

**Detroit Committee for Responsible Banking Records**

3 linear feet (3 SB)  
1976-1993, bulk 1987-1991

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

Finding aid written by Stefanie Caloia on June 21, 2011.

**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:**

**Related Material:** Reuther Library Collections: Urban Environment Conference Records, New Detroit, Inc. Records, Detroit Commission on Community Relations/Human Rights Department Records

## **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  
Detroitters 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.

**Subseries F: National Bank of Detroit, 1982-1992**

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

**Subseries G: Standard Federal, 1983-1989**

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
3. Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Plan, Statement, and File, 1983-1988
4. Community Reinvestment Files, Comerica 1985-1987
5. Community Involvement, Customer Complaints, 1986-1987
6. Accountline Market Audit, City of Detroit, 1987
- 7-8. Advertising and Branding (Marketing), 1986-1987
- 9-14. Mortgage and Home Improvement Loan Disclosure Statements, 1986-1987
15. Banking Office Locations, 1987
16. Application of Comerica, Inc. to Acquire Grand Bancshares, Inc., circa 1988
17. Non-competition Agreement, Grand Bancshares, Inc., circa 1988
18. Mortgage and Home Improvement Loans Disclosure Statement and Census Tract Maps, 1980, 1985, 1986
19. Mortgage Loan Disclosure Statements, 1986
20. Order of the Commissioner of the Financial Institutions Bureau, 1988 July 29
21. Notes, 1989, undated
- 22-24. Correspondences, 1987
- 25-26. Correspondences, 1988

#### **Box 2**

1. Correspondences, 1988, 1989
2. Correspondences, 1990
3. Comerica Response to “The Race for Money,” *Detroit Free Press*, circa 1988
4. Annual Report, 1987
5. Reports, Community Reinvestment Plan Status, 1988
6. Community Reinvestment Plan, Detroit, 1988-1990
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
10. Community Reinvestment Plan, Detroit, 1991-1993
11. Reports, Community Reinvestment Plan Status, First and Second Quarters 1991
12. Reports, Community Reinvestment Plan Status, Third and Fourth Quarters, 1991
13. Advertising and Branding (Marketing), Newsletters, 1989, 1990
14. Clippings, 1987-1991

**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
18. Detroit Neighborhood Handbook, 1987-1988

**Subseries E: Michigan National Bank**

19. Report, Second Quarter Update, 1990

**Subseries F: National Bank of Detroit**

20. Correspondences and Community Reinvestment Proposals, 1988
21. Draft; Community Reinvestment Plan, 1989
22. Correspondences, 1990
23. Notes, 1988, 1990
24. Advertising and Branding (Marketing), 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992
25. Clippings, 1982, 1988, undated

**Subseries G: Standard Federal**

- 26-28. Application for Merger, 1988 December 23, 1989 February 28
29. Brief in Opposition to Application for Merger, circa 1989
- 30-31. Correspondences, 1988-1989
32. Proposal to the Ad Hoc Coalition on Fair Banking Practices in Detroit, 1989

**Box 3**

1. Notes and Drafts, 1988, 1989, undated
2. Reports; Performance and CRA, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989
3. Advertising and Branding (Marketing), 1983, 1987, 1988, undated
4. Clippings, 1988, 1989

**Series II**

**Box 3**

5. Ad Hoc Coalition on Fair Banking Practices in Detroit, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990
6. Bankwatch, 1988
7. Center for Community Change, 1986, 1987, 1988
8. Church Closings, 1988, 1989
9. Clippings, 1980, 1986, 1988, 1990
10. Clippings, "The Race for Money" *The Detroit Free Press* 1988 July 24 – 1988 July 27
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
18. Community Reinvestment Act Information, 1976, 1983, 1986, 1987
19. Financial Institutions Bureau Community Investment Advisory Committee, 1988
20. Federal Financial Institutions Examinations Council, 1981, 1986, 1990
21. Financial Democracy Campaign, 1989
22. Michigan Housing Coalition; Detroit Area Reinvestment Alliance, 1988, undated
23. Notes and Addresses, 1988, 1989, undated
24. Report; Bank-Sponsored Community Development Corporations, 1983 May 11
25. Report; Neighborhood Reinvestment Partnership, 1984
26. Report; Residential Lending Patterns in Hamilton County, Ohio, 1981-1986
27. Research, 1978, 1980, 1988, undated
28. Wayne County Legal Services, 1988