William H. Boner Mayoral Papers

Collection Summary

Title: William H. Boner Mayoral Papers
Physical Description: 31 boxes; 13 linear feet
Language: English
Stack Location: Metro Records Center. Researchers must make a request for access with the Metro Archives.
Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Historical/Biographical Note:
William Hill (Bill) Boner was born in Nashville on February 14, 1945, and graduated from East High School with honors in 1963. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1967, where he served as student government president and was a member of the university’s varsity basketball and tennis teams. He later received a Master of Arts degree from George Peabody College in 1969, and graduated from the YMCA Night Law School in 1978.

Before entering into politics, Boner was a teacher and basketball coach at Trevecca Nazarene College from 1969-1971, and later joined the Nashville Mayor’s Office as a senior staff assistant. In 1978, Boner was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served Tennessee’s Fifth Congressional District. He continued to serve in this office until 1986.

Boner was elected Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County in 1987, and served one term. Much of his term was dedicated to the search for a site for a new landfill, creating strong drug policies, and an extensive “Efficiency in Government” study with a task force comprised of volunteer business executives assisting Metro Government in order to find ways to improve productivity and examine the city’s purchasing procedures.

After serving as Mayor, Boner briefly went into business, in which he owned a pallet factory in Kentucky. Afterward, he became a restaurant franchisee for the H.R.H. Dumplin’S restaurant in Atlanta. He later sold the restaurant and returned to Nashville in 1994, where he eventually became a social studies
teacher at Franklin High School. Boner is currently retired and lives in Franklin, Tennessee.

**Scope and Contents of the Collection:**
This collection contains administrative records, newspaper clippings, reports, correspondence, and other materials relating to William H. (Bill) Boner’s political career. Some materials deal with Boner’s time as U.S. Representative for Tennessee’s Fifth Congressional District, but the bulk of the collection is dedicated to his term as Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County.

The majority of this collection documents Mayor Boner’s 1989 efficiency study of Metro Government, which was supervised by Warren King and Associates, Inc. and conducted by a group of volunteer executives. The purpose of the $250,000 study was to examine Metropolitan Government (with the exception of the school systems), issue recommendations to increase productivity and efficiency, as well as save costs. The final report included 357 recommendations and called for greater centralization, strengthening of the Mayor’s authority, increased privatization and eliminating the duplication of services, and civil service reform.

The William H. Boner Mayoral Papers also contain some documentation of the activities of the Mayor’s Office of Drug Policy, newspaper clippings, and speeches. The collection documents the policies and issues of the city and county during a time of economic development, as well as controversial issues surrounding Mayor Boner and his term in office.

**Index Terms:**

**Names:**
Boner, William H.

**Subjects:**
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.)
Nashville and Davidson Co.
Nashville. Mayor
Nashville (Tenn.)--History--20th century.
Nashville (Tenn.)--Politics and government.
Nashville (Tenn.)--Politics and government 20th century

**Related Collections:**
C. Beverly Briley Mayoral Papers
Richard H. Fulton Mayoral Papers
Philip N. Bredesen Mayoral Papers

**Arrangement:**
This collection is arranged alphabetically into five series: **administrative records, clippings, drug policy, efficiency study, and speeches.**

**Administrative records** includes reports on data processing efficiency in Metro Government, legislative matters, reports on the pay plan and payroll processing, and financial reports. Also included is a VHS recording of Mayor Boner’s first State of Metro Address in 1988.

The **clippings** series contains numerous newspaper clippings and articles regarding Mayor Boner and the Mayor’s Office, the Boner family, and information about Mayor Boner’s home at 714 Russell Street. Mayor’s Office clippings deal primarily with Boner’s policies and activities.

The **drug policy** series contains materials relating to the activities of the Mayor’s Office of Drug Policy. This includes correspondence regarding the broadcasting and printing of public information regarding drug abuse on radio stations, television, and newspapers, information about the DUI Media Campaign in the early 1990s, and various grant applications for Metro Government projects involving substance abuse treatment and prevention.

The **efficiency study** series contains reports, research materials, correspondence, and data relating to Mayor Boner’s “Efficiency in Government” study conducted in 1988-1990. The series is arranged numerically by report number and department, and includes information regarding the present operations of each department and recommendations for greater productivity and savings of costs.

**Speeches** includes Mayor Boner’s State of Metro Addresses for 1988, 1989, and 1991, as well as various other speeches regarding public housing, the Charter Revision Commission, and his undercover drug operation.

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Restrictions:

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Administrative Information:

**Copyright:** The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County retains intellectual property rights to this collection. Some restrictions may apply.
**Provenance:** Mayor’s Office of Nashville and Davidson County
**Processing Information:** Processed by Kelley Sirko, June 2018.
**Accruals:** No further accruals expected.