



## Chief Hubert O. Kemp Papers, 1950-1972

### Collection Summary:

**Title:** Chief H.O. Kemp Papers

**Summary:** Administrative records, correspondence, reports, and other materials relating to Police Chief Hubert O. Kemp and the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. Materials range from 1950-1972.

**Physical Description:** 40 boxes; 16.68 linear feet.

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** Archives II

**Repository:** Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

### Biographical Note:

Hubert O. Kemp (1908-1992) was born on November 8, 1908 in Smith County, Tennessee, and began his career in the Police Department as a city patrolman in 1940. A graduate of the Traffic Institute at Northwestern University, Kemp was later appointed by Mayor Bevery Briley to become the first chief of the new Metropolitan Police Department after the city-county consolidation on April 1, 1963. During his time as Chief of Police, Kemp introduced a progressive promotion system that eliminated seniority, as well as an incentive program that encouraged police officers to take college courses. Kemp retired from the Police Department in 1972.

### Scope and Contents of the Collection:

This collection contains the administrative records, correspondence, reports, and other materials relating to the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department during Hubert O. Kemp's term as Chief of Police. Kemp served as Chief of Police from 1963-1972; however, some records of disciplinary actions in this collection date back to 1950. As Chief of Police during the controversial transition to a

metropolitan government, the Civil Rights movement, and Vietnam War protests, Kemp saw Nashville through a particularly turbulent time in the city's history. His papers depict police activities during this period, and give a look into race relations, security detail, and the department's responses to riots and protests, as well as insight into the transitional period after the city-county consolidation, and the adjustments made within the criminal justice system in order to accommodate the consolidation.

**Index Terms:**

**Subjects:**

Crime.

Criminal justice

Police.

Police--1950-1970.

Police--Tennessee--Davidson County--History.

Police--Tennessee--Nashville--History

Police chiefs.

**Related Collections:**

Chief Hugh Mott Papers

Chief Joe Casey Papers

City of Nashville Police Department Records

Formation of Metropolitan Government Files

Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Police Department Records

Sheriff's Office Collection

Vertical Files--Kemp

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged into nine series, including *administrative records, arrest records, complaints, correspondence, disciplinary actions, investigations, legislation, reports, and statements.*

The *administrative records* series includes materials regarding department personnel, various reports, and orders from the Chief of Police. Personnel-related materials include applications, lists of Police Department personnel attending school, illnesses and deaths, lists of pensioned officers, suspended officers, and reassignments. Other materials include requisitions and vouchers, security assignments for visiting government officials, and notices of outstanding and refused warrants.

*Arrest records* include arrest reports of for various offenses occurring in Centennial Park, as well as arrest records for sex offenses.

The *complaints* series includes general complaints from citizens and councilmen, as well as complaints sent through the Mayor's Office. Some complaints also include those from citizens regarding police brutality, as well as some regarding the closing down of the showing of the movie "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?".

The *correspondence* series consists of general correspondence with other police departments, law enforcement-related organizations, and other departments in Metropolitan Government. Other correspondence includes that relating to Special Police, such as assignments, applications, cancellations, and commissions, as well as correspondence related to police training and available training courses.

The *disciplinary actions* series contains oral reprimands, written reprimands, dismissals, suspensions, and resignations of police officers.

The *investigations* series includes official statements, photographs, and other documents relating to police investigations of specific cases.

*Legislation* includes various acts and ordinances relating to arrest procedures, ambulances, state ordinances, and vagrancy laws.

The *reports* series includes reports from various divisions within the Police Department, statistical reports on crimes, arrests, and offenses, as well as reports to the Chief, the Mayor's Office, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The *statements* series contains official statements from officers and citizens regarding individual crimes, including armed robbery, assault, homicide, police misconduct, and vehicle accidents. Notable in this series are statements regarding a fire at DuPont Elementary School.

#### **Contents Listing:**

**Boxes 1-8: Administrative Records**

**Box 8: Arrest Records**

**Boxes 8-12: Complaints**

**Boxes 12-30: Correspondence**

**Boxes 31-33: Disciplinary Actions [closed to research]**

**Boxes 34-35: Investigations**

**Box 35: Legislation**

**Boxes 35-38: Reports**

**Boxes 38-40: Statements**

**Restrictions:**

**Restrictions on Access:** In-library use only. Some materials contain confidential information and are therefore closed to researchers.

**Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:** The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County owns the intellectual rights to these materials. Materials may be used for research purposes only, and cannot be used in a publication or reproduced.

**Administrative Information:**

**Copyright:** The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County retains intellectual property rights to this collection. Some restrictions may apply.

**Provenance:** Metropolitan Nashville Police Department

**Processing Information:** Processed by Kelley Sirko, May 19, 2017

**Accruals:** No further accruals expected.