## **Lloyd Sealy Papers**

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## Summary

Title: Lloyd Sealy Papers

Dates: 1935-1992

Size: 11 linear feet, 9 in. (11 boxes)

Source: Family of Lloyd Sealy

Abstract: The Sealy Papers contain correspondence, writings, a lecture, photographs, media, memorabilia, and ephemera documenting the career of former NYPD Assistant Chief Inspector Lloyd G. Sealy, who later became a faculty member of John Jay College and is the namesake of the library of John Jay College. Sealy was a highly influential figure in law enforcement during the 1960's, was the first black to command Harlem's precinct and the first African-American officer to reach the rank of Assistant Chief Inspector within the New York Police Department.

Preferred Citation: Lloyd Sealy Papers, Special Collections, Lloyd Sealy Library, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY, 899 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10019

Access: This collection is available to qualified researchers by appointment with Special Collections staff.

Call the reference desk 212 237 8246 or email libref@jjay.cuny.edu

## **Biographical Note**

Lloyd G. Sealy was born January 4, 1917 in New York City. His parents had emigrated from Barbados and raised their family of three sons in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn. While a student at Thomas Jefferson High School he was elected student body president, an early indication that he was destined for a life of leadership. He received his B.A. in Sociology from Brooklyn College and later returned to school and earned a law degree from Brooklyn Law School (1952).

He joined the NYPD in 1942, and was a patrolman in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn for five years. He assumed a post within the Juvenile Youth Bureau and was promoted to rank of Sergeant in this division by 1951. By 1959 he became a Lieutenant and was assigned to the Confidential Squad. A year later Sealy became a captain and supervisor of patrol in the Manhattan North precinct. He was selected to be the first African American policeman to study at the National Academy of the FBI from which he graduated in November 1963. This was to be the first of many such distinctions of being the first African American to break the color barrier within the police force.

On August 14, 1964 Lloyd Sealy became the first African American to be given command of the 28<sup>th</sup> police precinct in the community of Harlem. He commenced his new role as Captain at a time when the atmosphere was heavily charged with racial tension and anger against the New York Police Department following the race riots that had rocked the community in July. African-American civil rights protests had been mounting and there were frequent allegations of police brutality against community residents. Part of the challenge of his new role was withstanding taunts by angry youths but within a short period of time he won praise and respect by community leaders for his special ability to quickly deescalate potentially explosive situations. His was a difficult balancing act of addressing concerns of the community, working with civil rights groups to integrate the police force in Harlem, encouraging better relations between residents with the mostly white patrolmen, and urging his patrolmen to practice humane policing and treat residents with courtesy and respect. By the end of August 1965, Sealy was widely being credited for preventing a recurrence of racial violence and cooling off Harlem's 'hot summer' (Coates, 1965).

In February 1966 Sealy became the first African-American policeman to be promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief Inspector. This was the highest post that a black man had ever held up to that point. He was assigned to head the Brooklyn North patrol service area of eleven precincts, including Bedford-Stuyvesant and Brownsville. His immediate goal was to foster greater cooperation between the police and the community and to instill more neighborhood confidence in the police. This was to be put to the test over and over as the poor, high-crime areas were often marked by violent outbursts and racial tension between the various ethnic groups. Sealy would sometimes accompany Mayor John Lindsay on his walks through the poor neighborhoods of Brownsville and East New York to meet with angry residents. On more than one occasion Sealy took command by either restraining police from aggravating a volatile situation or quelling crowds of angry protesters.

Sealy resigned from the police force in September 1969 to become an associate professor of Law and Police Science at John Jay College. At the time of his resignation he stated that his most valuable contribution had been "making some of the men aware of the need to be more sensitive to the needs of the people and their communities." (McFadden, 1969)

Sealy became the first African American faculty member in the department of Law and Police Science at John Jay College. One of his chief interests was the interpersonal relations between the police and the communities they served. He co-authored the book *The Community and the Police—Conflict or Cooperation?* (1974) in which he urged policemen to become more familiar with the particular issues and problems characterizing the communities they patrolled.

Sealy found a great deal of personal fulfillment in his role as a professor at John Jay College and particularly enjoyed mentoring his students and encouraging them to pursue greater academic achievement. He was elected chairperson of the department of Law and Police Science three times during an important period when the department's Criminal Justice and Legal Studies programs were expanding. He oversaw the development of the PhD program in Criminal Justice, a police cadet program and several innovative programs for law enforcement and fire science personnel.

Throughout his life Sealy was dedicated to working with community-based organizations and was active with the NAACP, the Urban League and the Salvation Army. Sealy had a particular devotion to youth and while working in the NYPD frequently lectured at schools in economically disadvantaged areas. During his lifetime he received many citations and awards from several organizations acknowledging his outstanding dedication and service to the community. Many of these awards are in the collection holdings.

He was a consultant for the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, the Office of Public Safety of the NYC Board of Education and served as a member of the Governor's Task Force on Violent Youths as well as the Governor's Task Force on Narcotics. In the 1970's he was a frequent lecturer and consultant on minority recruitment for various police departments throughout the country.

In 1976 Sealy became one of the founding members of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). He and other top ranking black law enforcement leaders established the nonprofit organization to address the problem of inner city crime and civil unrest, but also to support the equitable presence and advancement of blacks in the field of law enforcement (See: the video "National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives", Library's Reserve collection). Sealy was the Chairman of NOBLE's Research Committee from 1976-1980. After Sealy's death, the New York Chapter of NOBLE honored his legacy by renaming their annual achievement award the Lloyd Sealy Memorial Award.

Lloyd Sealy was involved in research at John Jay College Library when he suffered a massive heart attack. He died that day, January 4, 1985, his 68<sup>th</sup> birthday. A delegation of 200 active and retired police officers, headed by Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward, as well as former Mayor John V. Lindsay, and many faculty and administrative members from John Jay College attended his funeral service.

Lloyd Sealy received numerous posthumous tributes, the first of which was the establishment of the annual Lloyd Sealy Lecture series at John Jay College which was introduced by Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward (February 26, 1985). In April of that year John Jay College's President's Medal was given in honor of Sealy at the marking of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the college's founding. His high school alma mater, Thomas Jefferson High School named its newly created Institute of Law and Government after him in 1986. The institute had been established to improve academic performance and reduce the dropout rate and was co-founded by the NYC Police Department, John Jay College and Queens Law School. On March 14,1989 Mayor Koch officiated at the dedication of the intersection at Washington Avenue, Flatbush Avenue and Lincoln Road on Brooklyn as "Lloyd George Sealy Square". Finally, on December 4, 1991, the library at John Jay College was officially named in honor of Lloyd George Sealy.

### References

Coates, P. (1965, August 29). Harlem's 'hot summer' cooled off by top cop. New York Journal-American, p. 4-L.

McFadden, R.D. (1969, September 14). Sealy leaves police post for teaching. *New York Times*, p. 74.

## **Scope and Contents Note**

The Lloyd Sealy Papers is comprised of correspondence, writings, memorabilia, photographs, printed material and miscellaneous notes. The papers extend back to 1946 when Sealy graduated from Brooklyn College, and include materials past his death in 1985. The bulk of the documents are of the time period after Sealy had become appointed a Captain in the New York Police Department (1964) and then resigned from the police force to become a faculty member at John Jay College (1969-1985). Notable correspondence in Series 1 are the two NYPD letters concerning crime in the Brooklyn precinct that Sealy commanded from 1966-1969. The collection includes brief articles Sealy wrote about police relations with the community and a more extensive paper which was presented at a symposium and later published, "The Problems of Black Police Executives"\*, found in Series 3 (\*also found in the library's Special Collections, HV 8138 .S38 1976). The book The Community and the police: conflict or cooperation?, co-written with Joseph Fink, is found in the library's stacks (HV 7936 .P8 F56). Series 2 and Series 4 provide a sense of Sealy's activity as a consultant about minority recruitment within various municipalities' police forces, and as a panelist or consultant for numerous conferences. The text of most of his lectures is not available with the exception of an address presented at the Institute on the Criminal Justice System (Box 1, Folder 7). Researchers can find publications associated with two of Sealy's consultancies in the library's circulating collection (see Sealy, Lloyd G. in Cuny+). One of the highlights of the collection is an audiotape with radio interviews of Sealy, conducted by Captain Bill Bracey of the NYPD (Series 7) (Box 5). Here Sealy discusses police and community relations, the activities of NOBLE, the weightiness of his decision to resign from the police force to become part of the faculty at John Jay College and his ultimate satisfaction with his contribution to the field of criminal justice as an instructor. There is only a small amount of material in Series 4 which reflects his position as chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at John Jay College. Perhaps Series 5 is the most useful material to document his legacy as a law enforcement leader who made a definitive impact in improving police and community relations during a very volatile period in New York City. The newspaper clippings (Box 3, folder 4). photographs (Box 4) and posthumous tributes (Box 3, folder 10) demonstrate this clearly as do the many plaques and citations Sealy received during his lifetime (Series 8). A videotape of the dedication ceremony of the naming of the John Jay College Library after Lloyd G. Sealy is found in Series 7.

The papers are arranged by type and form of material in ten series:

- 1. General Correspondence, 1960-1984
- 2. Appearances, Speeches and related material, 1965-1984
- 3. Writings, 1968-1979
- 4. Subject File, 1967-1985
- 5. Memorabilia and Personal Papers, 1935-1992
- 6. Photographs, 1963-1986
- 7. Media, 1976-1991
- 8. Awards, citations and certificates, 1952-1978
- 9. Artifacts, 1994
- 10. Miscellaneous Oversized Material, 1965-1971

### **Series Descriptions**

Series 1. General Correspondence, 1960-1984 Box 1 Arranged chronologically. Contains NYPD correspondence while Sealy was Assistant Inspector General of the Brooklyn North Precinct; correspondence related to his participation in conferences, committees and other activities; correspondence related to his work at John Jay College, and congratulatory telegrams.

# Series 2. Appearances, Speeches and related material, 1965-1984 Boxes 1-2

Arranged chronologically. Contains correspondence, handwritten notes, printed material, articles, and reports associated with speeches and appearances Sealy made as a consultant and/or participant in task forces, panels, conferences, and a college planning committee.

### Series 3. Writings, 1968-1979 Box 2

Arranged chronologically. Contains journals, a journal offprint, partial manuscripts of books Sealy co-wrote, a typescript of a paper which was later published, reports of various group projects and task forces Sealy was a part of, and the draft and handwritten notes on a study on blacks in law enforcement. This series does not constitute Sealy's writings in their entirety.

## Series 4. Subject File, 1967-1985 Box 2

Arranged alphabetically. Contains correspondence, handwritten notes, reports, printed material and ephemera related to Sealy's work at John Jay College, his consultancies, participation in conferences, organizations he was a member of, and other miscellaneous subjects of interest to him.

## Series 5. Memorabilia and Personal Papers, 1935-1992 Box 3

Arranged chronologically. Contains personal mementos Sealy kept such as his school yearbook and college diploma, numerous newspaper articles documenting his career as a policeman, his curriculum vita and self evaluation while teaching at John Jay College. Also includes obituaries and posthumous tributes about Sealy and material related to the death of his wife, Estelle.

## Series 6. Photographs, 1963-1986 Box 4

Arranged chronologically. Consists of chiefly black and white 8x10 photographs of Sealy during his career with the NYPD. A series of photographs is found here of "A Day with Captain Lloyd Sealy", taken during his walk through the community of Harlem when he was newly assigned as the Captain of the Manhattan North Precinct. A large b&w photograph from this series, of Sealy talking with a young girl is part of the holdings. Other images are of Sealy as participant in the FBI National Academy in 1963, Sealy in various social events, and one of his wife Estelle, at a posthumous tribute to Sealy.

## Series 7. Media, 1971-1991 Box 5

Contains a cassette tape, video tape and a transcript of an interview. Side A of the cassette tape contains an interview (1976?) of Sealy and the president of NOBLE, Hubert Williams regarding the formation of NOBLE, their goals in shaping policies within the field of law enforcement, increasing legislators' awareness of their organization and working on the problem of crime in inner communities. Side B contains two interviews of Sealy by guest host Bill Bracey of the

NYPD. The first (1970's) concerns the low representation of blacks in urban police agencies, problems encountered by black police executives, racial discrimination, and the goal to increase community involvement in crime prevention programs, particularly in urban black areas. The second interview was incorrectly identified as taking place in November 1976 but was rather conducted in 1971. It should be noted the interview is also identified as having aired on WBLS though the recording appears to state "WLIB". It addresses Sealy's views on the roles the police and communities play and the need for a mutual understanding between the two entities. He also describes the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission and reveals the difficulty of his decision to leave the police force. The transcript of this series is associated with the second interview of side B of the tape. The videotape is of the dedication of the Lloyd George Sealy Library at John Jay College which took place on Dec. 4, 1991.

## Series 8. Awards, citations and certificates Series 8a Certificates, citations and diplomas, 1952-1978 Box 6

Consists of school diplomas Sealy received from Brooklyn Law School, honorary certificates and citations that Sealy received from various organizations, including the International Association of Police, the Boy Scouts of America, and an appointment to the Taxi and Limousine Commission by Mayor John Lindsay.

## Series 8b. Awards (plaques), 1965-1985 Boxes 7-10

Consists of many achievement awards in the form of plaques that Sealy received during his lifetime, and posthumously from various organizations from 1965-1985.

## Series 9. Artifacts, 1994 Box 10

Contains kente cloth stole, "Class of 1994". No direct association with Sealy has been determined.

## Series 10. Miscellaneous Oversized Material, 1965-1971 Box 11

Contains two copies of the NYPD listing of Sealy's career with assignments, transfers, and resignation, 1942-1969 (14x18 and 18x24); a copy of Mayor Lindsay's appointment of Sealy as member of the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, 1971; a framed, undated color print of City Hall with a handwritten dedication by Mayor Lindsay; a color photograph of an unidentified woman (Sealy's daughter?); Commemorative print on the national flag of Canada, 1965 and an excerpt of Sealy's "The Problems of Black Police Executives", 1965.

### **Container List**

## Series 1 General Correspondence, 1960-1992

Box Folder 1 1 1960-1984; 1992

Series 2 Appearances, Speeches and related material, 1966-1984

1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Advisory Committees, 1966 Aspen Institute Executive Program, 1966 Barbadian Association; Fifth Ave. United Presbyterian Church, 1967 1968-1969 Ditchley Foundation, June 1970 Nov. 1970-1974 Rochester, Syracuse (NY) & Richmond (VA) Police Dept. surveys, 1974 Committee on Law Enforcement, NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services, March 1975 Governor's Panel on Juvenile Violence, Aug. 1975 Governor's Panel on Juvenile Violence, Aug. 1975 Governor's Panel on Juvenile Violence, Aug. 1975 Conference on Juvenile Justice, Apr. 1976 National Institute on Crime and Delinquency, June 1976 Minority Research Workshop, US Dept. of Justice, Mar. 1978
2	1 2	"The Use of Deadly Force", American Society of Criminology, Nov. 1979 "The Criminal Justice Institutions & Community Involvement", NOBLE, Dec. 1979
	3 4	"Police Use of Deadly Force", NAACP Convention, July 1980 Correspondence re. "Police Community Relations in the Black Community"; NOBLE Committee, 1980
	5 6 7	Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council Annual Meeting, Feb. 1981 "Police-Citizen Violence Project", NAACP, Oct. 1981-July 1982 Various, 1983-1984
		Series 3 Writings, 1968-1979
2	8 9	"Prevention of Civil Disorders" in <i>The Police Chief</i> , May 1968 "A Police-Community Relations Program" in <i>FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin</i> , July 1968
	10	Book Review of "The Democratic Policeman" by George E. Berkley in Columbia Law Review, 1971
	11	Partial manuscript of The Chicago Police Department: An Evaluation of Personnel Practices (co-author), 1972
	12	Partial manuscript of The Community and the Police—Conflict or Cooperation? (co-author), 1974
	13	"Report and Recommendations of the Narcotics Subcommittee of the Governor's Task Force on Law Enforcement" (co-author), 1975
	14	Draft and notes, Study on blacks in law enforcement, ca. 1975
	15	The Problems of Black Police Executives, (presented at symposium on reducing crime in low income areas)1976
	16	"Research on Minority Communities", NOBLE, 1979
_		Series 4 Subject File, 1967-1985
Box	Folde	r
2	17 18 19 20 21 22	Board of Education, Office of Public Safety, 1974-1976 Hispanic Law Enforcement Council, 1974-1975 (attendee only) John Jay College, AID program, Oct. 1975- Feb. 1978 John Jay College, Criminal Justice Curriculum Planning, 1978 John Jay College, Police Science Final Examination, 1970's John Jay College, Criminal Justice Liaison Agency Comm. (draft), 1970's

- Martin Luther King advance speech text, march on Washington, DC, 1963
   Miscellaneous, 1970's-1982
   National Assoc. of Blacks in Criminal Justice, 1970's
   National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), ca. 1985
   Police Dept., Philadelphia, 1967; 1973
- 28 St. Francis College Charter Award Dinner, 1977
- 29 The Urban Coalition, 1967

## Series 5 Memorabilia and Personal Papers, 1935-1992

#### Box Folder 3 1 High School Yearbook, 1935 2 Brooklyn College Diploma, 1946 3 Brooklyn Law School Commencement Program, 1952 4 Newspaper clippings, 1955-1974 5 "Salute to Barbados Independence" program, 1966 6 Statement by Sen. Edward Kennedy on Anti-riot Bill, 1967 7 Invitation to retirement dinner for Frank Goetz, 1969 8 Portrait of Ramsey Clark with dedication to Sealy, ca. 1960's 9 CV, CUNY Self Evaluation, 1973; ca. 1977 Obituaries, 1985 10 Posthumous tributes, 1985-1992 11 12 Estelle Sealy, 1992

## Series 6 Photographs, 1963-1986

Box	Folder		
4	FBI National Academy, 1963 (three 8x10 and one 11x14) Chiefly b&w 8x10 photographs of Sealy on duty, and at functions, 1964?-1970's?; color photograph of posthumous tribute at Jefferson High School, 1986		
	3 11x14 b&w photograph of Sealy's first day as Captain at NYPD precinct Aug. 14, 1964		
	4 11x14 b&w photograph and negative of Sealy with young girl on NYC street, ca. 1964		
	Negative of photo of Sealy outside of 28 <sup>th</sup> Precinct (NY Daily News), 1964		
	6 Sealy, FBI National Academy speaker (two 5.5 x 7.5 photos and one negative), ca. 1970's		

### Series 7 Media, 1971-1991

### Box

5

Cassette tape with three interviews of Sealy, one of which includes Hubert Williams of NOBLE. The interviews took place in 1971 and ca. 1976 and were conducted by Bill Bracey of the NYPD. Transcript of one of the interviews (1971) (transcribed Nov. 20, 1991) Videotape (51 min.) of the dedication of the Lloyd G. Sealy Library, John Jay College, Dec. 4, 1991

## Series 8 Awards, citations and certificates Series 8a Certificates, citations and diplomas, 1952-1978

### Box

6

Brooklyn Law School Bachelor Diploma, 1952
Mock-ups and sample copies of certificates, 1965-1991
Various certificates (unframed), 1966-ca. 1970
Brooklyn Law School Juris Doctor Diploma, 1967
Brooklyn College Citation of Honor, 1967
Barbadian Ex-Police Association Honor, 1967
Boys Scouts of America (framed) Certificate of Appreciation, 1968
Boy Scouts "Century Plus" Club (framed) Certificate, 1970
Mayor's appointment to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, 1971
Intl' Assoc. of Chiefs of Police Certificate of Appreciation, 1978

## Series 8b Awards (plaques), 1965-1985

### Box

7

Award, United Block Association, Cadet Corp., 1965
A. Phillip Randolph Civil Rights Achievement Award, United Block Association, 1967
Merit Award, Medina Temple, 1967
Award. Y-Limaf Association, 1972

8

Award, 114<sup>th</sup> St. Block Council ("for his inspiring leadership and outstanding community services", n.d. Award, Boys Brotherhood Republic, n.d. Award, New York City Bowling Proprietors Association, n.d. Award, Bedford-Stuyvesant Youth in Action Community Corporation, n.d.

9

Golden Doughnut Award, Salvation Army, 1966 Achievement Award, The Council of Police Societies, 1966 Social Action Award, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, 1967 Man of the Year Award, Society of Afro-American Policemen, 1968 Award, NOBLE, 1980

10

Award, 114<sup>th</sup> St. Block Council ("for his dedicated work and devotion to the community of Harlem"), n.d.
Achievement Award, (posthumous), NOBLE, 1985
Proclamation, (posthumous), Board of Trustees, CUNY, 1985
Proclamation, (posthumous), Office of the President, Borough of Manhattan, 1985

## Series 9 Artifacts, 1994

10

Kente cloth stole "Class of 94"

## Series 10 Miscellaneous Oversized material, 1965-1971

### Box

11

Certificate, Mayor Lindsay's appointment of Sealy as member of the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, 1971
Framed historical color print of City Hall with dedication by Mayor Lindsay: "For Lloyd Sealy, my colleague and friend in this building, with the gratitude of all the people of New York, and their mayor, John V. Lindsay" (no date)
NYPD listing of Sealy's career with assignments, transfers, and resignation, 1942-1969 (2 copies on foamcore, 14x18 and 18x24)
Color photograph of unidentified woman (Sealy's daughter?)
Commemorative print on the national flag of Canada, 1965
Excerpt of Sealy's "The Problems of Black Police Executives", 1965

## **Select Bibliography**

Unless otherwise noted the materials listed are part of the Lloyd Sealy Papers.

- 1968 Prevention of civil disorders. The Police Chief, XXXV (5), 20.
- 1968 A Police-Community Relations Program. FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, 37 (7) 7-11, 19-21.
- 1971 The Democratic Policeman. (book review) Columbia Law Review, 71, 358-364.
- 1972 Minority recruitment for the State of Tennessee, Department of Safety. [Milwaukee]:
  Marquette University Law School, Center for Criminal Justice Agency Organization and
  Minority Employment Opportunities. (John Jay Special Collections and Stacks HV
  8145.T2 S42 1972)
- 1972 Whisenand, P. M., Hoffman, R. E., and Sealy, L.G. *The Chicago Police Department: an evaluation of personnel practices.* [Chicago]: s.n. (John Jay Stacks HV 8148 .C4 W44)
- 1974 Fink, J. and Sealy, L.G. *The Community and the police: conflict or cooperation?* New York: Wiley. (John Jay Stacks HV 7936 .P8 F56)
- 1976 The Problems of Black police executives. (Prepared for presentation at the Symposium on Reducing Crime in Low Income Urban Areas, September 7-9, 1976 (John Jay Special Collections HV 8138 .S38 1976)
- 1983 Sealy, L. G. and Spingarn, E. National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. [Videorecording]. New York, NY: Office of Instructional Services, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. (John Jay Reserve Room LD 2602 .J3v no. 20)
- 1991 Dedication of the Lloyd George Sealy Library, John Jay College of Criminal Justice [Videorecording], New York, NY: Office of Instructional Services, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.