

Philip N. Bredesen Mayoral Papers

Collection Summary

Title: Philip N. Bredesen Mayoral Papers

Summary: A collection of papers, photographs, and multimedia materials dealing with the activities of the Mayor's Office and Metro Government during Philip N. Bredesen's term as Mayor of Nashville, Tennessee. Bulk dates range between 1991 and 1999.

Physical Description: 169 boxes; about 72 linear feet.

Language: English

Stack Location: Archives II

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

Biographical Note:

Philip Norman Bredesen, Jr., born in Oceanport, New Jersey on November 21, 1943, served as the 4th Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County from 1991 to 1999. After graduating from Harvard University with a degree in physics, Bredesen became involved in politics, beginning his first political campaign when he ran for Massachusetts State Senate in 1969. He was later defeated by Ronald MacKenzie.

Bredesen and his wife, Andrea Conte, moved to Nashville in 1975, where he founded HealthAmerica Corporation, a health care management company. He later sold the company in 1986. In 1987, Bredesen ran for Mayor of Nashville for the first time, but was defeated by Bill Boner at the time.

Phil Bredesen ran for Mayor a second time in 1991, defeating Councilwoman Betty Nixon. Nashville's growth under the Bredesen administration included major improvements in education and the public library system, the renovation of downtown's entertainment district, major sports initiatives that brought the NFL and NHL to the city, and the expansion of Davidson County's parks and greenways. Nashville's economic growth during the Bredesen Administration improved as major companies such as HCA Healthcare and Dell Computer Corporation attracted jobs to the city.

After serving as Mayor of Nashville, Bredesen later served as Governor of Tennessee from 2003 to 2011. Since leaving office in 2011, Bredesen has served as chairman of a solar energy plant developer. He is also a founding member of the nonprofit organization Nashville's Table, and has served on the board of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

The Philip N. Bredesen Mayoral Papers spans largely from 1991-1999, and contains around 1,485 folders and multimedia items. This collection documents and activities, projects, and programs initiated during Bredesen's term as the 4th Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County.

Some of the highlights in this collection include materials relating to the construction of the Nashville Arena (now Bridgestone Arena), the relocation of the Houston Oilers to Nashville and the construction of the football stadium, the relocation of the Columbia/HCA headquarters to Nashville, and the establishment of an NHL franchise in Nashville.

A large bulk of this collection is dedicated to request forms sent to Constituent Services, which shed light on many issues of concern among Nashville and Davidson County residents during the Bredesen Administration. Much of the collection also includes materials relating to various Metro Government departments and commissions, and covers such topics as the establishment, activities, and studies of the Commission of Twelve on Law Enforcement and Justice, concerns over Core Curriculum within the Board of Education, and the construction of the Nashville Public Library's new main branch in downtown Nashville.

Index Terms:

Bredesen, Philip N. (Philip Norman), 1943-
HCA
Health care.
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.)
Nashville and Davidson Co.
Nashville. Mayor
Nashville Predators (Hockey team)
Nashville Predators (Hockey team)--History.
Nashville Public Library (Tenn.)
Nashville (Tenn.)--History--20th century.
Nashville (Tenn.)--Politics and government.
Nashville (Tenn.)--Politics and government 20th century
NFL
NHL
Sports--Tennessee--Nashville.
Tennessee Titans (Football team)
Tennessee Titans (Football team)--History.
Urban development.

Related Collections:

Ben West Mayoral Papers
C. Beverly Briley Mayoral Papers
Nashville Public Library Collection
Richard H. Fulton Mayoral Papers
Tying Nashville Together Collection
William H. Boner Mayoral Papers

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged alphabetically into eleven series: *Administrative Records, Clippings, Constituent Services, Correspondence, Departments & Commissions, Health Care, Legislation, Reports, Sports Initiatives, Transportation, and Video Media.*

Administrative Records contains materials relating to budgets, programs, work groups, and other internal issues within the Bredesen Administration. Also included are Bredesen's "State of Metro" addresses from 1992-1996, materials from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and various policies and government-related development.

The *Clippings* series contains a number of newspaper clippings regarding Phil Bredesen and the activities of his administration. Dates mainly range from 1993-1997, and cover topics such as budgets, Metro schools, crime, school desegregation, sports initiatives, and Bredesen's gubernatorial campaign.

The *Constituent Services* series includes a large number of request forms and complaint forms from Nashville and Davidson County residents. Forms are arranged alphabetically, and cover issues such as sidewalk repairs, downtown redevelopment, and letters from concerned and frightened citizens regarding criminal activity.

Correspondence ranges from 1991-1999, and mostly consists of Mayor Bredesen's incoming and outgoing general correspondence, which is arranged chronologically. Other correspondence relates to a proposal for a Cancer Survivors Park in Nashville, the expansion of Opryland, the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute property, and rehabilitation of the Shelby Street Bridge.

The *Departments & Commissions* series contains materials relating to the business of the various agencies within Metropolitan Government. Most of the materials included consist of activity reports, meeting minutes, correspondence, and other day-to-day business from each agency.

Health Care includes materials dealing with various health-related issues within Nashville and Davidson County, such as reports and correspondence regarding HIV/AIDS testing and policy, the relocation of Columbia/HCA's headquarters to Nashville and its economic impact on the city, the merger between Nashville General Hospital and Meharry Medical College, as well as a proposal for healthcare reform in Tennessee.

Legislation is a small series containing both Executive Orders and Amended Executive Orders from 1987 to 1999.

The *Reports* series includes various reports generated by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County, and include topics such as affordable housing, documentation relating to the establishment of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, waste management and environmental programs, and the relocation of the Nashville Zoo.

The *Sports Initiatives* series contains documentation, newspaper clippings and articles, and reports regarding the various sports-related projects undertaken during the Bredesen Administration. The majority of this series relates to the planning and construction of the new Nashville Arena (now Bridgestone Arena), completed in 1996, and the relocation of the Houston Oilers to Nashville and the establishment of the Tennessee Titans franchise. A small part of this series also deals with the Nashville Predators hockey team, the NBA, and Nashville's participation as a training site for pre-Olympic training in 1992.

The *Transportation* series is a smaller series that includes materials such as reports from the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, a transportation improvement program, and traffic management and calming policies.

Video Media includes several VHS tapes containing videos of various events in Metropolitan Government. These materials are housed in the Metro Archives' Audiovisual Heritage Center. For access, please contact the Audiovisual Archivist.

This collection also includes one box containing documents and correspondence marked "confidential" due to the fact that the materials involve attorney-client communications, personal information of Metropolitan Government employees, or documents otherwise labeled as confidential information. The materials in this box are restricted and not available for public use.

Contents Listing

Boxes 1-11: Administrative Records

Boxes 12-13: Clippings

Boxes 14-74: Constituent Services
Boxes 75-93: Correspondence
Boxes 94-136: Departments & Commissions
Boxes 136-141: Health Care
Box 142: Legislation
Boxes 142-156: Reports
Boxes 156-165: Sports Initiatives
Box 166: Transportation
Box 167: Confidential - Contents are restricted and not available for public use.
Oversize Box 1: Junior Achievement Awards Photographs, 1997
Oversize Box 2: 1996 Olympic Torch Flag
Video Media--Al Gore Story, c.1999 (AVHC)
Video Media--Budget Discussion, 1997 (AVHC)
Video Media--Building Bridges Program, n.d. (AVHC)
Video Media--East Bank Cumberland River, 1996 (AVHC)
Video Media--East Bank, Homeless Relocation, 1996 (AVHC)
Video Media--Gay Street Connector, 1996 (AVHC)
Video Media--Human Relations Recipients, 1998 (AVHC)
Video Media--Leadership Nashville, n.d. (AVHC)
Video Media--Nashville Union Mission, n.d. (AVHC)
Video Media--Summing Up, 1999 (AVHC)
Video Media--Telefood Highlights, 1997 (AVHC)
Video Media--Voice Your Choice, 1991 (AVHC)

Note: For a full, folder-level inventory of the Philip N. Bredesen Mayoral Papers, please contact Metro Archives.

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. Some materials are marked confidential and have been closed to public research.

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 Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County.

Processing Information: Processed by Kelley Sirko, August 2019.

Accruals: No further accruals expected.