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Waggoner, James T. “Jabo” Papers

Biography/Background:

James T. "Jabo" Waggoner Sr. (born 1907; died October 19, 1992) was the Commissioner of Public Improvements on the Birmingham City Commission from 1956 until the city's form of government was changed in April 1963.

Waggoner began working for the City of Birmingham as a guard at the Birmingham City Jail. He was promoted through the ranks to general superintendent of streets and lost after a controversial recount in the 1953 Birmingham municipal election. He defeated Bull Connor in a run-off for the seat vacated by the retirement of Wade Bradley in 1956.

While serving on the Commission, Waggoner kept primarily to the task of fulfilling the streets and sanitation duties of his office. He created the Birmingham Beautification Board to recognize property owners. Though known as strong-willed and opinionated, Waggoner rarely spoke out on the prevailing tensions between segregationists and the Civil Rights Movement in the city. The commission generally voted unanimously throughout his tenure, and followed the lead of Connor, the popular arch-segregationist and Commissioner of Public Safety. In 1963 business interests united with progressives to overthrow the City Commission form of government in a play to get Connor out of office. Waggoner and his fellow Commissioners unsuccessfully challenged the legality of the referendum and only ceded their positions after a ruling by the Alabama Supreme Court.

In the 1963 Birmingham mayoral election, Waggoner ran against Lieutenant Governor Albert Boutwell, Connor and Tom King, finishing with only 4 percent of the vote. Connor went on to accept an appointment to the Alabama Public Service Commission and hired Waggoner as his assistant. He ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the Commission in the 1972 general election.

Waggoner died in 1992 and is buried at Elmwood Cemetery.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains Birmingham City Commission Papers, 1954-1963.

Subject Areas:

Civil rights movement – Alabama – Birmingham.
Politicians – Alabama – Birmingham.

Size: 7 linear feet (7 boxes)

Source: City of Birmingham, Alabama

Restrictions: Standard preservation and copyright restrictions.

Guide Prepared by: Thomas C. Haslett, Jr., March 29, 1983

File Number:	Description:
346.1.1	Airport, May 23, 1957-December 26, 1961 (137 pages).
346.1.2	Airport, January 12-June 29, 1962 (142 pages).
346.1.3	Airport, July 5-September 28, 1962 (73 pages).
346.1.4	Airport, October 2-December 14, 1962 (89 pages).
346.1.5	Airport, January 8-May 23, 1963 (88 pages).
346.1.6	Airport "Special Examination Airport Funds, September 1, 1955-October 17, 1961," November 20, 1961 (16 pages).
346.1.7	Alabama: League of Municipalities, April 10, 1959-April 23, 1963 (59 pages).
346.1.8	Alabama: State of, February 13-December 22, 1959 (44 pages).
346.1.9	Alabama: State of, January 4, 1960-February 27, 1961 (129 pages).
346.1.10	Alabama: State of, March 2, 1961-April 23, 1963 (97 pages).
346.1.11	Alabama State Fair Authority, July 29, 1959-September 12,

- 1962 (30 pages).
- 346.1.12 Alabama State Fair Authority Annual Report, March 1, 1958-February 28, 1959 (72 pages).
- 346.1.13 Alabama State Fair Authority Annual Report, December 1, 1959-November 30, 1960 (77 pages).
- 346.1.14 Alabama State Fair Authority Annual Report, December 1, 1961-November 30, 1962 (73 pages).
- 346.1.15 American Public Works Association, February 18, 1959-February 25, 1963 (75 pages).
- 346.1.16 Annexation, April 14, 1951-May 28, 1962 (105 pages).
- 346.1.17 Anonymous Letters, January 8, 1959-April 6, 1963 (32 pages).
- 346.1.18 Art Museum, January 6, 1959-October 9, 1962 (8 pages).
- 346.1.19 Beautification Board, January 9-December 15, 1959 (61 pages).
- 346.1.20 Beautification Board, January 14, June 21, 1960 (82 pages).
- 346.1.21 Beautification Board, July 5-November 21, 1960 (94 pages).
- 346.1.22 Beautification Board, January 9, 1962-May 21, 1963 (84 pages).
- 346.1.23 Birmingham Transit Company, February 16, 1960-December 29, 1961 (89 pages, 2 booklets).
- 346.1.24 Birmingham Transit Company, January 8, 1962-May 1, 1963 (73 pages).
- 346.1.25 Birmingham Transit Company, Court Case, January 2, 1962 (48 pages).
- 346.1.26 Birmingham Transit Company, "The Story of Birmingham Transit," undated (20 pages).
- 346.2.1 Board of Education, February 1959-June 22, 1961 (90

pages).

- 346.2.2 Board of Education, July 12, 1961-March 11, 1963 (73 pages).
- 346.2.3 Budget Data, September 21, 1961-March 11, 1963 (47 pages).
- 346.2.4 Budget Request, September 17, 1962 (135 pages).
- 346.2.5 Chamber of Commerce, January 8-June 26, 1959 (65 pages, 1 program, 1 booklet).
- 346.2.6 Chamber of Commerce, July 6-December 31, 1959 (43 pages, 2 booklets).
- 346.2.7 Chamber of Commerce, January 4-June 23, 1960 (85 pages, 3 booklets, 1 program).
- 346.2.8 Chamber of Commerce, July 11-December 27, 1960 (81 pages, 1 booklet).
- 346.2.9 Chamber of Commerce, January 11-June 28, 1961 (70 pages, 4 programs).
- 346.2.10 Chamber of Commerce, July 5-December 28, 1961 (62 pages).
- 346.2.11 Chamber of Commerce, January 1-August 14, 1962 (106 pages).
- 346.2.12 Chamber of Commerce, September 5, 1962-March 29, 1963 (55 pages 2 pamphlets, 2 programs).
- 346.2.13 Chamber of Commerce "Report of a Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association on the Subject of: The Form of Municipal Government Best Suited For a Greater and Better Birmingham," March 6, 1962 (32 pages).
- 346.2.14 Chamber of Commerce "This is Birmingham Alabama," undated (46 pages).
- 346.2.15 City Attorney, January 6-December 23, 1959 (36 pages).
- 346.2.16 City Attorney, February 5-December 28, 1960 (64 pages).

- 346.2.17 City Attorney, January 12-August 24, 1961 (66 pages).
- 346.2.18 City Attorney, September 1, 1961-June 28, 1962 (79 pages).
- 346.2.19 City Attorney, July 10, 1962-March 28, 1963 (73 pages).
- 346.2.20 City Clerk, January 7, 1959-March 16, 1963 (34 pages).
- 346.2.21 City Commission Correspondence, January 15, 1959-June 27, 1961 (155 pages).
- 346.2.22 City Commission Correspondence, July 10, 1961-April 11, 1963 (18 pages).
- 346.2.23 City Commission Versus City Council, undated (108 pages).
- 346.2.24 City Comptroller, October 29, 1956-December 31, 1959 (104 pages).
- 346.2.25 City Comptroller, January 11-June 24, 1960 (164 pages).
- 346.2.26 City Comptroller, July 13-December 2, 1960 (152 pages, 1 booklet).
- 346.2.27 City Comptroller, January 4-August 30, 1961 (238 pages).
- 346.3.1 City Comptroller, September 1-December 28, 1961 (175 pages).
- 346.3.2 City Comptroller, January 4-April 30, 1962 (95 pages).
- 346.3.3 City Comptroller, May 1-December 26, 1962 (87 pages).
- 346.3.4 City Comptroller, January 3-April 26, 1963 (65 pages, 1 brochure).
- 346.3.5 City Hall Building, December 5, 1961-June 27, 1962 (17 pages).
- 346.3.6 City Hall Building "Specifications for Office Furniture and Equipment for New City Hall," undated (62 pages).
- 346.3.7 Competitive Trunkline Service Investigation, November

- 10, 1962 (52 pages).
- 346.3.8 Elevator Code, September 5, 1961 (37 pages).
- 346.3.9 Engineering Department, May 15, 1959-January 29, 1960 (93 pages).
- 346.3.10 Engineering Department, February 1-March 30, 1960 (129 pages).
- 346.3.11 Engineering Department, April 5-June 24, 1960 (154 pages).
- 346.3.12 Engineering Department, July 7- August 31, 1960 (141 pages).
- 346.3.13 Engineering Department, September 1-October 28, 1960 (91 pages).
- 346.3.14 Engineering Department, November 1-December 29, 1960 (60 pages).
- 346.3.15 Engineering Department, January 4-February 28, 1961 (107 pages).
- 346.3.16 Engineering Department, March 1-31, 1961 (152 pages).
- 346.3.17 Engineering Department, April 3-28, 1961 (72 pages).
- 346.3.18 Engineering Department, May 1-31, 1961 (68 pages).
- 346.3.19 Engineering Department, June 5-30, 1961 (110 pages).
- 346.3.20 Engineering Department, July 7-31, 1961 (51 pages).
- 346.3.21 Engineering Department, August 1-Sept 22, 1961 (125 pages).
- 346.3.22 Engineering Department, October 2-November 30, 1961 (121 pages).
- 346.3.23 Engineering Department, December 1-29, 1961 (65 pages).
- 346.3.24 Engineering Department, January 2-February 28, 1962 (114 pages).

- 346.3.25 Engineering Department, March 1-30, 1962 (69 pages).
- 346.3.26 Engineering Department, April 4-May 31, 1962 (120 pages).
- 346.4.1 Engineering Department, June 4-29, 1962 (89 pages).
- 346.4.2 Engineering Department, July 3-September 28, 1962 (126 pages).
- 346.4.3 Engineering Department, October 1-November 29, 1962 (80 pages).
- 346.4.4 Engineering Department, January 3-February 28, 1963 (113 pages).
- 346.4.5 Engineering Department, March 1-May 14, 1963 (98 pages).
- 346.4.6 Engineering Department "AGC Wage Agreements 61-64," October 4, 1961 (36 pages).
- 346.4.7 Fire Department, March 19, 1959-February 18, 1963 (16 pages).
- 346.4.8 Fire Department "A Modern Emergency Reporting System for the City of Birmingham Alabama," undated (18 pages).
- 346.4.9 Garbage Investigation, October 8-26, 1954 (149 pages).
- 346.4.10 Health Department, January 9, December 25, 1959 (58 pages).
- 346.4.11 Health Department, January 18-December 27, 1959 (94 pages, 1 pamphlet).
- 346.4.12 Health Department, January 26-October 22, 1962 (74 pages).
- 346.4.13 Health Department Annual Report, 1959 (30 pages).
- 346.4.14 Health Department Annual Report, 1961 (54 pages).
- 346.4.15 Health Department Financial Report, January 12, 1961 (23 pages).

- 346.4.16 Health Department "Housing is People," undated (17 pages).
- 346.4.17 Housing Authority of the Birmingham District, July 14, 1959 (52 pages).
- 346.4.18 Housing Authority of the Birmingham District Annual Report, 1959-1962 (4 booklets, 71 pages).
- 346.4.19 Inspection Services, January 29-December 11, 1959 (82 pages).
- 346.4.20 Inspection Services, January 13, 1960-June 28, 1961 (92 pages).
- 346.4.21 Inspection Services, July 20, 1961-March 4, 1963 (72 pages).
- 346.4.22 Inspection Services "A Pilot Study of Air Pollution in Birmingham, Alabama," May 1962 (58 pages).
- 346.4.23 Inspection Services "The Birmingham Area Air Pollution Problem," May 1958 (88 pages).
- 346.4.24 Jefferson County, February 16, 1959-April 5, 1963 (50 pages).
- 346.4.25 John Birch Society Booklet, undated (36 pages).
- 346.4.26 Merger, June 26-July 19, 1962 (33 pages).
- 346.4.27 Miscellaneous, January 15, 1958-December 15, 1959 (91 pages).
- 346.4.28 Miscellaneous, January 26, 1960-December 13, 1961 (85 pages).
- 346.4.29 Miscellaneous, January 25, 1962-April 5, 1963 (88 pages).
- 346.4.30 National Board of Fire Underwriters "Report on Birmingham, Alabama," September 1959 (36 pages, 2 maps).
- 346.4.31 Occupational Tax, July 19-August 20, 1962 (82 pages).

- 346.4.32 Other Cities, April 8, 1959-april 12, 1963 (108 pages).
- 346.5.1 Park and Recreation Board, October 8, 1958-December 19, 1960 (101 pages).
- 346.5.2 Park and Recreation Board, January 11, 1961-December 13, 1962 (89 pages).
- 346.5.3 Parking Lots, November 9-27, 1962 (16 pages).
- 346.5.4 Paved Street Department, January 26-September 1, 1959 (32 pages).
- 346.5.5 Personnel Board, February 18, 1859-January 18, 1963 (110 pages).
- 346.5.6 Personnel Board Annual Report, 1960 (52 pages).
- 346.5.7 Personnel Labor Strike, March 13-September 5, 1960 (52 pages).
- 346.5.8 Petitions, January 22, 1959-August 20, 1962 (71 pages).
- 346.5.9 Planning and Zoning, October 20, 1955-June 27, 1957 (124 pages).
- 346.5.10 Planning and Zoning, July 2-December 30, 1957 (90 pages).
- 346.5.11 Planning and Zoning, January 3-March 31, 1958 (107 pages).
- 346.5.12 Planning and Zoning, April 1-June 30, 1958 (134 pages).
- 346.5.13 Planning and Zoning, July 1-September 30, 1958 (139 pages).
- 346.5.14 Planning and Zoning, October 1-December 31, 1958 (107 pages).
- 346.5.15 Planning and Zoning, January 5-February 24, 1959 (98 pages).
- 346.5.16 Planning and Zoning, March 2-August 19, 1959 (143 pages).

- 346.5.17 Planning and Zoning, August 20-December 30, 1959 (98 pages).
- 346.5.18 Planning and Zoning, January 4-February 18, 1960 (88 pages).
- 346.5.19 Planning and Zoning, February 20-March 17, 1960 (176 pages).
- 346.5.20 Planning and Zoning, March 21-April 29, 1960 (92 pages).
- 346.5.21 Planning and Zoning, May 2-12, 1960 (92 pages).
- 346.5.22 Planning and Zoning, May 17-30, 1960 (84 pages).
- 346.5.23 Planning and Zoning, June 2-30, 1960 (119 pages).
- 346.5.24 Planning and Zoning, July 5-September 30, 1960 (101 pages).
- 346.6.1 Planning and Zoning, October 3-December 29, 1960 (109 pages).
- 346.6.2 Planning and Zoning, January 5-February 28, 1961 (89 pages).
- 346.6.3 Planning and Zoning, March 2-April 28, 1961 (92 pages).
- 346.6.4 Planning and Zoning, May 1-July 31, 1961 (100 pages).
- 346.6.5 Planning and Zoning, August 1-18, 1961 (71 pages).
- 346.6.6 Planning and Zoning, August 20-September 26, 1961 (116 pages).
- 346.6.7 Planning and Zoning, October 2-November 28, 1961 (107 pages).
- 346.6.8 Planning and Zoning, December 1-29, 1961 (139 pages).
- 346.6.9 Planning and Zoning, January 12-February 27, 1962 (98 pages).
- 346.6.10 Planning and Zoning, March 1-30, 1962 (82 pages).
- 346.6.11 Planning and Zoning, April 2-30, 1962 (74 pages).

- 346.6.12 Planning and Zoning, May 1-31, 1962 (85 pages).
- 346.6.13 Planning and Zoning, June 1-July 31, 1962 (92 pages).
- 346.6.14 Planning and Zoning, August 1-September 28, 1962 (51 pages).
- 346.6.15 Planning and Zoning, October 1-22, 1962 (134 pages).
- 346.6.16 Planning and Zoning, October 23-December 28, 1962 (100 pages).
- 346.6.17 Planning and Zoning, January 2-February 14, 1963 (80 pages).
- 346.6.18 Planning and Zoning, February 18-May 22, 1963 (111 pages).
- 346.6.19 Planning and Zoning, undated (123 pages).
- 346.6.20 Planning and Zoning, "A Management Appraisal Report of the Planning and Zoning Department of the City of Birmingham," October 16, 1957 (55 pages).
- 346.6.21 Planning and Zoning, "A Review of Progress Under the Workable Program for Community Improvement," April 1, 1963 (52 pages).
- 346.6.22 Planning and Zoning, "Ensley-Pratt City Urban Renewal Study," August 18, 1958 (41 pages).
- 346.6.23 Planning and Zoning, "Preliminary Application for Community Renewal Program Grant," undated (51 pages).
- 346.7.1 Planning and Zoning, "Relocation Projection," August 1961 (27 pages).
- 346.7.2 Planning and Zoning, "Sanitary Sewerage Improvement Program Volume I," October 1958 (20 pages).
- 346.7.3 Police Department, January 9, 1959-November 8, 1962 (87 pages, 1 booklet).
- 346.7.4 Press Releases, March 31, 1959-January 25, 1963 (20

- pages).
- 346.7.5 Public Library, June 13, 1961-December 3, 1963 (6 pages).
- 346.7.6 Railroads, October 26, 1960-April 11, 1962 (67 pages).
- 346.7.7 Recommendations, January 13, 1959-December 27, 1961 (40 pages).
- 346.7.8 Recorder's Court, October 16, 1961-February 16, 1962 (3 pages).
- 346.7.9 Segregation, October 8, 1958-November 7, 1960 (62 pages).
- 346.7.10 Segregation, January 23-November 24, 1961 (70 pages).
- 346.7.11 Segregation, December 4-15, 1961 (109 pages).
- 346.7.12 Segregation, December 16-29, 1961 (100 pages).
- 346.7.13 Segregation, January 2-May 29, 1962 (100 pages).
- 346.7.14 Segregation, June 2, 1962-May 8, 1963 (85 pages).
- 346.7.15 Segregation, undated (3 booklets: 51, 34, and 15 pages, respectively).
- 346.7.16 Segregation, "Morgan, Connor, Waggoner versus Columbia Broadcasting Station Inc.," August 8, 1962 (51 pages).
- 346.7.17 Southern Building Code, January 20, 1959-May 19, 1960 (141 pages).
- 346.7.18 Southern Building Code, June 14-November 30, 1960 (114 pages).
- 346.7.19 Southern Building Code, December 2, 1960-November 24, 1961 (94 pages, 1 booklet).
- 346.7.20 Southern Building Code, December 1, 1961-May 9, 1962 (102 pages).
- 346.7.21 Southern Building Code, July 6, 1962-May 16, 1963

(114 pages, 3 booklets, 1 program).

- 346.7.22 Southern Building Code, "Book 2," undated (61 pages).
- 346.7.23 Speeches, May 11, 1959-November 6, 1961 (26 pages).
- 346.7.24 Streets and Sanitation, September 6, 1957-June 29, 1959 (111pages).
- 346.7.25 Streets and Sanitation, July 2, 1959-March 31, 1960 (138 pages).
- 346.7.26 Streets and Sanitation, April 1-December 28, 1960 (126 pages).
- 346.7.27 Streets and Sanitation, January 4-April 28, 1961 (83 pages).
- 346.7.28 Streets and Sanitation, May 24, 1961-January 8, 1962 (114 pages).
- 346.7.29 Traffic Engineering Department Annual Report, 1961 (42 pages).
- 346.7.30 Urban Renewal Ensley Number 1, July 21, 1960 (48 pages).
- 346.7.31 United States Government, February 17, 1959-May 9, 1963 (82 pages).
- 346.7.32 Water Works Board, March 10, 1959-September 5, 1961 (9 pages, 1 booklet).