



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Gay Officers Action League records

1982-2016

MssCol 23914

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2017.

Summary

Creator: Gay Officers Action League

Title: Gay Officers Action League records

Date: 1982-2016

Size: .42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by The Gay Officers Action League, 2017.

Abstract: The Gay Officers Action League was established in 1982 as an activist organization on behalf of gay and lesbian law enforcement personnel in New York City.

Preferred citation: Gay Officers Action League records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

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Creator History

The Gay Officers Action League (GOAL), established in 1982, addresses the issues and concerns of gay and lesbian law enforcement personnel. Originally a fraternal organization, GOAL advocates for the rights of its members and assists on issues regarding discrimination, harassment, and disparate treatment in the workplace. GOAL's members include both active and retired uniformed and civilian personnel employed in criminal justice professions.

One of the founding members of GOAL was Charles H. Cochrane, Jr. (1943-2008). In 1981, Cochrane testified before the City Council in favor of an anti-discriminatory proposal and stated that he was a gay police officer in the New York City Police Department. By doing so, he became the first openly gay police officer. The City Council defeated the proposal and left Cochrane largely unprotected against discrimination. This would eventually lead him to become a founding member of GOAL.

GOAL is an active organization that has also inspired the establishment of other GOALs in the United States.

Scope and Content Note

The Gay Officers Action League (GOAL) records, date from 1982 to 2016, and reflects the activism of GOAL to support gay and lesbian law enforcement personnel in their workplace and community. Documentation includes information on the Bias Crime Unit in the New York City Police Department, The Cathedral Project, which protested the Catholic Church treatment of gays and lesbians; activism to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade; and regional GOAL's activism.

The files include correspondence with New York City police commissioners, politicians, and activists; a speech by Charles H. Cochrane Jr. delivered at the Christopher Street Liberation Day Rally; a mock up for first GOAL newsletter; and GOAL's press releases about the violence in Orlando, Florida in 2016.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Correspondence
Speeches

Subjects

Discrimination in law enforcement -- United States
Gay activists
Gay police officers
Gay police officers -- United States
Police -- New York (State) -- New York

Occupations

Law enforcement

Names

Cochrane, Charles

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 GOAL's Objectives 1982-2003
- b. 1 f. 2-3 Correspondence 1982-2016
- b. 1 f. 4 GOAL Newsletter 1984
Volume 1. Issue 1. First copy.
Speeches 1982-1983
Cochrane, Charles, Jr
- b. 1 f. 5 Christopher Street Liberation 1982
- b. 1 f. 6 Gay Officers Action League (before) 1983
- b. 1 f. 7 Meenan, Coleen. Courage and Pride on Fifth Avenue undated
St. Patrick's Day Parade.
Subjects 1989-1993
- b. 1 f. 8 Bias Crime Unit 1990-1993
- b. 1 f. 9 (The) Cathedral Project 1989
- b. 1 f. 10 GOAL Regional 1991-1993
Organizations represented: Gay Officer's Action League of New England, Gay Officers Action League of Metropolitan Denver, and Northwest GOAL.