

# Richard H. Fulton Mayoral Papers

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Richard H. Fulton Mayoral Papers

**Summary:** A collection of administrative records, clippings, correspondence, and speeches documenting Richard H. Fulton's political career. Dates range from 1960-1993, with the bulk dates ranging from 1975-1987, when Fulton served as Mayor of Nashville.

**Physical Description:** 17 boxes; 7.08 linear feet

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** S11-26 - S11-29

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

## Biographical Note:

Born in Nashville, Tennessee on January 27, 1927, Richard Harmon "Dick" Fulton had a political year that spanned over 30 years, serving as a United States Senator (1958-1960), United States Congressman (1963-1975), and Mayor of Nashville (1975-1987). He attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and served in the United States Navy from 1945-1946. His political career began in 1954, when he was elected to the Tennessee State Senate in place of his late brother, Lyle Fulton, who had passed away shortly before the general election. However, Fulton did not meet the state constitution's 30-year minimum age requirement at the time, and relinquished his seat.

In 1958, Fulton ran for Senate again and was elected. He served a two-year term, worked in business and real estate, and then successfully ran for Congress in 1962. He served as Congressman for the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District until 1975, when he ran for Mayor of Nashville. After winning the mayoral election, Fulton served as Mayor for three terms. Unable to run for an additional term, he was succeeded by Bill Boner in 1987. After unsuccessfully running for Governor of Tennessee in 1978 and 1987, Fulton later dedicated his time to his family's real estate business, as well as a governmental relations consulting firm.

Fulton oversaw many changes in Nashville during his twelve-years as Mayor. In addition to the opening of the new Convention Center, Riverfront Park, and the construction of Interstate 440, the Fulton administration also expanded the sewer and water lines in downtown Nashville in order to accommodate the growth of the city. He served as president of the Tennessee Municipal League in 1979, as well as president of the United States Conference of Mayors from 1983-1984.

**Scope and Contents of the Collection:**

This collection contains administrative records, clippings, correspondence, and speeches relating to the political career of Richard Harmon Fulton. The dates of the materials range between 1960 and 1993, but the vast majority range from 1975 to 1987, and detail Fulton's twelve-years as Mayor of Nashville. Of particular interest are the newspaper clippings, which document Fulton's policies and activities as a Senator, a Congressman, and as Mayor, as well as his activities after serving actively in politics. This collection also contains a number of speeches, including several "State of Metro" addresses, which shed light on the major issues and political atmosphere in Nashville at the time. Some materials are dated after Fulton's time as Mayor, which focus on his continued involvement with sports initiatives in Nashville, including the bid for Nashville to host the 1996 Olympic Games and efforts to establish an NFL franchise.

**Index Terms:****Names:**

Fulton, Richard, 1927-

**Subjects:**

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.)

Nashville and Davidson Co.

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

Olympics.

Urban development.

**Related Collections:**

C. Beverly Briley Mayoral Papers

Robert A. Horton Papers

William H. Boner Mayoral Papers

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged into six series: *administrative records, boards & commissions, clippings, correspondence, speeches, and sports initiatives.*

The *administrative records* series largely consists of metropolitan government personnel information, including disciplinary actions, employment applications and letters of reference, injuries, and resignations and retirements. Other materials include petitions regarding traffic problems on Gallatin and White Bridge Roads, a poem written by Richard H. Fulton in response to the assassination of John F. Kennedy, a press release regarding EPA sanctions imposed on Nashville, and reports from various hospitals.

The *boards & commissions* series contains meeting minutes, correspondence, and reports relating to various boards or commissions in metropolitan Nashville government. A large amount of this series consists of the records of the Mayor's Task Force on Food Services, with particular emphasis on the development of a nutrition program for the elderly. Also included are minutes from the Electric Power Board, the Board of Health, and the Metro Beautification Bureau.

The *clippings* series contains a large collection of newspaper clippings relating to Fulton's political career and afterward, ranging from 1960 to 1993. Other clippings include those regarding Fulton's children, his first wife, Jewel Simpson Fulton, and his second wife, Sandra F. Fulton. Also included are clippings relating to Fulton's gubernatorial campaign in 1985 and 1986, the Youth Employment Service program, and magazine articles.

*Correspondence* includes general letters of assistance from (and regarding) Nashville citizens relating to public housing, hospital admissions, etc. Also included is correspondence with several metro government officials and correspondence about the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Governor's Conference on Families.

The *speeches* series contains typescripts of speeches given by Mayor Fulton, including "State of Metro" addresses, a response to the budget controversy in 1984, a speech introducing Fulton's Greater Nashville Plan, and presidential addresses to the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The *sports initiatives* series contains reports, correspondence, clippings, and other materials relating to sports-related proposals in Nashville. These include materials relating to collaboration with the World League of American Football to establish a professional football team in Nashville, proposals to bring a major league baseball team to the city, and efforts to be the host city for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. The majority of these materials are dated after Fulton's term as Mayor.

## **Contents Listing:**

### **Box 1: Administrative Records**

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Committees--Administrative Committee (1975)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Committees--Central Safety (1980-1981)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Committees--Highway & Safety Coordinating Council (1979-1981)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Committees--Office for Handicapped Persons (1982)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Committees--Space Utilization (1980-1982)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Court Papers--Order (1975)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Executive Orders--Executive Order No. 55 (1975)

- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Financial Records--Bid Information (1975-1977)
- Fol. 9: Administrative Records--Legislation--Adoption Law (n.d.)
- Fol. 10: Administrative Records--MDHA--Minutes (1978-1980)
- Fol. 11: Administrative Records--MDHA--Minutes (Jan.-Jun. 1981)
- Fol. 12: Administrative Records--MDHA--Minutes (Jul.-Dec. 1981)
- Fol. 13: Administrative Records--MDHA--Minutes (Jan.-Jun. 1982)
- Fol. 14: Administrative Records--MDHA--Minutes (Jul.-Dec. 1982)
- Fol. 15: Administrative Records--METRA--Committee Meetings (1980-1981)

### **Box 2: Administrative Records**

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--METRA--Committee Meetings (1981)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--METRA--Private Industry Council (1981)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--METRA--Senior Programs Committee (1981)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--METRA--Youth Committee (1980-1981)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Personnel--Disciplinary Actions (1 of 2) (1975-1976)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Personnel--Disciplinary Actions (2 of 2) (1975-1976)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, A (1974-1976)
- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, B (1975-1977)
- Fol. 9: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, C (1975-1977)
- Fol. 10: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, D (1975-1976)

### **Box 3: Administrative Records**

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, E-F (1 of 2) (1975-1976)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, E-F (2 of 2) (1975-1976)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, G (1976)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, H (1 of 2) (1976)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, H (2 of 2) (1976)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, I-K (1976)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, L (1976)

### **Box 4: Administrative Records**

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, M (1 of 2) (1976)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, M (2 of 2) (1976)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, N (1975-1976)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, O (1975-1976)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, P-R (1 of 2) (1975-1976)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, P-R (2 of 2) (1975-1976)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, S (1 of 3) (1975-1976)
- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, S (2 of 3) (1975-1976)

### **Box 5: Administrative Records**

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, S (3 of 3) (1975-1976)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, T (1975-1976)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, U (1976)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, V (1976)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, W (1975-1976)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Personnel--Employment Applications, Y-Z (1975)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Personnel--Injuries (1974-1976)
- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Personnel--Reed, Marty (1975)
- Fol. 9: Administrative Records--Personnel--Resignations and Retirements (1976)
- Fol. 10: Administrative Records--Petitions--Gallatin Rd. Traffic Problems (1977)

- Fol. 11: Administrative Records--Petitions--Post Rd./White Bridge Rd. Traffic (1975-1977)
- Fol. 12: Administrative Records--Photographs--Adopt-A-House (1985)
- Fol. 13: Administrative Records--Photographs--Mayor's Youth Patrol (c.1980s)
- Fol. 14: Administrative Records--Poem--Kennedy Assassination (1963)
- Fol. 15: Administrative Records--Press Releases--EPA Sanctions (1984)
- Fol. 16: Administrative Records--Programs--John Ayres Merritt Blvd. Dedication (1982)
- Fol. 17: Administrative Records--Reports--Bordeaux Hospital (1975)

**Box 6: Administrative Records - Boards & Commissions**

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Reports--General Hospital (1981)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Reports--Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (1982)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Reports--Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (1985)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Reports--Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (1986)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Reports--Lentz Health Center (1975)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Reports--Management Study (1978)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Reports--Public Works (1975)
- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Reports--Summary Report (1987)
- Fol. 9: Administrative Records--Resolutions--Broadway Construction (1978)
- Fol. 10: Boards & Commissions--Auditorium Commission--Minutes (1979-1980)
- Fol. 11: Boards & Commissions--Beer Permit Board--Minutes (1980-1981)
- Fol. 12: Boards & Commissions--Charitable Solicitations Board--Minutes (1980-1981)
- Fol. 13: Boards & Commissions--Charter Revision Commission--Minutes (1981)
- Fol. 14: Boards & Commissions--Children's Hospital--Minutes (1980)
- Fol. 15: Boards & Commissions--Crime Control Commission--Correspondence (1981)
- Fol. 16: Boards & Commissions--Electric Power Board--Minutes (1980)
- Fol. 17: Boards & Commissions--Electric Power Board--Minutes (1981)
- Fol. 18: Boards & Commissions--Electric Power Board--Minutes (1982)

**Box 7: Boards & Commissions**

- Fol. 1: Boards & Commissions--Fair Commissioners--Minutes (1979-1981)
- Fol. 2: Boards & Commissions--Farmers Market Commission--Minutes (1977-1978)
- Fol. 3: Boards & Commissions--Food Services--Correspondence (1978-1979)
- Fol. 4: Boards & Commissions--Food Services--Financial Records (1978)
- Fol. 5: Boards & Commissions--Food Services--Membership and Objectives (1978)
- Fol. 6: Boards & Commissions--Food Services--Memphis/Shelby Co. Hospital Authority (1977)
- Fol. 7: Boards & Commissions--Food Services--Minutes (1978-1979)
- Fol. 8: Boards & Commissions--Food Services--Morrison Food Services (1978)
- Fol. 9: Boards & Commissions--Food Services--Notes (c.1978)
- Fol. 10: Boards & Commissions--Food Services--Nutrition for Elderly (1978)
- Fol. 11: Boards & Commissions--Food Services--Printed Materials (1978)
- Fol. 12: Boards & Commissions--Food Services--Report (c.1978)
- Fol. 13: Boards & Commissions--Health--Minutes (1979-1980)
- Fol. 14: Boards & Commissions--Health--Minutes (1981-1982)
- Fol. 15: Boards & Commissions--Historical Commission--Agenda (1981)
- Fol. 16: Boards & Commissions--Historical Zoning Commission--Correspondence (1981)
- Fol. 17: Boards & Commissions--Hospitals--Minutes (1981-1982)
- Fol. 18: Boards & Commissions--Library Board--Minutes (1979-1982)
- Fol. 19: Boards & Commissions--Metro Action Commission--Minutes (1981)
- Fol. 20: Boards & Commissions--Metro Beautification Bureau--Minutes (1981)

- Fol. 21: Boards & Commissions--MTA--Minutes (1979-1980)
- Fol. 22: Boards & Commissions--MTA--Minutes (1981-1982)
- Fol. 23: Boards & Commissions--Parks and Recreation--Minutes (1980)
- Fol. 24: Boards & Commissions--Parks and Recreation--Minutes (1981)
- Fol. 25: Boards & Commissions--Parks and Recreation--Minutes (1982)

### **Box 8: Boards & Commissions - Clippings**

- Fol. 1: Boards & Commissions--Pedestrian Safety--Minutes (1980)
- Fol. 2: Boards & Commissions--Planning--Correspondence (1980-1982)
- Fol. 3: Boards & Commissions--Planning Organization--Minutes (1980-1981)
- Fol. 4: Boards & Commissions--Planning Organization--Minutes (1981-1982)
- Fol. 5: Boards & Commissions--Port Authority--Minutes (1979-1981)
- Fol. 6: Boards & Commissions--Tax Equalization--Correspondence (1981)
- Fol. 7: Boards & Commissions--Tourist Commission--Minutes (1977)
- Fol. 8: Boards & Commissions--Traffic & Parking--Minutes (1980)
- Fol. 9: Boards & Commissions--Traffic & Parking--Minutes (1981)
- Fol. 10: Boards & Commissions--Traffic & Parking--Minutes (1982)
- Fol. 11: Clippings--Election, 1983 (1983)
- Fol. 12: Clippings--Fulton, Barry (1970)
- Fol. 13: Clippings--Fulton Family (1970-1985)
- Fol. 14: Clippings--Fulton, Jewel Simpson (1969)
- Fol. 15: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1960-1962)
- Fol. 16: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1963)
- Fol. 17: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1964)

### **Box 9: Clippings**

- Fol. 1: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1965)
- Fol. 2: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1966)
- Fol. 3: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1967)
- Fol. 4: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1969)
- Fol. 5: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1970)
- Fol. 6: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1971)
- Fol. 7: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1972)
- Fol. 8: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1973)
- Fol. 9: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1974)
- Fol. 10: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1975)
- Fol. 11: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1976)
- Fol. 12: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1977)
- Fol. 13: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1978)
- Fol. 14: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1979)
- Fol. 15: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1980)
- Fol. 16: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1981)
- Fol. 17: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1982)
- Fol. 18: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1983)
- Fol. 19: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1984)

### **Box 10: Clippings**

- Fol. 1: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1985)
- Fol. 2: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1986)
- Fol. 3: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1987)

- Fol. 4: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1988-1989)
- Fol. 5: Clippings--Fulton, Richard H. (1990-1991)
- Fol. 6: Clippings--Fulton, Sandra Ford (1987-1993)
- Fol. 7: Clippings--Greater Nashville Plan (1984)
- Fol. 8: Clippings--Gubernatorial Campaign (1985)
- Fol. 9: Clippings--Gubernatorial Campaign (1986)
- Fol. 10: Clippings--Magazine Articles (1980-1982)
- Fol. 11: Clippings--State of Metro Addresses (1971-1987)

#### **Box 11: Clippings - Correspondence**

- Fol. 1: Clippings--Town Hall Meetings (1985)
- Fol. 2: Clippings--Youth Employment Service (1975)
- Fol. 3: Correspondence--Budget Hearings (1976)
- Fol. 4: Correspondence--Cash, Johnny (1969)
- Fol. 5: Correspondence--CETA (1978)
- Fol. 6: Correspondence--Clancy, P.J. (1966)
- Fol. 7: Correspondence--Duncan, Hickman E. (1966)
- Fol. 8: Correspondence--Emergency Communications Center (1980)
- Fol. 9: Correspondence--Fleming, D.F. (1964)
- Fol. 10: Correspondence--Fulton, Richard H. (1978-1979)
- Fol. 11: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, A (1975-1976)
- Fol. 12: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, B (1975-1976)
- Fol. 13: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, C (1975-1976)
- Fol. 14: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, D (1975-1976)
- Fol. 15: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, E (1975-1976)
- Fol. 16: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, F (1975-1976)
- Fol. 17: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, G (1975-1976)
- Fol. 18: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, H (1975-1976)
- Fol. 19: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, I (1975)
- Fol. 20: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, J (1976)
- Fol. 21: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, K (1975-1976)
- Fol. 22: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, L (1975-1976)
- Fol. 23: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, M (1975-1976)

#### **Box 12: Correspondence**

- Fol. 1: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, N (1975-1977)
- Fol. 2: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, O (1975-1977)
- Fol. 3: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, P (1 of 2) (1975-1977)
- Fol. 4: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, P (2 of 2) (1975-1977)
- Fol. 5: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, R (1 of 2) (1975-1977)
- Fol. 6: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, R (2 of 2) (1975-1977)
- Fol. 7: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, S (1 of 3) (1976-1977)
- Fol. 8: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, S (2 of 3) (1976-1977)

#### **Box 13: Correspondence - Speeches**

- Fol. 1: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, S (3 of 3) (1976-1977)
- Fol. 2: Correspondence--General Letters of Assistance, U (1975-1976)
- Fol. 3: Correspondence--Governor's Conference on Families (1980)
- Fol. 4: Correspondence--Hunter, Brenda (1975)
- Fol. 5: Correspondence--Jayson, Lester S. (1967)

- Fol. 6: Correspondence--Lyle, Virginia (1985)
- Fol. 7: Correspondence--Padilla, Hernan (1984)
- Fol. 8: Correspondence--Public Housing (1 of 2) (1975-1976)
- Fol. 9: Correspondence--Public Housing (2 of 2) (1975-1976)
- Fol. 10: Correspondence--Public Property Administration (1975-1977)
- Fol. 11: Correspondence--Shavin, Judy (1967)
- Fol. 12: Correspondence--Steele, James M. (1968)
- Fol. 13: Correspondence--U.S. Conference of Mayors (1987)
- Fol. 14: Correspondence--U.S.S. Nashville (1976)
- Fol. 15: Correspondence--Weights and Measures (1980)
- Fol. 16: Speeches--Adopt-A-House Program (c.1983)
- Fol. 17: Speeches--ASAE Convention Welcome (1984)
- Fol. 18: Speeches--Budget Controversy (c.1984)
- Fol. 19: Speeches--Budget Kickoff (1983)
- Fol. 20: Speeches--Campaign Announcement (1983)
- Fol. 21: Speeches--CATV Deregulation (1984)

**Box 14: Speeches**

- Fol. 1: Speeches--Citizen Involvement (1983)
- Fol. 2: Speeches--Committee for Community Excellence (1983)
- Fol. 3: Speeches--Council Chambers (1976)
- Fol. 4: Speeches--Council Vote (c.1984)
- Fol. 5: Speeches--Current American Economic Policy (1982)
- Fol. 6: Speeches--Department Head Meeting (1984)
- Fol. 7: Speeches--Executive Communication Center Opening (n.d.)
- Fol. 8: Speeches--Greater Nashville Plan (c.1984)
- Fol. 9: Speeches--Inaugural Speech (1975)
- Fol. 10: Speeches--Inaugural Speech (1983)
- Fol. 11: Speeches--International Association of Chiefs of Police (1983)
- Fol. 12: Speeches--Junior Chamber of Commerce (1984)
- Fol. 13: Speeches--Kiwanis Club Luncheon (1984)
- Fol. 14: Speeches--Mass Transit (c.1987)
- Fol. 15: Speeches--Metropolitan Council (1983)
- Fol. 16: Speeches--National Year of the Disabled Person (1982)
- Fol. 17: Speeches--NEOCON Conference (1984)
- Fol. 18: Speeches--NRRI Convention (1982)
- Fol. 19: Speeches--OIC Tape Script (c.1982)
- Fol. 20: Speeches--Private Initiatives for Public Response (1982)
- Fol. 21: Speeches--State of Metro Address (1977)
- Fol. 22: Speeches--State of Metro Address (1979)
- Fol. 23: Speeches--State of Metro Address (1981)
- Fol. 24: Speeches--State of Metro Address (1982)
- Fol. 25: Speeches--State of Metro Address (1984)
- Fol. 26: Speeches--State of Metro Address (1985)
- Fol. 27: Speeches--Summer Job Program (1982)
- Fol. 28: Speeches--Teddy Bart interview (1982)
- Fol. 29: Speeches--Testimony Notes (1981)
- Fol. 30: Speeches--TVA Hearings (1982)



- Fol. 31: Speeches--U.N. Visit
- Fol. 32: Speeches--Unknown Speech (c.1982)
- Fol. 33: Speeches--U.S. Conference of Mayors (1981)
- Fol. 34: Speeches--U.S. Conference of Mayors (1982)
- Fol. 35: Speeches--U.S. Conference of Mayors (1983)
- Fol. 36: Speeches--U.S. Conference of Mayors (1984)
- Fol. 37: Speeches--Year-End Speech (1982)
- Fol. 38: Speeches--Year-End Speech (1983)

#### **Box 15: Sports Initiatives**

- Fol. 1: Sports Initiatives--Basketball--Continental Basketball Association (1991)
- Fol. 2: Sports Initiatives--Football--Clippings--Banner (1982-1991)
- Fol. 3: Sports Initiatives--Football--Clippings--Commercial Appeal (1991)
- Fol. 4: Sports Initiatives--Football--Clippings--Misc. Newspapers (1989-1990)
- Fol. 5: Sports Initiatives--Football--Clippings--Nashville Business Journal (1989)
- Fol. 6: Sports Initiatives--Football--Clippings--Tennessean (1982-1989)
- Fol. 7: Sports Initiatives--Football--Clippings--USA Today/New York Times (1989-1990)
- Fol. 8: Sports Initiatives--Football--Correspondence--Boner, Bill (1990)
- Fol. 9: Sports Initiatives--Football--Correspondence--Bredesen, Philip (1992)
- Fol. 10: Sports Initiatives--Football--Correspondence--Fulton, Richard (incoming) (1989-1991)
- Fol. 11: Sports Initiatives--Football--Correspondence--Fulton, Richard (outgoing) (1989-1991)
- Fol. 12: Sports Initiatives--Football--Correspondence--Harris Companies (1989-1990)
- Fol. 13: Sports Initiatives--Football--Correspondence--Letters of Support (1989)
- Fol. 14: Sports Initiatives--Football--Correspondence--McWherter, Ned (1989)
- Fol. 15: Sports Initiatives--Football--Correspondence--TN Professional Football, Inc. (1988-1989)
- Fol. 16: Sports Initiatives--Football--Correspondence--TN Professional Football, Inc. (1989-1992)
- Fol. 17: Sports Initiatives--Football--Invoices (1989)
- Fol. 18: Sports Initiatives--Football--Marketing Materials (1990)
- Fol. 19: Sports Initiatives--Football--Meeting Notes and Memos (1989)
- Fol. 20: Sports Initiatives--Football--Nashvillians for Landing the Oilers (1995)
- Fol. 21: Sports Initiatives--Football--Reports--Case Arguments (1991)
- Fol. 22: Sports Initiatives--Football--Reports--Corporation Annual Report (1982)
- Fol. 23: Sports Initiatives--Football--Reports--Market Studies (1988-1989)
- Fol. 24: Sports Initiatives--Football--Reports--Ownership Application (c.1991)
- Fol. 25: Sports Initiatives--Football--Reports--PR/Marketing Plans (1989-1992)
- Fol. 26: Sports Initiatives--Football--Reports--Progress Report (1989)
- Fol. 27: Sports Initiatives--Football--Resume Info. (1986)
- Fol. 28: Sports Initiatives--Football--Shareholder Info. (1989)
- Fol. 29: Sports Initiatives--Football--TN European Economic Alliance (1989)
- Fol. 30: Sports Initiatives--Football--TN Professional Football, Inc. (1989)

#### **Box 16: Sports Initiatives**

- Fol. 1: Sports Initiatives--Football--WLAFF Committee Members (n.d.)
- Fol. 2: Sports Initiatives--Football--WLAFF Organization (1991)
- Fol. 3: Sports Initiatives--Major League Baseball--City Plans (1983-1986)
- Fol. 4: Sports Initiatives--Major League Baseball--Clippings (1989)
- Fol. 5: Sports Initiatives--Major League Baseball--Committee Members (n.d.)
- Fol. 6: Sports Initiatives--Major League Baseball--Correspondence--Alexander, Lamar (1983-1985)

- Fol. 7: Sports Initiatives--Major League Baseball--Correspondence--Baseball Commission (1984-1985)
- Fol. 8: Sports Initiatives--Major League Baseball--Correspondence--Fulton, Richard (1983-1985)
- Fol. 9: Sports Initiatives--Major League Baseball--Criteria (1990)
- Fol. 10: Sports Initiatives--Miscellaneous Documents--Correspondence (1987-1988)
- Fol. 11: Sports Initiatives--Miscellaneous Documents--News Articles (1989)
- Fol. 12: Sports Initiatives--Miscellaneous Documents--Sporting Events Proposals (1987)
- Fol. 13: Sports Initiatives--Miscellaneous Documents--USA Amateur Boxing (1987)
- Fol. 14: Sports Initiatives--Nashville Sports Council--Meetings (1992)
- Fol. 15: Sports Initiatives--Nashville Sports Council--Mission Statement (1992)
- Fol. 16: Sports Initiatives--Nashville Sports Council--Music City Bowl (1990-1998)
- Fol. 17: Sports Initiatives--Nashville Sports Council--Personnel & Committee Members (1992-1993)
- Fol. 18: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Amateur Sports Committee (1978-1987)
- Fol. 19: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Boxing Committee (1987)
- Fol. 20: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Correspondence--Fulton, Richard H. (1986-1987)
- Fol. 21: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Correspondence--Misc. (1987)
- Fol. 22: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Correspondence--USOC (1986-1987)
- Fol. 23: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Correspondence--Webb, James A. (1987)
- Fol. 24: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Donor Information (c.1987)
- Fol. 25: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Financial Records (1987)

**Box 17: Sports Initiatives**

- Fol. 1: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Invoices (1987)
- Fol. 2: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Meeting Agendas & Notes (1987)
- Fol. 3: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Promotional Materials (1987)
- Fol. 4: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Reports--National Governing Bodies (c.1987)
- Fol. 5: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Reports--Personnel (1987)
- Fol. 6: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Reports--Requirements (1988)
- Fol. 7: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Reports--Sports Facilities (1987-1989)
- Fol. 8: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Research Materials (1987)
- Fol. 9: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--Subcommittees (1987-1988)
- Fol. 10: Sports Initiatives--Olympic Bid--USOC Meeting Minutes (1987)
- Fol. 11: Sports Initiatives--Soccer--Proposal (1989)
- Fol. 12: Sports Initiatives--Special Olympics--Requirements (1987)
- Fol. 13: Sports Initiatives--Special Olympics--Research Materials (1987)

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