

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Veronica Airey-Wilson

PERSON

Airey-Wilson, Veronica, 1953-

**Alternative Names:** Veronica Airey-Wilson;

**Life Dates:** August 4, 1953-

**Place of Birth:** Kingston, Jamaica

**Residence:** Hartford, CT

**Work:** Hartford, CT

**Occupations:** City Council Member

## Biographical Note

City council member Veronica Airey-Wilson, former deputy mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, was born on August 4, 1953, in Kingston, Jamaica, to Narciso and Clariana Airey. Moving to Hartford in 1960, Airey-Wilson attended both Brackett Elementary School and Arsenal Elementary School. Airey-Wilson was a member of the National Honor Society and captain of the cheerleading team at Weaver High School from

which she graduated in 1972. Attending Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York on a full scholarship, Airey-Wilson graduated in 1975.

In 1976, Airey-Wilson was hired by Aetna where she rose from claims adjuster to equal employment opportunity counselor. Leaving Aetna in 1985, Airey-Wilson started her own business, Verjen Boutique, in Hartford's Richardson Mall; she later returned to the insurance business by opening an AllState Insurance Company franchise, which eventually became the Airey-Wilson Insurance Group, a full service financial agency.

In 1994, Airey-Wilson was elected to the Hartford Court of Common Council, where she was the first Jamaican to serve as the city's deputy mayor; in 2003, she served as co-chair of the Youth Workforce Development Task Force. Airey-Wilson has served as an executive member of the Capital Region Council of Government Joint Policy Steering Committee; chair of the Republican State Convention; and an executive member of the Capital Region Council of Government Joint Policy Board. Airey-Wilson was vice president of the Association of Caribbean American Leaders and a member of the NAACP. In addition to her professional activities, Airey-Wilson has raised two children.

## **Related Entries**

**Weaver High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Brackett Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Arsenal Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Ithaca College** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Aetna, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1976 to 1985]

**Investigator**

**Verjen Boutique** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1985 to 1989]

**Founder**

**Allstate Insurance** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1989 to ?]

**Operator, Hartford Franchise**

**Hartford Court of Common Council** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1993 to 2011]

**Member**

**Independent United Order of Mechanics** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Association of Caribbean American Elected Officials  
and Leaders** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Vice President**

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored  
People** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Urban League of Greater Hartford** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**St. Monica's Episcopal Church** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**