

## C. Beverly Briley Mayoral Papers

### Collection Summary

**Title:** C. Beverly Briley Mayoral Papers

**Summary:** A collection of correspondence, reports, and printed materials relating to C. Beverly Briley's time as Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, with some papers from his time as County Judge. Dates range between 1956 and 1981. Bulk dates: 1963-1975.

**Physical Description:** 33 boxes; 14.22 linear feet.

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** Section 9, shelves 1-3, 9-12

**Repository:** Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

### Biographical Note:

Clifton Beverly Briley was born in Nashville on January 11, 1914. He attended Caldwell and Glenn elementary schools, as well as Central High School, and later attended Vanderbilt University and Cumberland Law School, where he received his law degree. In 1932, Briley became the youngest Tennessean to be admitted to the bar at age eighteen and soon began practicing law. Briley married Dorothy Gordon in 1934, and served in the United States Navy during World War II.

In the mid-1940s, Briley moved into politics, and made his first political race for State Senate in 1946. Though he lost, Briley was later elected County Judge in 1950, a position for which he was re-elected in 1958. He was instrumental in the formation of the Tennessee County Judges Association in 1951, as well as the Tennessee County Services Association in 1954. Briley was an advocate for the merger of Nashville and Davidson County governments, and was a key figure in the formation of Metropolitan Government in 1963.

In 1962, Briley was elected the first mayor of the newly consolidated Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, which was established on April 1, 1963. He held this position until 1975, when term limits prevented him from running again. By 1971, Briley was the only mayor in the nation to serve as president of both the National Association of County Officials and the National League of Cities. He also served on the board of directors of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in addition serving as special advisor on municipal affairs to Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon.

During his time as Mayor, Briley dealt with issues such as busing in public schools, housing and urban development, as well as Nashville's involvement in President Lyndon B. Johnson's Model Cities Program, in which North Nashville was selected as a Model City Demonstration Area. His administration saw the complex transitional period in the consolidated government, and as a result Briley became nationally recognized as an authority on urban problems and local government management and administration.

Briley remained active in politics until his death on September 14, 1980, at the age of 66.

**Scope and Contents of the Collection:**

This collection contains correspondence, reports, project summaries and proposals, and printed materials relating to C. Beverly Briley's time as Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, with some papers from his time as Davidson County Judge and his political career after his last term as Mayor. Dates range between 1956 and 1981, with the bulk dates ranging from 1963 to 1975. Most of the collection deals with the city's transition into a metropolitan government, particularly in the areas of housing, education, and public health.

A great deal of this collection also deals with the busing regulations introduced in the public schools in 1971, much of which consists of correspondence from Nashville and Davidson County citizens in response to those regulations. Another large part of this collection deals with the Model Cities Program, which ended in 1974. Materials relating to the Model Cities Program consist of project proposals and summaries for housing, economic development, and community development in areas of North Nashville, as well as a great deal of correspondence from the Citizens Coordinating Committee and the City Demonstration Agency.

The C. Beverly Briley Mayoral Papers document the activities of the first Mayor of the newly consolidated Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, as well as Mayor Briley's political career and his role in the development of the city and county under the new form of government. This collection covers a number of issues of the time period, including integration in public schools, urban development and renewal, and housing issues.

**Index Terms:**

**Subjects:**

Briley, Beverly, 1914-1980  
Busing for school integration.  
Housing--Tennessee--Nashville.  
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.)  
Model cities  
Model Cities Administration (U.S.)  
Nashville and Davidson Co.  
Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.). Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency  
Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.). Metropolitan Public Health Department  
Nashville Housing Authority  
Nashville. Mayor  
Nashville (Tenn.)--History--20<sup>th</sup> century.  
Nashville (Tenn.)--Politics and government.  
Nashville (Tenn.) Politics and government 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Urban development.  
Urban Observatory of Metropolitan Nashville

**Related Collections:**

Ben West Mayoral Papers  
Dick Battle Papers  
Formation of Metro Government Files  
Robert A. Horton Papers  
Robert A. Horton Papers Addition  
Seymour Samuels, Jr. Papers

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged alphabetically into fifteen series: *administrative records, clippings, education, energy, environment, and technology, general government, housing and urban development, integration, Model Cities Program, printed materials, public health, public safety and corrections, scrapbooks, social services, speeches and addresses, and transportation.*

The *administrative records* series contains reports, news releases, organizational charts, and other materials relating to the organization and management side of Mayor Briley's administration. Materials include correspondence regarding the renovation of the courthouse, employee training policies, and project planning documents.

The *clippings* series includes newspaper clippings about conferences attended by Mayor Briley, such as the NACO Annual Convention and the National League of Cities Convention. Other clippings files include one for Mayor Briley's death in 1980, as well as biographical articles and information.

The *education* series contains materials about issues in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, including project descriptions and reports for the Emergency School Assistance Program, meeting minutes of the Board and United Parents for Quality Public Education, a report on school desegregation, and project proposals from the Urban Observatory of Metropolitan Nashville.

The *energy, environment, and technology* series contains materials regarding data processing and computer services, environmental planning and management projects, and reports on the energy crisis of the early 1970s. Other materials include correspondence and meeting minutes of the Council for Science and Technology, EPA guidelines and survey results, and a report regarding the preservation of natural areas and urban development in Nashville-Davidson County.

The *general government* series includes meeting minutes for various commissions and committees, some re-election campaign materials from the elections of 1966 and 1971, and other general matters in Mayor Briley's administration. Notable materials include correspondence congratulating Mayor Briley on his election as President of the National League of Cities, NACO addresses regarding the consolidation of Metropolitan Government, and a project proposal from the Urban Institute.

The *housing and urban development* series contains correspondence, reports, and project plans relating to community and economic development, housing and relocation issues, and HUD programs. Notable materials include plans for the Metrocenter development in North Nashville, correspondence and preliminary studies for development in the Music Row area, and meeting minutes for the Nashville Corporation for Housing Assistance.

The *integration* series largely consists of correspondence sent to Mayor Briley from Nashville and Davidson County citizens in response to the busing regulations introduced to Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools in 1971. This series also includes court documents relating to civil action lawsuits dealing with busing in Nashville, a legal opinion in the case of Kelley and Maxwell vs. Board of Education, and a report of zoning plans for public schools.

The *Model Cities Program* series contains an extensive amount of reports, project proposals, memoranda, and reports relating to Nashville's involvement in the Model Cities Program and its selection of North Nashville as a Model City Demonstration Area. Much of this series consists of memoranda sent to the Citizens Coordinating Committee and correspondence from the City Demonstration Agency. This series also contains contracts for various education, crime reduction, health, housing, social services, and recreation and culture projects as part of the Model Cities Program. Program summaries, project outlines, and relocation plans are also included.

*Printed materials* include newsletters, pamphlets, reports, and publications relating to government and urban development.

The *public health* series contains correspondence, reports, and contracts for projects and issues related to Metropolitan Nashville's public health system. These materials include project information for a Community Mental Health Center, a contract for the construction of the Comprehensive Health Services Program, reports of the Metropolitan Health Department, and research and development activities.

The *public safety and corrections* series contains materials related to law enforcement and corrections in Metropolitan Nashville. Materials include program descriptions from the Administration of Justice Planning Agency, correctional studies, and a status report on the 1969 comprehensive plan for the improvement of law enforcement.

*Scrapbooks* consists of ten books of newspaper clippings relating to issues and activities in Mayor Briley's administration, as well as his time as County Judge. Dates range from 1959 to 1965.

The *social services* series contains correspondence, goals, and case studies regarding social welfare, child welfare, and community services. Notable items include a list of WWII dead and missing from Davidson County for Veterans Services, goals of a social welfare and policy program, and a proposal submitted to the State Commissioner of Public Welfare regarding a comprehensive day care center.

The *speeches and addresses* series contains a number of speeches delivered by Mayor Briley or other Metropolitan Government officials regarding growth and progress, city-county consolidation, and inaugural addresses for Mayor Briley's re-elections in 1966 and 1971. Also included are Mayor Briley's "State of Metro" addresses from 1965-1975 (with a gap between 1969 and 1974).

The *transportation* series contains materials from the Airport Authority, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company. Also included are mass transit and urban area transportation studies, project summaries for various transportation-related programs, and an evaluation of the preliminary highway functional classification.

### **Contents Listing:**

**Boxes 1-3:** Administrative Records

**Boxes 3-4:** Clippings

**Boxes 4-5:** Education

**Boxes 5-6:** Energy, Environment, and Technology

**Boxes 6-8:** General Government

**Boxes 8-10:** Housing and Urban Development

**Boxes 10-13:** Integration

**Boxes 13-25:** Model Cities Program

**Boxes 25-26:** Printed Materials

**Boxes 26-27:** Public Health

**Box 27:** Public Safety and Corrections

**Box 28:** Social Services

**Boxes 29-32:** Speeches and Addresses

**Boxes 32-33:** Speeches and Addresses, Transportation

**Artifact Box:** General Government--Election Campaign Records

**Loose/Oversize Materials:** Scrapbooks, 1959-1965

### **Restrictions:**

**Restrictions on Access:** In-library use only.

**Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:** The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County owns the intellectual rights to these materials. Materials may be used for research purposes only, and cannot be used in a publication or reproduced.

### **Administrative Information:**

**Copyright:** The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County retains intellectual property rights to this collection. Some restrictions may apply.

**Provenance:**

**Processing Information:** Processed Kelley Sirko, August 2017.

**Accruals:** No further accruals expected.