

# Mayor's Mansion Debate Collection

## **An inventory of Mayors Mansion Debate at DC Public Library**

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

[archives.dcpl@dc.gov](mailto:archives.dcpl@dc.gov)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	People's Archive, MLK Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Bray, Howard
<b>Title:</b>	Mayor's Mansion Debate Collection
<b>ID:</b>	129
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	2001-2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.67 Linear feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
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## Biographical / Historical

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The Mayor's Mansion Debate Collection focuses on a proposed track of land which was to be donated by Mrs. Casey to Washington, D.C. with the stipulation that the property be designated for use as the mayor's official residence. While many local residents and government officials were appreciative of the proposed gift, feelings remained mixed. Among the concerns raised by local residents and city officials were questions about financing the maintenance and security of the property, whether the city and National Park Service should engage in a proposed land-swap, and if moving the mayor's residence to the Georgetown neighborhood sent the wrong message to the residents of Washington, D.C. by making the mayor appear distant or elitist.

As community groups and conservation organizations weighed in on the matter, the debate of accepting the proposed gift remained undecided, and in late 2003, the Casey Foundation withdrew the offer, and donated the land to the Salvation Army.

In the aftermath, Howard Bray, a local resident who actively involved in the ongoing debate surrounding the controversial project, used the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to request inter-office correspondence and reports relating to the Mayor's Mansion Debate from the National Park Service, Washington City Council, and the Mayor's Office

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## Scope and Contents

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Housed in thirty-eight folders in four boxes, the collection consists primarily of correspondence (e-mails, faxes, letters) reports, testimonies, maps, copies of deeds, and appraisals from both government agencies and private citizens.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW  
Washington, DC  
[archives.dcpl@dc.gov](mailto:archives.dcpl@dc.gov)

### Custodial History

Mr. Howard Bray donated this collection, which he acquired from several government agencies and non-profit groups under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Maps
- Correspondence
- Real Property
- Politics and government

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Donating Party

#### Scope and Contents

This series consists of folders dedicated to individuals who either worked with or representing the donor of the proposed mansion, Mrs. Eugene Casey. As her legal representative, Richard Carr corresponded heavily with city officials and authorized an appraisal of the proposed site, which was carried out by Harps & Harps, Inc.

Title/Description	Instances	
Richard Carr - Correspondence, 2001-2003	Box 1	Folder 1
Richard Carr - Appraisal/maps/petition/real estate amendment, 2001-2003	Box 1	Folder 2
Richard Carr - Speech, 9/4/2003	Box 1	Folder 3
Eugene B. Casey Foundation - Correspondence, 2001	Box 1	Folder 4
Harps and Harps - Correspondence/appraisals, 2002	Box 1	Folder 5

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### Series 2: Government

#### Scope and Contents

This series consists of folders dedicated to all the local government agencies involved in the decision-making process for the proposed mayor's mansion.

Title/Description	Instances	
City Council - Correspondence/memorandum/reports/announcements, 1/2003-9/2003	Box 1	Folder 6
City Council - Correspondence/reports, 10/2003	Box 1	Folder 7
Department of Transportation - Correspondence, 2003	Box 1	Folder 8
Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM) - Correspondence/speech notes, 2000-2001	Box 1	Folder 9
Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM) - Correspondence/reports/article, 3/2003-8/2003	Box 1	Folder 10
Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM) - Correspondence/reports/press release, 9/2003-2/2004	Box 1	Folder 11
Metropolitan Police Department - Correspondence, 2003	Box 1	Folder 12
National Park Service - Correspondence/reports, 1935-2001	Box 2	Folder 1

National Park Service - Correspondence/land transfer agreements/reports/webpage articles, 2002	Box 2	Folder 2
National Park Service - Correspondence/reports, 2003	Box 2	Folder 3
National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) - NCPC File #6375: "Transfer of Jurisdiction of a Portion of U.S. Reservation 357" - reports/correspondence/quarterly newsletter, 2003	Box 2	Folder 4
Office of the Corporation Council (OCC) - Memorandum/correspondence/drafts of lease agreement/articles of incorporation and bylaws, 2000-2003	Box 2	Folder 5
Office of Planning (OP) - Correspondence/memorandum/contract, 9/2002-8/2003	Box 2	Folder 6
Office of Planning (OP) - Correspondence/memorandum/draft of contract/notes, 9/2003-12/2003	Box 2	Folder 7
Proposed Land Exchange Agreement - Environmental assessment, 11/2002	Box 2	Folder 8

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## Series 3: Neighborhood Groups and Committees

### Scope and Contents

This series consists of folders dedicated to individuals and neighborhood groups and committees which worked closely with the city government, National Park Service, and Casey Foundation to determine Series 3: Neighborhood Groups and Committees: This series consists of folders dedicated to individuals and neighborhood groups and committees which worked closely with the city government, National Park Service, and Casey Foundation to determine whether the creation of the proposed mayor's mansion was in the best interests of the impacted neighborhood and community.

Title/Description	Instances	
Advisory Neighborhood Commissions - Correspondence/reports, 2001-2003	Box 3	Folder 1
Biological Resource Inventory Report - Draft of report, 11/4/2002	Box 3	Folder 2
Bray, Howard - Correspondence, court ruling, memorandum, notes (contains records related to Mr. Bray's request for information via FOIA), Undated	Box 3	Folder 3
Casey Mansion Committee - Correspondence/memorandum/meeting reports/reports, 2001-3/2003	Box 3	Folder 4
Casey Mansion Committee - Correspondence/reports, 4/2003-10/2003	Box 3	Folder 5
Defenders of Wildlife - Correspondence/environmental assessment, 2002-2003	Box 3	Folder 6
Foxhall Community Citizens Association - Correspondence/reports, 2002	Box 3	Folder 7

Foxhall Community Citizens Association - Correspondence/ petition/reports, 1/2003-4/2003	Box 3	Folder 8
Foxhall Community Citizens Association, 5/2003-11/2003	Box 3	Folder 9
Foxhall Community Citizens Association - Newsletters/ photographs, Undated	Box 3	Folder 10
Friends of Whitehaven Park - List of Exhibits, Undated	Box 3	Folder 11
Miscellaneous Correspondence - Correspondence, 2002-2003	Box 3	Folder 12
Report of the Mayor's Official Residence Commission - Report, April 24 2001	Box 3	Folder 13

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## Series 4: Public Response

### Scope and Contents

This series consists of folders which focus on the general public response to the proposed mayor's mansion (as evidenced through a public hearing, the press, and correspondence).

Title/Description	Instances	
Press (1 of 2) - Newspaper clippings/articles/editorials, Undated	Box 4	Folder 1
Press (2 of 2) - Newspaper clippings/articles/editorials, Undated	Box 4	Folder 2
Public Hearing - Testimonies, 2003	Box 4	Folder 3
Public Opinion - Correspondence, 2002	Box 4	Folder 4
Public Opinion - Correspondence, 2003	Box 4	Folder 5

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