Finding Aid to the Gavin Christopher Newsom Papers, 2004-2011, SFH 496

Finding aid prepared by Tami J. Suzuki
San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
2019
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
sfhistory@sfpl.org
URL: http://www.sfpl.org/sfhistory
Title: Gavin Christopher Newsom Papers

Date (inclusive): 2004-2011
Date (bulk): Bulk 2004-2010
Identifier/Call Number: SFH 496
Creator: Newsom, Gavin Christopher, 1967-
Physical Description: 20 Cubic Feet (17 boxes, 1 manuscripts boxes, 1 oversized box)
Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4567
info@sfpl.org

Abstract: This collection documents the mayoral career of Gavin Newsom, who served as the 42nd mayor of San Francisco, from Jan. 8, 2004 to Jan. 11, 2011. The collection is stored on site.

Language of Material: Collection materials are in English.

Conditions Governing Access
The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours.

Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items. Photographs can be photographed but cannot be photocopied.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Gavin Newsom Papers, (SFH 489), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Provenance
Marriage Equality/Proposition 8 correspondence was received from City Hall in 2010. Additional paper records were transferred on Jan. 7, 2011. Video records were transferred from SFGovTV on Dec. 4, 2010 and Oct. 3, 2011, and from the library's Government Information Center on Oct. 13, 2017.

Related Material
Researchers are encouraged to see the San Francisco History Center's subject and biographical files, other Mayoral Papers, and Mayoral Gifts; and to check the library catalog for related materials. See also SFH 89, San Francisco Office of the Assessor-Recorder Same-Sex Marriage Licenses for the same-sex marriage licenses issued from Feb. 12, 2004 to March 11, 2004 and later invalidated.

Processing Information
Processed by Tami J. Suzuki.

Conservation Note
During processing, the collection was re-housed in acid-free boxes and folders.

Separated Material
The photographic book, We Do, A Celebration of Gay and Lesbian Marriage, c2004, was transferred to the library catalog.

Biographical Note
Gavin Christopher Newsom is a businessman and Governor of California (2019- ). He was the state’s Lieutenant Governor (2011-2019). He served as the 42nd mayor of San Francisco (2004-2011), and prior to that, as a San Francisco supervisor (1997 to 2004).

The future politician was born October 10, 1967 in San Francisco to William and Tessa Newsom. His father was an attorney and later, a state appeals court judge, with longstanding political and financial ties. The Newsoms divorced in 1972. Gavin played baseball at Santa Clara University and graduated with a degree in political science. Soon after, he and investors including longtime family friend Gordon Getty founded the Plumpjack Associates and opened the Plumpjack Winery.

He got his political start in 1996, when then-Mayor Willie Brown appointed Newsom to the Parking and Traffic Commission. The following year, he was appointed to the Board of Supervisors, serving to January of 2004. Newsom described himself then as a social liberal and fiscal watchdog. While supervisor, he supported the controversial but successful 2002 "Care not Cash" ballot measure, which replaced cash payments with in-kind services for homeless adults.
Campaigning for mayor as a “problem solver” and stressing customer service and efficiency by city departments, Newsom won the Nov. 4, 2003 runoff election with 53 percent of the vote as a moderate, over Matt Gonzalez, the progressive board president and Green Party candidate. Newsom took office on Jan. 8, 2004 at the age of 36, the youngest in 100 years. He cut his financial ties to his San Francisco businesses after he was elected.

One month after taking office, he authorized legalization of same-sex marriage, in violation of state law. He was heralded as a new star of the Democratic Party. Heated national debate followed, and he is widely credited with accelerating the marriage equality movement which led to the legalization of same-sex marriage nationwide 11 years later.

Newsom was included in Time Magazine’s "People Who Mattered" in 2004. Charlie Rose, 60 Minutes, and Newsweek highlighted the mayor's inaugural year. The New Yorker profiled him (Oct. 4, 2004) in "Going Places, An ambitious young mayor takes San Francisco," calling him a policy wonk who was proud of bringing about dramatic change.

During his first year in office, he appointed the city's first female police and fire chiefs, and shared his "Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness." He went on to create Project Homeless Connect and the Homeless Outreach Team to deal with chronic homelessness. In 2007, he launched Healthy San Francisco, the first universal access health care program in the country. He used labor concessions, higher fees, reduced overtime, and 350 layoffs to address an historic $483 million budget deficit in 2010.

Early in his mayoral career, Newsom revealed to students with dyslexia that he suffers from the same disease but works hard to overcome this challenge. He has since shared that the learning issue caused him to strengthen other skills, and has given him empathy.

In 2007, Newsom admitted an earlier affair with a married staffer. He sought and received alcohol counseling. He recently called the transgression the great regret in his life.

He was easily reelected in 2007. In April 2009 he was the first candidate to announce a run for governor, but withdrew from the race six months later. (Jerry Brown was elected governor in 2010.) Newsom then filed to run for lieutenant governor and was elected in November of 2010. He took office on Jan. 10, 2011. (The following day, Edwin M. Lee, the city administrator, took office as mayor to serve Newsom’s remaining term.) In February of 2015, Newsom again became the first declared candidate for governor, saying serving as mayor of San Francisco provided a good training ground. He was elected governor on Nov. 6, 2018, and sworn in on Jan. 7, 2019.

In his personal life, Newsom married Kimberly Guilfoyle, then a San Francisco assistant district attorney, on Dec. 8, 2001. They divorced in March 2006. Newsom and Jennifer Siebel married on July 26, 2008. She is a film producer and actor; they have four children.

Scope and Contents
Documents the mayoral career of Gavin Newsom, who served as the 42nd mayor of San Francisco, from Jan. 8, 2004 to Jan. 11, 2011. Included are policy initiatives, subject files, city government reports, constituent correspondence regarding same sex marriage, and video recordings of press conferences. Speeches, press releases, photographs, and campaign materials are not included.

Subjects include accountability, homelessness, Department of Building Inspection and Police Department reform, wireless broadband networking and digital inclusion, universal access to health insurance, clean technology, African American out-migration, Sanctuary City, water quality protection, Hunters Point clean-up, workforce planning, and affordable housing.

Arrangement
Organized into five series: Series 1. Legislative and Subject Files; Series 2. Reports; Series 3. Press Conferences; Series 4. Same-Sex Marriage Correspondence; and Series 5. Office of Protocol.

Legislative and Subject Files and Reports are organized alphabetically. Press Conferences and Same-Sex Marriage Correspondence are organized chronologically.

Technical Requirements
Includes CDs and DVDs.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
City planning -- California -- San Francisco.
Homelessness -- Government policy -- California -- San Francisco.
Mayors -- California -- San Francisco.
San Francisco (Calif.) -- Politics and government -- 21st century.
Same-sex marriage -- California -- San Francisco.
Urban policy -- California -- San Francisco.
Newsom, Gavin Christopher, 1967- -- Archives
Series 1 Legislative and Subject Files 2004-2010

Scope and Contents
Includes Executive Directives, policy briefs and other policy papers, Powerpoint presentations, and research files maintained by more than one mayoral aide. Executive Directive matters include seismic strengthening of soft-story buildings, Sanctuary City policy, and recycling and resource conservation goals. Includes the transition team’s report to Mayor-elect Newsom, and the mayor’s “Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.” Subjects include biotechnology, Department of Building Inspection reform, consolidation of city departments, technology matters including wireless broadband networking and fiberoptics, health insurance, and green policy matters such as solar power and composting.

Arrangement
Organized alphabetically by subject.

box 1

Accomplishments-Citywide Consolidation
Accomplishments, 2004-2011 [2010?]
Affordable Housing Initiative
Airport
American Express Golf Championship
America’s Cup: Economic Impacts
Arts Commission Survey
Arts Task Force
Athletic Field Permit Policy
Auto Burglary Arrests
Avian Flu
Bay Bridge
Bay Delta Conservation Plan
Bayview Grocery Store/Fresh & Easy
Beacon Initiative (Youth and Family Centers)
Bicycle Milestones
Bill Graham Civic Auditorium
Biotechnology
Bottled Water
Budget
  Fiscal Year 2003-2004
  FY 2006-2007
  Instructions FY 2008-2009
  Highlights FY 2008-2009
Building Inspection (Department of), Reform
Candlestick Park, Naming Rights
Car Share
2007 Census/Population Challenge
2010 Census
Centennial Park
Central Subway
Chicago Landscape Ordinance
Chief of Staff 2007
Children Youth and Families, Department of
  Physical Description: 2 folder

Chinatowns
Citistat Technology Systems
City College of San Francisco, Chinatown Campus
City Government Survey
  2007
2009

Physical Description: 2 folders

Citybuild (Job Training)
Citywide Consolidation 2009

box 19
Civic Center Proposal

box 1
Civil Service Reform-Fiber Optics

Civil Service Reform 2005
Clean Streets/Graffiti
Clean Technology
Committee on Jobs
Communities of Opportunity

Physical Description: 2 folders

Community Choice (Energy) Aggregation
Community Development, Mayor’s Office of
Community Investment, Mayor’s Office of
Composting Law
Condolences
Congestion Pricing (for Driving)
Contemporary Art Museum (Fisher) Project
Convention and Visitors Bureau
Criminal Justice, Mayor’s Office of, Public Safety Reports
Cultural Competency Task Force Report
Disabled Parking Placards
Disaster Council
Doyle Drive
Eastern Neighborhoods
Economic Data 2007
Economic Development
Economic Impact of Small Business
Economic Strategy
Economic Trends
Electric Cars
Elimination of City Positions
Ellis Act Evictions
Emergency Room Statistics
Engineering Services Consolidation Findings 2005
Executive Directives 2004-2008

Physical Description: 2 folders

Fiber Optics

box 2
Film Commission-Pedestrian

Film Commission
Fire Department
Fire Hydrant Adapters
First 5/Children and Families Commission
Foreclosure Legislation Veto
General Plan: Housing
Golden Gate Park, Music Concourse Landmarking 2006
Golf Course Management Options
Graffiti
Grand Jury Reports (Civil) 2007
Great Streets
Green Landscaping Ordinance 2010
Green Policy Pledges 2005
Greening Initiative 2005

Finding Aid to the Gavin Christopher Newsom Papers, 2004-2011, SFH 496
Health Insurance 2004
Healthcare: Defined Benefits Plan 2006
Healthy Kids (Insurance) Expansion 2004
Healthy San Francisco/Universal Healthcare 2006-2009

Physical Description: 2 folders

Helipad
Homelessness

Physical Description: 4 folders

Homicide Rewards
Hospital Charity Care Report
Hotel Negotiations
Housing Authority

Physical Description: 2 folders

Housing, Mayor's Office of, and Redevelopment Agency Merger
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
Human Trafficking
Hunters Point Community Youth Park
Hunters Point Naval Shipyard
Immigration

Physical Description: 2 folders

Inauguration Program 2004
Influenza
Israel Trip Thank Yous
Japantown Malls Sale (Kintetsu to 3D Investments) Covenants 2006
Jobs for Youth
John F. Kennedy Drive--Saturday Closures
Juvenile Hall Population
Juvenile Probation Inquiry 2009
Laura's Law
Legislation Introduced by Board, 2001-2003
Log Cabin Facilities
Lorraine Hansberry Theatre
McMillan (Sobering) Center
Major League Baseball All-Star Weekend 2007
Mayor's Public Transportation System Revenue Panel
Median Strips
Mental Health Board Presentation
Municipal Transportation (MUNI)

Physical Description: 3 folders

"Must Spend" Charter Amendment [2010]
Needle Exchange
Neighborhood Business Investment, "San Francisco DrillDown"
Neighborhood Parks Council
Newsracks
911 Reforms
Noncitizen Voting
Obesity
"Shape Up"
Ocean Beach Vision Council
Oracle Open World
Overtime
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Interconnection Agreement 2005
Panhandling
Parking Authority Business Practices Assessment
Parking & Traffic, Department of
Parklets
Payroll Tax Credit 2008
Pedestrian Safety

Piers
Panhandling
Parking Authority Business Practices Assessment
Parking & Traffic, Department of
Parklets
Payroll Tax Credit 2008
Pedestrian Safety

box 3

Piers-SFpark
Piers
27-31: Cruise Terminal
48: Parking Lot A
70 Preservation
Planning Department Report 2004
Plastic Water Bottle Ban [2007?]
Police Department

Physical Description: 3 folders

Bologna Lawsuit 2009
Efficiency Plan, 2003-2006
Physical Description: 2 folders

Officer-Involved Shootings, Five-Year Study 2010
Organizational Assessment 2008
Physical Description: 2 folders

Racially Biased Policing Report [2005?]
Station Boundaries
Violence Reduction Strategy
Policy Briefs 2004
Policy Initiatives--Status 2004
Port Development Model
Potrero Power Plant Retrofit Study 2008
Public Art
Public Defender: Supplementary Funding 2009
Public Education Fund--Proposition H [2004]
Public Safety Statistics 2006
Physical Description: 2 folders

Public Utilities Commission
Public Works, Department of
RSVP--Regrets
Ranked-Choice Voting Lawsuit 2010
Recreation & Parks Department
Re-entry Council
Reinforcement-Based Leadership
Respite Facility (for Homeless)
Retiree Health Coverage 2008
Return to Residence
Rincon Hill Development
Ryan White Care Funding
St. Brigid's Church
Salary Give-Backs 2005
Same-Sex Marriage: Supreme Court Decision May 15, 2008
San Francisco General Hospital Rebuild
Santana, Carlos, Art Award
School Children's Correspondence

Physical Description: 4 folders
School District
Physical Description: 1 folder

Board
Closures
School of the Arts (SOTA)
Teacher Home Purchase Program
Truancy
Physical Description: 2 folders

School Visits by Mayor
Seniors and Disabled Adults
Sewage System
SF Safe City/Citysafe (Anti-Violence Initiative)
SFpark (Parking Management Program)

box 4
SFStat-Transbay Transit Center/Terminal
SFStat
Physical Description: 3 folders

Shadow Initiative
Slow Food
Small Business Assistance Center
Solar Power Rebate
Special Events, Office of
State Budget
State of the City
Accomplishments 2005
Physical Description: 2 folders

Slides 2007
Slides 2009
Street Cleaning/SFClean Patrol
Street Repaving
Streets and Sidewalk Repair Plan
Substance Abuse Redesign
Sunday Streets 2010
Taxi Reform
Technology and Information Services (Department of, DTIS)--Reform
Tenderloin Cleaning
Thank You--Lunar New Year
Third Street Light Rail
311
Tourism Improvement District
Traffic Camera
Transbay Transit Center/Terminal 2007
Physical Description: 2 folders

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box 7, folder 1-4
box 4
Transbay Transit Center/Terminal Arts Program, 2010
Transition Team Report to Mayor-elect Jan. 7, 2004
Transit Center District-Yerba Buena Cultural Facilities
Transit Center District
Transportation Agencies Merger
Treasure Island Development
Treasure Island Ramp
Tree of Hope
Union (IFPTE)-City Partnership
United Nations Global Center
United Nations Plaza Construction
U.S. Conference of Mayors
Urban Forestry
Urban Wind Power Recommendations
Vehicle Fleet Reduction
Violence Prevention Statistics
Warriors
Water Transit Authority
Wireless Broadband Network
Workforce Development, Office of Economic and
Working Families Credit
Yerba Buena Cultural Facilities

Series 2 Reports 2004-2009
Scope and Contents
Consists mainly of reports produced by City departments. Subjects include African American
out-migration, homeless statistics, water quality protection, and workforce planning.
Arrangement
Organized alphabetically by subject.

box 4
African American-Budget
African-American Out-Migration Response [2009 or 2010]
Airport: Strategic Plan 2004-2008 2004
Balboa Park Station Area Plan, Public Review Draft 2002
Bay Bridge West Approach Seismic Retrofit Project 2008
Better Fields for Better Play [2006?]
Bicycle Plan, Citizens’ Guide to the no date
Budget (Proposed) 2004

box 5
Budget-Financial Report
Budget (Proposed) 2005-2010
Physical Description: 6 Volumes

Building Inspection Department: Business Process Reengineering 2007
Capital Plan, 2007-2011
Physical Description: 4 Volumes

Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan, Administrative Draft 2006
Physical Description: 3 folders

Children and Youth Needs Assessment 2002
Physical Description: 2 volume

Children Under 5 Years of Age in Poverty in San Francisco, 2000 2003
Controller’s Recommendations, Status Report 2007
Physical Description: 2 folders

Dementia Care Strategy 2009
Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Domestic Violence Accountability Audit [2007?]
Economic Strategy 2007
Physical Description: 2 folders

Emergency Operations Plan, Part I: Basic Plan 2005
Environmental Plan 2008
Financial Report, City and County 2005
Financial Report-Police
Financial Report, City and County 2007-2009
Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Physical Description: 3 folders

2007-2009
Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Homeland Security 2008
Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Homeless Count 2009
Long-Term Care Strategic Plan 2004
Municipal Transportation Agency (MUNI): Response to Grand Jury Report 2004
Municipal Water Department & Hetch Hetchy System History 2005
Ocean Beach Task Force Status 2000-2005
Planning Department Annual Report [2009]
Police
Community Policing 2006
District Station Boundaries Analysis 2008
Foot Patrol Evaluation 2008

Port: Seawall Lot 337 and Pier 48 Proposals 2008
Physical Description: 2 items and 2 volumes

Public Health Department-Social Services for Women
Public Health Department
Acute and Long-Term Care Continuum 2005
Annual Report [2008]
Public Utilities Commission: Third Quarter Report April 2008
Public Works Department: Landscape Architect 2005
Real Property Owned by the City and County of San Francisco 2005
San Francisco: A City Connected to the Arts 1998
SF Safe City 2006
Physical Description: 2 Volumes

SF Safe Summer 2006-2007
Social Services for Women, Directory 2005
UN World Environment Day: Media Coverage 2005
Violence Prevention Plan, 2008-2013 2008
Water Quality Protection Plan 2008
Workforce and Succession Planning Report 2009
Series 3 Press Conferences 2004-2011, bulk 2004-2010

Scope and Contents
Contains video of press conferences, also known as press availabilities, produced by SFGovTV, the city's government television station. Subjects include same-sex marriage, green/clean technology, Hunters Point clean-up, digital inclusion, accountability, solar power, Sanctuary City, eviction prevention and affordable housing, free wi-fi (wireless local area network), and bike sharing. Not all press conferences are covered by SFGovTV.

Notably, the 2008 State of the City message was released in ten segments, each approximately 45 minutes in length, on the mayor's YouTube channel, youtube.com/mayorgavinnewsom. Many of his other press conferences are also available there, including his comments on the California Supreme Court's ruling (on Aug. 12, 2004) invalidating same-sex marriages performed in San Francisco. This press conference is in the collection on VHS, in black-and-white video.

Arrangement
Organized chronologically. Consult index for specific titles.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
On VHS videocassette (one) and DVDs.

Existence and Location of Copies
See https://www.youtube.com/user/MayorGavinNewsom/videos as many of the press conferences are available on the mayor's YouTube channel.

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Series 4 Same-Sex Marriage Correspondence 2004-2009

Separated Material
The photographic book, *We Do, A Celebration of Gay and Lesbian Marriage*, c2004, was transferred to the library catalog.

Historical Note
Mayor Newsom declared same-sex marriage legal on Feb. 11, 2004. Nearly 4000 licenses were issued by Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng until March 11, 2004, when the California Supreme Court halted the marriages. On Aug 12, 2004, the Court invalidated the unions. However, the same court overturned the state's ban on gay marriage on May 15, 2008, making California only the second state (after Massachusetts) to allow same-sex marriages. That November, voters passed Proposition 8, a state constitutional amendment reinstating the ban. Same-sex marriage advocates sued the state of California. On June 26, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of a lower court’s ruling to strike down the ban, legalizing same-sex marriages. Two days later, the Appeals Court announced that same-sex marriages could resume.

Scope and Contents
Contains correspondence received by the Mayor following his declaration of legal marriages between same-sex couples in 2004, and following the California Supreme Court ruling on May 15, 2008, overturning the state's ban on gay marriage (of Aug. 12, 2004). The 2008 correspondence is largely E-mails congratulating the mayor. A few E-mails on other topics are included within the 2008 messages.

Arrangement
Organized chronologically by year.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
Includes two computer discs (CDs).

Related Materials
See also video of the mayor’s press conferences.

See also SFH 89, San Francisco Office of the Assessor-Recorder Same-Sex Marriage Licenses, for the same-sex marriage licenses issued from Feb. 12, 2004 to March 11, 2004 and later invalidated.

box 16
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*Postcards 2004*
*Letters 2004*
*E-mail 2004*

*Supreme Court Decision May 15, 2008*
*Del Martin Memorial Program 2008*
*Lisa Spengel and Alana Morris Wedding, Performed by Mayor 2008*
*Danny Hamann CD 2008*
*Dianna Grayer CD 2009*
*Mark Leno Repeal of Proposition 8, Senate Resolution 7 [2009?]*
*Proposition 8/Anti Same-Sex Marriage Letters 2008-2009*
*Letters Supporting Same-Sex Marriage, with Mayor's Response 2008*
*Letters Supporting Same-Sex Marriage 2009*
*E-mail May 2008*

*Certificates of Recognition 2008*

Series 5 Office of Protocol

Scope and Contents
Gifts from the Mayor.

*Holiday Ornaments*

Physical Description: 4 items

*Silk Scarves*

Physical Description: 2 items