

Alfred E. Vellucci Snapshot Collection

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Collection ID: P024

Provenance and Biography Note:

The scrapbook pages were donated by Juliet Turner from the City Hall's Finance Department in 2011.

Dates: 1976

Extent: 1 folder, 9 photographs and inscriptions mounted on cardstock

Processed by: Brittany Fox, February 2019

Access: Collection is available for research under the CHC rules of use

Collection Description:

The Alfred E. Vellucci Snapshot Collection consists of mounted photographs conveying a "day in the life" of Cambridge Mayor Vellucci. Other prominent figures in the photographs are Richard McKinnon, administrative aid; Joe Connertan, Deputy City Clerk; Paul Henley, City Clerk; and a painting by Willis Woolen Mills of Cambridge, England.

Historical Context and Biographical Note:

Alfred E. Vellucci (1915-2002) was born in Somerville to Pasquale Vellucci and Quintalina Masci. He married Jurina Valentino. Vellucci was a WWII vet, a Commendatore for the Italian Government, and a city tax accessor for the Department of Revenue. He became a Cambridge School Committee member in 1951. By 1955 he began his 34-year position on the City Council. Some of his political interests included supporting rent control, encouraging corporate tax cuts, advocating for the Cambridge Health Alliance, and attempting to rename Harvard Square. In 1976 there was a snapshot collection of "a day in the life" of the mayor, which was the same year he attempted to ban genetic engineering on recombinant DNA at Harvard University. Vellucci retired from public office in 1991 and died on October 19, 2002 and was buried in Cambridge Cemetery.

Items:

1. Black and white photograph mounted on black cardstock of Mayor Alfred Vellucci holding a cup of coffee. The photograph is a profile shot taken in a café. Front inscription: "Before the City Council Meeting, over which the mayor presides, there's time for a quick cup of coffee then right back to work."
2. Blurry black and white photograph mounted on white cardstock of Mayor Alfred Vellucci approaching his office door. Front inscription: "Cambridge Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci starts off another busy day."

3. Black and white photograph mounted on black cardstock of Mayor Alfred Vellucci sitting at his desk with his eyes closed. Front inscription: "By mid-day it's time for a short pause. What a relief!"
4. Black and white photograph of Mayor Alfred Vellucci sitting at his desk with Richard McKinnon standing beside him. Front inscription: "Although the Mayor is out of his office the majority of the time, he does make a great many decisions there. Here he discusses city plans with Administrative Aid, Richard McKinnon."
5. Black and white photograph on white cardstock of Mayor Alfred Vellucci standing in front of a slogan sign at city hall that states, "Go Go! Cambridge 76. Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci." Ca. 1976. Front inscription: "Mr. Vellucci's slogan for "'76" stands on the front lawn of City Hall."
6. Black and white photograph mounted on white cardstock of Mayor Alfred Vellucci and Joe Connertan pledging to the flag at a city council meeting. Front inscription: "The City Council Meeting, held in City Hall council chambers, always begins first with the Pledge Allegiance of America. Here the Mayor salutes the flag along with Joe Connertan, Deputy City Clerk."
7. Black and white photograph mounted on black cardstock of the public attending a city council meeting. One man is looking at a bulletin board on the back wall. Front inscription: "The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the council meetings. Here a good crowd listens intently to the topics of the evening."
8. Black and white photograph mounted on white cardstock of Paul Henley, City Clerk, standing and taking role call at a city council meeting. Two other unidentified men are in the photograph. Front inscription: "Final role call is taken by City Clerk, Paul Henley. It's been a long meeting added to a long day for the Mayor."
9. Black and white photograph mounted on white cardstock of Mayor Vellucci looking at a painting. Front inscription: "Mayor Vellucci admires painting given to the City by Willis Woolen Mills of Cambridge, England on March 29, 1976. The painting is in commoration [sic] of the Bicenntennial."

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