

October 26, 1995

Ms. Clair Cardina
Archivist, City of Tampa
1104 East Twiggs Street
Tampa, FL 33602

Dear Ms. Cardina :

By way of introduction, the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) is an independent federal agency created to oversee the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The ARRB was established by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL 102-526) and was signed into law by President George Bush. The law gives the ARRB the mandate and authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. I am enclosing a copy of the act and some explanatory material.

The scope of the Review Board's mandate includes assassination-related records in the custody of federal agencies, local and state government entities, as well as those in the private sector. As you may recall President Kennedy visited Tampa on November 18, 1963. Local author Frank DeBenedictis wrote an article in the magazine *Tampa Bay History (Fall/Winter 1994 Volume 16, Number 2)* entitled *Four Days Before Dallas: JFK in Tampa* about the trip. Mr. DeBenedictis researched newspaper accounts of the trip in writing his article.

According to the 1963 newspaper accounts the Tampa Police Department played a significant role in providing security to the president's entourage. I recently met with Kirby Rainsberger, Esq. of the Tampa City Attorney's Office and members of the Tampa Police Department in an effort to identify records the police department created at the time of the presidential visit. This reports could conceivably be in the form of planning reports, officer assignments, arrest and other incident reports, surveillance and intelligence reports as well as post-visit assessment reports. According to Mr. Rainsberger and representatives of the police department any records that might have existed in 1963 have long since been either destroyed due to the passage of time or may have been sent to the Tampa City Archives for preservation as important historic records.

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As a first step will you please conduct a review of your inventory of Tampa Police Department records as well as the records of other city departments that might have created records at the time (ie. fire department or other public safety entities) and contact me whether your search is successful or not. I may be reached anytime at ext. 229. If you have any questions about this request please feel free to call. Thank you in advance for your time and effort. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Anne Buttimer, Esq.

enclosures