

# Guide to the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Committee Records

MS 2138



Michaela Gibbons

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 2138

**CREATOR:** Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce

**TITLE:** Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Committee Records

**DATES:** 1946-1964

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** Materials are in English.

**SUMMARY:** The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Committee Records primarily document the history of urban planning and zoning of the New Haven region from 1946 to 1964. The collection contains correspondence, memos, meeting minutes, survey results, planning documents, and budget sheets, along with other documentation from the Chamber's various committees. Records include information regarding New Haven mayors William C. Celentano and Richard C. Lee as well as leading transportation expert Kent T. Healy and their involvement in urban zoning.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.greaternewhavenchamberofcommerce>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.greaternewhavenchamberofcommerce>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Biographical / Historical

The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1794, promotes economic growth and development of the New Haven region of Connecticut by advocating for businesses and economic legislations. It was the second chamber of commerce in the United States. The organization started with

26 prominent New Haven residents, who lobbied against British and French control of the city's ports during the French Revolutionary Wars. Among the founding members were Eli Whitney, Noah Webster, and Timothy Dwight. Its headquarters are located in New Haven, Connecticut. The Chamber supports the Connecticut towns of Woodbridge, Wallingford, Orange, North Haven, North Branford, Milford, Meriden, Madison, Guilford, East Haven, Cheshire, Branford, Bethany, Hamden, and West Haven.

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## Scope and Contents

The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Committee Records primarily document the history of urban planning and zoning of the New Haven region from 1946 to 1964. The collection contains correspondence, memos, meeting minutes, survey results, planning documents, and budget sheets, along with other documentation from the Chamber's various committees. Records include information regarding New Haven mayors William C. Celentano and Richard C. Lee as well as leading transportation expert Kent T. Healy and their involvement in urban zoning.

This collection includes ideas by W. Ogden Ross, a well-known New Haven businessman, who served as the Chamber's public relations director.

Records related to the Chamber's Industrial Development Committee document discussions about the rerouting of U.S. Route 1 and development of Interstate 95 (I-95).

Records related to the Chamber's Parking and Traffic Committee document discussions about increased investments in public transit in reaction to the declining revenue during the 1950s, including the updating of trolley systems, the creation of bus lanes, the expansion of Tweed Airport, and the widening of the roads in downtown New Haven.

Records related to the Chamber's Harbor Development Committee document the dredging of the city's port during the 1950s to allow for greater use of New Haven Harbor.

The records also document the Chamber's prioritization of the development of existing industries based in New Haven, as well as the recruitment of new businesses in manufacturing and supply. Among them were Atlantic Wire Company, Norwalk Tire Company, Griest Manufacturing Company, U.S. Electrical Motors, and U.S. Aluminum Smelting Company.

Lastly, the records document the Chamber's Redevelopment Committee, which was created after Mayor Richard C. Lee raised concerns about declining areas of the city. Meeting minutes show that nearly two dozen families living in predominately Black neighborhoods were displaced due to the redevelopment of residential areas and their conversion into business districts during Lee's mayorship.

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## Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by committee name.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Fire Prevention Committee	1947-1963
b. 1, f. 2	Group Insurance Committee	1960-1961
b. 1, f. 3	Harbor Development Committee	1948-1957
b. 1, f. 4-5	Industry Development Committee	1946-1964
b. 1, f. 6	Membership Committee	1949-1962
b. 1, f. 7	Parking and Traffic Committee	1947-1964
b. 1, f. 8	Political Participation Committee, correspondence	1959
b. 1, f. 9	Program of Work Committee	1961
b. 1, f. 10	Public Affairs Committee	1947-1959
b. 1, f. 11	Public Transit Committee	1957-1958
b. 1, f. 12	Real estate members, Correspondence	1963
b. 1, f. 13	Regional Chamber of Commerce Study Guide	1961-1962
b. 1, f. 14	Redevelopment Committee	1962
b. 1, f. 15	Sterling Committee for Redevelopment	1953-1964

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Airport Zoning  
Aluminum smelting  
Business Parks  
City planning -- Connecticut -- New Haven  
Electrical Motors  
Gentrification  
Harbors -- Connecticut -- New Haven  
Quinnipiack Club  
United States Highway 1  
Urban renewal -- Connecticut -- New Haven  
Zoning -- United States

### **Geographic Names**

Church Street (New Haven, Conn.)  
State Street (New Haven, Conn.)

### **Names**

Celentano, William C., 1904-1972  
Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David),  
1890-1969  
Healy, Kent Tenney, 1902-  
Lee, Richard C. (Richard Charles), 1916-2003

### **Corporate Bodies**

New England Council  
New Haven (Conn.)  
Yale University

### **Contributors**

Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce  
Chamber of Commerce (New Haven, Conn.)  
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce,  
Industrial Development Committee  
Ross, W. Ogden