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Women for City Living (St. Louis, Missouri) Scrapbooks, 1969-1982

2 boxes

Processed by Dina M. Young, November 2000

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

P.O. Box 11940

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DONOR INFORMATION

The Women for City Living Scrapbooks and Crusade Starter Kit were donated to the Missouri Historical Society by Delphine McClellan in July 1995.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Women for City Living was organized in the summer of 1969 when Delphine McClellan, along with Virginia Feinberg and Anna Busch, began to explore what other American women were doing about crime. McClellan, a lifelong resident of St. Louis' Central West End neighborhood, decided to take a stand when robberies, burglaries, arson, and sexual assaults in the Central West End prompted many residents to abandon the area. The group soon had 600 members, both black and white, and first focused its efforts on the enforcement of building codes, and tracking down absentee landlords to ensure that owners kept up their buildings. Women for City Living worked to close down houses of prostitution and to help families buy homes in the city. In 1970, at the request of Mayor Alfonso J. Cervantes, McClellan and Women for City Living developed the Women's Crusade Against Crime, a city-wide effort to combat crime in numerous neighborhoods, including Walnut Park, Compton Heights, and The Hill. The Women's Crusade took on drug dealers, tracked down stolen goods, and advocated job training in the state correctional system. For her work as president of Women for City Living and co-chair of the Women's Crusade, Delphine McClellan received the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat's* 1970 Woman of Achievement Award, and a number of additional awards and citations.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of two scrapbooks (dissembled) which contain newsclippings, newsletters and brochures regarding Women for City Living and associated organizations; a notebook (dissembled) titled, "A Crusade Starter Kit," containing brochures, pamphlets, bumper stickers and information sheets on how to combat crime; and issues of "Crusade Courier," the official newsletter of the Women's Crusade Against Crime.

For additional information, see the Missouri Historical Society's "Information File," which contains references to material on Delphine McClellan and newsclippings about the Women's Crusade Against Crime. See also the book *We Stayed to Fight for City Living: How St. Louis Women Sparked a City Renaissance*, by Delphine McClellan (St. Louis: City Living Press,

1987), which is available in the Missouri Historical Society Library.

INVENTORY

Box 1

folder 1 “A Crusade Starter Kit,” 1969-1976

folder 2 “A Crusade Starter Kit,” 1970-1976

folder 3 Loose items from scrapbook, 1972-1993

Box 2

folder 1 Women for City Living scrapbook, vol. 1, 1969-1970

folder 2 Women for City Living scrapbook, vol. 2, 1971-1972

folder 3 “Crusade Courier,” newsletter, 1971-1976