

**Guide to Office of the Mayor,
Michael R. Bloomberg, 2002-2013**

Collection No.: 0043

Record Group: Office of the Mayor

Title of the Collection: Michael R. Bloomberg

Date(s): 1963-2013

Bulk: 2002-2013

Extent: 5289 cubic feet¹

Abstract:

Processing Information: This collection is unprocessed. The collection has been inventoried by Nathalie Belkin, archivist who described the materials and encoded the finding aid in EAD in Fall, 2016. Due to this collection being unprocessed, some boxes may be mislabeled and may not contain the information stated on the label.

Repository: New York City Municipal Archives, Department of Records and Information Services

Access and Use: These records are held at 111 White Street, New York, New York. The records are available in paper format including specific access restrictions for certain series. Where available, please review the electronic records. See archivist for details.

Preferred citation: Office of the Mayor, Michael R. Bloomberg, Municipal Archives, City of New York

Biographical Note²

Michael Rubens Bloomberg, born in 1942, was raised in the Medford neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts, the grandson of Russian Jewish immigrants. Michael Bloomberg attended Johns Hopkins University, where he paid his tuition by taking loans and working as a parking lot attendant. After college, he went on to receive his MBA from Harvard Business School. In 1966 Bloomberg was hired by a Wall Street firm, Salomon Brothers, for an entry-level job wherein he moved to New York City.

Michael Bloomberg rose quickly through the ranks at Salomon Brothers. He oversaw equity trading and sales before heading up the firm's information systems. However, when Salomon Brothers was acquired in 1981, the subsequent restructuring cost him his job. But, with a vision of an information technology company that would bring transparency and efficiency to the buying and selling of financial securities, he launched a small startup company called Bloomberg LP. Today, Bloomberg LP is a global media company that has over 315,000+ subscribers to its financial news and information service. Headquartered in New York City, the company has more than 15,000 employees worldwide.

As his company grew, Bloomberg started directing more of his attention to philanthropy, donating his time and resources to many different causes. He has sat on the boards of numerous charitable, cultural,

¹ As of 11/21/16 this does not include the photographic collection from the Bloomberg Administration.

² Much of the biographical information in this note is taken from the "official" biography found throughout this collection, information on the nyc.gov website and the official Michael Bloomberg website.

and educational institutions, including The Johns Hopkins University, where, as chairman of the board, he helped build the Bloomberg School of Public Health into one of the world's leading institutions of public health research and training.

In 2001, Bloomberg entered the race for mayor of New York City as a candidate on the Republican ticket, as well as holding the line of the Independence party, switching his democratic membership due to the high profile democrats interested in also running for the position. Receiving an endorsement from his predecessor, Rudolph W. Giuliani, Michael Bloomberg won the Mayoral election.

Michael Bloomberg was re-elected in 2005 with a 20% margin. On October 2, 2008, Bloomberg announced he would seek to extend the city's term limits law and run for a third mayoral term in 2009, arguing a leader of his field was needed following the financial crisis of 2007–08. On October 23, 2008, the City Council voted 29–22 in favor of extending the term limit to three consecutive four-year terms, thus allowing Bloomberg to run for office again. After two days of public hearings, Bloomberg signed the bill into law on November 3, 2008.

Scope and Content

This group of materials is from the Office of the 108th Mayor of New York City and it covers the time period 2002-2013, with some earlier documentation from the 1970s through the 1990s. The majority of materials dated 2010-2013 has not yet reached its retention schedules and was not available for processing.

The Office of the Mayor of New York City relies upon the hard work of a great many people to manage the day-to-day affairs of the City and respond to the myriad needs of its constituents. This collection illustrates some of the work of these people. From the Deputy Mayors to the Correspondence Unit, the collection comprehensively covers a variety of wide-ranging activities of the Mayor of New York. Deputy Mayor papers detail the issues and projects that were implemented, as well as the myriad people they interacted with. Correspondence is extensive for each department under the mayoral administration. Materials found in the collection include policies that Mayor Bloomberg advocated paralleling both Democratic and Republican party platforms.

The extensive daily activity covered by these papers outline the work, collaboration and politicking that is involved in the effective running a city the size of New York, which will become clear to all researchers of the collection. In 2010 the population of the City, including all five boroughs was 8,175,133 (information gleaned from: http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/data-maps/nyc-population/census2010/t_pl_p5_nyc.pdf). The five boroughs of New York City include the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island.

The legacy of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's three term administration includes the immense task of healing a bruised and broken city after the tragedy of September 11, 2001. A great deal of fear surrounded the city, with many residents afraid to stay and tourists resistant to visiting. The city was in an almost \$5 billion deficit. Bloomberg left the city with a surplus of almost \$2.4 billion, more people moving to New York, a lower crime rate, and an overall healthier city and climate. Mayor Bloomberg opened 800 acres of outdoor space, much of it along the city's shorelines, expanded bike lanes to cover more than 600 miles and added a fleet of Citi bikes for tourists and commuters. He created the City's 311 telephone and online system. The mayor also fought to reduce greenhouse gases, by approving a balanced plan to dispose of the city's enormous waste stream. Using private funds, including his own, he helped create new parks like the High Line and a new greenway on Governors Island. After Hurricane Sandy, Bloomberg began to update building codes and created a long-range plan that would help defend the city against future storms of such magnitude. Mayor Bloomberg is also known for increasing New Yorkers access to city services and information with a significant investment in technology and the implementation of the NYC 311 call center that began accepting calls in March of 2003.

Of course, not all his initiatives were welcomed with open arms and the collection reflects this, with letters from constituents decrying the rising number of homeless people on the streets, the defunding of public libraries and the City's controversial "Stop and Frisk" program.

Social Issues

Bloomberg supported abortion rights, stating, "Reproductive choice is a fundamental human right and we can never take it for granted. On this issue, you're either with us or against us." He has criticized pro-choice politicians who support pro-life candidates.

Bloomberg supported governmental funding for embryonic stem cell research and also supported same-sex marriage with the rationale that it was not the job of the government to decide who a person can marry.

Bloomberg was also a support of the strict drug laws of New York City. He did not believe that marijuana should be decriminalized.

Crime and Punishment

In April 2006, along with Boston mayor Thomas Menino, Bloomberg co-founded Mayors Against Illegal Guns. A December 2013 press release by the group said the bipartisan coalition included over 1,000 mayors.

As mayor, Bloomberg increased the mandatory minimum sentence for illegal possession of a loaded handgun. Bloomberg believed that the streets were no place for illegal guns and held accountable both

gun dealers and illegal gun carriers, who broke the law. He also opposed the death penalty. It was his belief that locking someone up and putting them to work would do more good than ending a life.

Education

Bloomberg replaced the State set up school board and maintained direct mayoral control over public education. He raised the salaries of teachers by fifteen percent, while the test scores of students in the city and the graduation rate rose as well. Bloomberg did not believe in social promotion, and stated that students should be promoted only when they are adequately prepared for the next grade level. He favored after-school programs that would help students who were behind.

Immigration

On issues of domestic and homeland security, Bloomberg attacked social conservatives on immigration, calling their stance unrealistic and supporting permanent status of undocumented people. He also supported a federal ID database that used DNA and fingerprint technology to keep track of all citizens and to verify their legal status. Bloomberg also held that illegal immigrants should be offered legalization and supported the congressional efforts of John McCain and the late Ted Kennedy in their 2007 attempt at immigration reform. In 2006, Bloomberg stated on his weekly WABC radio show that illegal immigration does not strain the financial resources of New York City, since many immigrants are hardworking and "do not avail themselves of services until their situation is dire."

Health Regulations

In January 2011, New York City schools began a pilot program which allowed girls over 14 years old to be provided with Plan B emergency contraception without parental consent, unless parents opt out in writing. Beginning with five schools, the pilot had been expanded to thirteen schools by September 2012.

In September 2012, the New York City Board of Health approved Bloomberg's proposal to ban the sale of many sweetened drinks more than 16 ounces in volume. The limit would have applied to businesses including restaurants and movie theaters, but did not apply to grocery stores. Diet varieties of sweetened drinks were unaffected. However, on March 12, 2013, mere hours before the ban was scheduled to take effect, State Supreme Court Justice Milton Tingling struck it down, ruling that the Board of Health lacked the jurisdiction to enforce it and that the rule was "arbitrary and capricious." The city appealed the decision. On July 30, the Appellate Division upheld the lower court's ruling, stating the Board of Health "failed to act within the bounds of its lawfully delegated authority" and the ban was a

violation of the separation of powers doctrine, which reserves legislative power to the legislature and does not allow the board to "exercise sweeping power to create whatever rule they deem necessary". Bloomberg announced that the city would appeal the decision.

Improving the health of all New Yorkers was a top priority for the mayor. He banned smoking in bars and restaurants in New York in 2003 – and countries around the world followed suit. Thanks in part to the Mayor's public health initiatives, life expectancy in New York City grew by more than three years.

Response to 9/11

Bloomberg believes that the September 11, 2001 attacks were not intended to be solitary events. When he assumed office, he set up a Counterterrorism Bureau which worked along with the NYPD intelligence division to gather information about terrorism affecting New York worldwide. He believed that funding for Homeland Security by the federal government should be distributed by risk, where cities that were considered to have the highest threat for a terrorist attack would get the most money. Bloomberg was also a supporter of the United States Patriot Act.

After the April 15, 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, Bloomberg expressed the view that terrorism threats may require a reconsideration of civil liberties, saying "the people who are worried about privacy have a legitimate worry, but we live in a complex world where you're going to have to have a level of security greater than you did back in the olden days, if you will ... our laws and our interpretation of the Constitution, I think, have to change."

Economic issues

Mayor Bloomberg characterized himself as a fiscal conservative for turning the city's \$6 billion deficit into a \$3 billion surplus. Bloomberg balanced the budget of New York City by raising property taxes and making cuts to city agencies.

During his tenure as mayor, he raised property taxes to fund budget projects; however, in January 2007 he proposed cuts in property taxes by five percent and cuts in sales taxes, including the elimination of taxes on clothing and footwear. Bloomberg pointed to the Wall Street profits and the real estate market as evidence that the city's economy was booming and could handle a tax break.

As a mayor with a background as an entrepreneur, Bloomberg worked hard to make it easier to start and grow a business in New York City – and to connect more people to those jobs. This resulted in major new investment opportunities for small businesses, as well as a record level of job placements during the midst of the national economic recession.

A key part of Mayor Bloomberg's strategy to diversify New York City's economy and make it less dependent on Wall Street was to expand the film and TV industry. For the 2012-2013 season, after major studio expansions, a record 23 primetime episodic shows were filmed in the City, and in 2012, the growing industry employed 130,000 New Yorkers.

Overall Organization of Collection

At the collection level, the mayoral papers are organized into broad departmental categories. As this collection is at present unprocessed, the papers have retained their original order which ranges between chronological and alphabetical. For issue mail, there is no arrangement.