

During the twenty years following the 1898 charter, the mayor reached a zenith in his power. Introduction of a civil service system for city employees in 1919, however, lessened the mayor's influence through the demise of widespread political patronage. The mayor's administrative domain continued to broaden in other areas with the constant growth of the city's political structure. Mayoral commissions and committees multiplied in the 1950s, and this trend continues into the 1980s. Traditionally the focal point of the city government, the mayor continues to direct most aspects of municipal activities.

Records Summary

Baltimore is especially fortunate in having a nearly continuous run of mayoral records from the creation of the office in 1797 until the present. The records cover nearly every subject pertaining to the municipal government, including taxation, licensing, ordinances and resolutions, public health, schools, property ownership, litigation, railroads, claims against the city, proposals, charitable enterprises, opening and closing streets, paving streets, citizen complaints, relationship with state and federal governments, port concerns, general administration, requests for information and publications from other municipalities, and applications for and appointments to municipal positions. Prior to 1906, the records are grouped together as they were originally organized by the Historical Records Survey in the late 1930s. There are folder listings for all mayoral administrative files dating after 1906.

Series

1. Calhoun Correspondence to City Council. 1797-1802.
2 lin. in.
Arranged chronologically.
2. Mayor's HRS Correspondence. 1797-1923. 26.1 cu. ft.
(58 boxes). Index.
Arranged sequentially by HRS assigned numbers.
3. Miscellaneous Incoming Mayoral Correspondence. 1885-1900.
7 cu. ft. (15.5 boxes).
Arranged chronologically.
4. Miscellaneous Outgoing Mayoral Correspondence. 1885-1900.
5 lin. in.
Arranged chronologically.
5. Police Marshall Frey, Incoming Correspondence. 1890-96.
0.25 lin. in.
Arranged chronologically.
6. General Correspondence. 1884-96. 1 lin. in.
Arranged chronologically.