

Preface

Since reorganization of the Baltimore City Archives began in 1978, we have committed ourselves to elevate the public's awareness of the great wealth of knowledge contained in the city's historical records. The Records of a City: A Guide to the Baltimore City Archives represents a major step toward this goal. After five years of work, we are pleased to offer this guide to everyone who has an interest in the history of Baltimore.

This volume could not have been written without support for our efforts from Mayor William Donald Schaefer and the City of Baltimore. In an era when municipal archives are a distinct rarity, Baltimore has had the wisdom and foresight to provide for its historical records. As a result, Baltimore is one of the best documented localities in the nation, a factor that will insure long remembrance of the city's past. Baltimore's "urban renaissance" and other accomplishments for which the municipality is noted are now assured of a prominent place in history.

Over the past six years, many people have contributed to the preparation of this guide. A large measure of credit has to go to Richard J. Cox, who served as City Archivist and Records Management Officer from 1978 to mid-1983. It was his vision and commitment to quality that transformed this program into the vital operation it is today. Richard was also the first person to begin compiling and editing information for the guide. Anne S.K. Turkos and Cynthia H. Requardt put in many hours arranging and describing records, and Susan Wertheimer David contributed to the cataloging of the mayor and city council records. Karen Freeberger did an excellent job deciphering our handwritings and typing the manuscript. Without the unstinting efforts of all these people, this project never would have seen the light of day.

A special note of thanks goes to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), which funded two grants for the archives. These grants allowed us to hire two archivists to survey and catalog large quantities of historical records. In addition to providing the money to make good intentions a reality, NHPRC also supplied valuable guidance.

William G. LeFurgy