Detroit Committee for Responsible Banking Records
3 linear feet (3 SB)

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

Accession Number: 1587

Creator: Detroit Committee for Responsible Banking

Acquisition: May 7, 1994

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.

Notes: Citation style: “Detroit Committee for Responsible Banking Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Copies:

Other Access Aids:

History
The Detroit Committee for Responsible Banking (DCRB) grew out of awareness that banks in Detroit were under-funding city development while frequently supporting development in suburban areas. The DCRB was formed by James M. Edwards and Patrick J. Murray, both Detroit lawyers, and backed by an advisory board of community members. Initially, they focused their efforts on one bank – Comerica – and later went after Standard Federal, National Bank of Detroit, Manufacturers Bank, First of America, Michigan National Bank, and First Federal of Michigan. When Comerica applied for an acquisition of a Toledo bank, which requires state and federal approval, the DCRB protested. The group argued Comerica had performed poorly under the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, which requires banks to meet the credit needs of the communities in which they reside. Comerica, the group argued, had a practice of taking deposits from Detroit and investing in suburban development much more than city development. The protest was dismissed in November of 1987, partly because Comerica had previously received a satisfactory CRA rating. Many criticized the enforcement of the CRA, as 98% of banks received satisfactory or outstanding ratings at that time.

The following year, Comerica applied to acquire Grand Bancshares, a Texas bank, and the DCRB again filed a protest. When they requested a copy of Comerica's acquisition application from the Financial Institutions Bureau of Michigan, DCRB also received, by mistake, a copy of Comerica's most recent CRA rating. At this time, individual bank ratings were supposed to have been kept confidential. Comerica's rating, given one month after the DCRB's last protest was dismissed, was a 3, or “less than satisfactory”. Eugene Kuthy, of the FIB, requested that the information be returned to his office as it was not supposed to have been released, and threatened legal action if the DCRB did not comply. For the DCRB, this confirmed the importance of the document they now had in their possession, and they shared the information with the Texas Department of Banking (home of Bancshares) and the media. When it came time for a public hearing before the FIB, Commissioner Kuthy delayed Comerica's acquisition until they took steps to improve their lending record.

The DCRB worked with other community organizations, including the Ad Hoc Committee for Fair Banking Practices in Detroit, to negotiate improved lending practices in the city. Despite initial resistance from the banks, eventually all sides reached an agreement. In 1991, Comerica received an “outstanding” CRA rating.

Scope and Content:
The Detroit Committee for Responsible Banking Records document the efforts of the committee to bring attention to redlining practices of banks in the city of Detroit. They reflect a multi-faceted approach, including direct correspondences with banking officials, protests to state and federal banking oversight institutions, correspondence with various news media, and collaboration with other organizations. The records also reflect the group’s continued relationship with Comerica, extending through the bank’s attempt to build a new headquarters on the Detroit Riverfront in 1991. The materials in the collection include correspondences, acquisition and merger applications, mortgage and home improvement loan statements; Community Reinvestment Act files; bank publications, notes, news clippings, and related reports.
**Important Subjects:**
Ad Hoc Coalition on Fair Banking Practices in Detroit
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (U. S.)
Branding (Marketing)
Comerica Incorporated
Community activists
Detroit Alliance for Fair Banking
Detroit Area Reinvestment Alliance
Detroit Committee for Responsible Property Management
Detroiter's for Community Banking
Discrimination in mortgage loans
Discrimination in mortgage loans—Law and legislation—United States
First Federal of Michigan
First of America Bank Corporation
Grand Bancshares (Dallas, Texas)
Home improvement loans
Manufacturers Bank (Detroit, Mich.)
Michigan. Financial Institutions Bureau
Michigan National Bank (Detroit, Mich.)
Mortgage loans
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Bank of Detroit
Redlining
Standard Federal Bank
Tax remission
United States. Community Reinvestment Act of 1977
Urban Development

**Important Names:**
Bush, James A.
Edwards, James M.
Garavaglia, James
Johnson, Arthur L., 1925-
Kuthy, Eugene
Miller, Eugene A.
Murphy, Raymond M.
Murray, Patrick J.
Parker, Bernard
Riegle, Donald W., 1938-
Waterston, James R.
Series I: Financial Institutions, 1982-1993
Subseries A: Comerica Incorporated, 1983-1993
CRA files, reports, and plans; applications for acquisitions, protests, correspondences, home loan disclosure statements, notes.

Subseries B: First of America, 1989
Marketing materials.

Subseries C: First Federal of Michigan, 1988
Correspondence.

Subseries D: Manufacturers’ National Bank, 1988
Correspondences and publication.

Subseries E: Michigan National Bank, 1990
Report.

Correspondences, CRA drafts and plans, notes, marketing materials, clippings.

Application for merger, correspondences, protest, CRA performance reports and plan drafts, marketing materials, clippings.

Series II: Subject Files, 1976-1991
General notes, correspondences, and clippings; related local and national community organizations and causes; conference notes; research reports.
Arrangement
Arranged in two series – Series I: Financial Institutions (Box 1-2), and Series II: Subject Files (Box 2-3). Series I is further divided into seven subseries. Files in each subseries are arranged according to their original order to the extent possible and otherwise by type of material and then chronologically. Series II is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Series I
Subseries A: Comerica Incorporated

Box 1
1. Comerica, Inc. Application for Approval to Acquire Grand Bancshares, Texas, 1988
2. Comerica-Midwest, Toledo, Ohio, 1987
6. Accountline Market Audit, City of Detroit, 1987
7-8. Advertising and Branding (Marketing), 1986-1987
15. Banking Office Locations, 1987

Box 2
2. Correspondences, 1990
5. Reports, Community Reinvestment Plan Status, 1988
7. Reports, Community Reinvestment Plan Status, Third and Fourth Quarters, 1989
8. Reports, Community Reinvestment Plan Status, First and Second Quarters, 1990
9. Reports, Community Reinvestment Plan Status, Third Quarter, 1990
11. Reports, Community Reinvestment Plan Status, First and Second Quarters 1991
12. Reports, Community Reinvestment Plan Status, Third and Fourth Quarters, 1991
Subseries B: First of America
15. Advertising and Branding (Marketing), 1989

Subseries C: First Federal of Michigan
16. Correspondence, 1988 August 9

Subseries D: Manufacturer’s National Bank
17. Correspondences, 1988

Subseries E: Michigan National Bank

Subseries F: National Bank of Detroit
20. Correspondences and Community Reinvestment Proposals, 1988
21. Draft; Community Reinvestment Plan, 1989
22. Correspondences, 1990

Subseries G: Standard Federal
29. Brief in Opposition to Application for Merger, circa 1989
32. Proposal to the Ad Hoc Coalition on Fair Banking Practices in Detroit, 1989

Box 3
1. Notes and Drafts, 1988, 1989, undated

Series II
Box 3
8. Church Closings, 1988, 1989
11. Community Development Corporations, 1988
12. Conference; Legislative Look at Housing in Detroit, 1988
13. Conference; Midwest Regional Economic Development, 1988
14. Correspondences; General 1988, undated
15. Correspondences and Notes; Commissioner’s Task Force, 1990
16. Correspondences and Notes; Detroit Committee for Responsible Property Management, 1988
17. Correspondences and Publications; Motivation, Opportunity, Progress (M.O.P), and Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, 1988, undated
22. Michigan Housing Coalition; Detroit Area Reinvestment Alliance, 1988, undated
24. Report; Bank-Sponsored Community Development Corporations, 1983 May 11
26. Report; Residential Lending Patterns in Hamilton County, Ohio, 1981-1986
28. Wayne County Legal Services, 1988