

Seattle City Clerk's Office

Comptroller File

169958

FILE NO. 169958

Approval
OF

Seattle Real Estate Board

Of plan to eliminate "shacktown"
areas.

5/6/41 - file

FILED May 2, 1941.

W. J. THOMAS
CONTROLLER AND EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK
BY *W. J. Thomas* DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED MAY 5 1941	TO PUBLIC SAFETY	REPORT ADOPTED
REFERRED	TO	REPORT ADOPTED
REPORTED		REPORT ADOPTED
REPORTED		REPORT ADOPTED
REF. FOR ORD.		C. B. ORD.
MAY 12 1941		DISPOSITION ON FILE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your Public Safety Committee

to which was referred the within approval

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that

the same be placed on file.

W. J. Thomas
CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN

Poulsen

Seattle REAL ESTATE BOARD, INC.

CHARTER MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REAL ESTATE BOARDS



OFFICERS

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President

ALBERT BALCH
First Vice-President

WM. H. JOHANNESSEN
Second Vice-President

HOWARD F. HULET
Secretary-Treasurer

LON FORBUSH, Executive Secretary
1502 : 1411 FOURTH AVE. BLDG.

TELEPHONE MAIn 7221
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

May 1, 1941

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City Council, Seattle, Washington
County-City Building
Seattle, Wash.

In Re: Shacktown situation.

Dear Madam and Gentlemen:

The Seattle Real Estate Board has observed with much interest recent activity with respect to the elimination of various "shacktown" areas in the City of Seattle. We are especially gratified with the efforts being made by the Council to solve this vexing problem.

The immediate problem of sanitation and good health would demand that action be taken prior to the summer season when we might expect serious risk from epidemics as a result of the open toilets and insanitary conditions in and around these districts. Seattle offers in this respect an outstanding paradox: large modern hospitals staggering under an alleged overload of sickness and patients from the shacktown area and a stone's throw away the very conditions that increase sickness and create potential epidemics of a serious nature among our citizens.

Your present plan of gradually eliminating shacks and preventing the building of new ones is the best step taken in a long time and we would like to add our encouragement and commendation for this program. The Housing Authority has made pertinent studies of the situation and we are in accord with most of their recommendations to the City Council. We would, therefore, like to express our opinions as follows:

(1) That as soon as present shacks are no longer occupied, that they be immediately demolished by the proper city authorities;

(2) That these authorities or departments be authorized to prevent the building of additional shacks within the corporate limits and that suitable persons be empowered to go ahead with the program of prevention;

(3) That adequate inspection be made by health authorities of the sanitary conditions in and around the shack areas to prevent if possible the spread of disease and possible epidemics;

(4) That the eliminating of these areas be expedited prior to the regular tourist season so that we may not be continually embarrassed by comments and criticism made by visitors to the City and State.

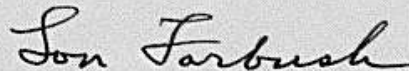
Consult a Realtor

City Council--page 2--May 1, 1941.

If the Seattle Real Estate Board can be of any service to the Council, we stand ready to cooperate in any possible way to render that service in the program to eliminate the shacktown situation from Seattle. We sincerely hope you may be entirely successful in solving the problem and make our city a more healthy and more attractive place in which to live.

Sincerely yours,

SEATTLE REAL ESTATE BOARD

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lon Forbush".

Lon Forbush, Executive Secretary

LF