

Vincent R. Impellitteri Collection

Vincent R. Impellitteri was a mayor beset with political and practical challenges. Serving as the City Council President at the time of Mayor O'Dwyer's resignation, Impellitteri succeeded to the mayoralty in August 1950. Despite strong opposition from Tammany Hall, he retained the office by winning a special election later that year. Dubbed "Impy" by the press, many considered him ineffectual and he was often outmaneuvered by both Republican Governor Dewey and by the Democratic Tammany leader, Carmine DeSapio. Serving less than a full term, Impellitteri lost the mayoralty to Robert F. Wagner in the regular election in 1953.



Impellitteri had a reserved, thoughtful, quiet demeanor, in contrast to the strong personalities and high profile mayoralties of La Guardia and to a lesser extent, O'Dwyer. Due to budget difficulties created by postwar inflation and increasing demands for city services, Impellitteri made the difficult decision to raise a variety of taxes. He introduced parking meters to New York City, but was pressured by Governor Dewey to relinquish control of the subways to a new New York City Transit Authority. In response to the scandal that emerged upon O'Dwyer's resignation and true to his "independent" image, Impellitteri tried to eliminate corruption in the Police Department.

The Impellitteri Collection spans the years 1945-1953 and consists of 2,870 folders across three series: Departmental Correspondence; General Correspondence; and Subject Files. The folders of these series can be searched using the Advanced Search button on the [Impellitteri Collection page](#). Most of the collection covers the governmental records of Impellitteri's mayoralty (1950-1953). The records include correspondence, reports, transcriptions of speeches, and other public records, along with campaign documents and other materials related to his mayoralty. The original documents are housed at the Municipal Archives of the New York City Department of Records and Information Services, located at 31 Chambers St., New York, NY. The LaGuardia and Wagner Archives holds these series on microfilm.