

Mel Ravitz Papers
Papers, 1939-2001
(Predominantly, 1960's-1990's)

73 linear feet

Accession # 1720
DALNET #
OCLC #

The papers of Mel Ravitz were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1999 by Dr. Ravitz and were opened for research in February of 2000.

Mel Jerome Ravitz was born in New York City on January 7, 1924, but moved to Detroit with his family in 1929. He graduated from Detroit's Central High School in 1942 and went on to receive a B.A. in history from Wayne State University in 1948. While there, he worked as a staff announcer for WJLB-AM and wrote a column for the school's newspaper, *Detroit Collegian*. In 1949, he earned an M.A. in sociology from the New School for Social Research, returning to Detroit that year and taking a job as news editor for the fledgling UAW radio station, WDET-FM. He was awarded a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Michigan in 1955.

In 1953 the Detroit City Plan Commission hired Dr. Ravitz as Director of Community Organization to coordinate local participation in neighborhood conservation projects as mandated by the Federal Housing Act for those cities receiving urban renewal funds. He left that position in 1960, but the associations with block clubs and neighborhood organizations formed during those years provided the political base from which Mel Ravitz mounted his first campaign for Detroit Common Council in 1961.

He was reelected in 1965 and again in 1969, this time as president of the Council, but relinquished his seat to run for mayor in the 1973 Democratic primary won by Coleman Young. A year later Dr. Ravitz joined the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Services Board as staff director, but left in 1982 to begin the first of another four terms on Detroit's City Council, retiring in 1997. A strong proponent of regional solutions to urban problems, he also chaired the Wayne County Board of Supervisors from 1966-68 and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, which he helped to create, from 1970-71.

Serving the city of Detroit for twenty-eight years, under four mayors, Mel Ravitz earned a reputation for hard work, integrity and fairness. A frequent critic of mayoral policy, identifying himself as the loyal opposition, his focus was always on the average citizen, solutions to grassroots problems and neighborhood revitalization rather than high profile riverfront and downtown development projects. A forceful civil rights advocate and vigorous opponent of racial discrimination, he was often identified as Detroit's most liberal-minded white city official in the 1960's.

Mel Ravitz pursued dual careers in academia and politics, a situation he judged beneficial to his performance in both. He taught intermittently at Wayne State University from 1949 until his retirement in 1987 as Emeritus Professor of Sociology. He was instrumental in the formation of Wayne State's Department of Urban Planning in the mid-1950's and has written and spoken extensively on urban problems and social planning.

The Mel Ravitz Collection offers a rich source of documentation on the momentous changes engulfing Detroit and other large, northern industrial cities during the latter half of the twentieth century and local attempts to deal with the far-reaching social and economic problems arising from these changes. The papers reflect not only the turbulent history of Detroit politics during those years, but Dr. Ravitz's professional and scholarly interest in community participation in redevelopment decisions, urban housing policy, police-community relations, mental health care, race relations and regional planning.

Important subjects in the collection:

Afro-American police--Michigan--Detroit
Afro-Americans--Community development--Michigan--Detroit
Afro-Americans--Economic conditions--Michigan--Detroit
Afro-Americans--Housing--Michigan--Detroit
Afro-Americans--Medical care--Michigan--Detroit
Afro-Americans--Social life and customs--Michigan--Detroit
Air--Pollution--Michigan--Wayne County
Archer, Dennis W.
Butzel Family Center (Detroit, Mich.)
Cable television--Michigan--Detroit
Casino gambling--Michigan--Detroit
Cavanagh, Jerome P.
Community development, Urban--Michigan--Detroit
Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Southeastern Michigan
Day care centers--Michigan--Detroit
Democratic Party--Michigan
Detroit. Belle Isle Park
Detroit Commission on Children and Youth
Detroit churches
Detroit (Mich.)--Buildings, structures, etc.
Detroit (Mich.)--Central business districts--Planning
Detroit (Mich.). City Council
Detroit (Mich.). City Plan Commission
Detroit (Mich.)--Community centers

Detroit (Mich.)--Community organization
Detroit (Mich.)--Crime and criminals
Detroit (Mich.)-- Discrimination in education
Detroit (Mich.)--Discrimination in employment
Detroit (Mich.)--Discrimination in housing
Detroit (Mich.)--Housing policy
Detroit (Mich.)--Manpower development programs
Detroit (Mich.). Model Neighborhood Agency
Detroit (Mich.). Police Dept.
Detroit (Mich.). Police Dept. STRESS
Detroit (Mich.) riot, 1967
Detroit Central High School
Detroit. Citizens' District Councils
Detroit General Hospital
Detroit House of Correction
Detroit Metropolitan Area (Mich.)--Community health programs
Detroit Metropolitan Area (Mich.)--Local transit—Planning

Important subjects (cont'd):

Detroit Metropolitan Area (Mich.)--Politics and government
Detroit Public Schools
Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Board
Drug abuse--Michigan--Detroit
Elmwood Park Projects II and III (Detroit, Mich.)
Express highways--Environmental aspects--Michigan--Detroit
Federal aid to community development--Michigan--Detroit
Federated East Side Improvement Associations
Grass Roots Organization Workers (G.R.O.W.)
Gribbs, Roman S.
Gun control--Michigan--Detroit
Health planning--Michigan
Herman Kiefer Hospital
Homeowners' associations--Michigan--Detroit
Housing rehabilitation--Michigan--Detroit
Hubbard-Richard Community Council (Detroit, Mich.)
Income tax, Municipal--Michigan--Detroit
Juvenile delinquency--Michigan--Detroit
Kern Block (Detroit, Mich.)
Land use, Urban--Michigan--Detroit
Magnum Oil Company
Mental health policy--Detroit Metropolitan Area (Mich.)
Municipal services--Contracting out--Michigan--Detroit
Police--Complaints against--Michigan--Detroit
Pornography--Law and legislation--Michigan--Detroit
Public health--Michigan--Wayne County

Race relations--Michigan--Detroit
Ralph J. Bunche Neighborhood Council (Detroit, Mich.)
Sociology, Urban
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
Trade-unions--Political activity--Michigan--Detroit
University City II Project (Detroit, Mich.)
Urban renewal--Citizen participation--Michigan--Detroit
Urban renewal--Social aspects--Michigan--Detroit
Virginia Park Rehabilitation Project (Detroit, Mich.)
Water--Fluoridation--Michigan--Detroit
Water--Pollution--Michigan--Wayne County
Wayne County (Mich.) Child Development Center
Wayne County (Mich.)--Politics and government
Wayne State University (Detroit, Mich.)
West Central Organization--Michigan--Detroit
Young, Coleman A.
Youth--Services for--Michigan--Detroit

Important correspondents in the collection:

Archer, Dennis W.
Barbour, Al
Beckham, Charles
Blessing, Charles
Cavanagh, Jerome P.
Citron, Abraham
Cohn, Avern
Collins, Barbara-Rose
Del Rio, James
Gribbs, Roman S.
Edwards, George C., Jr.
Edwards, George C. III
Fisher, Max
Gentry, Bronson
Girardin, Ray
Gomon, Josephine
Hanlon, John
Hewitt, Ronald
Hood, Nicholas
Lawrence, David
Levin, Carl
Levin, Sander
Lincoln, James H.
Maher, Richard M.
McCabe, Robert E.
Meltzer, Marvin

Miriani, Louis
Moten, Emmett S., Jr.
Nichols, John
Patrick, William
Plafkin, Sol
Ryan, Daniel
Schore, Joseph
Sheffield, Horace
Stroud, Joe H.
Swieczkowska, Clara
Wierzbicki, Anthony
Wolfgang, Myra
Young, Coleman A.
Young, Joseph F., Jr.

Non-manuscript material:

Over 100 photographs and a few items of memorabilia documenting Mel Ravitz's political campaigns and his career as a Detroit City Councilman have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Collection.

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PART 3 BEGINS ON PAGE 63

Contents

72 storage boxes, 1 small flat

Series I, Detroit City Council, 1962-1997, Boxes 1-55, p. 6

Series includes constituent mail, departmental reports responding to citizen complaints and material relating to issues under discussion by the Council. The bulk of the files document Mel Ravitz's tenure from 1962-1973, especially the years 1970-1973 when he served as president of the Council. The files are arranged chronologically and then alphabetically. Inclusive dates of subject files spanning more than one year are noted in the folder heading. File headings also may have changed over time. Correspondence, for example, filed alphabetically in the early 1960s, was later placed in the appropriate department file. By 1972 alphabetical correspondence files were replaced by those labeled "miscellaneous" and "personal." The files from 1982-1997, much less voluminous, are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically.

Series II, Political Campaigns, 1961-1997, Boxes 55-56, p. 38

Series III, Community and Professional Organizations, 1961-1993, Boxes 56-66, p. 39

Material relating to his service as an officer or board member of these organizations.

Series IV, Speeches and Writings, Biographical Background and Publicity, 1943-2001, Boxes 66-70, p. 43

In addition to articles published, speeches delivered and papers presented by Mel Ravitz, the series includes magazine profiles and newspaper articles about him, oral interviews and public testimony he gave, radio scripts he wrote, certificates and awards he received, entries from a journal he kept in the 1940s and a small amount of correspondence pre-dating his Council years. Council resolutions he introduced will be found in Series I as will public statements issued during his last four terms on the Council.

Series V, Publications, 1939-1978, Boxes 70-73, p. 47

Publications about the metropolitan Detroit area not authored by Mel Ravitz.

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Series I
Detroit City Council, 1962-1997
Boxes 1-55

Box 1 1962

1. “A” correspondence
2. Action Group on Goals (AGOG); minutes
3. Action, Inc. (National Council for Good Cities)
4. Arts Commission
5. Assessors, Board of
6. Auditor General

7. “B” correspondence
8. Budget, 1962-63
9. Buildings and Safety Engineering Department
10. Buildings and Safety Engineering Department; abandoned buildings

11. “C” correspondence
12. Central Business District Association (C.B.D.A.)
13. Cherboneau Place Cooperative
14. Children and Youth, Commission on
15. Children’s Defenders, Inc.
16. City Airport
17. City Clerk
18. City Plan Commission
19. Civic Center Commission, 1961-62
20. Community Action for Detroit Youth (CADY)
21. Community Relations, Commission on
22. Conner-East Warren property sale
23. Controller
24. Corporation Counsel
25. (Intra-) Council correspondence

26. “D” correspondence
27. Detroit House of Correction (DeHoCo)
28. Detroit Public Schools
29. Detroiters, Inc.

30. “E” correspondence

31. “F” correspondence
32. Federated East Side Improvement Associations
33. Fire Department

Box 2 1962

- 1-3. Fluoridation (anti)
- 4-6. Fluoridation (pro)
- 7. Freedom Festival

- 8. "G" correspondence

Box 2 1962 (cont'd)

- 9. Greater Detroit Board of Commerce
- 10. "H" correspondence
- 11. Health Department
- 12. Housing Commission

- 13. "I" correspondence
- 14. Industrial and Commercial Development, Mayor's Committee for
- 15-16. Invitations declined

- 17. "J" correspondence

- 18. "K" correspondence

- 19. "L" correspondence
- 20. Labor unions and employee associations
- 21. Labor unions and employee associations; AFSCME Public Employees Council No. 77

Box 3 1962

- 1. Labor unions and employee associations; police and fire employees
- 2. Labor unions and employee associations; UAW

- 3. "M" correspondence
- 4. Mayor's Office
- 5. Mayor's Office; Washington Office proposal
- 6. Michigan, State of

- 7. "N" correspondence
- 8. Neighborhood Conservation and Improved Housing, Committee for

- 9. "O" correspondence
- 10. Ordinances; Anti-Skid Row
- 11. Ordinances; Brickley
- 12-15. Ordinances; city income tax, 1960-62

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16. Ordinances; Lonyo and Central Avenues traffic
17. Ordinances; taxi dance halls

18. "P" correspondence
19. "P" correspondence; Plafkin, Sol
20. Parking Authority
21. Parks and Recreation Department
22. Parks and Recreation Department; Sasser Playfield
23. Police Department

Box 4 1962

1. Public Lighting Commission
2. Public Welfare Department
3. Public Works Department
4. Purchases and Supplies Department

Box 4 1962 (cont'd)

5. "R" correspondence
6. Rapid transit, 1960, 1962
7. Recorder's Court
8. Retirement System

- 9-10. "S" correspondence
11. "S" correspondence; Sims, Phillip C.
12. Street Railways Department
13. Streets and Traffic Department

14. "T" correspondence
15. Thank you letters

16. "U" correspondence
17. United States government
18. Urban renewal

19. "V" correspondence

20. "W" correspondence
21. Water Department
22. Wayne, County of
23. Wayne State University
24. Wayne State University; Wendell Phillips speaking engagement
25. West Philadelphia Improvement Association

26. "X-Y-Z" correspondence

27. Zoning Appeals Board
28. Zoning Appeals Board; Plymouth-Evergreen Shopping Center
29. Zoning Appeals Board; Stoepel between St. Martins and Pembroke
30. Zoo Commission

Box 5 1963

1. "A" correspondence
2. AGOG; minutes
3. Ann Arbor Area Fair Housing Association (Pittsfield Village), 1962-63
4. Assessors, Board of
5. Auditor General

6. "B" correspondence
7. Briggs plant demolition, 1963
- 8-9. Budget, 1963-64
10. Buildings and Safety Engineering Department
11. Buildings and Safety Engineering Dept.; Bureau of Air Pollution Control

12. "C" correspondence
13. Children and Youth, Commission on
14. Children's Emergency Psychiatric Clinic
15. City Clerk
16. City Plan Commission; corres.

Box 5 1963 (cont'd)

17. City Plan Commission; minutes
18. Civic Center Commission
19. Community Relations, Commission on
20. Controller
21. Corporation Counsel
22. (Intra-) Council correspondence
23. Cultural Center street vendor

24. "D" correspondence
25. DeHoCo
26. Detroit Public Schools

27. "E" correspondence
28. Election Commission

29. "F" correspondence
30. Fire Department

31. "G" correspondence

32. "H" correspondence
33. Health Department
34. Housing Commission

Box 6 1963

1. "I" correspondence
2. Invitations accepted
3. Invitations declined

4. "J" correspondence

5. "K" correspondence

6. "L" correspondence
7. Labor unions and employee associations
8. Labor unions and employee associations; police and fire employees
9. Labor unions and employee associations; UAW

10. "Mc" correspondence
11. "M" correspondence
12. Mayor's Office
13. Michigan, State of
14. Michigan, State of; Sunday Closing Law

15. "N" correspondence

16. "O" correspondence
17. Old City Hall site
18. Ordinances; cabaret
19. Ordinances; open occupancy

Box 6 1963 (cont'd)

20. "P" correspondence
21. Parking Authority
22. Parks and Recreation Department
23. Police Department
24. Public Lighting Commission
25. Public Welfare Department
26. Public Works Department

27. "R" correspondence
28. Rapid transit
29. Resolution of Conscience

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30. Resolutions, Council
31. Resolutions, liquor sales
32. Resolutions, Ravitz

33. "S" correspondence
34. Street Railways Department
35. Streets and Traffic Department

Box 7 1963

1. "T" correspondence
2. Thank you letters

3. "U" correspondence
4. United States government

5. "V" correspondence

6. "W" correspondence
7. "W" correspondence; Weideman, Fred
8. Wayne, County of
9. Wayne County General Hospital
10. Wayne County Road Commission
11. Wayne State University
12. Wool processing plant (2431 Scotten)
13. WXYZ-TV

14. "X-Y-Z" correspondence
15. Zoning Appeals Board
16. Zoning Appeals Board; Frisbee Avenue rezoning

1964

17. "A" correspondence
18. Aid to Dependent Children of Unemployed (ADC-U)
19. Assessors, Board of
20. Auditor General
21. Aviation Commission

22. "B" correspondence

Box 7 1964 (cont'd)

23. Buildings and Safety Engineering Department
24. "C" correspondence
25. Children and Youth, Commission on

26. City Plan Commission
27. Civic Center Commission
28. Civil Service Commission
29. Community Action for Detroit Youth (CADY)
30. Community Relations, Commission on
31. Controller
32. Corporation Counsel
33. (Intra-) Council correspondence

34. "D" correspondence
35. DeHoCo
36. Detroit Public Library
37. Detroit Public Schools

Box 8 1964

1. "E" correspondence
2. Election Commission

3. "F" correspondence

4. "G" correspondence

5. "H" correspondence
6. Health Department
7. Health Department; Receiving Hospital
8. Housing Commission
9. Housing Court

10. "I" correspondence
11. Invitations accepted
- 12-13. Invitations declined

14. "J" correspondence
- 15-16. Jeffries Freeway (I-96)

17. "K" correspondence

18. "L" correspondence
19. Labor unions and employee associations

20. "M" correspondence
21. Mayor's Office
22. Mental health services, 1963-64
23. Michigan, State of

24. "N" correspondence

Box 8 1964 (cont'd)

25. "O" correspondence
26. Ordinances; Fair Neighborhood Practices
27. Ordinances; glue sniffing

28. "P" correspondence
29. Parks and Recreation Department
30. Police Department
31. Poverty programs
32. Public Lighting Commission
33. Public Welfare Department
34. Public Works Department

35. "R" correspondence
36. Resolutions, Council

Box 9 1964

1. Resolutions, Ravitz

2. "S" correspondence
3. Streets and Traffic Department
4. Streets and Traffic Department; Eight Mile Road widening

5. "T" correspondence
6. Thank you letters

7. "U" correspondence
8. United States government

9. "V" correspondence

10. "W" correspondence
11. Water Department
12. Wayne, County of
13. Wayne State University

14. "X-Y-Z" correspondence
15. Zoning Appeals Board
16. Zoo Commission

1965

17. "A" correspondence
18. Assessors, Board of

19. "B" correspondence
20. Budget, 1965-66
21. Buildings and Safety Engineering Department

22. "C" correspondence
- 23-25. Children and Youth, Commission on

Box 9 1965 (cont'd)

26. City Plan Commission
28. Civic Center Commission
27. Civil Service Commission
29. Community Relations, Commission on
30. Controller
31. Corporation Counsel
32. (Intra-) Council correspondence

Box 10 1965

1. "D" correspondence
2. Detroit Historical Commission
3. Detroit Public Library
4. Detroit Public Schools

5. "E" correspondence
6. Eastern Market development, 1963-65
7. Election Commission

8. "F" correspondence
9. Fire Department
10. Fluoridation

11. "G" correspondence

12. "H" correspondence
13. Health Department
14. Health Department; Receiving Hospital
15. Housing Commission

16. "I" correspondence
17. International Village, 1962-65

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18. "J" correspondence
19. "K" correspondence
20. "L" correspondence
21. Labor unions and employee associations
22. "Mc" correspondence
23. "M" correspondence
24. Mayor's Office
25. Michigan, State of
26. "N" correspondence
27. "O" correspondence
28. Ordinances; heating
29. O'Hair Park

Box 101965 (cont'd)

30. "P" correspondence
31. Parks and Recreation Department
- 32-33. Police Department
34. Public Lighting Commission

Box 111965

1. Public Welfare Department
2. Public Works Department
3. "Q-R" correspondence
4. Rapid transit
5. Recorder's Court; corres., study of the Traffic and Ordinance Division
6. Resolutions, Council
7. Resolutions, Ravitz
8. Riverfront Park Drive
9. "S" correspondence
10. Street Railways Department
11. Streets and Traffic Department
12. "T" correspondence
13. Thank you letters
14. Total Action Against Poverty, Mayor's Committee for (TAAP)

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15. "U" correspondence
16. United States government
17. Urban renewal

18. "V" correspondence

19. "W" correspondence
20. Water Department
21. Wayne, County of
22. Wayne State University

23. "X-Y-Z" correspondence
24. Zoning Appeals Board

1966

25. "A" correspondence
26. Architectural Barriers Committee, 1964-66
27. Assessors, Board of

28. "B" correspondence
29. Budget, 1966-67
30. Buildings and Safety Engineering Department
31. Buildings and Safety Engineering Dept.; Bureau of Air Pollution Control
32. Butzel Family Center

Box 11 1966 (cont'd)

33. "C" correspondence
34. Children and Youth, Commission on
35. City Plan Commission
36. City Treasurer
37. Civil Service Commission
38. Controller
39. Corporation Counsel
40. (Intra-) Council correspondence

Box 12 1966

1. "D" correspondence
2. Detroit Public Schools

3. "E" correspondence

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4. "F" correspondence
5. Foster parents, fees for

6. "G" correspondence

7. "H" correspondence
8. Health Department
9. Health Department; Detroit General Hospital
10. Housing Commission
11. Housing, senior citizen

12. "I" correspondence
13. Industrial and Commercial Development, Mayor's Committee for

14. "J" correspondence

15. "K" correspondence
16. Krakow Club/Gang

17. "L" correspondence
18. Labor unions and employee associations

19. "Mc" correspondence
20. "M" correspondence
21. Mayor's Office
22. Michigan, State of

23. "N" correspondence
24. Neighborhood Conservation, Committee for

25. "O" correspondence
26. Ordinances; Fair Neighborhood Practices (amendment)
27. Ordinances; Theatre (amendment)

Box 121966 (cont'd)

28. "P" correspondence
29. Parks and Recreation Department
30. Police Department
31. Public Lighting Commission
32. Public Welfare Department
33. Public Works Department

34. "R" correspondence

35. Recorder's Court
36. Resolutions, Council
37. Resolutions, Ravitz

Box 131966

1. "S" correspondence
2. Street Railways Department
3. Streets and Traffic Department

4. "T" correspondence
5. TAAP Committee
6. Thank you letters

7. "U" correspondence
- 8-9. University City/West Central Organization

10. "V" correspondence
11. Van Dyke Freeway

12. "W" correspondence
13. Water Department
14. Wayne County Road Commission
15. Wayne State University

16. "X-Y-Z" correspondence
17. Zoning Appeals Board
18. Zoo Commission

1967

19. "A" correspondence
20. Air pollution
21. Assessors, Board of
22. Auditor General

23. "B" correspondence
24. Budget, 1967-68
25. Buildings and Safety Engineering Department

Box 131967 (cont'd)

26. "C" correspondence
27. Cavanagh recall
28. City Plan Commission
29. Civil Defense, Office of
30. Community Relations, Commission on
31. Controller
32. Corporation Counsel
33. (Intra-) Council correspondence
34. Crime control

35. "D" correspondence
36. Detroit Public Library
37. Detroit Public Schools

38. "E" correspondence

39. "F" correspondence

Box 141967

1. Fire Department
2. "G" correspondence
3. "H" correspondence
4. Health Department
5. Health Department; Detroit General Hospital
- 6-7. Housing Commission
8. Human Resources Development, Mayor's Committee for

9. "I" correspondence
10. Inner City Housing Project

11. "J" correspondence

12. "K" correspondence
- 13-14. Kern Block

15. "L" correspondence
16. Labor Relations Bureau
17. Labor unions and employee associations

18. "Mc" correspondence
19. "M" correspondence
20. Mayor's Office

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21. Michigan, State of
 - 22-23. Michigan, State of; Governor's Special Commission on Urban Problems, 1966-67

 24. "N" correspondence
 25. Neighborhood community councils directory
- Box 141967 (cont'd)**
26. "O" correspondence
 27. Ordinances; boiler
 28. Ordinances; fair housing

Box 151967

1. Ordinances; fair housing
2. Ordinances; motorcycle
3. Ordinances; street vendors

4. "P" correspondence
5. "P" correspondence; Plafkin, Sol
6. Parking Authority
7. Parks and Recreation Department
8. Parks and Recreation Department; Washington Blvd. beautification
9. Police Department
10. Property tax abatement, 1966-67
11. Public Lighting Commission
12. Public Works Department

13. "R" correspondence
14. Rapid transit
15. Resolutions, Council
16. Resolutions, Ravitz
- 17-18. Riot
19. Riot; emergency bonds

20. "S" correspondence
21. Salvation Army
22. Storefront recreation centers, 1965-67
23. Streets and Traffic Department
24. Synanon

25. "T" correspondence
26. Teacher Corps
27. Thank you letters

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28. "U" correspondence
29. United States government
30. University City II Rehabilitation Project

31. "V" correspondence

32. "W" correspondence
33. Water Department
34. Wayne, County of
35. Wayne State University

- 36-37. Zoning Appeals Board

Box 161968

1. "A" correspondence
2. Archdiocesan Opportunity Program
3. Assessors, Board of
4. Auditor General; research and analysis staff proposal

5. "B" correspondence
6. Brush Park
- 7-9. Budget, 1968-69
10. Buildings and Safety Engineering Department
11. Buildings and Safety Engineering Department; boiler ordinances

12. "C" correspondence
13. City Plan Commission
- 14-15. Code enforcement
16. Community Relations, Commission on
17. Controller
18. Corporation Counsel
19. (Intra-) Council correspondence
20. Cultural Center development

21. "D" correspondence
22. Detroit Institute of Arts
23. Detroit Public Library
24. Detroit Public Schools

25. "E" correspondence

Box 171968

1. Election Commission
2. "F" correspondence
3. FAIR (Fair Access to Integrated Residences)
4. "G" correspondence
5. "H" correspondence
6. Health Department
7. Health Department; Detroit General Hospital
8. Health Department; Herman Kiefer Hospital
9. Housing Commission
10. Housing relocation proposals
11. Housing, scattered site and senior citizen
12. Human Resources Development, Mayor's Committee for
- 13-15. Human Resources Development, Mayor's Committee for; investigation
16. Human Resources Development, Mayor's Committee for; New Careers program
17. "I" correspondence
- 18-19. Industrial revenue bonds (Peerless Cement)

Box 171968 (cont'd)

20. "J" correspondence
21. Jeffries Freeway, 1965-68
22. "K" correspondence
23. "L" correspondence
24. Labor Relations Bureau

Box 181968

1. Labor unions and employee associations
2. "Mc" correspondence
3. "M" correspondence
4. Manoogian Mansion
5. Mayor's Office
6. Michigan, State of
7. "N" correspondence
8. "O" correspondence

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- 9-10. Ordinances; gun control
11. Ordinances; stop and frisk
12. Ordinances; zoning (amendment), 1967-68

13. "P" correspondence
14. Parks and Recreation Department
15. Police Department
16. Police Neighborhood Information Centers
17. Project Return (prisoner rehabilitation)
18. Public Lighting Commission
19. Public Works Department

20. "R" correspondence
21. Recorder's Court
22. Residency requirement for city employees
23. Resolutions, Council
24. Resolutions, Ravitz
25. Riot

26. "S" correspondence

Box 191968

1. Street Railways Department
2. Streets and Traffic Department

3. "T" correspondence
4. Taxicabs
5. Thank you letters

Box 191968 (cont'd)

6. "U" correspondence
7. United States government

8. "V" correspondence
9. Virginia Park Rehabilitation Project, 1966-68

10. "W" correspondence
11. Water Department
12. Wayne, County of
13. Wayne County Auditors
14. Wayne State University
15. Wayne Students Corporation (WASCO), 1967-68
16. Woodward East Project, 1967-68

17. "X-Y-Z" correspondence
18. Zoning Appeals Board

1969

19. "A" correspondence
20. Auditor General

21. "B" correspondence
22. Belle Isle marina
23. Budget, 1969-70
24. Budget; taxes, 1969-70
25. Buildings and Safety Engineering Department

26. "C" correspondence
27. Children and Youth, Commission on
28. City Plan Commission
29. Civic Center Plaza
30. Community Help in Life Development (CHILD)
31. Corporation Counsel
32. Council correspondence
33. Crime control

34. "D" correspondence
35. Data processing contract, 1967-69
36. Deprived Areas Recreation Team (DART)
37. Detroit Institute of Arts
38. Detroit Public Schools
39. Drug abuse programs, 1967-69

40. "E-F" correspondence

41. "G-H" correspondence

Box 201969

1. Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce
2. Gun control

3. Health Department
4. Health Department; Detroit General Hospital

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5. Housing Commission
6. Housing Commission; Elmwood Park Projects II and III, 1968-69

7. "I" correspondence
8. Incinerator
9. Industrial and Commercial Development, Mayor's Committee for
- 10-11. Invitations accepted

12. "J" correspondence

13. "K" correspondence

14. "L" correspondence
15. Labor unions and employee associations

16. "M" correspondence
17. Michigan, State of
18. Model Neighborhood Agency

19. "N" correspondence
- 20-22. Neighborhood Development Program
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18. Article; "The Church's Stake in Conserving Communities" in *The City Church*, May-Jun 1961
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Biosciences Communications, 1977/4
20. Article; "Cities Are Changing" in *Educational Leadership*, Oct 1967
21. Article; "Community Development" in *Journal of the Community Development Society*, 1982/1
22. Article; "Community Development: Salvation or Suicide?" in *Social Policy*,
Fall 1988
23. Article; "The Culture Concept and Urban Design" in *City Planning*,
1958/3
24. Article; "Detroit Social Workers Mobilize Citizen Aid for Urban
Renewal" (with Adelaide Dinwoodie) in *Journal of Housing*, Jul 1956
25. Article; "Education and Multi-Problem Neighborhoods" (with S. Joseph Fauman) in *Journal of Intergroup Relations*, Summer 1962
26. Article; "Education: Its Aims and Ends" in *The Contemporary* (published and edited by MJR), Winter 1946
27. Article; "The Educational Horizons of the New Resident" in *New City*, Dec 1962
28. Article; "The Ethics of Politics" in *Biosciences Communications*, 1978/4
29. Article; "False Promises: Tax Abatements as Business Incentives" (with Richard Robinson) in *City Limits*, Aug/Sep 1987
30. Article; "A Federation of Local Governments" in *COG Camera*, Jun 1970
31. Article; "The Future of Urban America" in *The Community School and Its Administration*, May 1971

32. Article; "The Implications of Changing Employment Patterns" in *Adult Leadership*, Jan 1963

Box 67

1. Article; "Integration of Nurses: A Latent Function of Hospital Discrimination" in *Phylon*, 1955/3
2. Article; "A Jewish Peer Group" (with Murray Seidler) in *American Journal of Sociology*, Jul 1955

Box 67(cont'd)

3. Article; "Lafayette Park: New Residents in the Core City" (with Eleanor Wolf) in *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, Aug 1964
4. Article; "The New Ivory Tower" in *Explore*, Aug 1968
5. Article; "New York Is a Cul-de-Sac" in *Detroit Magazine*, Jul 1946
6. Article; "Occupational Values and Occupational Selection" in *Nursing Research*, Jun 1957
7. Article; "Perils of Planning as an Executive Function" in *APA Journal*, Spring 1988
8. Article; "Race and Housing" in *Concern*, Apr 1963
9. Article; "Race Relations in Detroit" in *Concern*, Jun 1962
10. Article; "Race Relations in Private Housing" in *Journal of Social Issues*, 1957/4
11. Article; "Re-Evaluating Urban Renewal" in *The City Church*, May-Jun 1959
12. Article; "The Role of the Aged in American Society" in *Industrial Nurses Journal*, Jun 1960
13. Article; "A Sociological View of Drug Use and Abuse" in *Drug Addiction and Habituation*, 1968
14. Article; "The Sociologist as a Participant in Urban Planning" in *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 1954
15. Article; "The Sociologist as a Policy Maker in the Planning Process" in [WSU] *Graduate Comment*, Jun 1963
16. Article; "A Sociologist Suggest How His Profession Can Help in Renewal Job" in *Journal of Housing*, Jan 1962
17. Article; "Some Socio-Demographic Considerations in Settlement House Relocation" in *Journal of Educational Sociology*, Apr 1956

- of
18. Article; "The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments" in *The Spirit* 76, 1969
 19. Article; "10 Ways to Help in Urban Renewal" in *National Lutheran*, May-Jun 1958
 20. Article; "Uneven School Progress in Detroit" in *Integrated Education*, Jun 1963
 21. Article; "The University in Urbanized Industrialized Society" in [WSU] *Graduate Comment*, Apr 1964
 22. Article; "Urban Renewal and the Changing Pattern of the City" in *Alpha Kappa Deltan: A Sociological Journal*, Winter 1958
 23. Article; "Urban Renewal Faces Critical Roadblocks" in *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 1955
 24. Article; "Urban Sociology" in *Contemporary Sociology*, 1958
 25. Article; "Use of the Attitude Survey in Neighborhood Planning" in *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 1957/4
 26. Article; "Violence and the Social Order" in *Understanding and Responding About Peace and War* [WSU Center for Teaching War], 1976
- Box 67(cont'd)**
27. Article; "Wayne County 1967: Winds of Change" in *American County Government*, Jun 1967
 28. Article; "Wayne State University Summer Workshop in Human Relations" in *Journal of Intergroup Relations*, Sep 1958
 29. Article; "Whither the University?" in *Adult Leadership*, Nov 1968
 30. Article; "Who Really Cares about Children?" in *Michigan Association of Children's Agencies Occasional Reports*, 1979
 31. Articles, newspaper, authored by MJR, 1966-97
 32. Articles, newspaper, authored by MJR; *Detroit Collegian*, 1944-45
 33. Biographical background
 34. Correspondence, n.d., 1943-44
 35. Correspondence, 1945-47
 36. Correspondence, 1956, 1959, 1961
 37. Interviews, 1970, 1993, 1997
 38. Interviews with Todd Shaw on low-income housing in Detroit, 1994
 39. Journal entries, Feb 1942-Apr 1947
 40. Lectures, 1960s-1970s
 41. Letter to President Nixon re his acceptance speech, 28 Aug 1972
 42. Letters to the Editor, 1947, 1961-62, 1964-65
 - 43-44. Letters to the Editor, 1969-73
 - 45-48. Letters to the Editor, 1984-97

- 49-60. Newspaper clippings re MJR, 1955-73
- 61. Newspaper clippings re MJR, 1982-97
- 62. Newspaper clippings re MJR; *Detroit Collegian*, 1944

- 63. Papers/speeches; Central High School, 1939-42
- 64. Papers/speeches; children and families, 1964-79
- 65. Papers/speeches; the church, 1956-68
- 66. Papers/speeches; commencement addresses, 1959-68

Box 68

- 1. Papers/speeches; community organization, 1960-91
- 2. Papers/speeches; community speaking engagements, 1970
- 3-21. Papers/speeches; community speaking engagements, 1981-96
- 22. Papers/speeches; crime/police-community relations, 1960-72
- 23-25. Papers/speeches; Detroit: problems and prospects, 1956-90
- 26. Papers/speeches; economy/employment, 1962-82
- 27-28. Papers/speeches; education/schools, 1958-67

Box 69

- 1. Papers/speeches; education/schools, 1968-76
- 2-4. Papers/speeches; health care/mental health services, 1966-81
- 5. Papers/speeches; housing, 1959-72
- 6. Papers/speeches; inaugural remarks, 1966, 1967, 1970
- 7. Papers/speeches; miscellaneous, 1960-91
- 8. Papers/speeches; neighborhood conservation, 1956-86
- 9-10. Papers/speeches; planning, 1955-91

Box 69(cont'd)

- 11-12. Papers/speeches; politics/government, 1960-94, 2001
- 13. Papers/speeches; poverty, 1964-90
- 14-15. Papers/speeches; race relations/civil rights, 1958-77
- 16-17. Papers/speeches; regionalism/suburbs, 1962-82
- 18. Papers/speeches; SEMCOG, 1967-71
- 19. Papers/speeches; urban change, 1957-65
- 20. Papers/speeches; urban problems, 1962-69

Box 70

- 1. Papers/speeches; urban problems, 1970-92
- 2. Papers/speeches; urban renewal, 1956-67
- 3. Papers/speeches; Wayne State University and New School for Social Research, n.d.

4. Public testimony/statements; Blue Cross-Blue Shield rate increases, 29 Jun 1970
- 1972, 5. Public testimony/statements; gas tax revenue for mass transit, 21 Aug 14 Sep 1972
6. Public testimony/statements; miscellaneous, 1960-75
7. Public testimony/statements; reorganization of mental health services in Michigan, 16 Sep 1970
- 8-9. Radio scripts; "An Experiment in Poetry" [WJLB/WLOU], 1945
- 10-17. Radio scripts; WJR, 1974-81
- 18-19. Welcomes, introductions, short remarks, 1960-73

**Series V
Publications, 1939-1978
Boxes 70-73**

Box 70

20. "A Comprehensive Plan for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for Wayne County," 1969
21. "Death of a Newspaper: The Story of the Detroit Times," 1963
22. "Detroit: The New City," 1966
23. "Detroit in Perspective: A New Era of Development," 1965
24. "Feasibility Study on the Creation of a Research Center in the Detroit Region," 1965
25. "Feasibility Survey: Wholesale Food Distribution Center, Fort Street Area, Detroit, Michigan," 1963
26. "Housing and Population Characteristics in the City of Detroit, the Suburbs and in the Metropolitan Area 1960-1970," 1972

Box 71

1. "Planning for Tomorrow and Today" [Wayne County Planning Commission], 1969
2. "Port of Detroit Riverfront Study," 1963
3. "Regional New Towns" [preliminary draft], Apr 1970
4. "Regional New Towns," May 1970
5. "The Regionalist Papers," 1978
- 6-12. *Detroit Scope Magazine*, Apr-Dec 1968
13. *Detroit Scope Magazine*, May 1969
14. "Selected Household Characteristics of Subcommunities of Detroit," 1965
15. "Toward a General Understanding of the Conversion Process from Rural to Urban Land, with Special Emphasis on the Detroit Area," 1972
- 16-17. "Urban Crime and Urban Planning: A Pilot Study" [Wayne County Planning Commission—2 vols.], 1969
18. "Urban Renewal in the City of Detroit," 1965

Box 72(oversized)

1. Certificates and awards, 1959-96
2. "Detroit 1971—A Panorama of Progress"
3. "XX Olympiad 1972—Detroit's Reply"
4. *And on the Eighth Day* [Series of Essays and Tableaux on Planner and Planning by Richard Hedman and Fred Bair, Jr.], 1961
5. *Beyond the Difference* [a New Detroit assessment], Nov 1969
- 6-9. "City of Detroit Budget Estimates: Mayor's Revision," 1970-71—1973-74

Box 73(oversized)

The Central Student [Central High School, Detroit, Michigan], Feb 1939-Jun
1942

Mel Ravitz Papers
Part 2
5 linear feet
1950-1988 (bulk 1962-1971)

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Maureen Simari on May 12, 2010.

Accession Number: UP001720

Creator: Mel Ravitz

Acquisition: Part 2 of the Mel Ravitz Papers was placed in the Reuther Library in May 2003.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Papers are open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information, which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

Notes: Citation style: “Mel Ravitz Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: Photographs and audio/video tapes were transferred to the Reuther’s Audiovisual Department.

PLEASE NOTE: Material in this collection has been arranged by series ONLY. Folders are not arranged within each series – we have provided an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout several boxes within any given series.

Abstract

Mel Ravitz was a Detroit City Council president, onetime mayoral candidate and social advocate in Detroit government for more than 40 years. Known as a profound orator, he often made public presentations on urban issues and social problems affecting the City of Detroit. He diligently worked to help disadvantaged people, improve race relations, and promote social action in Detroit.

Part 2 of Ravitz's papers provides information on a wide range of social and urban issues affecting the City of Detroit, including the numerous speeches he made discussing these issues. Information concerning Ravitz's mayoral campaign is included. There is also material covering his parallel academic career, including research and lectures given at Wayne State University and the University of Michigan.

Important Subjects:

City of Detroit
Detroit Common Council
Detroit—Politics and government
Detroit—Race relations
Detroit Riot—1967
Social change—United States
Urban renewal
City planning
Wayne State University

Important Names:

Levin, Sander
Cavanagh, Jerome P.
Glusac, Michael M.
Doss, Lawrence P.
Kern, Father Clement
Jones, Clara S.
Mazey, Ernest

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 3 series. Series and box numbering continues from Part 1.

Series VI: Speeches and Manuscript, 1956-1972 (Boxes 74-75)

Series VII: City of Detroit, 1950-1975 (Boxes 76-77)

Series VIII: Academia, 1944-1976 (Box 77)

Folders in each series are simply listed by their location within each box. They are not arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout several boxes within each series.

Series VI

Box 74

1. Mel Ravitz Manuscript, 1988
2. Planning Book, 1957-1958
3. Urban Renewal, 1956-1971
4. Urban Housing, 1959-1966
5. Urban Detroit Issues, 1965-1976
6. Multi-Problem Neighborhoods, 1962-1965
7. Regional Problems, 1970-1973
8. Urban Detroit Issues, 1956-1970
9. Assimilation and Schools, 1962-1967
10. County Government, 1959-1971
11. Changing Communities, 1956-1973
12. Committee of One Hundred, Local Government, 1962-1967
13. Community Decision Making, 1963-1973
14. Neighborhood Housing, 1959-1963 (1 of 2)
15. Neighborhood Housing, 1959-1963 (2 of 2)
16. Urban Sociology, 1963-1972
17. Community Problems, 1956-1967
18. Detroit in Transition, 1956-1971
19. Funding Urban Projects, 1964-1968
20. Churches and Urban Renewal, 1957-1969
21. Common Council Budget Message, 1968-1973
22. Social Issues 1964-1972

Box 75

1. Detroit Today and Tomorrow, 1968 March 30
2. School's Role in Community Organization, 1967 January 24
3. Future of Urban America, 1971 September
4. Governor's Conference, 1963 July 26
5. Happy Family Living in Today's Culture, 1968 January 25
6. Implications of Changing Employment Patterns, 1962 November 1
7. Impressions of A Sociologist Turned Political Candidate, 1962 July
8. Lafayette Park Study, 1964 August
9. Mayor Council Relations, 1974 January
10. Major Routes to Regionalism, 1970 October 29

11. Modernizing Homes and Neighborhoods, 1962 May 15
12. New Federalism, 1973 October 24
13. Citizen Organization and the Schools, 1968 August 28
14. Political Leaders and Delinquency Problems, 1971 June
15. Politics of the City, 1972 November
16. Politics of Mental Health, 1966 November 29
17. Politics of Pollution, 1970 April 22
18. Power of Planning, 1972 April 16
19. Preventing Deterioration in Detroit, 1962 March 23
20. Problems of the Changing Community, 1963 February 23
21. Problems of Detroit, 1962 October 26
22. Problems that Blur Contemporary Image of Urbanization, 1962 October 17
23. Public-Private Sector and Urban Problem Solving, 1971 September 29
24. Public and Voluntary War on Poverty, 1965
25. Racial Problem in Detroit the Current Situation, 1965 September 1
26. Race Relations Yesterday and Today, 1966 October
27. Not By Local Leadership Alone, 1974 January 12
28. New Resident and His Education, 1962 November 23
29. Problems of Skid Row, 1962 March 14
30. Police-Community Relations, 1965
31. Crisis In Our Cities, 1966 November 15
32. Jewish Community Council Delegate Assembly, 1968 January 10
33. Democracy Revolution, 1966 September
34. Detroit Is Mere Survival Enough, 1972 February 26
35. Detroit Its People and Its Future, 1973 February 10
36. Detroit of The Future: Problems and Prospects, 1962 January 5
37. Detroit Problems and Prospects, 1965
38. Diverse Society Challenges the Church, 1964, January 28
39. Emerging Teachers in the Community, 1966 March 25
40. Employing the Disadvantaged, 1968 May 10
41. Ethics of Politics, 1967 February 5
42. Fire Protection on a Regional Basis, 1970 March 4
43. Function of Cities, 1963 April 10
44. Future of Central City, 1968 November 26
45. Future of Cities and Counties, 1962-1970
46. Future of Detroit and the Metropolitan Area, 1972 May 3
47. Future of Urban America, 1970-1971
48. Aging in the Future, 1968 September
49. American Education and the Federation of Teachers, 1963 September 12
50. American Public Health Association Conference, 1971 October 11
51. Block Club and Community Relations, 1962 September 23
52. Brotherhood a Time for Reckoning, 1968 February 21
53. Community in Transition, 1964 June 5
54. Can SEMCOG Solve Our Regional Problems, 1970-1971
55. Central City and the Suburbs, 1969 April
56. Challenge of White Collar Automation, 1963 September 14

57. Our Changing Community and Education, 1963 August 27
58. Changing Demands on City Government, 1966 March 25
59. Changing Focus of Community Problems, 1958 October 15
60. Controversy in Mental Health, 1972 September 13
61. Crime Control in the Urban Area, 1969 January 9

Series VII

Box 76

1. Correspondence, 1970-1975
2. Automobile Industry, 1972
3. Transit Data, 1972
4. Law Enforcement, 1973
5. Area Development Proposal, 1972-1973
6. Motion Picture Proposal on Urban Adjustment, 1961 January 31
7. Ravitz Mayoral Primary, 1973
8. Mayor Announcement, 1973 February 12
9. Detroit Mayoral Campaign Speech, 1973, June 1
10. Candidate for Mayor of Detroit, 1972-1973
11. Ravitz Campaign Fundraisers, 1965
12. Conference Article Whither the University, 1968 November
13. Who Cares About Detroit, 1971 May 6
14. Youth Leadership
15. Social Change and Planning, 1950-1958
16. Urban Planning Process, 1955-1959
17. Relocated Detroit Churches, 1956-1958
18. Central High School Centennial, 1958 May 17
19. Gun Control, 1968-1969
20. Politics Book, 1970-1973
21. 4% Contribution of Mr. Ravitz's Pay, 1972
22. Vietnam War Demonstration, 1965
23. Breakthrough, 1964-1970
24. Block Clubs, 1973
25. Recreation, 1969-1970
26. Tax System, 1966-1969
27. HUD Housing, 1973
28. Department of Street Railways, 1972-1973
29. Family Care Homes, 1971
30. Black Progress, 1973
31. Inter-Faith, 1970-1973
32. Community Newsletters, 1970-1972
33. Homeowner's Ordinances, 1964-1973
34. Frederick Douglass Mural, 1972
35. Health Care, 1973
36. Congressional Information, 1970-1972
37. Trade Union Leadership Council Metropolitan Detroit Labor Community Association, 1970 July

Box 77

1. Urban Renewal Effects on Community Life and Property, 1962 June 23
2. Urban Renewal Ideals and Reality, 1962 June 9
3. Attitude Survey in Neighborhood Planning, 1957
4. University in Our Urbanized Society, 1964 April 3
5. Housing Boom, 1971 November 8
6. Sociological View of Drug Use and Abuse, 1968 February 27
7. Sociologist as a Policy Maker in the Planning Process, 1962-1963
8. Sociology of Block Club, 1959 November 20
9. Some Comments on Urban Renewal, 1962 April 25
10. Southeast Michigan Council of Government, 1967 January 31
11. State of American Democracy, 1968 October 11
12. Techniques and Methods for Accomplishing Social Change, 1962 May 10
13. Towards A New Detroit, 1967 August 10
14. Urban Life Where is it Headed, 1969 March 4
15. State of the Region SEMCOG Address, 1971 January 30
16. Student Unrest, 1968 November
17. Race and Housing, 1962 December 1
18. Regionalization Subcommittee Report, 1972 May 23
19. Reflections on Silence
20. Residency and Employment in Detroit City Government, 1968 July
21. Role of Community Council, 1956 May 17
22. Role of School in the Urban Setting, 1962 July 2
23. Rural In-Migration and Urban Assimilation, 1963 July 15
24. Political Behavior Study Questionnaire, 1968 July
25. Public Hearing on Federal Aid Cuts in Detroit, 1973 March 20
26. SEMCOG Past, Present, and Future, 1970 May 5
27. Statement of 1968-1969 Budget, 1968 June
28. Skid Row, 1962 March 14
29. Social Causes of Crime, 1971 September
30. Social Work and Social Action, 1963 November 20
31. Socialized Religion, 1962 August 12
32. Politicians and Re-Election, 1965 February

Series VIII

33. University of Michigan Course, 1976 January
34. Municipal Administration I Urban Condition, 1972-1975
35. Municipal Administration II Politics of City, 1962-1976
36. Municipal Administration III Council Relations, 1974 January
37. Municipal Administration IV Social Control, 1976 January
38. Municipal Administration V Ethics of Politics, 1967-1976
39. Municipal Administration VI Relations of Administrative and Elected Officials, 1976 February
40. Municipal Administration VII Practical Aspects of Agency Administration
41. Municipal Administration IX Citizen Input, 1968 August 28

42. Municipal Administration X County Entity, 1968-1975
43. Municipal Administration XI Regionalization, 1975
44. Municipal Administration XII Money, 1971-1976
45. Municipal Administration XIII Future of Cities, 1962 September 2
46. Social Psychology I
47. Social Psychology II, 1958
48. Social Psychology III, 1961
49. Social Psychology IV, 1949-1955
50. Social Psychology V, 1944-1960
51. Social Psychology VI
52. Social Psychology VII, 1960-1961
53. Social Psychology VIII
54. Social Psychology IX
55. Social Psychology X, 1953 August 1

Mel Ravitz Papers
Part 3
6.5 linear feet (1 MB, 6 SB)
1945-2009, bulk 1985-2005

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Finding aid written by Meghan McGowan on December 2, 2015

Accession Number: UP001720

Creator: Dr. Mel Ravitz

Acquisition: Part 3 was donated to the Reuther in 2013 by Jill Ravitz Curmi and family.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

Notes: Citation style: “Mel Ravitz Papers, Part 3, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: Mel Ravitz Papers, Part 1 & 2

Separated Material: 15 cassette tapes, one VHS tape, and one photograph slide have been transferred to the Reuther’s audiovisual department. 20 floppy disks have been imaged and transferred to the Reuther’s digital repository.

PLEASE NOTE: Material in this collection has been arranged by series ONLY. Folders are not arranged within each series – we have provided an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout several boxes within any given series.

Abstract

Dr. Mel Ravitz, a liberal Detroit politician, had his hand on the pulse of the city for decades. From 1961 to 1973, he was a member of the Detroit Common Council. He left this position to run for mayor, which was in the same election that Detroit elected its first African American mayor- Coleman Young. Dr. Ravitz then became an active member of Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Services Board, after which he served four more terms on Detroit City Council, from which he retired in 1997. Additionally, Dr. Ravitz taught sociology at Wayne State University intermittently from 1949 to 1987.

This collection primarily consists of Dr. Mel Ravitz's writings. These writings reflect his activism in Detroit, urban planning and social justice. This includes both published and unpublished essays, as well as speeches and brief journaling. Additionally, this collection includes an unpublished book about events occurring within city council. Finally, this collection holds photographs of Mel Ravitz throughout his years of service to Detroit.

Important Subjects: City of Detroit

Detroit Common Council

Detroit—Politics and government

Detroit—Race relations

Detroit Riot—1967

Social change—United States Urban renewal

City planning

Wayne State University

Important Names: Cohn, Avern, 1924-
Young, Coleman A.**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into two series.

Folders in each series are simply listed by their location within each box. They are not arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout several boxes within each series.

Series IX: Correspondence, 1981-2007, box 78

Series X: Essays and speeches, 1945-2009, boxes 79-84

Series IX
Box 78

- 1 Correspondence, professional, 1981-2004
- 2 Correspondence, school board reform, 1989
- 3 Correspondence, professional, 1990-1997
- 4 Correspondence, retirement, 1997
- 5 Correspondence, professional, 1998
- 6 Correspondence and flyers, Retirees Association of Wayne State University, 1998
- 7 Correspondence, professional, 2000-2003
- 8 Correspondence, personal, 1984-2004
- 9 Correspondence, personal, 1997-2003
- 10 Correspondence, personal, 1999-2008
- 11 Correspondence, restructuring and redevelopment of downtown, 1982
- 12 Correspondence, English as official language, 2000
- 13 Correspondence, Detroit Institute of Arts, 2000
- 14 Correspondence, Detroit City Council, Domestic Partner Ordinance, 2001
- 15 Correspondence, Avern Cohn, Daubert decision, 2002
- 16 Letters to editors and essays, 2000-2006
- 17 Letters to editors and essays, 2002-2007
- 18 Letters to editors and essays, 2007-2008
- 19 Detroit Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency, court briefs and letters, 2003-2004
- 20 Mark Demorest, court briefs and correspondence, 1989-2003
- 21 Mark Demorest, court briefs and correspondence, 2005
- 22 Integrity in Public Service Endowment Fund, 1998-2002
- 23 Integrity in Public Service and Corporate Life Program, 2001-2003
- 24 Integrity in Public Service and Corporate Life Program, 2003-2007
- 25 Ravitz Endowment Advisory Committee, 2002-2005

Series X
Box 79

- 1 Sixth Annual National Institute on Police-Community Relations, 1960
- 2 Notes on Problems of Skid Row, City Plan Commission, 1956
- 3 Urban Renewal, articles by Ravitz, 1956-1982
- 4 Essay, Occupational Values and Occupational Selection, 1957
- 5 Brotherhood... A Time for Reckoning, Booker T. Washington Business Association, 1968
- 6 Articles, health care and discrimination, 1955-1973
- 7 Speech, Problems of Teen Age Gangs in Metropolitan Detroit, 1961
- 8 Essay, The Ethics of Politics, 1978

- 9 Speech, The Interrelationships of Discrimination in Employment, in Education, and in Housing, 1961
- 10 Article, The Role of the Aged in American Society, 1960
- 11 Essay, Detroit's Future, 1988
- 12 Essay, Detroit's Master Plan and the Interplay of Politics, 1999
- 13 Detroit tour for Michigan State University, 1988
- 14 Essay, Should the Detroit Police Commission be Appointed, Elected, or Eliminated, and How, 1993
- 15 Essay, Empowerment Zones: Who Really Benefits?, 1995
- 16 Article, The Cities: A National Perspective- Past, Present, and Future, 1977
- 17 Article, The Culture Concept and Urban Design, undated
- 18 Essay, Citizen Participation and Community Development, 1992
- 19 Citizens for Better Care, 2000
- 20 Speech, Change for the Better, City Council, 1989
- 21 Essay, Comments on Recent Real Property Tax Reduction Proposals, 1989
- 22 Article, Community Development: Salvation or Suicide, 1988
- 23 Essay, Community Government or Centralized Government, 1975
- 24 Article, Community Mental Health, undated
- 25 Downtown Senior Citizens Award, 1998-1999
- 26 Essay, Detroit Common/City Council: Then and Now, 1998
- 27 Essay, Alternatives Against Apartheid, undated
- 28 Essay, America's Homelessness: Symptom of Schism, 1992
- 29 Apartheid, correspondence and articles, 1988
- 30 Autobiography, Mel Ravitz, undated
- 31 Sidney Fine interview about 1967 civil disturbance, 1986
- 32 Essay, The Changing Locale of Urban Human Services, undated
- 33 Article, Church Resolutions and Public Policy, 1963
- 34 Article, The Church's Stake in Conserving Communities, 1961
- 35 Correspondence and essay, Two Days in November, 2002
- 36 Correspondence and essays, Jewish Peer Group, 1955-2002
- 37 Herm Klein, obituary and memorial essay, 2002
- 38 Suggestions for a Mental Health Agenda, 2002
- 39 Essay, A Republic- If You Can Keep It, 2002
- 40 Essays and articles, Against City Council District Elections, 1993-2002
- 41 Unions and radio broadcasting, 1999
- 42 Speech, Where Shall We Live? Address Delivered to the Delegate Assembly of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit, 1960
- 43 University of Michigan, Learning in Retirement, 2000
- 44 Memoir of Civil Rights and Dr. Martin Luther King , Jr. in 1962, Second Baptist Church Presentation, 2002
- 45 Essay, Response to Reaction Ye Shall Not Stand Idly By, 2002
- 46 Essays, sociology and urban planning, 1954-1955

- 47 Essays and speeches, urban planning and neighborhood conservation, undated
- 48 Speech, Planned Parenthood, What Kind of a World Do We Really Want?, undated
- 49 Speeches, urban renewal, 1955-1958
- 50 Speeches, neighborhood development and commencements, 1959
- 51 Speeches and reports, community progress, 1963-1970
- 52 Ida Seidler, memorial essay, 1975
- 53 Historical Tour of Greater Detroit, map, undated
- 54 Speeches, community development, leadership, and adult education, 1958-1959
- 55 Speeches, community development, schools, churches, and integration, 1956-1957
- 56 Essays, urban renewal, race relations, and social welfare, 1958
- 57 Report, Displacement and Relocation in Detroit, 1958
- 58 Essays, urban renewal, 1959
- 59 James Boggs, memorial pamphlet, 1993
- 60 Councilman Ravitz Progress Report, 1963-1972
- 61 The Illustrated News, 1962-1964
- 62 Lecture, Ethics in Public Service and American Culture, 2004
- 63 Essay, Choosing a Presidential Candidate, 2004

Box 80

- 1 Personal essays, political memories from 1960s to 19802, undated
- 2 Mental Health Commission, 2003
- 3 Personal Essay, Analysis of Life at Glacier Hills, 2003
- 4 Essay, Who am I and How I Came to be That Way, 2000
- 5 Journal, 1962
- 6 Journal, 1962
- 7 Journal, 1962-1963
- 8 Journal, 1963-1966
- 9 Essays, senior citizens and retirement, 1960, 1997
- 10 Essays, religion, 1961, 2005
- 11 Essays, political, undated
- 12 Essays, political, undated
- 13 Essays, Detroit, undated
- 14 Letters to editors, 1990-2004
- 15 Events and speaking engagements, 1977-2004
- 16 Newsletters, 1954-1985
- 17 Article, Race Relations in Detroit, 1967
- 18 Lecture, The Interrelationships of Discrimination in Employment, in Education, and in Housing, 1961
- 19 Essay, Tax Abatement by Contract, undated
- 20 Essay, These Are the Times That Try Men's Souls, mental health, undated

- 21 Aurora Health Care, 1999-2002
- 22 Essay, The Democracy Revolution, 1967
- 23 Essay, Toward a New Detroit, 1967
- 24 Essay, Consequences of Discrimination and Exclusion in Housing, 1960
- 25 Essay, Detroit: Is Mere Survival Enough?, 1972
- 26 Reference cards, quotes, undated
- 27 Detroit God's Greatest City, Joe Clark, undated
- 28 Neighborhood Conservation, Detroit City Plan Commission, 1958
- 29 Articles and essays, sociology, 1953-1984
- 30 Hearings before the United States Commission on Civil Rights, Detroit, 1960
- 31 Hearings before the Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging, Detroit, 1959
- 32 Three Dimensions of Equal Employment Opportunity, Michigan Fair Employment Practices Commission, 1957
- 33 Articles, health care, 1957-1977
- 34 Articles and seminar materials, religion, 1955-2003
- 35 Detroit City Council Testimonial Resolution, Ravitz retirement, 1997

Box 81

- 1 Lectures, Living in Retirement, 2004-2005
- 2 Greater Detroit Chapter, National Federation for Decency, 1986
- 3 Articles and organizations, alcoholism in Michigan, 1969
- 4 List of urban issues, 1990
- 5 Unpublished book, city council events, 1985
- 6 Unpublished book, city council events, 1985
- 7 Unpublished book, Mel Ravitz's sixth campaign, 1988
- 8 Newspaper clippings, Medicare and prescription drugs, 2004
- 9 Expected interests of mayor and city council for 1990 term, undated
- 10 Essay, review of Michigan political figures, 2004
- 11 Michigan Mental Health Services, 1998
- 12 Article, Whither the University, 1968
- 13 Essay, Who Cares About America's Cities?, 1992
- 14 Eleanor Wolf, obituaries and eulogy, 1999
- 15 Essay, The Sociologist as a Policy Maker in the Planning Process, undated
- 16 Memo, Strategic Planning Committee, 1987
- 17 Essay, Towards Improving Mayor-Council Relationships, 1976
- 18 Speech, When Do We Rehabilitate Our Society, undated
- 19 Essay, Institutional Racism: Our American Albatross, undated
- 20 Essays, political, undated
- 21 Essays, Detroit, undated
- 22 Lectures, Detroit and community development, circa 1967

- 23 *The Evening News Association v. City of Detroit*, affidavit of Coleman Young, undated
- 24 Article, Education: Its Arms and Ends, 1946
- 25 SEMCOG, 1970-1998
- 26 Memorial service, Judy Seidler, undated
- 27 City Council Resolutions, 1989-1993
- 28 Letters to the editor, 1990-1992
- 29 Lecture, social control of the politician, 1976
- 30 Essay, Suggestions for Aspiring Detroit City Council Candidates, 2001
- 31 Essay, sociological implications for adult education in the future, undated
- 32 Medicare, articles, 2003
- 33 City Council Resolutions, 1977-1987
- 34 City Council Resolutions, 1988-1990
- 35 City Council Resolutions, 1991-1993
- 36 City Council Resolutions and statements, 1992
- 37 City Council Resolutions, 1994-1997

Box 82

- 1 Essays, sociology profession, 1962 and undated
- 2 Statements, gun safety, 1969-1988
- 3 Michigan demographics and regional articles, 1960-1971
- 4 Citizens for Better Care, 2001
- 5 Essay, The Politics of Ideology, 2001
- 6 Essay, Pain and Suffering, 2001
- 7 Essay, Making the Best of It, 2001
- 8 Essay, He Got What He Deserved, 2001
- 9 Essay, A Crack in Political Monolith, 2001
- 10 Review, The Medic, 2001
- 11 Detroit Retired City Employees Association, 2000-2001
- 12 Democratic Socialists of America of Greater Detroit, newsletters, 2000-2001
- 13 Activist Circle Team Proposal, 2000
- 14 Network Connection, 2000
- 15 Essay, Outrage Against Crimes of Terrorism, 2001
- 16 Community talks, 2001
- 17 Essay, Not of Arms but of Justice, 2001
- 18 Health Alliance Plan, 2000
- 19 Lecture, Serendipitous Encounters with Sociology and Politics, circa 1986
- 20 Essay, Regarding Tiger Stadium, 1991
- 21 Remarks about Charles Blessing, 1993
- 22 Remarks to Fifth Police Precinct: Community Relations Committee, 1992
- 23 Essay, Renewing our Political Participation, undated

- 24 Memo, response to Mayor Young's proposed budget, 1988
- 25 Essay, Risk Management and the Detroit Police Department, 1992
- 26 Essay, What Makes Politicians Seek Re-election?, undated
- 27 Detroit's Mental Health Needs and Services, 2000
- 28 Essay and research articles, moral political choice, 2000
- 29 Interview of Saul Wellman by Judge Avern Cohn, 2000
- 30 Speech, Power: Up From the Grassroots, undated
- 31 Article, The Problems of the Changing Community, 1963
- 32 Speech, Problems and Priorities of the Elderly, 1998
- 33 Speech, Professionals in the Role of the Advocate, undated
- 34 Speech, Public Policy and the Black Community, 1991
- 35 Detroit Central High School Alumni Association, 2005
- 36 Essay, Conservatism Triumphant, 2005
- 37 Essay, The Dictatorship of Relativism, 2005
- 38 Essay and speech, adult learning, 2005
- 39 Essay, The Politics of Pollution, undated
- 40 Plan Implementation Committee, health planning, undated
- 41 Essay, Presidential Election: A Personal Odyssey and Outlook, 2000
- 42 Essay, The Bush Inauguration: Before and After, 2005
- 43 Résumé, Mel Ravitz, 2004
- 44 Article, Perils of Planning as an Executive Function, 1988
- 45 Essay, Political Courage? Super K-Mart, circa 1997
- 46 Glacier Hills, 2003-2008
- 47 Essay, Descent into Evil, undated
- 48 Essay, Some Reflections on Art and Censorship, circa 1999
- 49 Essay, Ordeal by Silence, 1974-1976
- 50 Speech, Peace and Violence, 1992
- 51 Essay, The New Beginning Begins, Barack Obama's Presidency, 2009
- 52 Personal essays, 2000-2008
- 53 Medicare Advantage, 2006-2008
- 54 Essay, In War, The first Casualty is Truth, 2008
- 55 Essays, segregated schools, undated
- 56 Memo, Central Industrial Redevelopment, 1984
- 57 Essay, A Clash of Social Forces, civil rights, 2008
- 58 Essay and newspaper clippings, Anticipating the Petraeus Report, 2007
- 59 Essay and newspaper clippings, What Americans Need from Their Next President, 2007

- 60 Speech, Meeting America's Health Needs, 1977
- 61 Interview with graduate student regarding urban planning, 1999
- 62 Speech, Northwest Detroit Business Associationm 1991
- 63 Memos, budget and reelection, 1989-1995
- 64 Articles, correspondence, and speeches, U.S. Ombudsman Association, 1998

- 65 Essay, Term Limits Limit You!, 1994
- 66 Essay, Impressions of a Sociologist Turned Political Candidate, undated
- 67 Lecture, Interrelationships of Administrative and Elective Officials, undated
- 68 Labor Mobility Task Force Findings, 1991
- 69 Article, Lafayette Park: New Residents in the Core City, undated
- 70 Resolution, low and moderate income housing, 1989
- 71 Correspondence, Lutheran Urban Ministry, 1991
- 72 Essay, The Many Facets of Community Development, 1991
- 73 Speech, Growing Up Ain't Easy, undated
- 74 Speech, The Hungry and Homeless, 1994
- 75 Speech, Human Relations and Ethnic Awareness, undated
- 76 Lecture, The Impact of Changing Population Patterns in the Detroit Metropolitan Area, 1975
- 77 First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1998
- 78 Essay, Froemdship and the Friend, undated
- 79 Essay, A Night to Remember in 1973, 2007
- 80 Essay, Whither Detroit?, 2007
- 81 Lecture, Learning in Retirement, 2004
- 82 Statement, Chippewa Phoenix Gambling Casino, 1995
- 83 Speech, Paths to Mental Health, undated

Box 83

- 1 Newspaper clippings, 1961-1973
- 2 Mel Ravitz Reports, 1983-1997
- 3 Correspondence and essays, reflections about Wayne State University, 1999
- 4 Correspondence and court files, pornography zoning, 1976
- 5 Articles, education, 1946-1967
- 6 Detroit Magazine, 1945-1946
- 7 Adult Leadership, Magazine, 1956, 1963
- 8 Published articles, urban renewal, 1955-1988
- 9 Published articles, urban renewal, 1957-1982
- 10 Published articles, urban renewal, 1957-1967
- 11 Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, seminars, 1963
- 12 Published articles, race relations, 1955-1962
- 13 Photographs, Mel Ravitz, undated (79)
- 14 Photographs, Mel Ravitz, circa 2007 (25)
- 15 Button, I'm For Mel Ravitz, undated
- 16 1970-1973 Common Council President Mel Ravitz's Gavel

Box 84

- 1 Transparency, pick up truck, undated
- 2 VHS tape, Mel Ravitz for City Council, undated
- 3 Unlabeled cassette tape
- 4 Cassette tape, session I, indivisibly of urban req. 1976; introduction organization, 1976

- 5 Cassette tape, session I, indivisibly of urban req., 1976; session II, politics of city, part I, undated
- 6 Cassette tape, session II, politics of city, part II and III, undated
- 7 Cassette tape, session III, mayor-council relationships, part II, undated
- 8 Cassette tape, session IV, social control of politician, undated
- 9 Cassette tape, session V, social control, undated
- 10 Cassette tape, session VIII, city participation A, undated; session VIII politician-administration interrelations, undated
- 11 Cassette tape, session IX, city participation and count government B, undated
- 12 Cassette tape, session X, regionalism, undated
- 13 Cassette tape, session XI, money, undated
- 14 Cassette tape, Hood, undated
- 15 Cassette tape, regionalism, undated
- 16 Cassette tape, Ravitz Report Dinner; Ravitz speech part III, 1974
- 17 Cassette tape, Norman Thomas at 80, undated