bidders; and architect’s specifications for the restoration of the Davis and Green houses and landscaping work.

44 Bear Creek History, 1991-1995
Contains a collection of material related to the history of Bear Creek, including: news articles; a program from an Irving Heritage Society event honoring Townsell; and a page of handwritten notes related to a Bear Creek history tour.

45 Sowers School No. 2, undated
Contains a short history of Sowers School No. 2, which became the J.O. Davis School in 1955; and an autobiography by Earlie Mae Wheeler, a teacher whose long career included a stint at Sowers No. 2/J.O. Davis.

46 City of Irving Events, 1992-1997
Contains flyers and programs from events hosted by the City of Irving in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and African American History Month. Also contains 2 MLK “I have a dream” bumper stickers.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998


Box 4

Folder

47 Irving Public Library Programs, 1979, 1995, undated
Contains material related to African American History Month programs at the Irving Public Library, including: text of a speech given by Townsell in 1979; a library newsletter, 1995; and an undated flyer.

48 Black Dallas Remembered, 1992-1994
Contains material related to Black Dallas Remembered, an African American history preservation organization. In 1993, Townsell received the organization’s Heritage Award for her efforts to preserve the history of Bear Creek. The material in this folder includes: a membership card; invitations; programs; a newsletter; and a brochure.
49  The Dallas I Know II, c. 1990
Contains a copy of *The Dallas I Know II*, a pictorial book about the history of Dallas’ African American community published by *Elite News*.

50  Printed Material, 1987, 1993
Contains a Dallas County Historical Commission booklet titled “A Guide for Seeing Dallas County History,” 1987; and an educational coloring book titled “Famous African Americans” with short biographies of 15 historical figures.

**Subseries 7: West Irving Young Adults Club, 1978-1985**

51  Mrs. Townsell’s Folder, 1978-1982
Contains a file that was stored in a folder labeled “Mrs. Townsell” and had a club membership roster written on the inside. The file consists of budgets; event tickets; agendas; minutes; club rules; self-help articles; receipts; and bank statements.

**Box 5**

1  Notebook, 1979
Contains a notebook consisting of agendas; records of club dues paid; member contact information; and bank records. Inserted into the notebook were photocopies of what appear to be National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs pamphlets (the pamphlets contain two phrases associated with the NACWC: “Lift as I Climb” and “Know Thyself, Learn More, Climb Higher”).

**Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998**

**Subseries 7: West Irving Young Adults Club, 1978-1985**

**Box 5**

**Folder**

2  Miscellaneous Records, 1978-1980
Contains minutes; correspondence; an application for funds from the Cultural Affairs Council of Irving; tickets for WIYAC events; and newspaper clippings.

3  Rosiland Sweat’s Folder, 1978
Contains a file that was stored in a folder labeled “Rosiland Sweat” and consists of: minutes; and correspondence.

4  Travel, 1978-1982
Contains material related to club trips to Mexico City and New Orleans, including: flyers; lists of travelers; and receipts from and correspondence with hotels (including The Royal Orleans).

5-6 The Royal Orleans Hotel, 1981-1982
   Contains material related to a hotel the club stayed in on a trip to New Orleans, including: information about the hotel; and receipts.

7 Banking Records, 1979-1981
   Contains account statements; deposit slips; canceled checks; and a check book.

8 Youth Services Network Grant, 1980
   Contains records of payment to WIYAC from Dallas County for reimbursement for services provided.

9 State Taxes, 1982-1985
   Contains a letter from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts about state corporate franchise tax exemption for nonprofit corporations, 1982; and statements from the Texas Employment Commission related to unemployment insurance, 1982-1985.

10 Federal Taxes, 1981-1985
    Contains letters from the Internal Revenue Service about tax exempt status and blank tax return forms.


Subseries 8: Miscellaneous Subject Files, 1955-1998

Box 5

Folder

11 African American Culture Organizations, 1979-1992
   Contains correspondence and flyers related to the following organizations: Black Arts Council of Irving; Black Cultural Groups; and West Irving Black Arts Council. Also contains a draft of the script for the documentary “Irving’s Hidden History,” 1985

12 American Business Women’s Association, 1983-1985
   Contains a membership card; and a Tercera Chapter (Irving) newsletter, 1983.

13 The Arts, 1975-1994
Contains material related to the performing and visual arts in Irving, including: receipts for membership dues paid to the Community Concert Association, 1975, 1983; flyers; a newsletter; and Irving Arts Board minutes, 1994.

14 Awards, 1976-1998
Contains various certificates awarded to Townsell for her community service and related items including; a “Yellow Rose of Texas” certificate, 1993 (and signed photo of Governor Ann Richards, undated); and letters and signed photos from President George H.W. Bush and State Representative Gwyn Shea congratulating Townsell for an award she received in 1991. Contains an additional photo of President George H.W. and Mrs. Bush signed “To Townsell Grocery.”

15 Beautification, 1996-1998
Contains flyers; correspondence; and certificates.

16 Irving Beautification Inc., 1992-1993
Contains a board member’s binder consisting of: by-laws; survey results; Irving City Code; directory of schools and churches; samples of Irving Beautification brochures; and City of Irving code violation notices.

17 Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce, 1966-1970
Contains a certificate of membership, 1966; a membership card, 1969; and a business directory, 1970. A 1969 certificate of membership has been moved to Box 9, Folder 2.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

Subseries 8: Miscellaneous Subject Files, 1955-1998

Box 5

Folder

18 Irving Chamber of Commerce, 1977-1993
Contains two Women’s Division directories of clubs and organizations, 1977 and 1992-1993; and an agenda of a 1993 board of directors meeting with reports attached.

19 Congressional Award, 1982
Contains an annual report and information about the national program that recognizes people aged 14 through 23 for achievements in public service.

Contains material related to a 1971 Dallas County Grand Jury, including:
Townsell’s summons; a photo of the jurors; list of grand jurors and court officials; correspondence; two handbooks for jurors; daily lists of people charged with crimes (titled “Grand Jury Assignment”), 1971; and notes. Also contains two letters from 1973 and 1976 concerning the Grand Jury.

23  Criminal Justice Committee, 1977-1979
   Contains material related to a “Dallas Area Criminal Justice Committee” including: correspondence; minutes; and a speech.

   Contains material related to Townsell’s service as an election judge and voter registrar in Dallas County, including: certificates and decrees; precinct maps; instructions; blank forms; and voter lists.

   Contains programs from church services that list Townsell as a speaker, 1982, 1987; and a survey form, 1998.

27  Jaycees, 1978
   Contains a program from an Irving Jaycees “Distinguished Service Award” banquet; and a copy of a nomination form submitted by Townsell for Bruce Burns.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

Subseries 8: Miscellaneous Subject Files, 1955-1998

Box 5

Folder

28  League of Women Voters, 1969-1976
   Contains material related to the League of Women Voters of Irving, including: membership cards; correspondence; directory of committee chairpersons; a newsletter; a meeting agenda; and a public school finance study report. Series V: Artifacts (Box 13) contains large LWV pin-back buttons.

29  League of Women Voters Voter’s Guides, 1974-1995
Contains voter’s guides published by the LWV of Irving for the following elections: spring 1974; spring 1977; spring 1978; spring 1983; fall 1983; spring 1984; spring 1991; and spring 1995.

30 Mass Transit, 1988, 1992, undated
Contains an official notice of 1988 bond election; and information related to proposed passenger rail service.

31 NAACP, 1994-1997
Contains material related to the founding of the Irving Branch NAACP in 1994, including: event fliers and a blank membership application. Also contains a Dallas Branch annual banquet program, 1997. A 17 x 11 inch poster announcing the Irving Branch’s 1994 opening reception has been moved to Box 9.

32 Notary Public, 1985-1996
Contains Notary Public Commissions, 1985, 1993; blank forms related to the sale of automobiles; and a letter notifying notaries of new state laws, 1996.

33-36 Public Schools, 1955-1996

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

Subseries 8: Miscellaneous Subject Files, 1955-1998

Box 5

Folder

37 Racial Justice, 1975, 1990, undated
Contains essays on race in the United States, undated and unsigned; material from a Dallas Independent School District symposium on institutional racism, 1975; an invitation from the Baha’is of Irving to give a speech on racial intolerance with a directory of a local Baha’i health professional association and an informational booklet on the Baha’i faith, 1990.
38 Scouts, 1981, undated
Contains a letter from the director of the Association of Baptists for Scouting commending Townsell on her leadership in starting a joint Cub Scout-Boy Scout unit, 1981; and a thank you card from Girl Scout Troop 1708.

39 Servicemen and Veterans, 1973-1995
Contains awards from: Veterans of Foreign Wars; National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve; and the American War Mothers. Also contains an empty, 9 x 12 inch envelope from the 40th Convention of the American War Mothers, 1975; an American Legion Auxiliary membership card; a 1983 edition of the Texas 49er, newsletter of the 49th Armored Division of the US National guard; and a 1991 edition of The Legion Times, a newspaper of the Texas Department of The American Legion, addressed to Jackie Townsell.

40 West Irving Community Activity, 1973-1977
Taken from a folder labeled “West Irving Community Activity.” Contains essays on the social and political situation of Bear Creek; a satirical “Psalm of Nixon”; blank income tax forms and applications for a “manpower” program, 1974; blank applications for the Food Stamp Program, 1973; by-laws of the Davis Recreation Center Parent- Leader Organization; and a list of needed improvements at West Irving parks and recreation centers.

41 West Irving Improvement Association, 1967-1990, undated
Contains a fundraising brochure, 1967; agreement for shared building use with the City of Irving, 1974; history of the association, undated; correspondence; and letterhead.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

Subseries 8: Miscellaneous Subject Files, 1955-1998

Box 5

Folder

42 West Irving Woman of the Year, 1971-1974
Contains records of an annual fundraiser for the West Irving Montessori School and its successor, the West Irving Day Care, including: notes; correspondence; expense lists; and newspaper clippings.

43-44 Miscellaneous Notes, c. 1960s-1990s
Contains notes on various topics related to Bear Creek.
Box 6

   Contains papers either related to one-off events or of unknown origin, including: correspondence; flyers; directories; minutes; contracts; and an autographed photo of US Representative James M. Collins (Republican).


2. Scrapbook 1, 1968-1987
   Contains newspaper clippings related to Irving politics, social issues, and student athletic and academic achievements; pamphlets on Bear Creek issues; and greeting cards.

   Contains items related to elections, service organizations, public schools, and youth sports, including: newspaper clippings; correspondence; invitations; and by-laws. The second folder contains a wallet-sized portrait of Ruth Paine, “friend of Lee Harvey Oswald’s wife.”

   Contains items related to Irving city elections, including: newspaper clippings; advertisements; ballot counts; and letters to Townsell (some related to other areas of her community service).

7-8. Scrapbook 4, 1974-1984
   Contains items related to Irving city elections, including: newspaper clippings; advertisements; and photos.

Series I: Civic Engagement, 1955-1998

Subseries 10: Calendars, 1971-1994

Box 8

Contains calendars with daily appointments.


Box 6

Folder
9 Menus, 1978, undated
Contains hand-written daily menus from Townsell’s restaurant.

10 Grocery Store Material, 1972-1985
Contains a Jolly Rancher proverb card; blank Mrs. Baird’s Bakeries order form; Clabber Girl Baking Powder price chart; sales tax permit; and a letter from a broker with advice on selling the store, 1985.

11 Loan Papers, 1966-1968
Contains paperwork related to a loan for fixtures, scales, and a cash register.

12 Customer Account Records, 1960-1967
Contains records of groceries bought on credit, cash loans made, and repayments to the store.

Contains seven ledgers with records of the grocery stores income and expenses.

17 Grocery Store Notebook, c. 1967
Contains financial records kept in a spiral notebook labeled “Townsell Gro.”

18 Finances, 1976
Contains a list of grocery store income and expenses, investment income, and personal expenses.


Box 6

Folder

19-20 Daily Sales, 1990-1992
Contains 8 x 5 inch notepads with columns of numbers (which appear to be dollar amounts) with dates as the headers, 1991-1992. Also contains catering orders; a small number of daily menus; and a signed equipment loan agreement between Townsell Grocery and the Dr. Pepper Bottling Company, 1990.

21 Tobacco Products Permits, 1966-1992
Contains permits to sell tobacco products.
22 Irving Health Department, 1989-1992
   Contains food establishment permits and an inspection report from the City of Irving Department of Health.

23 Photographs, 1992, 1997
   Contains photographs of Townsell Grocery that were kept in an envelope labeled “Pictures of Store, Man from Kansas City.”

Series III: Personal Papers, 1943-1998

24 Report Cards, 1940s-1950

25 Parkland Hospital Card, 1953
   Contains a Parkland Hospital Clinic registration card for Jackie Howard.

26 Correspondence – Letters, 1979-1995, undated
   Contains five letters sent to Townsell and her family from friends. Also contains a 1992 letter from President George H.W. Bush congratulating Bertha McGee of Caldwell, Texas, on her 100th birthday.

27 Correspondence – Cards, 1959-1995, undated
   Contains greeting cards and post cards sent to Townsell.

Series III: Personal Papers, 1943-1998

Box 6

Folder

28-31 Correspondence – Holiday Greetings, 1981-1994, undated
   Contains Christmas and New Year’s cards, with personalized greetings, sent to Townsell and her family.

32 Income Tax, 1953-1956
   Contains federal income tax withholding statements for Jackie and Jimmie Townsell.

33 Receipts, 1954-1979
Contains Townsell’s 1959 poll tax receipt and receipts from various businesses, including: Irving Lumber Company; Gilbert and Roberts Clinic; Lone Star Gas; and *Irving Daily News*.

34 Financial Institutions, 1957-1983
   Contains records related to loans and bank accounts.

35 Insurance, 1959-1969
   Contains records related to life and accident insurance policies.

36 Real Estate, 1969, 1994

37 Real Estate License Application, 1976
   Contains an application to the Texas Real Estate Commission for a salesperson’s license. The application has been partially completed by Townsell.

Box 7

1 Travel, 1961-1993, undated
   Contains: California and Route 66 road maps; Broadway Theater *Playbill* and ticket stub; Antietam National Battlefield brochure; and a 20 Belgian franc banknote.

   Contains ticket stubs from Dallas Cowboys games at Texas Stadium.

**Series III: Personal Papers, 1943-1998**

Box 7

Folder

3 NBC College, 1967
   Contains material related to classes taken by Townsell in accounting, typing, and shorthand. Also contains a photocopy of the cover of an accounting workbook that was discarded because of its poor condition.

4 Church, 1992-1998
   Contains material related to West Irving churches, including: a newsletter; and two tributes written for Townsell by church members.
5 Jimmie Townsell Papers, 1953-1977

6 Jack Howard Papers, 1946-1948
Contains papers of Jack Howard, father of Jackie (Howard) Townsell, including: two bank books; and a bill from Baylor University Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

7 War Ration Books, c. 1943
Contains three books of rationing stamps; and photocopies of 2 additional books. Each book has its recipient’s name written on the front, and none of the books belonged to the Townsells or Howards. A postmarked envelope and a brief note dated to 1997 are included with one of the books (The only reference to the book in the note reads “Here is a book of stamps.”)

8 Funeral Programs, 1975-1992
Contains 3 funeral programs.

9 The Soul Monte Carlos, c. 1970s
Contains handwritten performance notes and histories of the Irving musical group The Soul Monte Carlos, originally formed in 1972 as The Sagittarius Blacks.

10-11 Photographs, c. 1954, 1990s
Contains photographs of various sizes. All of the photos with Jackie Townsell in them are in the first folder. Includes a photo of Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and Townsell, autographed by Jones.

Series III: Personal Papers, 1943-1998

Box 9
Photograph, undated
Contains a photo of Townsell and a group of people on a farm with horses in the background. Townsell and a man are holding a check.

Box 13
Folder
1 Sheet music, 1991
Contains sheet music (on a 19 x 13 inch sheet) for “The Bare Necessities” with lyrics altered to honor Townsell, possibly from the April 4, 1991, Irving Heritage Society event.

**Series IV: Printed Material, 1952-1998**

**Box 7**

12-46 Newspaper Clippings, 1966-1998, undated
- Contains photocopies of newspaper clippings about: the West Irving community; Irving politics; and high school athletes.

47 Service Employees Union, 1993
- Contains the January 1993, edition of the Local 100 Service Employees International Union’s *News*.

48 Beauty Pageant Program, 1974
- Contains a program from the “Miss Black Dallas Beauty Pageant.” There is an ad for Townsell’s first campaign for Irving City Council on page 41.

49 AARP Directory, 1975
- Contains a 1975 membership directory of the American Association of Retired Persons Irving, Texas, Chapter.

50 Texas Odyssey Promotional Material, 1988
- Contains pre-publication promotional material for the book *Irving: A Texas Odyssey*. The material has information about being included in the book’s final chapter, “Partners in Progress,” which contains profiles of Irving businesses and civic groups.

**Series IV: Printed Material, 1952-1998**

**Box 7**

**Folder**

51 “Cookin’ Good,” undated
- Contains recipes collected by Beltline Road Christian Schools in Irving, Texas, in a cookbook titled “Cookin’ Good.”

52 “Memorial’s Creative Cookery,” 1984
- Contains recipes collected by the Christian Women’s Fellowship of Memorial Christian Church, Midland, Texas, in a cookbook titled “Memorial’s Creative Cookery.”
“Williams Companies Cookbook,” 1982
Contains recipes collected by the employees of Clayton W. Williams, Jr. in a cookbook titled “Williams Companies Cookbook.”

Recipes/Manuals, 1952-1979

The World of Cheese, 1983
Contains a paperback volume titled “An excerpt from The World of Cheese by Evan Jones.”

Church Musical, 1982
Contains a program from the Annual Anniversary and Musical of the Combined Choirs of the New Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and the Mount Olive Baptist Church.

Presenting “The Blues,” 1979
Contains a scrapbook-style booklet about B. B. King and Bobby Bland.

Now or Never, 1995
Contains a copy of the book Now or Never: How We Can Save Our Public Schools by Tom Luce; and a copy of a Borders bookstore newsletter containing an announcement of a book signing event with the author.

Box 7
Folder
Celebrities, c. 1990-1997
Contains autographed promotional portraits of the following: professional football players: Troy Aikman; and Herschel Walker; television journalists: Clarice Tinsley; and Chip Moody; Radio DJ (KKDA) Steve Ladd; bands: “Destiny”; and “The Truetones”; and one unidentified man, signature unintelligible. Also contains: 2 flyers promoting a Shirley Caesar concert in Dallas, 1997; and a headshot of entertainer Finney Mo with 3 press releases and a business card and handwritten note from his manager, c. 1992.
Box 9

Contains full editions of various newspapers including:

- *Dallas Examiner*, July 9, 1992
- *Dallas-Fort Worth Texas Times*, July 30, 1981
- *Dallas Post Tribune*, February 20-26, 1992
- *Dallas Weekly*, July 12, 1990; February 24-March 2, 1993; and June 28-July 5, 1995
- *Elite News*, May 29, 1982; June 5, 1982; and June 12, 1982
- *Irving High School Monthly Extra*, March 1983
- *North Dallas News*, July 6-19, 1990
- *Texas Methodist We Care*, January 6, 1978
- *Dallas Morning News* “Sunday Magazine” with cover story about Townsell, laminated, September 4, 1977
- 2 newspaper-style political ads: “Vote No” on referendum to allow the sale of mixed beverages in Irving, 1981; and Robert Power for County Judge, 1982

Books, 1968, 1976
Contains: *The Truth that leads to Eternal Life*, 1968; and *Your Youth: Getting the Best out of it*, 1976.


Box 13
Folder

2 Posters, 1990, 1992, and undated

Laminated newspaper articles:
- “Miss Jackie’s home base,” *Dallas Morning News*, October 14, 1990
- “Cookin’ up the Groceries,” *Dallas Times Herald*, November 28, 1990
Other posters:
- Martin Luther King, Jr., 1990, 20 x 16 inches.
- Martin Luther King, Jr., undated, 20 x 16 inches with “I have a dream” text.
- Malcolm X, 1990, 20 x 8 inches

**Series V: Artifacts, 1947-1996**

**Box 10**

Business cards, undated
Contains approximately 43.5 linear inches of business cards from various people.

Desk name plates, undated
Contains 2 Jackie Townsell desk name plates, one includes the title “Councilwoman.”

Hand fans, 1978-1995

Microform Bible, 1983
Contains a Christian Bible in microform from a cable TV conference.

Name badges, c. 1970s-1990s
Contains City of Irving name badges; and badges from various conferences.

**Series V: Artifacts, 1947-1996**

**Box 11**

Door name plates, undated
Contains two “Jackie Townsell” door name plates that appear to be from offices at Irving City Hall.

Cups, 1995
Contains three 4 inch plastic cups from the dedication of the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center on August 15, 1995.

License plates, 1947-1986
Contains 17 Texas automobile license plates that once decorated the walls of Townsell Grocery. Most are vanity plates.

Plaques, 1976-1996:

Ambucs
- Irving Chapter Citizenship Award, 1977-1978
- Irving Ambucs “Ambuc Citizen of the Year,” 1996

American Association of Retired Persons
- Irving Plymouth Park Chapter 3883, “in appreciation for outstanding service, dedication and leadership for the City of Irving,” 1993

Evergreen Baptist Church Youth
- Black History Award, 1992

Historical Preservations of America
- Notable Americans of 1976-1977

Box 12

Plaques, 1972-1995:

Greater Dallas County League of Municipalities
- President, 1983-1984

Irving Black Arts Council
- Arts Supporter Award, 1990


Box 12

Plaques, 1972-1995

Irving Beautification Inc.
- Certificate of Appreciation, 1994

Irving Chamber of Commerce
- Member, 1980
- Investor Member, 1984
- Investor Member, 1993-1995
Irving, City of
- “In appreciation for service on the City Council,” 1997-1995

Irving Parks and Recreation
- Davis PLO President, 1972
- Davis PLO President, 1973
- Davis PLO President, 1975
- IPAR Board Member, 1976-1977
- IPAR Board Golden Oak Award, 1995

Irving Police Reserve Association
- Norman G. Sutherland Award for Outstanding Service to the Community, 1990

Ministers Wives Alliance
- Citizenship Award, 1969

SSCC
- “In appreciation to Townsell Grocery for your support,” 1986

Salvation Army
- Advisory Council Member, undated

The We Care Youth Foundation
- Businesswoman Award, 1977

“Betty E. and Raymond”
- Best Cook Award (to Jackie and Jim)


Box 12

Plaques, 1972-1995

- “Elanie, Animals and Cats Humane Society”
- “Friend”

Box 13

Textiles, undated
Contains a long, pink dress; and 2 rayon scarves.
Pin-back buttons, c. 1970s-1990s
Contains several buttons/badges from various conferences and other events.

Berlin Wall, 1989
Contains 2 fragments of the Berlin Wall in a 6 x 6 inch frame.

Novelty sign, undated
Contains a cardboard sign that reads “City Hall, Terms Strictly Cash.”

Box 14

Plaque, 1976
Contains a plaque awarded to Townsell by the Democratic Women of the (Texas) 8th Senatorial District for “dedicated services to her community and Dallas County.”

Trophies, 1959-1996:
- Iota Phi Lambda Sorority Inc., Jackie Townsell, Nominee for the Lola M. Parker Achievement Award, 1983
- The Irving Academy of Community Services, Best Supporting Actor/Actress, 1992
- “Congrats to Jackie T., Quit Smoking,” 1996
- Coca Cola Bottling Company (with figure holding laurel wreath), undated
- Dallas Outlaws, second place (dominoes), 1983
- Dalworth Tournament, first place (track), 1959
- District Meet, Literary, second place, 1960
- District 3A, second place (track), 1961
- District, second place (basketball), 1964


Box 14

Trophies, 1959-1996:
- Dr. Pepper Bottling Company (with lyre)
- Forney, second place (basketball), 1965
- Interscholastic League Meet – District 3A, Literary, first place, undated
- Irving Parks and Recreation, Trinity View Park Adult Softball Complex Ground Breaking, 1988
- J.O. Davis Invitational, second place (basketball), 1960
- J.O. Davis Invitational (basketball), first place, 1961
- J.O. Davis, Junior Civic League, 1963
- J.O. Davis Rec., first place (dominoes), 1980
- Seventh Annual N.E. Texas Tournament (basketball), runner-ups, 1961
- Tenth Annual N.E. Texas Tournament (basketball), runner-up, 1964
- Eleventh Annual N.E. Texas Tournament (basketball), second place, 1965

Box 15

Trophies, 1955-1980:
- District, second place, 1964
- J.O. Davis Invitational, first place (basketball), 1961
- Prairie View A&M, Co-champion, Class C, Literary, 1955
- 11 trophies with engravings illegible or missing

Detached trophy engraving plates, 1959-1966
- Sixth Annual N.E. Texas Basketball Tournament, runner-up, 1959
- Twelfth Annual N.E. Texas Basketball Tournament, runner-up, 1966

Paperweights, 1979-1989:
- Iota Phi Delta, Business Week, 1982
- Irving Gymnastic Center Dedication, 1989
- Irving Public Library System, 1979
- Irving Public Library System (2 pen holders), undated
- North Lake College Community Natatorium, 1984
- West Park Recreation Center Groundbreaking, 1988

Ornamental salt/pepper shaker, undated