

Seattle Municipal Archives



AUDIO ARCHIVES

Course Overview

WHAT WE'LL COVER



CONTENT

What types of audio records are in the Archives?

SEARCHING

How do I find audio recordings?

COPIES

How do I get copies of audio recordings?

EXHIBITS

What are other ways to explore audio?

About SMA

WHAT IS THE SEATTLE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES?

SMA's holdings document the history, development, and activities of the agencies and elected officials of the City of Seattle. (That is, records created or received by City government.)

See our Introduction to the Archives course for more information.



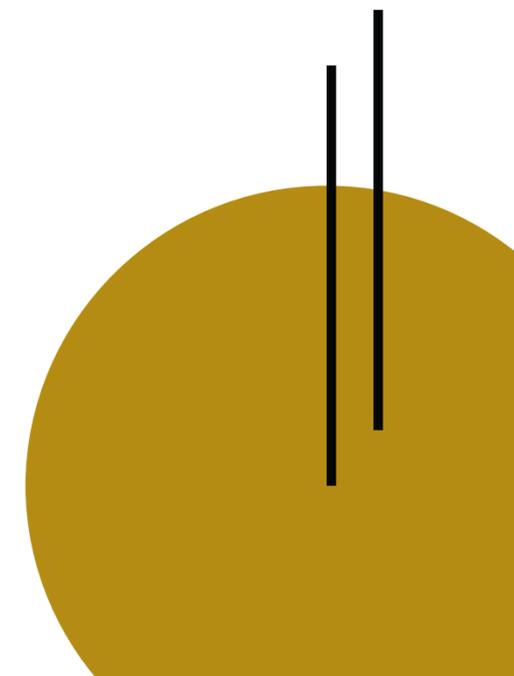


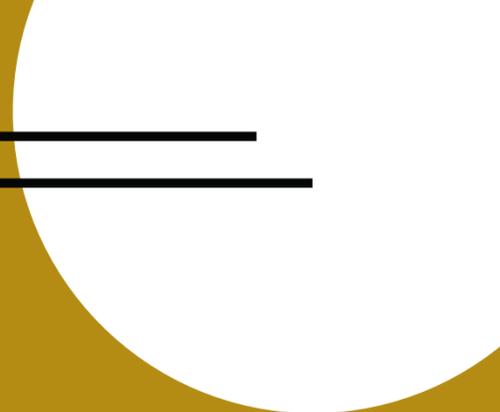
Audio Recordings

SIGNIFICANCE

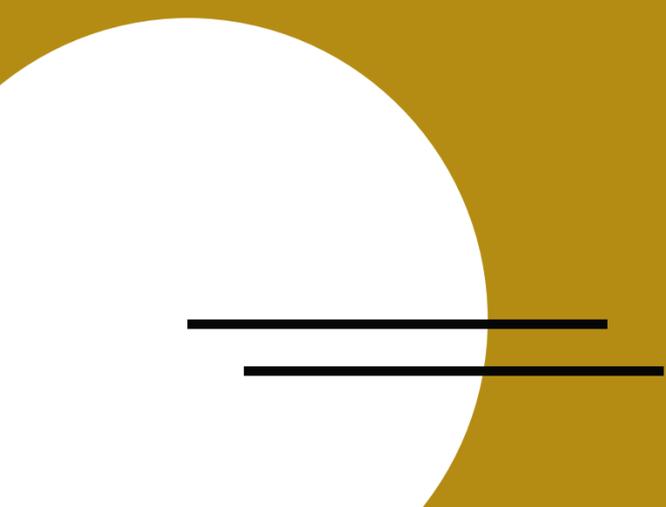
SMA is home to thousands of audio recordings created by the City.

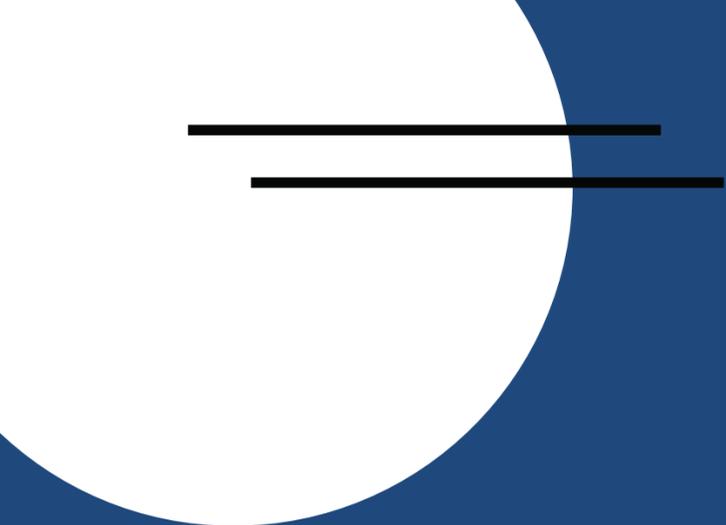
Listening to audio provides a personality to the meetings and events not found on paper, allows individuals to come to life in a way not possible with textual documents, and highlights voices of individuals not documented anywhere else in the Archives. Audio can provide a window into the decision-making process for creating city policies and laws.





**What types of
audio recordings
are in the Archives?**





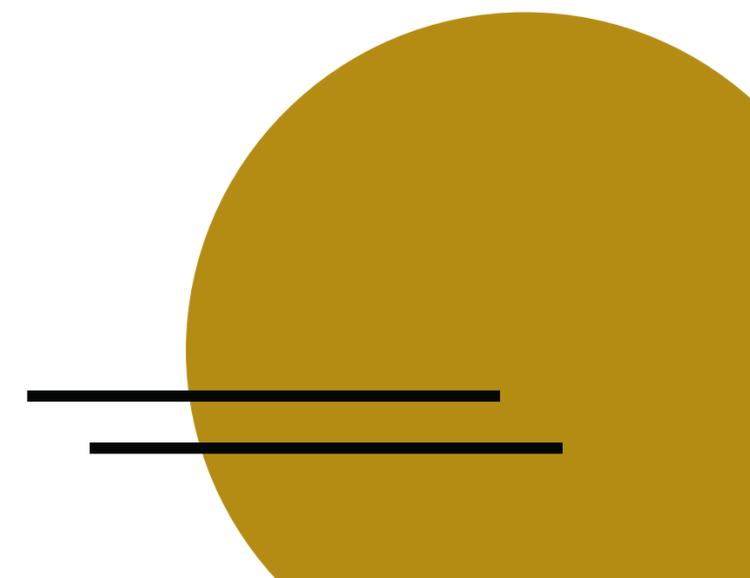
1948 – 2026

DATE RANGE



1971 – 2010
2024-2026

**BULK OF AVAILABLE
RECORDINGS**



Audio Content

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Audio is the official record of Seattle City Council proceedings. Audio holdings at the Seattle Municipal Archives are primarily of Council Committee and Full Council meetings, briefings, public hearings, public forums, and brown bag events.



Full Council
Meetings &
Briefings



Committee
Meetings &
Briefings



Public Hearings



Public Forums



Audio Content

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Audio holdings also include content recorded by other City departments, offices, and special committees, such as oral history interviews, speeches, radio appearances and meetings. Significant record series include the Community Renewal Program Steering Team, Pike Place Market, Woodland Park Zoo, and the WTO Accountability Review Committee.



Recording Formats

TYPES OF AUDIO MEDIA AT SMA



**1/4" REEL-TO REEL
AUDIOTAPE**



DICTAPHONE



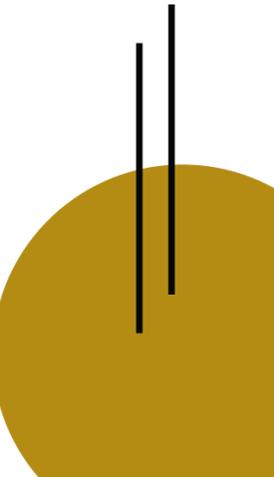
CASSETTE



**COMPACT
DISC**



BORN DIGITAL



What is digital audio?

ANALOG-TO-DIGITAL TRANSFERS

Analog recordings (cassette, reel-to-reel, etc.) that have been transferred to digital files are **digitized audio**. Note that the sound quality varies on these recordings.

BORN DIGITAL

Born digital audio was recorded via a digital recorder.

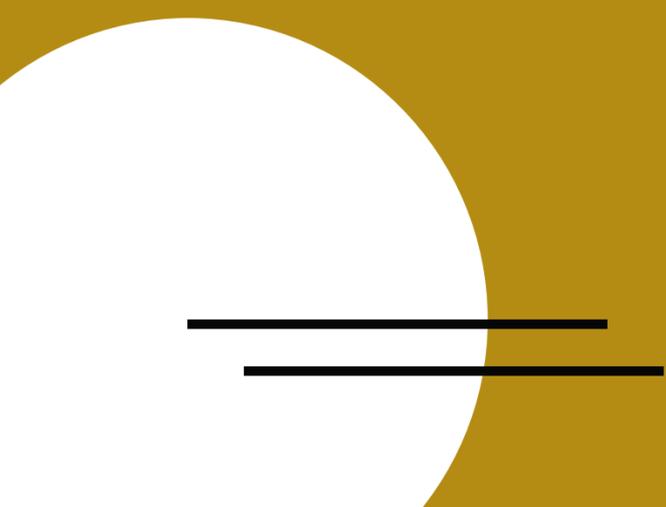
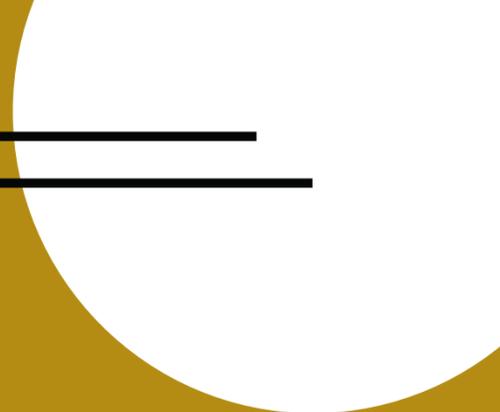
PROCESSING

Not all audio records in SMA's collections are available in a digital format. If an audio recording has an associated digital file, it will be available for playback and download in the catalog record.

EVENTS

Audio recordings are cataloged as **"events"** in the SMA database.





**How do I find
audio recordings?**

Digital Collections

The best place to start a search for audio is **Digital Collections**. Audio events are individually cataloged, and if a digital copy of the recording is available, there will be a link to download the file.



Catalog Records

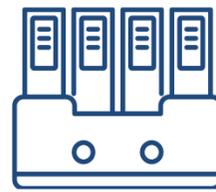
AN AUDIO EVENT'S CATALOG RECORD MAY CONTAIN MANY TYPES OF INFORMATION



Event Identifier



Date



Record Series



Body Name



Meeting Type



Subject Terms



Event Location



Speakers



Media Types



Agenda

Click on the event to take a closer look at an audio record.



129
Public Hearing
Seattle City Council
January 27 1970

Browse Audio

To view all audio, you can browse through all cataloged records in Digital Collections by clicking on "Browse" at the top of the page and then selecting "Audio" from the list.



[AUDIO](#)

[DRAWINGS](#)

[IMAGES](#)

[MAPS](#)

[MOVING IMAGES](#)

[TEXTUAL RECORDS](#)

[SERIES](#)

[VIRTUAL COLLECTIONS](#)



The Seattle Municipal Archives holdings document the history, development, and activities of the agencies and elected officials of the City of Seattle. This Digital Collections site includes digitized and born-digital images, audio, moving images, maps and paper records selected for digitization. Series and folder level descriptions for collections are available through SMA's [Finding Aid](#) site.

[Browse Featured Galleries](#)

Seattle at 150

Search Types

BASIC & ADVANCED SEARCHING

There are two ways to search for audio recordings in Digital Collections: Basic Search and Advanced Search. Basic Search (shown here) will cast a wide net and search results will include more than audio.

The screenshot shows the Seattle Municipal Archives Digital Collections website. The header is dark blue with the logo on the left and navigation links (About, Browse, Gallery, Advanced Search, Finding Aids, Collections Home, SMA Home) and a search bar on the right. Below the header is a carousel of three images. The first image is a yellow house with a caption: "Residence, 2222 NW 62nd Street., 1975". The second image is a brick building under construction. The third image is a construction site with a large yellow arrow pointing upwards. Navigation arrows are visible on the left and right sides of the carousel, and a dot indicator is at the bottom center.

Basic Search Filters

NARROWING SEARCH RESULTS

Results can be narrowed to include only audio by using filters located on the right side of the screen.

Seattle Municipal Archives Digital Collections

About Browse Gallery Advanced Search Finding Aids Collections Home SMA Home Search

23 OBJECT RESULTS

SEARCH: kingdome OBJECT TYPE: **AUDIO** Share

1292
Special Meeting
Seattle City Council
July 28 1972

1357
Committee Meeting
Committee of the Whole
September 5 1972

1370
Committee Meeting
Committee of the Whole
September 11 1972

1389
Committee Meeting
Committee of the Whole
September 21 1972

1397
Committee Meeting
Committee of the Whole
September 26 1972

1400
Committee Meeting
Committee of the Whole
September 27 1972

FILTER BY

DECADE
1970s

COLLECTION
Central Staff Analysts' Working Files
City Council Audio Recordings

PERSON
Allen, Thomas E.
Bishop, Alexander
Bower, Ted
Bradzel, Gene B.
Burger, Steven
Chinn, Glenn
Clow, Terry
and 20 more

Basic Search Filters

NARROWING SEARCH RESULTS



- Further refining can be done by selecting dates, names, collections, subjects and speakers (person & organization).
- Give it a try – go to these [search results](#) and first select “Audio” under “Object Type” to remove other material types. Then use other filters to narrow by date, collection or person (speaker). Each filter may take awhile to apply depending on your internet speed.
- Search results can also be limited to only items that have been transferred to a digital format.

FILTER BY

DECADE

1970s

COLLECTION

Central Staff Analysts' Working Files

City Council Audio Recordings

PERSON

Allen, Thomas E.

Bishop, Alexander

Bower, Ted

Bradzel, Gene B.

Burger, Steven

Chinn, Glenn

Clow, Terry

[and 20 more](#)

ORGANIZATION

Board of Park Commissioners

Citizens Coalition on the Stadium

Salvation Army

Seattle Building Trades Council

Seattle Center Advisory Commission

HAS DIGITAL OBJECT

Has digital object

Does not have digital object

Advanced Search

The [advanced search form](#) allows you to limit your search to audio only, and also has options to search by date, subject, type of footage, and other fields.



Thesaurus

CITY CLERK SUBJECT TERMS

Since most audio recordings don't have descriptive titles like other types of records, subject terms can be a useful way to find audio on specific topics. Please see the [Thesaurus Introduction](#) for more information about finding related subject terms.

Seattle City Clerk Thesaurus

Description ▾

This thesaurus provides a language for indexing and retrieving legislation and other records in the City Clerk's Office. For more details on how to use the thesaurus, read the [Introduction](#).

Browse Thesaurus by Subject Category:

[Physical Environment](#) | [Geographic Environment](#) | [Development and Infrastructure](#) | [Social Environment](#) | [Neighborhood Districts](#) | [Public Affairs](#) | [Social Institutions](#) | [Seattle City Government](#)

Basic Search

Words in term:

Advanced Search

Settings ▶

Search

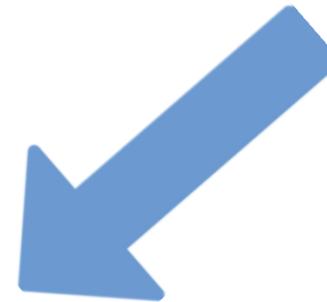
Reset

Share Search Results

Use the "share" button to send a set of results to yourself or someone else.

23 OBJECT RESULTS 

SEARCH: kingdome OBJECT TYPE: **AUDIO**  Share



COPY THE LINK TO THIS SEARCH: <http://archives.seattle.gov/digital-collections/inc> **Copy** [Close](#)

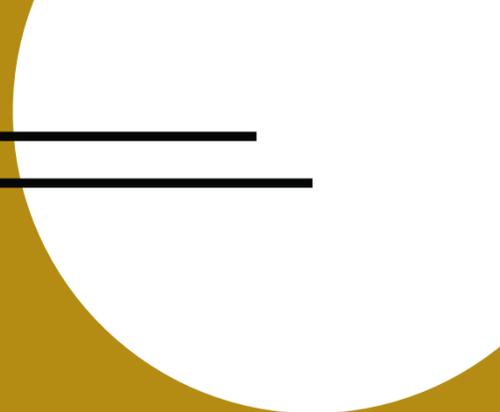


1292
Special Meeting
Seattle City Council
July 28 1972

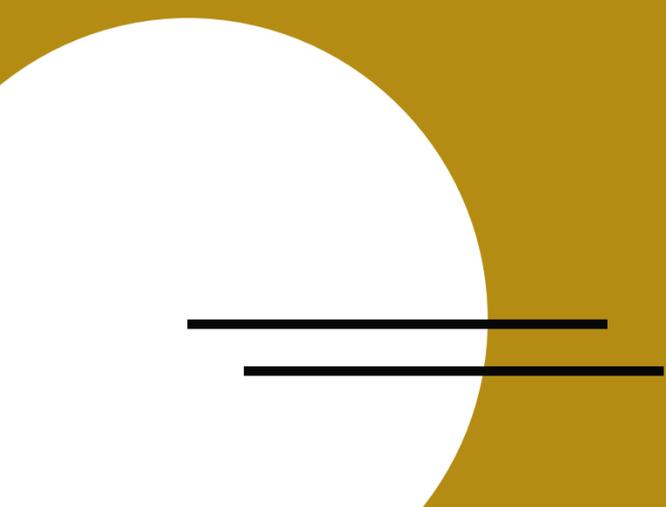
Listening

If a digital copy is available, you can listen to digitized audio by clicking play on the audio player. For recordings longer than 45 minutes, allow the page to load for a few minutes prior to playback or download. Audio quality varies.





**How do I get copies
of audio recordings?**

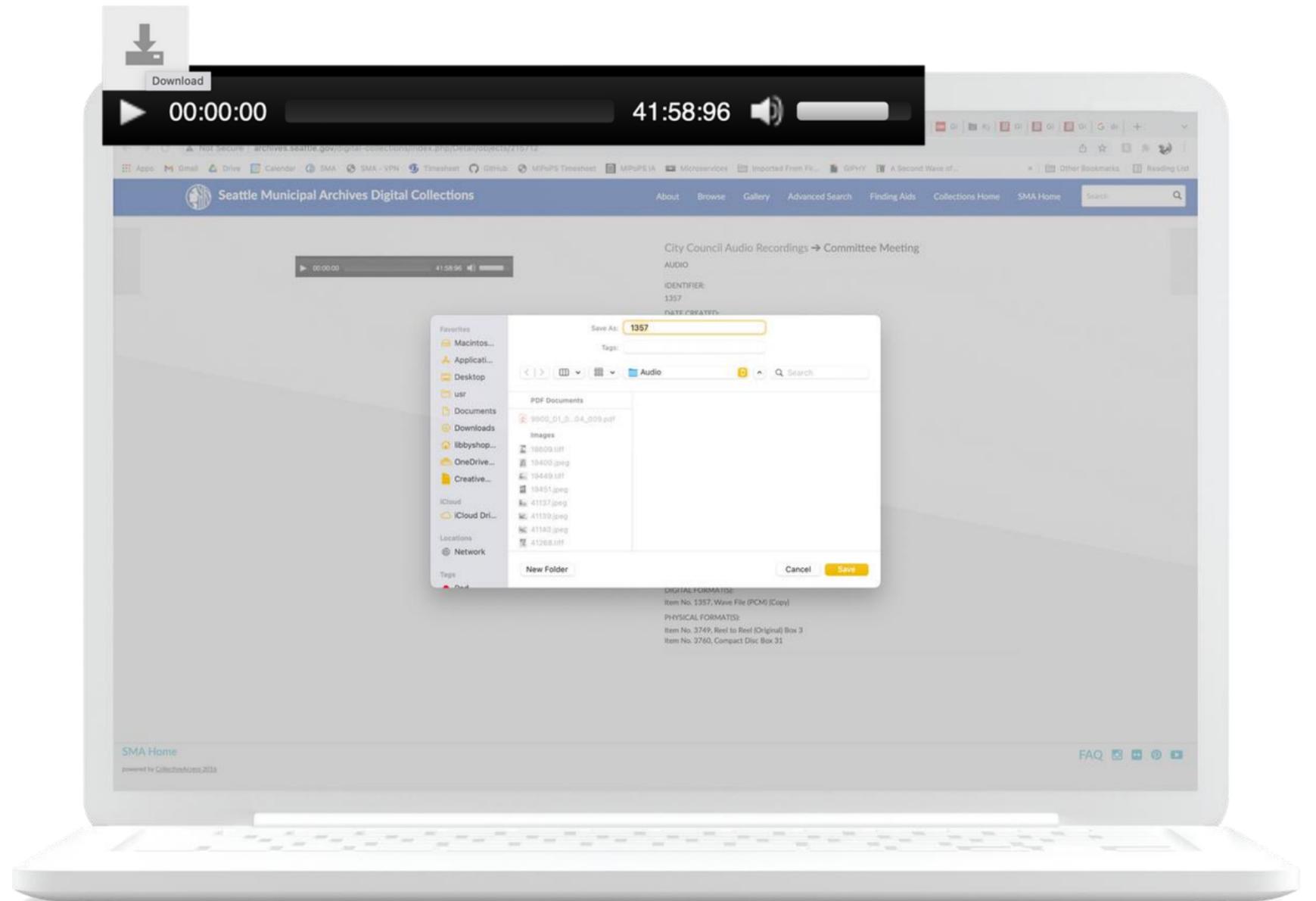


Downloading Files

METHOD #1 – MP3

- Hover your cursor over the audio player
- Click on the download icon
- When the pop-up window opens, navigate to the location where you would like to save the file and click "save"

Using this method, the file will automatically download as a MP3, no matter which format is selected in the "download as" menu



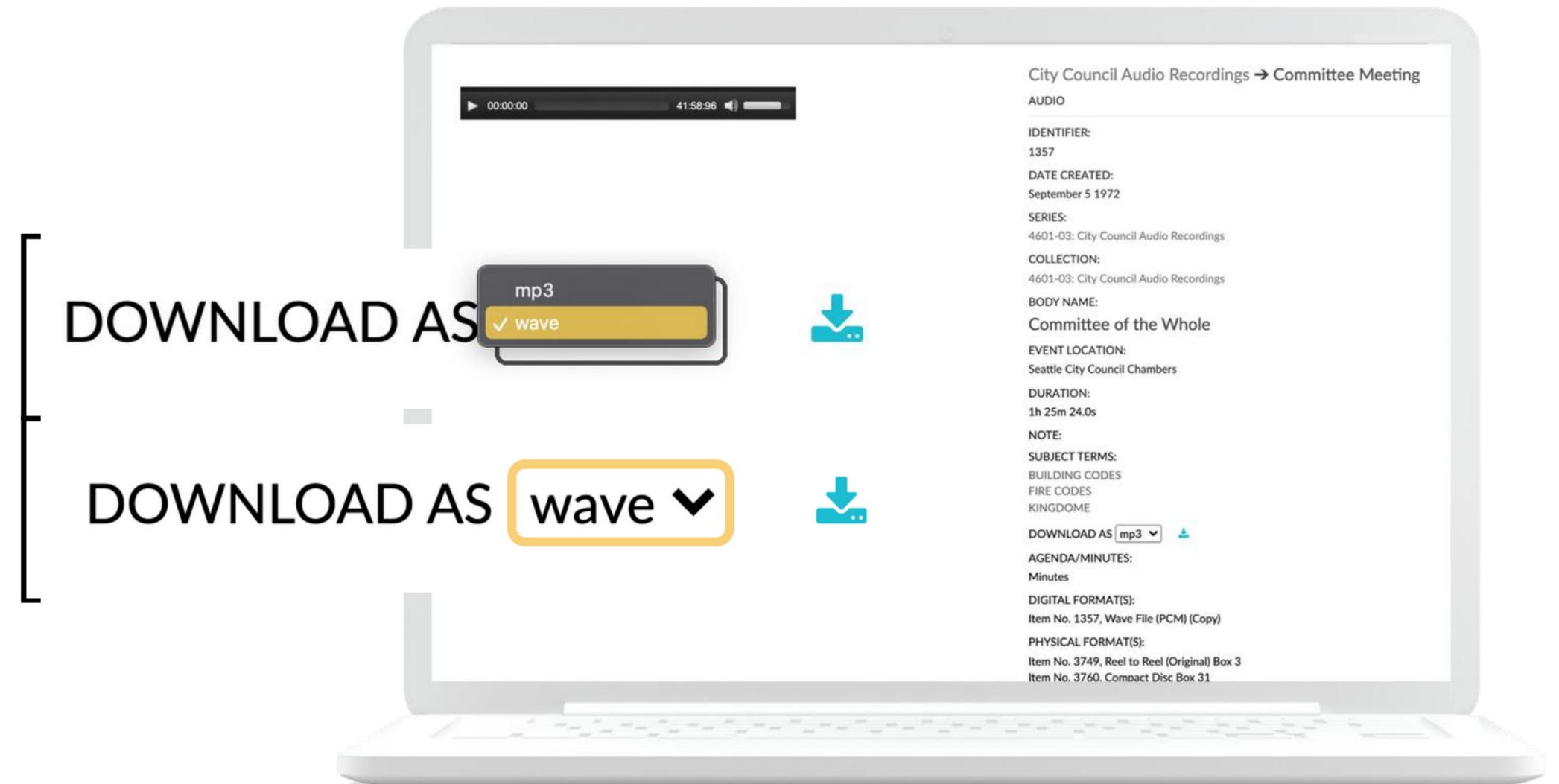
Downloading Files

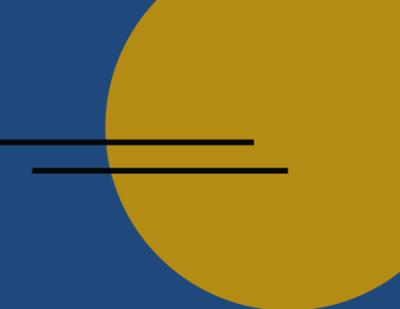
METHOD #2 - WAV

To download a WAV file:

- Select "wave" from the "download as" dropdown menu and then click on the download icon.
- When the pop-up window opens, navigate to the location where you would like to save the file and click "save."

This method also works for downloading an MP3 if the first method does not.

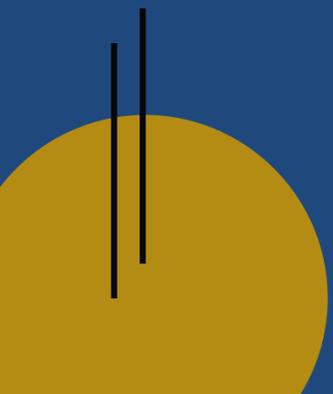




Download not working?

TROUBLESHOOTING DOWNLOADS

If your file will not download or the download is incomplete, there are several troubleshooting steps you can try:

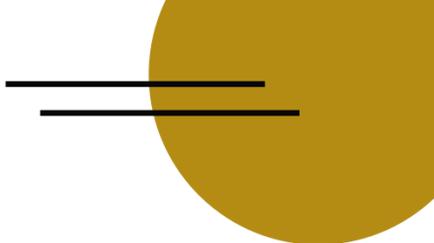
- wait a few minutes and try downloading again
 - refresh the page, wait a few minutes and then try downloading again
 - try using the alternative method from your first attempt
 - close completely out of your browser, reopen and try again
- 

What if I can't find the audio I'm looking for?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There are a few methods to locate specific audio not found in your search results:

- Try using the agenda databases – if there is an agenda for a meeting that you can't find the corresponding record for, send us the link and we'll try to find the analog recording for transfer.
- Search in Finding Aids – see our Searching for Records course for instructions and search tips.
- Ask us! Contact an archivist at archives@seattle.gov for help finding audio or any other records.

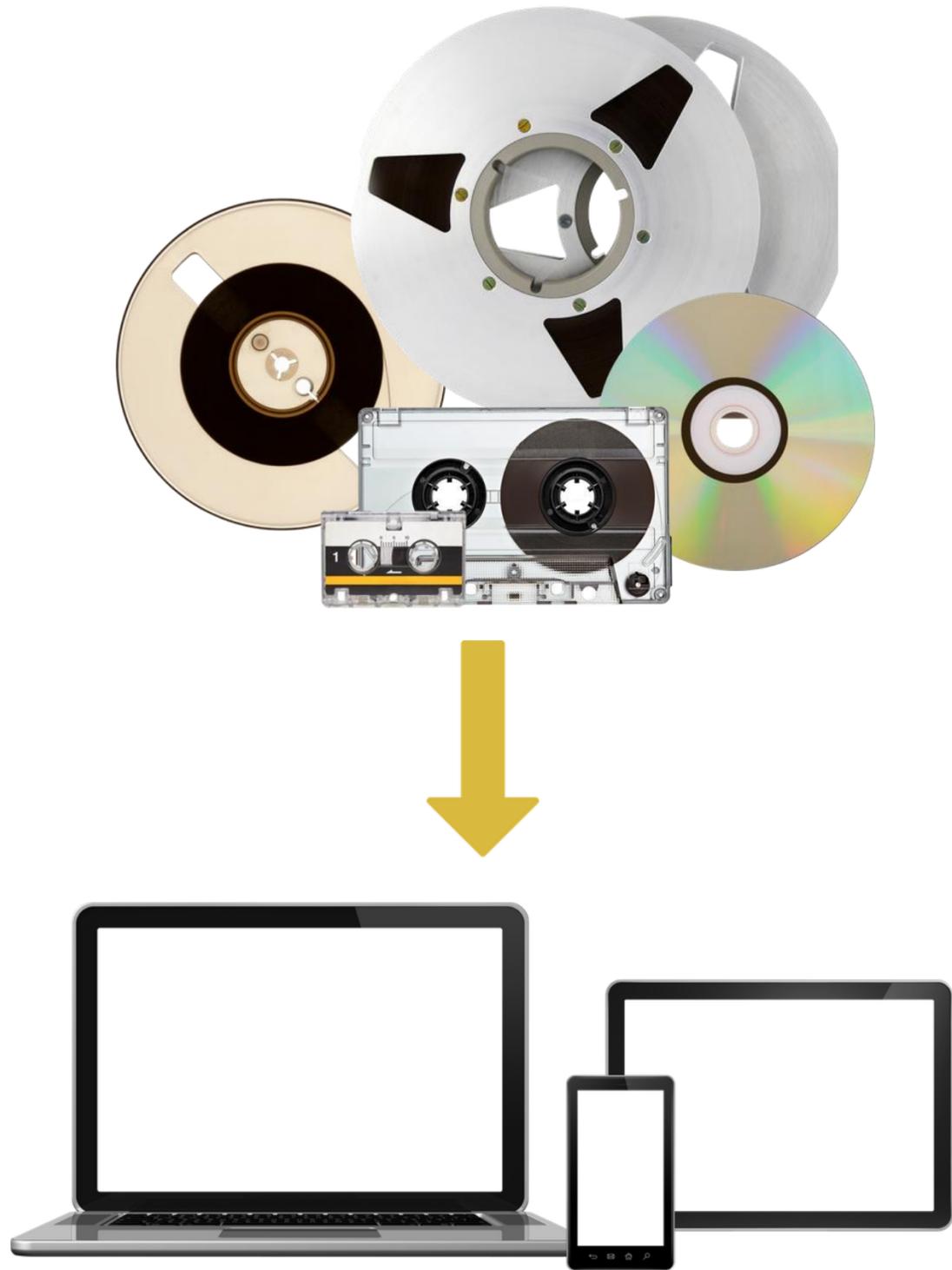


How do I get copies of audio without a digital file?

JUST ASK US!

If you come across an audio record that does not currently have a corresponding digital file, you can request that it be transferred by contacting the Archives at archives@seattle.gov.

Digitizing audio is a lengthy process. An audio recording must play back in real time to be transferred to a digital format, so if a tape is 6 hours long, it will need to play for 6 hours in order to be captured as a digital file. This is followed by quality control, encoding, importing to our system and upload to the database. Depending on the length of the file you request, it may take a few days to receive a copy.



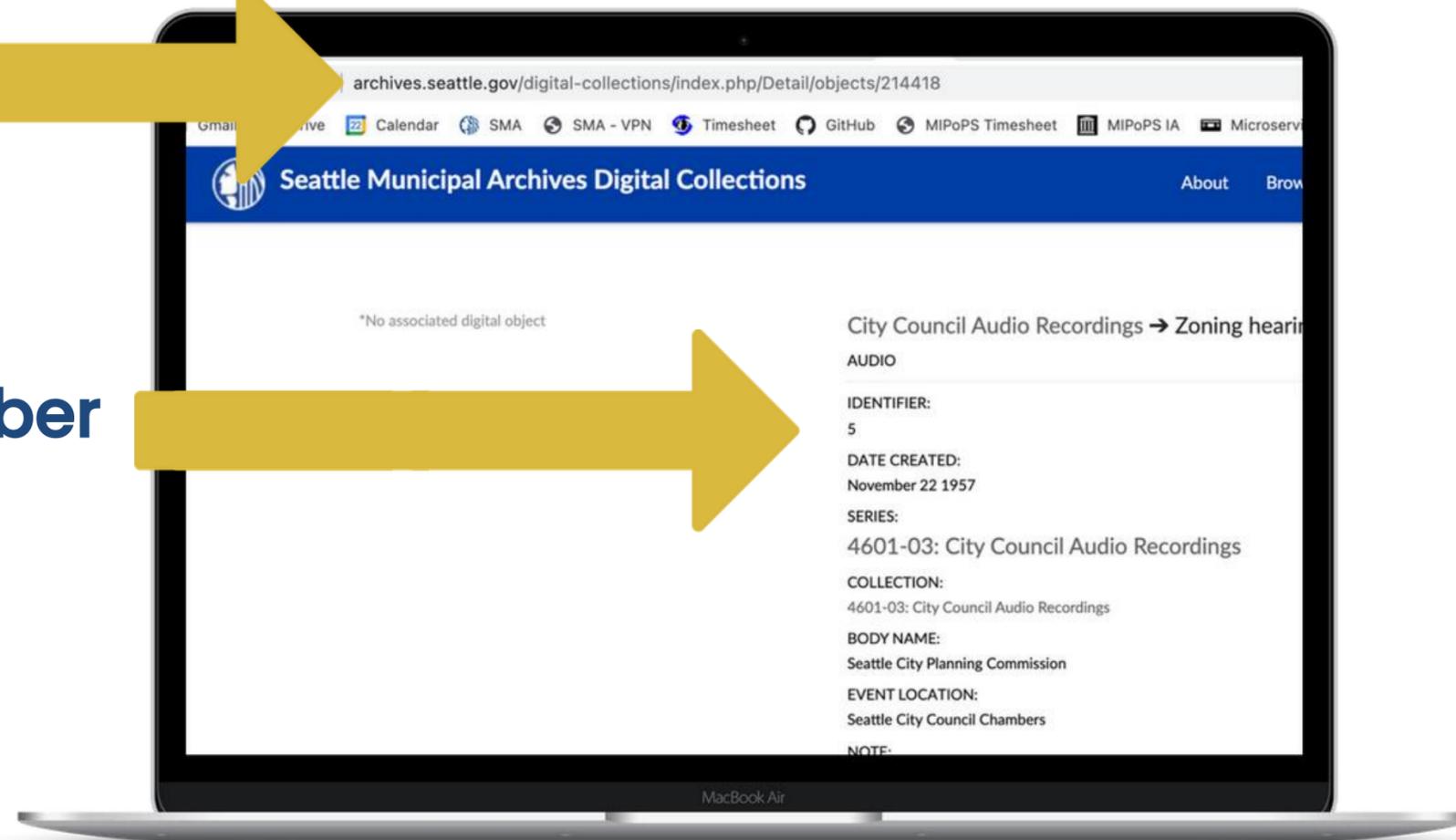
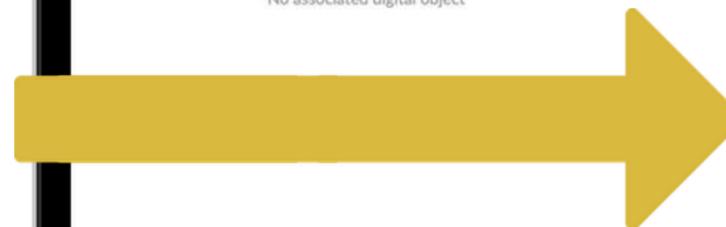
Requesting Digital Copies

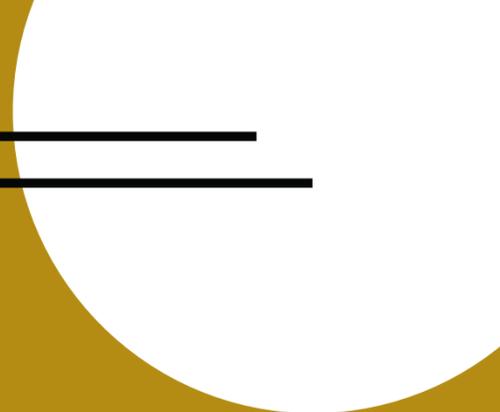
If you would like to request a copy of an audio recording that does not currently have an associated digital file available, please contact us and include the information below.

a link to the catalog record

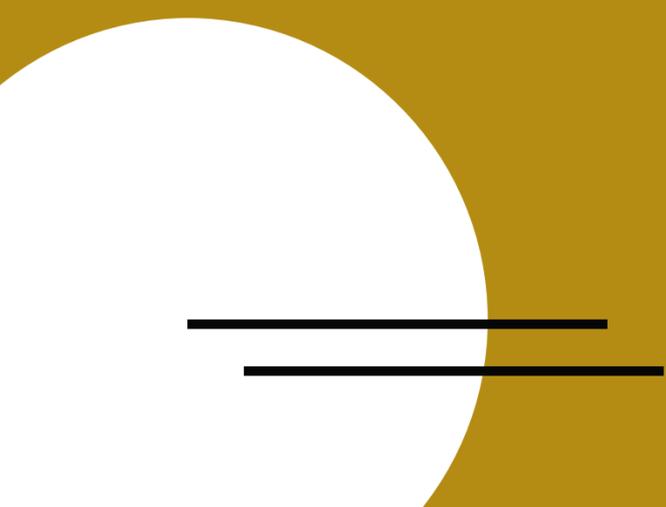


or the item identifier number





**Are there other resources and
tools related to the audio
records?**



Related Items

Archival materials related to audio events can assist with exploring recording contents or finding related audio. If available, they should be linked or noted in the audio record under the "Related Items" or "Legislation" headings.



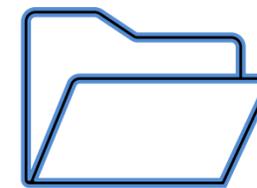
Agendas



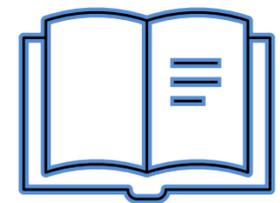
Minutes



Legislation



Subject Files



Transcripts

TAPE _____ TRACK START _____ TIME START _____
TRACK FINISH _____ TIME FINISH _____

GROWTH POLICIES AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Friday, October 19, 1990
9:00 a.m.

** Location: City Council Conference Room **

Members: Jim Street, Chair
Tom Weeks, Vice Chair
Dolores Sibonga, Member
Cheryl Chow, Alternate

Staff: Darlene Flynn, Council Assistant
Frank Kirk, Council Assistant
Telephone: 684-8808
Nighttime Hotline: 684-8999

		RECOMMENDED ACTION
1.	Proposal for licensing floating homes.	DISCUSSION
2.	C.B. 108040 Relating to floating home moorages; establishing a floating home owner's right to purchase a moorage prior to sale to a third party, limiting a moorage owner's right to alter the conditions of moorage occupancy, declaring invalid permits and approvals issued in violation of Seattle Municipal Code 7.20; repealing Seattle Municipal Code 7.20.020, amending Seattle Municipal Code 7.20.040 and 130, and adding new sections to Seattle Municipal Code 7.20.	DO NOT PASS
	C.B. 108041 Relating to floating home moorages; establishing a floating home owner's right to purchase a moorage prior to sale to a third party, limiting moorage owner's right to alter the conditions of moorage occupancy, declaring invalid permits and approvals issued in violation of Seattle Municipal Code 7.20; repealing Seattle Municipal Code 7.20.020, amending Seattle Municipal Code 7.20.040 and 130, and adding new sections to Seattle Municipal Code 7.20, and declaring an emergency.	DO NOT PASS
4.	C.B. 108300 Relating to floating home moorages; establishing a floating home owner's right to purchase a moorage prior to sale to a third party, declaring invalid permits and approvals issued in violation of Seattle Municipal Code 7.20; repealing Seattle Municipal Code 7.20.020, amending Seattle Municipal Code 7.20.030 and 150, and adding new sections to Seattle Municipal Code 7.20.	DISCUSSION AND VOTE
5.	C.B. 108301 Relating to floating home moorages; establishing a floating home owner's right to purchase a moorage prior to sale to a third party, limiting a moorage owner's right to alter the conditions of moorage occupancy, declaring invalid permits and approvals issued in violation of Seattle Municipal Code 7.20; repealing Seattle Municipal Code 7.20.020, amending Municipal Code 7.20.030, 7.20.040, and 7.20.150, and adding new sections to Seattle Municipal Code 7.20.	DISCUSSION AND VOTE

Agendas

Agendas document the date, time, legislation, and topics for City Council meetings and provide the order in which items were expected to be discussed.

If you right click on an agenda link in Digital Collections, it will open in a separate window.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

APRIL 27, 1972

7:45 P.M.

On motion, duly seconded and carried, the Council resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

On motion, duly seconded and carried, Mrs. Williams was elected Chairman of the Committee of the Whole. All members were present except Mrs. Lamphere, Mr. Larkin and Mr. Tuai, who were excused.

The Committee of the Whole considered:

C.F. No. 271934 Proposed revised Seattle Criminal Code dated November, 1971.

The meeting was opened by the Chair calling on those persons who had signed up to speak at the last meeting, but were unable to do so because of the lateness of the hour. The following persons spoke:

Don Kelly, Chairman of the Law and Justice Committee.
Marilyn King, Citizen
Jean Withers, representing N.O.W. (National Organization of Women).
Lyall Dettler, Seattle Evangelical Association.

The Chair then announced that she had received a letter from the Health Department containing certain statistics.

Elmer Allen, Labor Representative.
Jackie Dunlap, Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women.
Rod Lewis, President of Queen Anne Community Council.
Palmer Beasley, M.D., University of Washington.
Tim Mayhew, representing the Gay Community.
Rosetta McCracken, Sociologist, Seattle Community College.
Fred Wallace.

The Committee of the Whole took a short recess at 9:15 p.m., and then reconvened at 9:30 p.m. The Chair then read two letters into the record. The following persons then spoke:

Robert Munsell, representing Young Lawyers, King County Bar Association. He read a resolution from the Young Lawyers.
John Junker, Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Washington.
Joe Coleman, Legal Advisor for the Seattle Police Department.
Ken Hawkins, Central Area resident involved in drug rehabilitation.
Michael Ross, State Representative spoke in support of legalized prostitution.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Committee of the Whole rise, report progress and beg leave to sit again at 10:00 a.m., April 28, 1972.

Thereafter, at 10:35 p.m., the Committee of the Whole arose and reported to the Council as above set forth; and the Council, six members being present and voting, adopted said report of the Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole then recessed until Friday, April 28, 1972, at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

Minutes are notes taken on the official proceedings of the City Council. These documents include dates, members present, and actions taken. Council minutes do not record debate on issues.

Seattle.gov

Seattle City Council Bills and Ordinances

Information modified on March 8, 2013; retrieved on December 6, 2021 4:20 PM

🏠 🔍 ☰ ⌵ ?

Ordinance 113824 Introduced as Council Bill 106546

Title
AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Traffic Code, amending Chapter 11.56.320, driving while license is suspended or revoked.

Description and Background
 Current Status: Passed
 Index Terms: [LICENSES](#), [MOTOR-VEHICLES](#), [MISDEMEANORS](#), [TRAFFIC-REGULATION](#)

Legislative History
 Sponsor: [CITY ATTORNEY](#)
 Date Introduced: January 11, 1988
 Committee Referral: [Public Safety](#)
 City Council Action Date: February 1, 1988
 City Council Action: Passed
 City Council Vote: 9-0
 Date Delivered to Mayor: February 1, 1988
 Date Signed by Mayor: February 11, 1988
 (About the signature date)
 Signed Copy: [PDF scan of Ordinance No. 113824](#)

Legislation

Audio records may link to associated legislation in the [Legislative Indexes](#). If you are researching a specific law, this resource may be helpful for locating any related audio. You can search Digital Collections using Ordinance, Resolution, or Comptroller/Clerk File numbers.

FORM 1-11

INTRA-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION
SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

FROM Chief of Police F. C. Ramon DATE December 2, 1964

TO Mr. A. L. Newbould, Corporation Counsel CORPORATION COUNSEL

SUBJECT Attached Letter

RECEIVED
DEC 7 1964

ASSIGNED TO _____

This letter was brought in to me today by an attorney. He feels that every lawyer in town is going to receive a copy of this letter and thinks it is outrageous.

It would appear to me that if Clarence Massart could announce that this hearing will be limited to the things contained in the petition, we could avoid a circus type hearing.

F. C. Ramon
F. C. RAMON
Chief of Police

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE
1106 Seattle Municipal Building
Seattle, Washington 98104

February 9, 1965

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Friday, February 19, 1965, at the hour of 9:00 A.M., in the Council Chambers, 1106 Seattle Municipal Building, the Special Committee of the City Council will reconvene to give the Chief of Police and others an opportunity to reply to the petition of the American Civil Liberties Union for investigation of alleged Police Department practices and establishment of a Police Review Board (Council File No. 252114).

Clarence F. Massart
President of the City Council

CFM:ej

10 The Seattle Times
Sunday, November 29, 1964

**A. C. L. U. Asks
Police Dept.
Hearing Date**

The American Civil Liberties Union has asked the City Council to set a date for a hearing on the Police Department.

In a letter yesterday to Council President Clarence Massart, the A. C. L. U. also asked that the Council subpoena witnesses and documents.

The organization, citing reports of brutality, first requested the hearing November 9.

David Guren, A. C. L. U. executive director, said the group will produce witnesses who have signed affidavits but cannot insure attendance of police officers involved in any complaints.

Guren added that "it is vital that a complete, accurate list of all cases involving civil suits against police officers for excessive use of force be available at the hearing."

Subject Files

Subject files can contain materials related to an audio event, including research, correspondence, notes and other resources. If a file exists and has been scanned, it should be linked or noted in the audio record.

COPY

1 BEFORE THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

2 SEPTEMBER 11, 1967

3 YESLER-ATLANTIC URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT HEARING

4
5 VOLUME II PP. 123 - 289
6

7 BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 15th day of September,
8 1967, at the hour of 9:30 a.m., at the 11th floor, Municipal
9 Building, Seattle, Washington, the above entitled matter
10 resumed for hearing before the Committee of the Whole of
11 the Seattle City Council, consisting of:

12 President: Clarence Massart
13 Chairman: Ted Best
14 Councilmen: Charles M. Carroll
15 Mrs. Harlan H. Edwards
16 M. B. Mitchell
17 Floyd C. Miller
18 Edward F. Riley
19 Ray L. Eckmann
20 Not present: Paul Alexander

21 APPEARANCES:

22 Gordon Crandall, Assistant Corporation Counsel,
23 appearing for and on behalf of A. L. Newbould, Corporation
24 Counsel, for the City of Seattle;

25 Robert R. Beezer, appearing as attorney and counsel
for and on behalf of opponents to the Urban Renewal plan;

Also present: John P. Willison, Director of Urban
Renewal.

THEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and
testimony given, to-wit:

DON R. NAUGLE
COURT REPORTER
1214 HOGE BUILDING
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
MA 2-0080

Transcripts

Some audio recordings have been transcribed and are available as searchable PDFs for review and download. If a transcript is available, it will be linked in the audio record.

Additional Resources

AGENDA DATABASES

If there is an agenda noted (either as "Agenda" or with a record series number) for a meeting and you can't find the corresponding audio, send us the link and we'll try to find the analog recording for transfer:

- [Digital Collections Agendas](#) (1964 - 2002)
- [City Council Agendas Database](#) (2002 - present)

FINDING AIDS

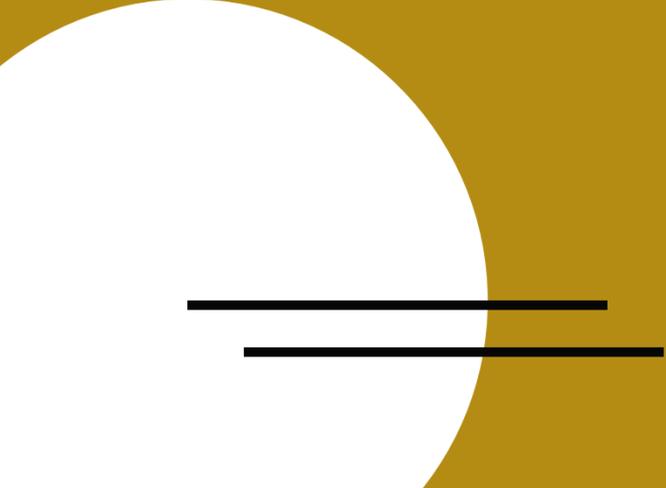
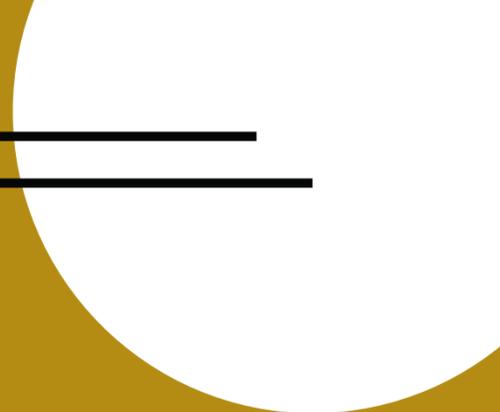
[Finding aids](#) describe groups (collections) of audio records, but do not contain the audio records themselves.

LEGISLATION

Please see our Researching Legislative History course for more information on using the legislative databases.

JUST ASK US!

Contact an archivist at archives@seattle.gov for help finding audio or any other records



**What are other ways
to explore audio?**

Seattle Voices

AUDIO EXHIBITS

Selected audio recordings are available in the exhibit space [Seattle Voices](#), which offers samples of audio material on a variety of topics. Note that these samples are not intended to be a full representation of what happened at any meeting but are short excerpts. Exhibits include select audio, historical context and related materials from the Archives.



English ▾

Search

Pay or Apply

Menu

Law and Justice
Planning

Police Review Board

Teen Dance Ordinance

Roma in Seattle

R.H. Thomson
Expressway

Low Income Housing
at Pike Place Market

Rent Control

People and Issues

[Seize Time for Oppressed People \(1974\)](#)

Includes Adriane Nihaund, Mark Levin, Judith Freel, and Elmer Dixon

[Central Area Housing Issues \(1972\)](#)

Includes Pearl Armstrong, John Floy, Mary Garlic, Bill Stone, and a former employee of the city's Building Department

[Law and Justice Planning \(1972\)](#)

Includes Philip Sherburne

[Police Review Board \(1965\)](#)

Includes Alvin Ziontz, E. June Smith, Rev. Samuel McKinney, and Ernest Barth

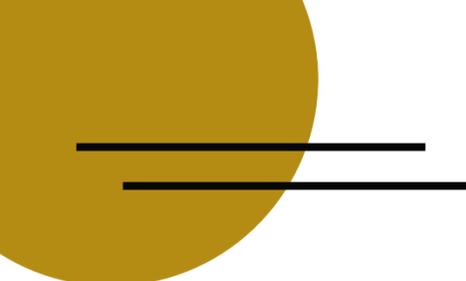
Seattle Segments

MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITS

SMA holds many types of records, including moving images, photographs, textual records, maps, and audio recordings. Context and interrelatedness of the records is an important concept when using the records for research. [Seattle Segments](#) use a variety of interconnected formats to explore pieces of Seattle's history. Excerpts from moving images and audio recordings are woven together with photographs and textual records in these short pieces and provide an opportunity for a deeper exploration into topics than is possible with one format alone.

Resources for additional research are included. Topics include:

- West Seattle Bridge
- Houseboats in Seattle
- Urban Renewal - Yesler-Atlantic "T"



Contact Us!

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

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