

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES**

**Guide to the Papers of  
ALEXANDER GREENE  
1952-1986**

**Record Group 17: Personal Papers**

**June 20, 1998  
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Updated 2018**

Montgomery County Archives  
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### **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Born in 1923 and raised in New York City and Eastern Kentucky, Alexander Greene moved to Montgomery County in the years following World War II. After being discharged from the Army, Greene and his wife Jayne moved to Potomac, Maryland and then in 1950 settled in Rockville. An employee of the Environmental Protection Agency and the former Budget Bureau, Greene soon became involved in County politics and civic activities.

Greene served on the Rockville City Council from 1954 to 1958. In this capacity he worked to develop a Master Plan for the City, new zoning ordinances, and city codes that addressed problems of utility shortages, inadequate sewer capacity, and poor roads. He was also a member of a Council-appointed Committee which tackled the appalling housing conditions of African-American citizens in Rockville, and was criticized by some for advocating desegregation and subsidized housing.

Greene served as Mayor of the City of Rockville from 1958 to 1962. At the end of his second term he declined re-election and joined the Planning Commission under the Department of Housing and Community Development. Feeling that the Housing Authority should be independent of the Department, Greene lobbied successfully for the establishment of the Housing Opportunities Commission which was inaugurated under the Housing Opportunities Act in 1974.

Greene left Rockville government to start his own consulting business in 1979. However, he soon re-entered government service as Intergovernmental Programs Coordinator and Top-Level Advisor to County Executive Charles W. Gilchrist. Serving also as Gilchrist's troubleshooter, Greene coordinated activities for such controversial events as the opening of the Oaks Landfill near Laytonsville, the growing problems of sewage treatment facilities, and the transfer of the County's cable system from Tribune-United to Cable TV Montgomery. He also served as an aide to Gilchrist's successor Sidney Kramer. Alexander Greene retired from government service in February 1988.

For further information see the biographical sketch *Alexander J. Greene: Top-Level Advisor and Intergovernmental Programs Coordinator for Former County Executive Charles Gilchrist*, in Record Group 16: Oral Histories.

### **EXTENT**

3 cubic feet: 3 records boxes.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The papers of Alexander Greene comprise materials ranging in date from 1952-1986. The records document Greene's service for the City of Rockville and for Montgomery County government. They also cover Greene's participation in the civic organization Citizens For Good Government. Document types include correspondence and memoranda, reports, notes, meeting minutes, maps, and plats.

The records are arranged in three series:

Series I: Citizens For Good Government

Series II: City of Rockville

Series III: Montgomery County

*Subseries 1: Department of Community and Economic Development*

*Subseries 2: Housing Authority*

*Subseries 3: Sludge Disposal*

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I: Citizens For Good Government (CGG), 1954-1966**

**(0.2 cubic feet)**

This series documents Greene's involvement with Citizens For Good Government, a civic organization of Montgomery County. Significant topics addressed include monitoring and evaluation of the city government, the group's platform at municipal elections, the industrial and commercial development of Rockville, and improvement of the city's cultural and educational facilities. Materials include correspondence, minutes of membership meetings and Executive Committee meetings, and copies of the organization's newsletter. The series is arranged chronologically.

### **Series II: City of Rockville, 1952-1967**

**(1.5 cubic feet)**

This series documents Greene's activities both as a member of the Rockville City Council and as Mayor. The records, which include Greene's notes and speeches, correspondence, reports, and publications, relate to such topics as desegregation, libraries, the sister city program with Pinneberg, Germany, the offices of City Manager and City Attorney, and government services such as refuse collection. Also well documented in the series is the issue of sludge entrenchment during the 1950s. The series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

### **Series III: Montgomery County, 1961-1986**

**(1.3 cubic feet)**

This series chronicles Greene's activities in various agencies of the County government and records the interaction of those agencies in issues of planning, community development and housing. Record types include correspondence, publications, reports, minutes, documentation of real estate transactions, maps, and plats. The series is arranged alphabetically by subject within three subseries: Department of Community and Economic Development, Housing Authority, and Sludge Disposal.

#### ***Subseries 1: Department of Community and Economic Development, 1975-1982***

***(0.34 cubic feet)***

This subseries contains documents relating to improvements to, and abandonments of, property in the East Bethesda and Silver Spring areas of Montgomery County in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The records document public opinions regarding proposed improvements, and provide evidence of contractual aspects of the work performed.

Record types include proposals, contracts, quit claim deeds, construction easement agreements, documentation of property taxes and leases, title searches, correspondence, reports, and plats. Five folders are restricted as they contain confidential financial information.

***Subseries 2: Housing Authority, 1961-1986***  
***(0.86 cubic feet)***

Records in this subseries relate to Greene's activities in the Montgomery County Planning Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development. Correspondence, publications, reports, and minutes of the Housing Authority document Greene's pursuit of an independent Housing Opportunities Commission. The records document the Housing Authority's interaction with other County activities and departments, such as the Bel Pre Square turnkey projects, and the Department of Community Development.

***Subseries 3: Sludge Disposal, 1975-1980***  
***(0.1 cubic feet)***

This subseries records the interaction of various County and state agencies concerning sludge containment sites in Montgomery County. Documentation includes correspondence, memoranda, reports, water quality analysis data, maps, and plats.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS**

This collection is open for research. Some material is restricted due to content or privacy reasons; folders with restricted content are marked as such in the finding aid and will not be served to researchers. If you have questions about restricted material, please contact the archivist.

**LANGUAGE**

English.

**PROVENANCE**

4 cubic feet of records were donated to the Archives by Alexander Greene in 1988, Accession #88-10, and 2 cubic feet of records were accessioned in 1996, Accession #96-1.

**USING THESE RECORDS**

To request records listed in this finding aid, the following information should be given to the archivist:

Record Group 17, **Papers of Alexander Greene**, Series Number and Name, Box Number and Folder Title(s).

The preferred citation for materials from these records is:

Montgomery County Archives; Gaithersburg, Maryland. Record Group 17: Personal Papers.

Records Title: Papers of Alexander Greene. Series number and series name. Subseries number and subseries name, if applicable. Box number and folder title, if appropriate.

**PROCESSING PROCEDURES**

General processing procedures consisted of discarding duplicates, unnecessary binders, and routine transmittals. If records contained oversized documents and photographs, they were removed from the original location in their assigned series and placed in separate containers. Separation sheets would then be inserted in the original location within the folder to indicate the new location of any records placed elsewhere.

Preservation copying of newspaper clippings was performed whenever feasible. Records in folders were arranged, unless otherwise indicated, in forward chronological order, with undated records appearing at the end of the folder.

**PROCESSING STAFF/FINDING AID AUTHOR**

MCA staff.

**BOX INVENTORY**

**Series I: Citizens For Good Government**

**Box 1**

Citizens for Good Government (CGG)  
1954-1962  
1963-1966

**Series II: City of Rockville**

*(Box 1, cont.)*

All American City, 1955-1962  
Budgets and Finance  
1953-1957  
1958-1961  
City Attorney, 1955-1962  
City Hall, 1958-1962  
City Manager, 1955-1962  
Civic Center, 1955-1962  
Civil Defense, 1961  
Development  
1955-1961  
1961-1962  
General, 1954-1962  
Housing Authority  
1955-1960  
1960-1963  
Letters of Invitation, Thanks, and Complaint, 1954-1962  
Miscellaneous, 1952-1967  
Municipal League, 1954-1962  
Notes and Speeches, n.d.  
Segregation, 1955, & 1960-1961  
Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission, 1954-1962

**Box 2**

Refuse Collection, 1960-1962  
Rockville Centennial, 1960  
Rockville Library (Entering Library System), 1954-1959  
Sister City Program, 1957-1961  
Text Amendments, 1954-1962  
Traffic & Transportation  
1955-1961  
1961-1962  
Urban Renewal, 1955-1963

*(Series II: City of Rockville, Cont.)*

*(Box 2, cont.)*

Water and Sewage

1953-1955

1956-1958

1959-1960

1961-1962, & 1966

Budget Spreadsheets, 1955-1957

**Series III: Montgomery County**

*Subseries 1: Department of Community and Economic Development*

*(Box 2, cont.)*

East Bethesda

Chase Avenue, Westboro Subdivision, 1979 **(RESTRICTED)**

Chase Avenue, West Chevy Chase Heights, 1979 **(RESTRICTED)**

Middleton Lane, Middleton Subdivision

1979 **(RESTRICTED)**

General, 1980-1982

Public Hearing, 1979-1980

East Bethesda/East Silver Spring

Engineering Consultant Selection, 1975-1978

Engineering Contract with Interprofessional Planning & Design Studio Ltd.

(IPDS), 1977-1980

East Silver Springs

Lots 2-7, 1978-1980 **(RESTRICTED)**

Lots 14, 21-23, & 25-27, 1978-1980 **(RESTRICTED)**

Thayer Place, 1978-1980

Thayer Place Public Hearing, 1978-1979

East-West Highway Sidewalk Summit Hill Joint Venture, 1979

*Subseries 2: Housing Authority*

**Box 3**

General Files

1966-1968

1969-1970

1971-1974

Meeting Minutes

April, 1966-December, 1968

January, 1969-May, 1970

June, 1970-December, 1971

January, 1972-March, 1973

July, 1973-December, 1975

January, 1976-December, 1977

*(Subseries 2: Housing Authority, Cont.)*

*(Box 3, cont.)*

Outside Information, 1961-1969

Relations with Department of Community Development, 1966-1969

Turnkey Projects

1967-1968

1968-1969

1969-1970

Housing Opportunities Commission, 1974-1986

*Subseries 3: Sludge Disposal*

*(Box 3, cont.)*

1975-1978

1979-1980

Water Quality Analyses, 1980