



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

Guide to the Law Department correspondence

Finding aid prepared by Kristen Swett

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Repository:	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
Title:	Law Department correspondence
Collection No.:	0700.006
Dates:	1884-1982 with gaps
Quantity:	51.0 Cubic feet

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Historical note

The Office of Attorney and Solicitor was established by ordinance passed on June 18, 1827. The Office of City Attorney was abolished by ordinance passed on April 29, 1846. The ordinance passed on March 30, 1881 established the Office of Corporation Counsel and Office of City Solicitor. Known as the Law Department, it was jointly under the charge of the Corporation Counsel and City Solicitor. The Office of City Solicitor was abolished and the department placed under sole charge of the Corporation Counsel by the ordinance which went into effect on July 1, 1904.

The Corporation Counsel has supervisory authority over all City attorneys and legal affairs. The Law Department has general charge of all the City's legal affairs, and represents the City of Boston and the County of Suffolk in all litigation to which they are a party. The Department provides a comprehensive array of legal services: formal and informal opinions to the Mayor, the City Council, the Boston School Committee, and City or County Officials and other employees in matters relating to the discharge of their official duties; and representation for these individuals and entities in litigation of all types. Additionally, the Law Department reviews all City and County contracts, pursues claims on behalf of the City through affirmative litigation, initiates foreclosure

proceedings on tax delinquent properties, and conducts a program which provides technical assistance to citizens and others with problems concerning immigration, residency status and naturalization.

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Scope and Contents note

One of the functions of the Law Department is to provide formal and informal opinions to the Mayor, the City Council, the Boston School Committee, and City or County Officials and other employees in matters relating to the discharge of their official duties. This collection documents the communications between various city officials and employees and the Law Department regarding these requests. The collection is divided into two series based on the format of the records. The first series includes letter copy volumes of correspondence between the Corporation Counsel and various departments. There are some gaps in the volumes. The second series includes files arranged by department name containing correspondence between that department and the Corporation Counsel.

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Series I: Letter copy volumes, 1884-1944

Box

1	Mayor, Street Commission, Parks Commission, 1904-1934
2	Mayor, Street Commission, Parks Commission, 1934-1944
2	Superintendent of Streets, 1904-1923
2	Miscellaneous Departments, 1884-1888
3	Miscellaneous Departments, 1889-1890, 1897-1906
4	Miscellaneous Departments, 1906-1910
5	Miscellaneous Departments, 1910-1915
6	Miscellaneous Departments, 1915-1922, 1924-1930

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Series II: Files by Department, 1940-1982 with gaps

Box

7	1940
8	1941
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12	1944-1945
13	1945-1946
14	1946-1948
15	1948-1949
16	1950-1951
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18	1953-1954
19	1954
20	1955-1956
21	1956-1957
22	1957
23	1958
24	1959
25	1960-1961
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27	1962
28	1963
29	1964
30	1966
31	1967
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35	1969
36	1970
37	1970
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39a	1972
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41	1973
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47	Miscellaneous correspondence, circa 1969-1975
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