



ArchivesSpace

Mayor's Mansion Debate Collection

An inventory of Mayor's Mansion Debate Collection at DC Public Library

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on August 21, 2021.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

peoples.archive@dc.gov

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Summary Information

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

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Biographical / Historical

The Mayor's Mansion Debate Collection documents a proposed track of land which was to be donated to Washington, DC by Mrs. Eugene Casey. The donation included the stipulation that the property be designated specifically for use as the mayor's official residence. While many local residents and government officials were appreciative of the proposed gift, responses to the proposed donation remained mixed. Among the concerns raised by residents and city officials was the financing to cover costs of maintenance; issues of providing security to the property; whether the city and National Park Service should engage in a proposed land-swap; and whether moving the mayor's residence to Georgetown would create the perception of elitism. The debate over accepting the proposed gift remained undecided, and in late 2003, the Casey Foundation ultimately withdrew the offer, and donated the land to the Salvation Army. In the aftermath, Howard Bray, a local resident who was actively engaged in the debate, submitted a request for inter-office correspondence and reports through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to the National Park Service, Washington City Council, and the Mayor's Office.

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Scope and Contents

The collection consists primarily of correspondence, in the form of emails, faxes, and letters. Additional materials include: reports, testimonies, maps, copies of deeds, and appraisals from both government agencies, and private citizens.

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Arrangement

Series 1: Donating Party Series consists of materials documenting individuals who either worked with, or represented Mrs. Eugene Casey, the donor of the proposed mansion. As her legal representative, Richard Carr corresponded frequently with city officials, and authorized an appraisal of the proposed site, which was conducted by Harps and Harps, Inc. Series 2: Government Series consists of folders dedicated to the local government agencies involved in the decision-making process for the proposed mansion. Series 3: Neighborhood Groups and Committees Series consists of folders dedicated to individuals, committees, and neighborhood groups who worked closely with the city government, National Park Service, and Casey Foundation. Their goal was to determine whether the creation of the proposed mayor's mansion was in the best interests of the impacted neighborhood and community. Series 4: Public Response This series consists of folders which focus on the general public response to the proposed mayor's mansion. Materials include records of a public hearing, press documents, and correspondence).

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

peoples.archive@dc.gov

Revision Description

Revised to be more evergreen. 2020-10-19

Custodial History

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

Processing Information

Standard archival procedures were used at the time of processing.

Conditions Governing Use

No known restrictions.

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Controlled Access Headings

- 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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