

Transcript of Video of 1906 Streetcar Boycott

Subject: Black in the Past

Title: 1906 Streetcar Boycott (57 Seconds)

Scene 1: Photo of front view of a streetcar.

Text: In March of 1906 Black Austin was outraged. They were outraged because the Austin City Council passed a new ordinance requiring street cars to be segregated.

Scene 2: Photo of a streetcar with several African Americans standing near the rear entrance looking in and others already inside it.

Text: When City officials ignored Black Austin's request to revoke the ordinance, a boycott was organized.

Scene 3: Photo of inside of an empty streetcar.

Text: At first City officials didn't take the boycott seriously believing that it wouldn't last a week.

Scene 4: Photo an empty streetcar passing on a dirt road. A wagon follows behind. People are standing on the side of the road; one man is holding a large white sack in his hand.

Text: But with each passing day, fewer blacks were riding the street cars, choosing rather to walk to work or not go at all.

Scene 5: Photo of intersection of streetcar tracks with people standing away from the tracks.

Text: Black owners of horses and wagons met each day on Robertson Hill to offer rides to boycotters.

Scene 6: Photo of streetcar sitting in the middle of a main thoroughfare, a vintage car passing by it on one side. On the other side a person standing in the street is waiting. On each side of the street are storefronts. Wagons are parked in front of some of them.

Text: Months later after the boycott had ended a local newspaper reported that the Colored people were again riding on the cars as if nothing had happened. But something had happened: the beginning of the use of economic leverage to effect a change.

Scene 7: Credits for video showing Austin History Center and Austin Public Library logos on a black background with white lettering. It reads: Austin History Center Austin Public Library presents "Black in the Past", Executive Producer K. Anoa Monsho, Producer Karen Riles

Text: I am Karen Riles inviting you to explore your past at the Austin History Center.