

**PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
S1231 (SA4368)
FRANK HAMSHER PAPERS**

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Introduction

Approximately 5.8 cubic feet

The Frank Hamsher papers contain correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, and newspapers, pertaining to Hamsher's duties as the head of St. Louis City's Community Development Agency (1981-1982) and counsel to Mayor Vincent Schoemehl (1982-1990). The bulk of the materials in this collection pertain to the St. Louis City-County Board of Freeholders, a nineteen-member panel first established by the Missouri Constitution of 1875, and later revived in 1987 by St. Louis County Executive, Gene McNary. The Board of Freeholders' mission was to draft a plan for reorganizing St. Louis County municipalities, as well as consider the reunification of St. Louis City and County. Materials of interest include correspondence between Hamsher and Schoemehl, in which Hamsher provides him with advice and analysis on selecting candidates to the Board of Freeholders and public opinion regarding the Board of Freeholder's plans.

Other subjects featured in this collection include the Schoemehl Administration's efforts to convert Union Station into a hotel and shopping mall, the Gateway Mall project, and the St. Louis Center. An item of interest includes streetscape plans for Union Station. The majority of the collection is divided into six series, arranged alphabetically therein: The St. Louis City-County Board of Freeholders, the St. Louis City-County Board of Electors, Gateway Mall, Union Station, the St. Louis Center, and Redevelopment Projects. The materials in this collection date from 1961 to 1994.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Frank Hamsher graduated from Yale Law School and Princeton University's Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He returned to St. Louis in 1973 as a lawyer at the law firm of Husch, Eppenger, Donohue, Elson, and Cornfeld. In April 1981, Mayor Vincent Schoemehl appointed Hamsher to lead the Community Development Agency, which oversaw federal community development projects relating to housing and economic redevelopment. After the Schoemehl administration reorganized the agency in January 1982 to deal exclusively with housing issues, Hamsher became Schoemehl's counsel on redevelopment projects. During his tenure as counsel to the mayor, Hamsher was involved with the reopening of Union Station, the failed Gateway Mall project, as well as the St. Louis City-County Board of Freeholders. Hamsher left the mayor's office on December 14, 1990, to join Fleishman-Hillard Inc., a public relations firm.

Donor Information

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Frank Hamsher on September 11, 2018 (Accession No. SA4368).

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- 36 City Plan, 1988
- 42 City Plan, January-August, 1988
- Administrative and financial materials, September 28, 1987-September 22, 1988
- Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations report, "Metropolitan Organization: the St. Louis Case," September 1988
- Agendas, minutes, and notices, November 5, 1986-September 19, 1988
- Airport, July 8-27, 1988
- Campaign (business), February-April, 1989
- Citizen's comments, September 23, 1987-June 20, 1989
- City communications to Board, October 22, 1987-July 5, 1989
- Correspondence, 1987-1990 (3 folders)
- Draft plan, Governmental Reorganization in St. Louis and St. Louis County, September 1988
- Economic development, July 6, 1989-November 15, 1990
- Fire issues, 1988
- Fiscal plan, 1988
- Freeholders/County Plan, November 1987
- Government data (United States Census), 1985, 1987
- Ladue lawsuit, February 1989
- Lawsuit regarding property ownership requirement, November 4, 1987-June 15, 1989
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- Newspaper clippings, 1987-1989

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- Pending issues, July-August 1988
- Plan for governmental reorganization in St. Louis and St. Louis County, 1988
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- Public opinion, November 1987-June 1989
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- Report, guide, and plan, Coalition for an Informed Electorate, 1988-1989

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Community development agency report, July 1981-June 1982
Gateway Mall Redevelopment Corporation, February 23-June 28, 1982
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Lipton, Don, Landmark Redevelopment Corporation, 1982, 1985
Mayor's compromise, June 22-23, 1982
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Union Station
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Union Station, 1983-1984

Newspaper clippings, July 28-November 26, 1985 (2 folders)

Shopping Centers Today, article on Union Station, April 1987