

**DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY  
COMMISSIONER'S RECORDS, 1979-1983**

**RECORD GROUP 249**

*by*

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**MICROFILM ONLY**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Record Group 249, Department of Safety, Commissioner's Records, 1979-1983, is a microfilm only collection. The original documents were disposed of according to the Tennessee State RDA after filming. The size of the collection was reduced from five cubic feet to one and one half cubic feet during processing by the elimination of extraneous materials. This record group pertains to the administration of Commissioners Gene Roberts and Gus Wood III. The records consist of correspondence, memoranda, and reports and are arranged by subject files.

The records were transferred from the State Records Center in good condition to the Tennessee State Library and Archives on October 29, 1991. The original order of the files seems to have been alphabetical, but some shifting apparently took place when the files were placed into Page boxes for storage. The files were restored to alphabetical order during processing. There are no restrictions on the use of materials in this record group.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

Record Group 249 contains the correspondence and records of the Commissioner of the Department of Safety from 1979 through 1983. The majority of this record group focuses on Commissioner Gene Roberts who served until his resignation on January 15, 1983. He was replaced by Commissioner Gus Wood III.

This record group is processed alphabetically, then chronologically, by subject file. Major issues confronting the Department during this time span included the issuance of a photo identification drivers licenses, the need for educating the public on the necessity for financial responsibility in the area of liability insurance and uninsured motorists, and safety issues related to the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, also known as the Energy Expo. The Energy Expo Subject File includes preliminary plans, facts, highlights, press releases, diagrams of the Expo grounds, cost estimates and summaries, and weekly activity reports.

## **AGENCY HISTORY**

The Department of Safety, now an independent agency, was preceded by the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and before that by the Tennessee State Police, which was created by Chapter 96 of the Public Acts of 1919. The State Police became the Highway Patrol in 1929, and was administered by the Department of Finance and Taxation until 1937. The Highway Patrol was later shifted to the Department of Administration, and in 1939 the Department of Safety became its own entity. The Department of Safety was given Cabinet-level status in 1945.

The work of the Department of Safety is divided among five major divisions: Highway Patrol, Staff Services, Driver Control, Safety Education, and the Bureau of Criminal Identification. The Department of Safety is responsible for enforcing the State's traffic laws on the Interstate and State highway systems, assisting motorists, investigating accidents and assisting local enforcement personnel. It also has the responsibility of issuing driver's licenses and administering the State's financial responsibility and driver improvement laws. Special services offered by the Department include an aviation section which uses helicopters for searches, rescues, speed enforcement, drug enforcement, and searches for stolen vehicles. The Tactical Squad is headquartered in Nashville but has operational capability anywhere within the State. Their duties include searching backwoods for escaped prisoners and lost persons, defusing explosives, handling hostage situations, overseeing dignitary protection responsibilities for high-ranking officials visiting the State and providing crowd control at demonstrations. The Capitol Police personnel also fall under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Safety and are responsible for the security of the State Capitol building and grounds in Nashville.

The Department's statewide communications network supports the mobile units of the Highway Patrol and other agencies, including the departments of Correction, Revenue, and TBI.

## CONTAINER LIST

1. Subject file--Affirmative Action Program
2. Subject file--Audit-CETA Program
3. Subject file--Audit-Internal, 1982
4. Subject file--Budget-Reports, Proposals, Requests, Guidelines, 1981-1983
5. Subject file--Capitol Police-General
6. Subject file--Capitol Police-Incident/Accident Report Summaries
7. Subject file--Capitol Police-Letters of Complaint/Compliment
8. Subject file--Capitol Police-Personnel Matters
9. Subject file--Capitol Police-Policies, Procedures, General Orders
10. Subject file--Capitol Police-Shift Assignments
11. Subject file--Capitol Police-Supply Matters
12. Subject file--Chaplain's Program
13. Subject file--Civil Service Positions
14. Subject file--Communications
15. Subject file--Complaint Summaries-Tennessee Highway Patrol
16. Subject file--Complaints-Speeding Trucks
17. Subject file--Comptroller's Office
18. Subject file--Correspondence-Blount County
19. Subject file--Correspondence-Complaints
20. Subject file--Correspondence-General-Commissioner Gus Wood, 1983
21. Subject file--Correspondence-Jones, Colonel Billy
22. Subject file--Correspondence-Out of State Inquiries-Legal Drinking Age
23. Subject file--Driver Control Division-General Correspondence
24. Subject file--Driver Control Division-Job Reclassification, Organizational Chart
25. Subject file--Driver Improvement
26. Subject file--Driver License-General Inquiries, Proposed Rules, Testing Centers
27. Subject file--Driver Testing Center Construction, Memphis
28. Subject file--Drivers License Photo issue
29. Subject file--DUI (Driving Under the Influence), Petitions, Reports, Correspondence
30. Subject file--Energy Expo, Knoxville, TN-1982 World's Fair
31. Subject file--Fatal Accident Report, 1983
32. Subject file--Fatal Accident Reporting System-Contracts
33. Subject file--Federal Bureau of Investigation-Training Sessions
34. Subject file--Financial Responsibility Resolution
35. Subject file--Fiscal Note Support Forms-Senate Bills 76 & 146, 1983
36. Subject file--Fiscal Review Committee-Report-Commissioned Personnel Assignments
37. Subject file--Fog Problems, 1982
38. Subject file--Governor's Mansion-Fire safety upgrade

39. Subject file--Governor's Security
40. Subject file--Helicopter-Bids and Contracts
41. Subject file--Highway Safety, Planning Division
42. Subject file--International Association of Chiefs of Police
43. Subject file--Junkyard Control Law-Enforcement
44. Subject file--Law Enforcement Assistance Administration Meeting, 1980
45. Subject file--Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee-Minutes
46. Subject file--Lawsuit-Keeling vs. Roberts and Farris
47. Subject file--Legislation-Proposed
48. Subject file--Legislative Proposals, Work Sheets
49. Subject file--Maintenance
50. Subject file--Management Systems
51. Subject file--Manpower Allocation
52. Subject file--Memos to Governor Lamar Alexander, 1982
53. Subject file--Morehead Foundation-Intern Program-Curriculum and Evaluations
54. Subject file--Motor Vehicle Acquisition, Assignment, Use, and Disposal-Special Order
55. Subject file--Motorcycles and Mopeds-Safety and Helmet Laws
56. Subject file--National Jaycees Convention, 1982
57. Subject file--Non-Resident Violator Compact
58. Subject file--Operation Lifesaver-Safety Program
59. Subject file--Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (POST Commission)-  
Minutes, Policies and Procedures Manual
60. Subject file--Personnel-Reports and Memoranda
61. Subject file--Police & Sheriff's Bureau of Identification
62. Subject file--Press Releases, 1982
63. Subject file--Proposed Legislation--"55 Alive, Mature Driving Program"
64. Subject file--Roster-Riot Squad, Third District, Third Division, Feb. 6, 1981
65. Subject file--Salary Scales and Raises
66. Subject file--Security Matters-Locations of Safes, Floor Plans, Alarms
67. Subject file--Speech-Lt. Billy L. Jones-Interviewing Drivers & Witnesses at Accidents
68. Subject file--Speeches-Commissioner, Gene Roberts
69. Subject file--Speed Limit-55 MPH
70. Subject file--Staff Attorney-Legal Inquiries
71. Subject file--Supply-Purchasing Procedures and Violations
72. Subject file--Tennessee Energy Authority, Building Energy Maintenance Program
73. Subject file--Tennessee Highway Patrol District-Kingsport
74. Subject file--Tennessee Highway Patrol District-Knoxville
75. Subject file--Tennessee Highway Patrol District-Lawrenceburg
76. Subject file--Tennessee Highway Patrol District-Memphis
77. Subject file--Tennessee Highway Patrol District-Nashville

78. Subject file--Tennessee Highway Patrol-Correspondence
79. Subject file--Tennessee Highway Patrol-Suggestions
80. Subject file--Tennessee Highway Patrol-Tactical Squad
81. Subject file--Tennessee Law Enforcement Officers Association-Commendation
82. Subject file--Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy, 1982
83. Subject file--Tennessee Sheriffs-Roster, 1982
84. Subject file--Tennessee State Building Commission-Minutes, 1982
85. Subject file--Threatening Letters
86. Subject file--Training
87. Subject file--Transportation Research Board-Appointment
88. Subject file--Transportation Research Center, 1982
89. Subject file--Vehicular Homicide Critiques