Maurice Kelman Collection

Papers, 1951-1997
(Predominantly, 1968-1974)

6 linear feet
6 storage boxes

Accession #1282
DALNET #
OCLC #

Maurice Kelman, born in 1935, received a bachelor’s degree from Wayne State University in 1956 and in 1959 graduated first in his class from the Wayne State Law School. In the early 1960s, he clerked for U.S. District Judge, later Solicitor General, Wade H. McCree, Jr. and after earning an LL.M. from Harvard in 1963, joined the Law School faculty at Wayne State, specializing in constitutional and administrative law and the federal courts. He left briefly to teach law at Ohio State University, but returned to Wayne in 1970, where he remained until his retirement in 1996. During these years he also maintained a private law and arbitration practice in Detroit. Professor Kelman served as Special Counsel to Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh from 1968 until 1969, handling litigation, speech writing and departmental liaison as well as special projects.

The papers of Maurice Kelman primarily reflect his work as Special Counsel to Mayor Cavanagh and contain correspondence, reports, legal briefs, speeches, newspaper clippings and other material documenting the last two years of the Cavanagh administration. Other files relate to Kelman’s participation in the revision of Detroit’s City Charter, in a few labor arbitration cases, and in various legal matters involving the mayoralty of Coleman Young.

Related material may be found in the Jerome P. Cavanagh, (City of) Detroit Human Rights Department, New Detroit, Inc. and Mel Ravitz Collections.

Important subjects in the collection:

Afro-American police--Michigan--Detroit
Campaign funds--Michigan--Detroit
Cavanagh, Jerome P.
Detroit Boat Club/Yacht Club v. City of Detroit
Detroit Charter Revision Commission
Detroit (Mich.) riot, 1967
Discrimination in employment--Law and legislation--Michigan
Discrimination in housing--Michigan--Detroit
Elections--Michigan--Detroit
Gun control--Michigan--Detroit
McCree, Wade H., Jr.
Police--Complaints against--Michigan--Detroit
Police--Selection and appointment--Michigan
Race relations--Michigan--Detroit
Thomas Cooley Law School
Young, Coleman A.
Young v. Edwards
Important correspondents in the collection:

Jerome P. Cavanagh
Coleman A. Young

Non-manuscript material:

Audio tapes of an oral history interview with Ray Girardin conducted by Maurice Kelman have been transferred to the Archives Audiovisual Department. A transcript of the interview is available in the Reuther Library Reading Room.
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Box 1

1. Adhesive ordinance notice, Jul 1969
3-4. AOP Fact-finding Committee, 1968-69
5. AOP Fact-finding Committee; investigative report, Nov. 1968
6. Barbara trial; Cavanagh testimony re Peter Lazaros, Aug 1969
8. Biscup, Gerald; veteran’s appeal, Aug-Nov 1969
9-11. Board of Education (Detroit); contract agreements, 1978-83
12. Board of Education (Detroit); meeting with Mayor, Sep-Oct 1968
13. Board of Tenant Affairs, Nov 1968-Dec 1969
14. Boesky/Darby’s Restaurant fire, Jan-Feb 1969
17. Chapman, Dr. Paul; Detroit Health Department, 1968
21. Commentaries; WJR’s “Point of View,” Jan-Jul 1974
22. Common Cause in Michigan/Chamber of Commerce of Michigan
complaint against the Mayor Young Re-election Committee, Mar 1993-Jan 1994
24. Community Development Authority, Feb. 1969
26-27. Corres., memoranda, news articles; misc., 1968-69
28. Corruption allegations (Cavanagh and the Mafia), 1968-69, 1974
29. Crime; TV2 program, 1968-69
30. Detective-sergeant ratio (Detroit Police Department), 1969
31. Detroit Boat Club/Yacht Club bias suit; press coverage, 1969-74

Box 2

6-8. Detroit Charter revision; civil suits and police trial boards, Sep 1969-Mar 1972
12. Detroit Charter revision; Mayor’s Study Committee Report, Nov 1969
18. Detroit Charter revision; “Proposal for Creation of a Police Department and a Professional Standards Department for the City of Detroit,” Apr 1972
21. Detroit General Hospital, May 1968-Sep 1969

Box 2 (cont’d)

22. Detroit Police Officers Association; police negotiations, May-Jun 1969
23. Detroit Public Schools and Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT); Employment Relations Commission (MERC) fact-finding, 1973-81

Box 3

1-3. Detroit Public Schools and DFT; MERC fact-finding, 1974-78, 1981
5. Dodge v. City of Detroit; fair housing opposition, homeowners’ group, 1968-69
7. Federal reports (Detroit survey, GAO audits), 1969

Box 4

9-12. Gun Control Ordinance, 1967-69
13. Holmes v. Leadbetter; fair housing referendum, Aug 1968
14. Housing Commission, Mar 1969
15. Humor; Cavanagh, 1969-70
17. Humor; Young, 1973-76, 1989
18. Jarco incident; potentially libelous comment, Oct 1969
20. Mayor’s Office legal work, misc., 1969
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Box 5

2. Metropolitan Society for the Blind, Sep 1968
4. Motorcycle ordinance and veto, 1969
5. “Name Game” (same-name candidacies); news articles, Aug 1969
7. Officeholder’s Expense Fund; complaint to Secretary of State re: Coleman Young, May 1994-May 1995
8. Officeholder’s Expense Fund; delinquent report, 1993-95
9. Officeholder’s Expense Fund; Secretary of State’s ruling on unspent funds, 1986
10. Organized crime speech (Cavanagh), 1968
13. Radom, Clara; will, Dec 1968-Jan 1969
14. Rehabilitation Committee on Skid Row Problems, Jul-Nov 1968
15. Reports; mayor’s veto power, Corporation Counsel appellate record, police officer suits, c. 1969

Box 5 (cont’d)

17. Riot Justice Committee; Report of the Committee on Detention and Transportation, c. 1969
18. Riot (Detroit); Police Commissioner Girardin interviews with police, 1967
19. School Board/City Liaison Committee, Sep-Oct 1969
21-25. Speeches and statements (Cavanagh), Jul 1968-Dec 1969
26. Stadium proposal presentation, Feb 1969
27. State legislators’ tour, Mar 1969
28. Steakout speech; Detroit Press Club, 1969
29. Steakout speeches, 1969-72

Box 6

2. Symphony; labor negotiations, Apr-May 1969
3. Taxicab Committee, 1968-69
5. Taxicab issue; news articles, 1968-75, 1980
9. Thomas Cooley Law School founding, Justice Thomas E. Brennan
    moonlighting controversy; clippings, 1972-73
10. Transition affairs/Mayor-elect Gribbs, Oct-Nov 1969
11. Urban affairs; Cavanagh WXYZ-TV commentaries on, 1969
13. Veto messages (Mayor Cavanagh’s), 1969
15. Wayne County Community College; opinion to New Detroit, Inc., 1984
16. Young, Coleman, mayoral campaign, Oct-Nov 1973
24. *Young v. Leadbetter*; ballot eligibility suit, 1969
25. Zeckman, Manuel; veteran’s appeal, Oct-Dec 1968