Audio
Historical Council Meetings

- The City Clerk's Archives and Records Management division acquired over a decade of historical Council Meetings, the collection was comprised of sound recordings from City Council Meetings from 1964 through 1978

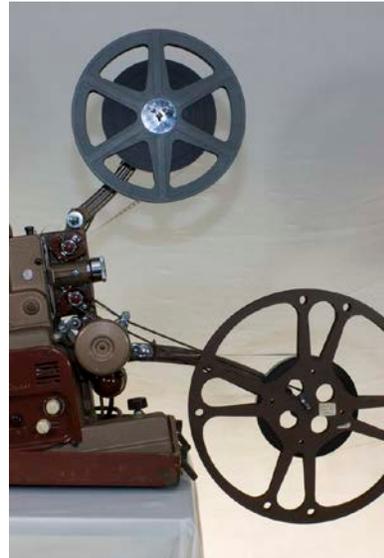- The Council Meetings provide a glimpse into the priorities of the San Diego community from decades ago
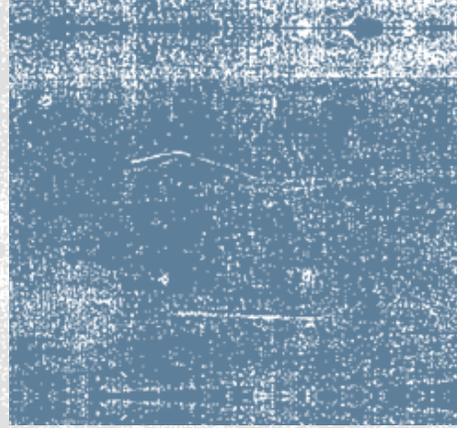
In order to preserve this piece of history, the magnetic reel-to-reel tape must be converted

How did magnetic reel-to-reel tape become the standard?

Founders of Ampex
Harold Lindsay and Alexander Poniatoff

- Magnetic reel-to-reel tape gained popularity at the end of WWII

- It met the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in FM broadcasting (military, radio, television, industrial and record companies) standards

- Ampex recorders dominated sales in the U.S. and were easy to operate, inexpensive to maintain and easy to use

The Magnetic Format is Hazardous to our History

Gaseous air contaminants, such as oxides of sulfur and nitrogen, paint fumes, ammonia, peroxides, ozone, and formaldehyde, can damage film bases and emulsions of the film

Once the media develops "Vinegar Syndrome," dependent on how distressed the film is, these vital records may be gone forever [4]

Time plays a significant factor in preserving the film while the film is still salubrious

In the conversion process, time is of the essence- waiting too long can jeopardize historical media

Evolution cycle in converting the reel-to-reel magnetic tape for preservation......

The individual magnetic reel to reels were converted to a digital version by the City Clerk's Archives and Records Management

The magnetic reel to reel were then converted to MP3's

City Council meeting years were then confirmed by the City Clerk's Archives and Records Management team

Archives team then uploaded the MP3 files to the City's youtube account

Web team then created the audio thumbnails, video feeds and integrated the various council meetings of MP3's to the City Clerk's Digital Archives

The reel to reel magnetic audio was then converted to MP3's and will now be safely housed indefinitely

Public Service Objectives:

- The City Clerk's Archives takes great pride and satisfaction in helping and preserving the past for today and future generations to come.

- It is our highest priority to serve the citizens of San Diego by making available online historical records easily accessible to everyone.

- Go to: https://www.sandiego.gov/digitalarchives/collections/specialcollections/audio in order to listen to a part of history!