

(GENERAL)

FILE NO. 221329

Petition  
OF  
Civic Unity Committee  
re.

racial restrictions, etc. in city property.

*6/16/53 Refer Chmn to answer,  
file*

FILED June 15, 1953

W. C. THOMAS  
COMPTROLLER AND CITY CLERK

BY *W. A. Perine* DEPUTY

**ACTION OF THE COUNCIL**

REFERRED TO  
JUNE 15, 1953 *STREETS & SEWERS, C.S.*

REFERRED TO

REFERRED TO

REPORTED DISPOSITION  
JUN 22 1953 *On File*

RE-REFERRED TO

REPORTED DISPOSITION

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

Mr. President: *Your* Streets and Sewers Committee

*to which was referred the within* Petition  
*would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that*  
*same be placed on file.*

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN

# CIVIC UNITY COMMITTEE OF SEATTLE

*Established in 1944... Red Feather Service Since 1947*

417 EAST PINE BUILDING SEATTLE 22, WASHINGTON MInor 2727

1407

JOHN H. HEITZMAN  
President

June 12, 1953

SOL ESFELD  
Vice-President

FRANK D. JAMES  
Secretary

MRS. ANNE C. LUKE  
Treasurer

City Council of Seattle  
County-City Building  
Seattle 4, Washington

LOUISE P. BLACKHAM  
Executive Secretary

Honorable Members:

MARY GORMLY  
Office Secretary

As Seattle extends its boundaries and brings outlying areas under the jurisdiction of our city government the city gains in size, population, prestige and power. The character of the city, as well, cannot help but be influenced by the areas annexed.

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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This Committee, the Civic Unity Committee of Seattle, is concerned primarily with human relations in Seattle and the quality of its citizenship. In connection with the annexation of new areas the Board of Trustees of this organization would call to the attention of the City Council the importance of safeguarding the democratic values on which Seattle prides itself. One safeguard is to eliminate from all plats of city property covenants which restrict ownership because of race, color, creed or national origin. Although the Supreme Court of the United States in 1948 ruled that restriction against the residence in or purchase of property on the basis of race, religion, color or national origin are not enforceable, there remain on the records of King County many plats containing such restrictive covenants. These covenants are evidences of prejudice and are still used to effect discrimination which is now recognized as un-American.

#### HONORARY MEMBERS

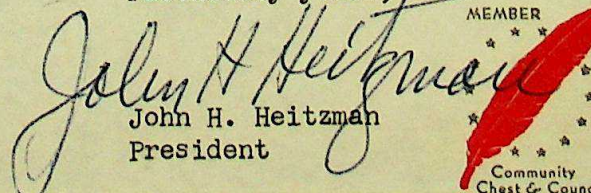
Mrs. A. Scott Bullitt  
William F. Devin  
Reginald H. Parsons

This Committee recommends to the City Council that the city of Seattle establish a policy that no new plat of city property will be approved if it contains such restrictions and, where possible and practical, no new territory will be annexed to the city if any plat in that territory contains such restrictions.

The Trustees of this organization would be pleased to meet with a committee of the Council if it pleases the Council to consider these suggestions.

Assuring you that these recommendations are offered in the interest of good human relations in this city, we are,

Faithfully yours,

  
John H. Heitzman  
President



June 18, 1953

Mr. John H. Heitzman, President  
Civic Unity Committee of Seattle  
417 East Pine Building  
Seattle 22, Washington

Dear John:

In answer to your letter of June 12, 1953, addressed to the City Council, concerning racial and other restrictions in officially filed city plats, I am glad to tell you that it has long been the policy of the City Council that no new plats of city property be approved if they contain such restrictions as you enumerate in your letter.

The entire Council is in agreement on this policy and we will be glad to continue to carry it out as you have requested.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

M. B (Mike) Mitchell

MBM:hj

City Council  
Seattle, Wash.

Gentlemen:

Please remember there are two sides to this so called anti-discrimination. Laws passed under this wording, discriminate against white people, this deprives that part of the U. S. from their rights.

Citizen

# City of Seattle

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER  
Seattle 4, Washington



C. G. ERLANDSON  
CITY COMPTROLLER

JOHN B. KELLUM  
CHIEF DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

December 15, 1961

Dr. James E. Moore  
N.A.A.C.P.  
2310 East Pine Street  
Seattle 22, Washington

Dear Sir:

Your letter asking the City to pass an ordinance prohibiting discrimination in the sale and rental of housing because of race, color, etc., was read at December 11, 1961 City Council meeting. On motion, duly seconded and carried, your letter was placed on file, and the suggestion made that if the petitioners desire such legislation, they start an initiative petition to place the measure on the ballot.

Very truly yours,

C. G. ERLANDSON  
Comptroller and City Clerk

By:  
Assistant City Clerk

WP/da