



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, OFFICE OF THE CITY  
CLERK, MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

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**TITLE:**

Office of the Mayor, Nelson Wolff Records, 1983-1995 (bulk, 1991-1995)

**DATES:**

1983-1995 (b. 1991-1995)

**QUANTITY:**

34 ft. 10 in.

**LANGUAGES:**

English; Spanish

This collection was processed with the assistance of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:**

Nelson W. Wolff (b. 1940- ) was raised between San Antonio and Houston graduating from Bellaire High School in 1959. After a short time at the University of Texas, Wolff transferred to St. Mary's University, where he graduated with degrees in business administration and law. Along with his father and brothers, Wolff ran the Alamo Enterprises (1961-1977), a roofing material wholesaler. After selling Alamo Enterprises Building Supplies Co., Wolff along with his brothers started the successful health food chain, Sun Harvest Farms (1978-1999). Wolff's first foray into politics was as a Texas State Representative (1971-1973), then as a Texas State Senator (1973-1975), before losing two consecutive bids for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974 and 1978. Wolff's entry into San Antonio politics began as a councilman for District 8 (1987-1991), then as mayor of San Antonio between 1991-1995. As mayor, Wolff led a successful campaign to have the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) signed in San Antonio, and lifelong baseball fan, he was instrumental in building a new baseball stadium for the San Antonio Missions in 1994, eponymously named for the mayor. During Wolff's term in office, he also oversaw the completion of a number of significant projects started under the Cisneros administration, including the opening of a

new Main Branch of the San Antonio Public Library, UTSA's Downtown campus, and the San Antonio Alamodome. Wolff's term as mayor was also marked by the BRAC closing Kelly Air Force Base and struggles over the control of San Antonio water supply. Since leaving office, Wolff has served as the county judge of Bexar County and written two memoirs about his time in public office, *Mayor: An Inside View of San Antonio Politics, 1981-1995* and *Transforming San Antonio: An Insider's View to the AT&T Arena, Toyota, the PGA Village, and the Riverwalk Extension*.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

Records document the administration of Nelson Wolff as mayor of San Antonio between 1991-1995. The records are organized into six series: administrative files (10 ft.), department files (13 ft.), subject files (10 ft.), assorted printed materials (.5 ft.), and records of the assistant to the mayor (.5 ft.). The records document several significant events during Wolff's two terms as mayor, including Wolff's attempt to have NAFTA signed in San Antonio, his campaign against the closure of San Antonio's military bases by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, the city's response to escalating gang and drug violence in the early 1990s, Wolff's attempt to bring professional baseball to San Antonio, and state, city, and local conflicts over Edwards aquifer and Applewhite Reservoir.

**ARRANGEMENT:**

- I. Administrative files
  - A. Addresses
  - B. Agendas
  - C. Financial records
  - D. Press statements
  - E. Contacts
  - F. Appointment schedules
  - G. Telephone logs
  - H. Correspondence
- II. Department files [A-Z]
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- IV. Assorted
- V. Assistant to the mayor

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**RESTRICTIONS:**

Unrestricted access.

**PREFERRED CITATION:**

[Box #, Folder title], Office of the Mayor, Nelson Wolff Records, 1983-1995, San Antonio Municipal Archives.

**INDEX TERMS****Persons:**

Wolff, Nelson W., 1940-.

**Organizations:**

Alamodome (San Antonio, Tex.)

City Public Service (San Antonio, Tex.).

San Antonio Summit (1992 : San Antonio, Tex.).

San Antonio Water System (Tex.).

United States. Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

**Subjects:**

San Antonio (Tex.)—Baseball.

Canada. Treaties, etc. 1992 Oct. 7.

Endangered species – Law and legislation – United States.

Gangs—Texas—San Antonio (Tex.).

Military base closures – Texas—San Antonio (Tex.).

Water-supply –Management – History –Texas – San Antonio (Tex.).

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