

2-1999

Park Forest African American Pioneers: When and How We Entered, 1958-1968

Jacqueline F. Scott

Park Forest 50th Anniversary Committee

James Blackman

Park Forest 50th Anniversary Committee

Robert Thayer

Park Forest 50th Anniversary Committee

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This envelope:

Park Forest African American Pioneers: When and How We Entered, 1958-1968 by Jacqueline Scott and others. Compiled by a sub-committee of the 50th Anniversary Committee Park Forest, IL: The Village [of Park Forest], 1999.

We have the photocopy of this document. The only difference with that and the original is that the original had some red in the triangular designs of the cover and chapters.

On the introduction: "The information contained in this presentation are copies of original documents and is based on information obtained from historical files of the Village of Park Forest, documents in the Park Forest [Public] Library and private citizens.

I am the Archivist for the Park Forest Historical Society and was the Archivist at the Park Forest Public Library when this was produced in advance of a program we were putting on in February 1999 as a part of the 50th Anniversary of Park Forest.

Contents of the self-printed booklet (8 1/2 x 11) are:

Park Forest African American Pioneers, When and How we Entered: contains this list:

Negroes in Residence in Park Forest as of January 1, 1969--By Street. This includes the date these families moved in.

Policy on Minority Group Residence Adopted September 25, 1959. [which was unanimously adopted by the Commission on Human Relations at its September 1959 meeting.]

First Park Forest African American Co-op Residents, List from [Feb. 1964-1968]. Includes some memos to Human Relations commission.

Fair Housing Ordinance Village of Park Forest, approved 1-29-1968.

References 1963 Executive Order to affirmatively market VA and FHA Foreclosures, and 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Hello Dr. Wilson: Integration Comes to Park Forest. (December, 1959)

First Park Forest African-American Homeowners. A retyped list of the Negroes in Residence list. Includes memos and letters between Human Relation Commission Members, as a sample of what information was shared about new move-in AA families.

Human Relations Commission 1953. Includes a letter from John L. Scott, Village Manager about an incident in July 1959 when there was a rumored home sale to a Negro and memos from John Scott, Village Manager and Robert A. Dinerstein on how Village Employees should respond to the first Negro resident, which followed that incident later in July 1959.

William Simpson, Pioneer Resident and Community Activist. Mr. Simpson for years objected to and protested Integration Maintenance..

The Park Forest Local History Collection and Archive has many other materials on the integration of Park Forest, including things on Integration Maintenance, a controversial program which operated here in the 1960s through 1980s to 1990s.

Jane Nicoll, Archivist, Park Forest Historical Society
9-6-2017.

10
PARK FOREST INTEGRATION
Economic Dev. (C.2 w/ Local History
Original at Park Forest Public Library R977.4
file)
855

PARK FOREST PIONEER AFRICAN-AMERICANS 1958-1968

The information contained in this presentation are copies of original documents and is based on information obtained from historical files of the Village of Park Forest, documents in the Park Forest Library and private citizens.

The committee would like to thank the staff of the Village of Park Forest and the Park Forest Library for their valuable assistance in our research efforts.

Information from this presentation can be obtained by contacting Ms. Barbara Moore, Village of Park Forest, Office of Community Development.

Presenters:

**Jacqueline F. Scott
James Blackman
Robert Thayer**

February 21, 1999

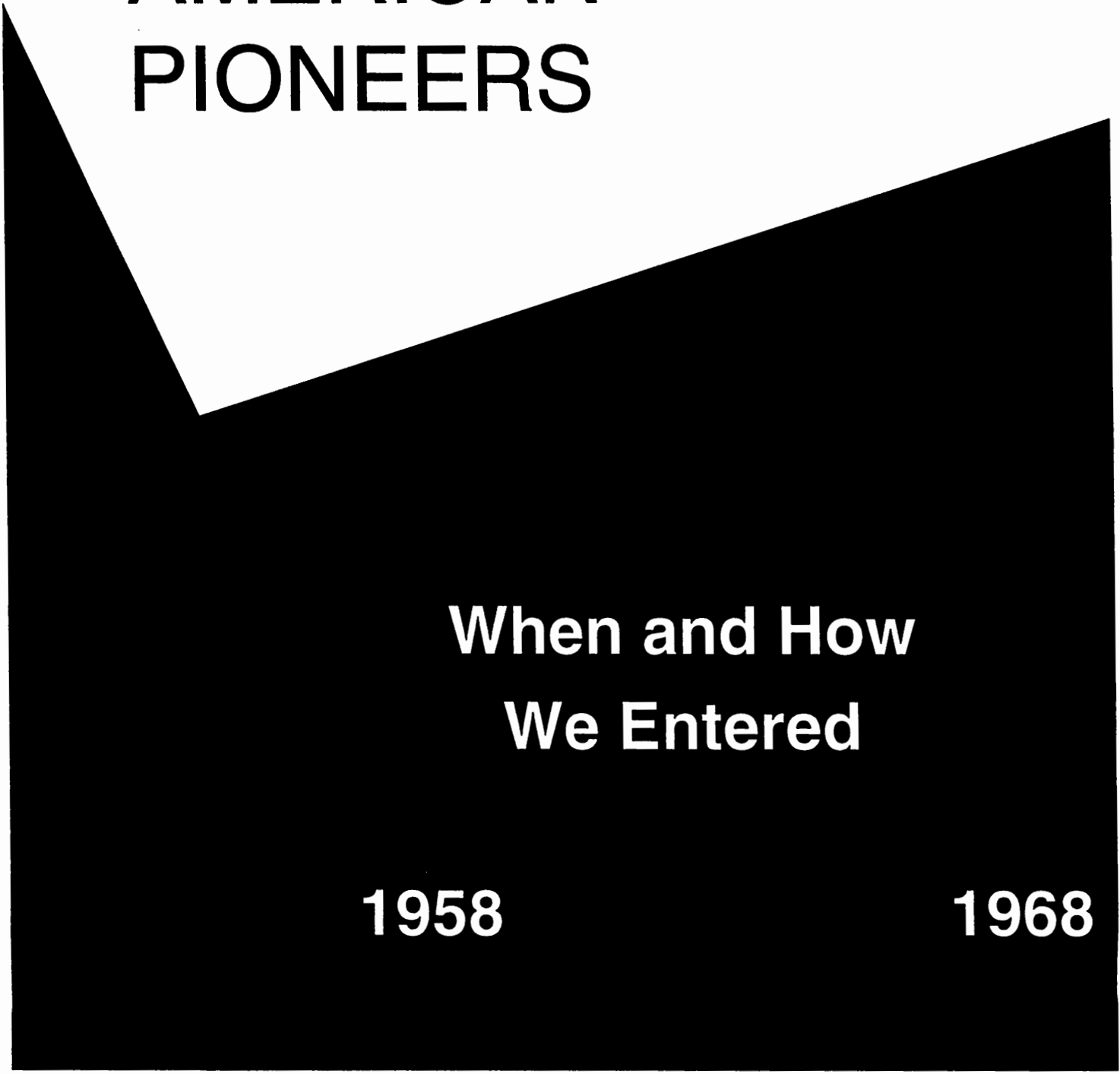
*100th Anniversary
1968-1969*

PARK FOREST AFRICAN- AMERICAN PIONEERS

**When and How
We Entered**

1958

1968



NEGROES IN RESIDENCE IN PARK FOREST AS OF JANUARY 1, 1969 - BY STREET

ALGONQUIN STREET

157	William Henderson	10/63
115	James A. Jackson	4/68

ALLEGHENY COURT

8	John Hannah	7/65
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ALLEGHENY STREET

229	Cap Wallace	8/67
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APACHE STREET

2	Walter L. Williams	5/68
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ARROWHEAD COURT

12	Otis Wilson	2/65
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ASH STREET

14	Robert Anderson	6/67
143	Albert Kimbrough	8/64
59	Adam Russell	1/68
30	Frank Alexander	1/68
210	Dr. L. V. Fennoy	2/68
76	Wyman & Clarence Conner	3/68
142	Dr. Hubert Duvivier	3/68
318	Ronald Scott Lee	4/68
137	Thomas O. Hughes	7/68
312	Allen Post	6/68
286	Joseph Hardin	8/68
206	Wayne Griffin	9/68
32	Richard Norwood	10/68
215	Robert B. Brown	12/68
254	Terry L. Robbins	12/68

BIRCH STREET

68	James Stevens	7/67
187	Virgil Hammond	12/66
180	Sam Newell	8/68
133	Paul Jones	8/68
157	Miss Mary Hale	9/68
164	Clyde E. Taylor	7/68

BLACKHAWK DRIVE

157	William Taylor	9/63
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CEDAR STREET

15	Clifford Morgan	8/67
77	Phillip Powell, Jr.	9/68

CHASE STREET

508	Robert K. Taylor	9/66
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CHOATE ROAD

22	Edward Benson	7/68
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DOGWOOD STREET

143	Calvin Brandon	5/66
228	Pamela Thompson	9/67
342	Reginald Waddell	9/65
366	William Malloy	9/67
393	Walter Simpson	10/67
296	Leonard Juniel	4/68
103	M. L. Douglas	5/68
208	Thomas Peete	6/68
19	Charles Dungy	6/68
423	Walter C. Little	6/68
193	Roy Dillard	2/68
213	Lawrence Bethel	8/68
168	Harold McCullough	8/68
266	Charles Johnson	11/67

ELM STREET

19	Theodore Carr	5/68
95	William Brown	7/64
113	Edward Pressly	1/66
160	William Walton	1/67
122	Carl Donald, Jr.	10/67
75	Leroy Jackson	6/68
90	Bernice Dean	11/68

FIR STREET

111B	Louis Hamilton, Jr.	11/66
313	Byron Weston	9/67
241	James Avery	9/68
249	Raymond Scott	10/68
291	Charles Russell	10/68
245	Stanley Gellineau	11/68

FOREST BOULEVARD

108	Rufus Martin	10/64
83	William Clark	9/68
66	William E. Steward	10/68
52	Cleo Charleston	10/68
36	Dumarsais M. Simeus	10/68

GERSTUNG ROAD

6	Hilton Duckworth	5/68
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HEMLOCK STREET

HAY STREET

115 Leonard Robinson 11/63

HOMAN AVENUE

565 Shelby Steele 8/66

ILLINOIS STREET

517 Frank Irions 1/66

INDIANA STREET

403 Dr. William A. Jones 7/68

315 Hosea Sims 6/68

INDIANWOOD BOULEVARD (HOMES AREA)

245 Jonas Holmes, Jr. 5/67

320 William Rice 3/66

437 Thomas A. Murray 11/66

INDIANWOOD BOULEVARD (MULTIFAMILY AREA)

102 Estella McCray 7/68

IROQUOIS STREET

146 Joseph H. McKinney 7/64

JUNIPER STREET

222 Joseph A. Bugg 2/65

286 William Wiley 11/65

295 Ronald Blackstone 5/65

269 Charles Carothers 11/67

KROTLAK ROAD

33	Robert E. Brooks	6/67
209	Harold Joseph	6/68
243	Bernice Means	4/68
205	John Lester	10/68
6	Nicholas Thomas	8/66

LAKWOOD BOULEVARD (MULTIFAMILY AREA)

310	Charles Collins	9/67
276	David Bryant	10/67
260	Major James Reed	9/68

LEE STREET

215	Thomas Augustine	3/67
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MC GARITY ROAD

20	Earl M. Walls	6/67
10	Eddie Gay	10/68

MIAMI STREET

331	Frank Borage	11/68
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MINOCQUA STREET

328	Lucky Anderson	11/67
242	Beulah Freeman	7/68
317	Frank W. Harden	8/68

MOHAWK STREET

332	Homer Hicks	2/66
284	Donald L. Ray	3/68

MONEE ROAD		
124	William Jackson	8/63
NANTI STREET		
180	Howard Roberts	9/67
NAUVOO STREET		
173	Demurie Eley	9/67
NEOLA STREET		
341	Mrs. W. E. Martin	6/68
NEOSHO STREET		
432	Calvin Lacefield	7/65
401	Homer Dillard, Jr.	6/68
NIAGARA STREET		
339	Alonzo Davis	12/63
NORTH ORCHARD DRIVE		
205	Lawrence Clark	3/66
NORWOOD BOULEVARD		
88	Laverne F. Wire	8/68
OAKWOOD STREET		
300	Perry Johnson	10/68

PARK ROAD

164	William Lanum	5/64
180	William J. Harris	9/66
184	Melvin Dulaney	11/68

PEACH STREET

121	Henry Bickhem, Jr.	6/66
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RICH ROAD

271	Raymond Myles	9/68
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SAUK TRAIL

22	Willie Davis	8/64
116	Mrs. Goode	3/67
245	Robert Thayer	9/67
313	LeRoy Blackful, Jr.	8/66
362	Manister Connor	8/68

SHABBONA DRIVE

403	David Fossett	11/64
429	Allen Glenn	7/63
444	Robert Ross	10/64
416	James Perry	7/68

SHAWNEE STREET

322	John M. Hart	6/66
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SOMONAUK STREET

314	Jim Norris	7/66
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TALALA STREET

495 Arthur M. Johnson
465 Edward Lanum

4/66
1/68

TODD STREET

403 Urlin L. Clark

8/64

26TH STREET

WALDMANN DRIVE

331 James Phelums

10/65

WATER STREET

86 Theodore L. Hunter

2/68

WESTWOOD DRIVE

117 Helivhas C. Hart
155 Willie H. McBee
173 Harold Coleman

9/68
10/68
12/68

WESTERN AVENUE

2650	Joseph B. K. Apea	11/65
2657	Leroy Davis	8/64
2815	Raymond Shackelford	12/66
2836	William Malone	12/65
2880	A. Q. Staples	11/65
3011	Marvin C. Bomer	7/67
3121	Richard White	10/65
3409	Louis McGuire	10/66
2737	Mrs. Willie Campbell	5/68
3103	George Evans	5/68
2704	Terry Lee Dawkins	6/68
3322	Lebrone Honeysucker	7/68
2667	Fred McMorris	6/68
3159A	Ollie V. Davis	8/68
2834	Marion Graham	10/68
2856	Rufus L. France	9/68
2946	Martin Murphy	9/68
2808	Roscoe D. Young	11/68

WILLOW STREET

136	Dr. William Martin	6/68
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WILSHIRE STREET

403	William Simpson	12/63
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WINDSOR STREET

312	Sampson Rice	4/66
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100-10887-1A-11
Exemption file

VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

Policy on Minority Group Residence Adopted September 25, 1959

Village of Park Forest

PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS • TELEPHONE Pilgrim 8-11

PRESIDENT
Robert A. Dinerstein

Jacob I. Bregman
Lynn G. Branne

TRUSTEES
Bernard G. Cunningham
James L. Garretton

Roy W. Reid
Quentin H. Wood

CLERK
Gratchen K. Haverkam

VILLAGE MANAGER
John L. Scott

October 8, 1959

Mr. Robert A. Dinerstein, President
Board of Trustees
Park Forest, Illinois

Dear Mr. Dinerstein:

Accompanying this letter is a report entitled "A Policy on Minority Group Residence in Park Forest" dated September 24, 1959 which was unanimously adopted by the Commission on Human Relations at its regular September meeting.

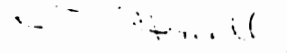
Although the research and drafting of this report has been in progress all of this calendar year, its timeliness was demonstrated twice this past summer when the attention of the Village was called to neighborhoods where Negro families were reported to be moving into Park Forest.

The purpose of this report is to acquaint the Board of Trustees with the results of the Commission's studies, recommend certain areas of procedure, and seek the Board's direction for the future work of the Commission.

Accordingly, the Commission on Human Relations recommends that the Board of Trustees carefully review this report and adopt it for the guidance of all persons participating in the Village government and, specifically, the Commission on Human Relations.

The members of the Commission will be happy to discuss the contents of this report with the Board of Trustees at your convenience.

Respectfully,


H. T. Stowell, Chairman
Commission on Human Relations

HTS/jb

Enc.

Village of Park Forest

PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS

• TELEPHONE Pilgrim 8-1112

PRESIDENT

Robert A. Dinerstein

TRUSTEES

Jacob I. Bregman
Lynn G. Breane

Bernard G. Cunningham
James L. Garretson

Roy W. Reid
Quentin H. Wood

CLERK

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Respectfully,

H. T. Stowell

H. T. Stowell, Chairman
Commission on Human Relations

HTS/jb

Enc.

September 24, 1959

A PROGRAM ON MINORITY GROUP RESIDENCE IN PARK FOREST

A Report to the President and Board of Trustees
by the Commission on Human Relations

INTRODUCTION

The Commission on Human Relations is charged with the general responsibility of acquainting itself with the status of minority group representation in Park Forest and any problems of a governmental nature attendant thereto. It is further charged, from time to time, as it seems advisable or as directed by the Board of Trustees to recommend to the Board of Trustees certain policies or courses of action relative to its area of responsibility.

Park Forest now has a mixture of religious and a fairly high degree of racial integration. The major area of non-integration in the Village involves Negroes. The present report deals primarily with this area of minority group residence in Park Forest.

After many months of study, thorough reviews of the literature available on the subject, and interviews with persons who have done pertinent work in this area, the Commission submits this report to the Board of Trustees to assist it in reviewing the possible developments were a Negro family to move into Park Forest and the village processes that might be affected by such a situation. Let it be said at the outset that it is the Commission's opinion that a review of these programs should be made periodically, probably once a year.

THE PRESENT SITUATION

As mentioned above, Park Forest now has a fairly high degree of religious and racial integration. However, no members of the Negro race are known to be living here. If the patterns evident in other parts of the country are repeated, integra-

tion of Negroes into Park Forest is likely to occur. The public is well aware, from general press information, of situations where human rights were denied, property values destroyed, and neighborhood bitterness developed after Negroes moved into formerly all-white neighborhoods.

The Commission has studied the various items of literature available on pertinent instances of this type and has received first-hand accounts from responsible persons who were close to the actual happenings. Seldom are two communities to be found that are sufficiently alike to be able to draw heavily on one for solutions to problems of the other. This has been true in the course of the Commission's study, where each of the municipalities differed in one or more significant ways from Park Forest.

It is extremely difficult, of course, to measure each of the contributing factors in public or neighborhood reaction. And even if a reasonably accurate evaluation of the major contributory elements is made, such as the Commission has attempted, it is doubtful whether those elements would combine in proper proportion in another neighborhood so as to make group reaction predictable. For this reason it cannot be said with certainty that integration would or would not be accomplished in Park Forest without incident.

Since we must deal in future events and probabilities, we present our recommendations in a flexible outline which covers some of the contingencies. This report represents present knowledge and judgment. It is offered as a point of departure, so that the Board of Trustees and the Commission may be mutually informed, agreed as to desirable actions, and as prepared as possible to meet this situation if and when it arises.

VILLAGE POLICY

The role of municipal government must be to assure equal application of law to all persons. This is implicit in the oath that each elected official takes to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Illinois. It is explicitly stated in the "Statement of Policy with Respect to Local Residence of Members of the Negro Race" issued by the Village in July, 1959, for the guidance of village employees. (A copy of this policy statement is appended to this report.)

AREAS OF PROCEDURE

I. INFORMATION

- A. The Village government should keep informed of any contemplated or actual real estate transactions which might immediately or ultimately involve Negro families.
- B. The Commission on Human Relations should continually keep abreast of developments in inter-racial housing and analyze situations which might be pertinent to this village.

II. APPLICATION OF LAW

- A. Prompt, efficient and intelligent police action is vital in the event of a Negro family moving into Park Forest.
 - 1. No action (other than emergency) will be taken in connection with a racial problem except under the direction of the Director of Public Safety.
 - 2. It is necessary that all regular and auxiliary personnel in the Department of Public Safety be given special instruction in methods of handling inter-racial housing incidents.
 - 3. The Department of Public Safety shall use both its regular and auxiliary police forces, as deemed advisable by its director, to police any

inter-racial situation. If local forces prove inadequate, State police forces should be requested.

- B. Knowledge of and familiarity with State laws and Village ordinances applicable to inter-racial situations is imperative for all personnel directly concerned.

III. THE NEIGHBORHOOD

A. The Family.

If the family has already moved in or if we are satisfied that a transaction has been consummated, arrangements should be made to:

1. Assure them of the good will of the village government.
2. Ask them to keep in touch with the Commission on Human Relations or police in the event of questions or problems.

B. The Neighbors.

The village government shall be prepared to hold meetings of the neighborhood, as the Board of Trustees deems advisable, to give factual information concerning:

1. Family Data
2. Property Values
3. Current Rumors
4. Prevalent Fears

C. Real Estate.

Most of the sales of real estate in Park Forest are handled by local companies. Village officials will discuss with the realtors ways of keeping a neighborhood from going into a stage of transition to an all-Negro segregated area rather than an integrated area. In the event of a Negro move-in, it is recommended that the realtors make every effort to encourage succeeding sales in the area to non-Negro families.

IV. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Church and Civic Groups.

The village government is aware that there are many aspects to the question of inter-racial neighborhoods which are not properly the concern of government. Various church and civic groups have concerned themselves with some of these facets. The Commission on Human Relations, with the prior consent of the Board of Trustees, should maintain those contacts among church and civic groups that might prove helpful in the performance of its governmental function in the event that a Negro family moves into Park Forest.

B. News Agencies.

1. The news agencies shall be kept informed of the steps taken by the village government in discharging its responsibilities in the field of inter-racial housing.
2. Recognizing that news reports of Negro move-ins to previously all-white neighborhoods have a far-reaching impact, it is imperative that the news agencies receive all available data. The Village shall encourage the agencies to handle their reports in a manner to assure the preservation of human rights and to promote tranquility.

FIRST PARK FOREST AFRICAN-AMERICAN CO-OP RESIDENTS

- Feb 1964 – Mr. & Mrs. T. Odura-Swanten
- May 1964 – Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Copeland
- Jun 1964 – Mr. and Mrs. William Lanums
- Jul 1964 – Mr. and Mrs. William Brown
- Aug 1964 – Mr. and Mrs.. Albert Kimbrough
- Sep 1964 – Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Davis
- Oct 1964 – Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hart
- Oct 1964 – Ms. Mrytle Colston
- Oct 1964 – Capt. and Mrs. James Reed
- Oct 1964 – Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Augustine

Park Forest Pioneer African-American CO-OP Residents *

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	UNIT	<u>DATE</u>
1. Thomas ¹ and Annette Odura-Swarten	7 Ash St	Co-Op	2/64
2. Oliver and Juanita Copeland, Jr.	78 Birch Street	Co-Op	5/64
3. William and Anna Lanums	164 Park Street	Co-Op	6/64
4. Mr. and Mrs. William Brown	95 Elm Street	Co-Op	7/64
5. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kimbrough	143 Ash Street	Co-Op	8/64
6. Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Davis	2657 Western Ave	Co-Op	9/64
7. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hart	194 Dogwood ST	Co-Op	10/64
8. Mrytle Colston(later married to Rufus Martin)	108 Forest Blvd	Co-Op	10/64
9. Capt and Ms. James Reed	11 Gerstung Rd	Co-Op	10/64\
10. Thomas and Agnes Augustine	73 Dogwood St	Co-Op	12/64
11. Fred and Joan McMorris	3060A Western Ave	Rental (1st)	1/65
12. Mr. and Ms. Richard D. Winston	4 Krotiak Road	Co-Op	2/65
13. Joe and Floretha Bugg	222 Juniper Street	Co-Op	1/65
14. Ida M. Curtis ²	118 Birch	Co-Op	3/65
15. Dr William and Harriett Martin	2722 Western Avenue	Co-Op	4/65
16. Ronald and Georgia Blackstone	295 Juniper Street	Co-Op	5/65
17. Mr. ³ and Mrs. ⁴ . Roger Mitton	97 Ash Street	Co-Op	6/65
18. Edward Pressly	113 Elm St	Co-Op	12/65
19. Mr. and Mrs. William Malone	2836 Western Ave	Co-Op	12/65
20. Opal Reid	296 Dogwood	CoOp	12/65
21. William and Molly Norwood	211 Ash	Co-Op	
12/65Mr. and Mrs. Josepha B.K. Apea ⁵	2650 Western Avenue	Co-Op	12/65

* Source document - Files of the Park Forest Commision on Human Relations

¹ Citizen of Ghana

² Daughter Debra was first Negro student at Rich East High School - Family moved in 7-1-65

³ Citizen of Haiti

⁴ Citizen of Sweden

⁵ Native of Ghana

22. Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Staples	2880 Western Avenue	Co-Op	12/65
23. Mr. and Ms. William Wiley	286 Juniper Street	Co-Op	12/65
24. Mr. and Mrs. James H. Frazier	148 Birch St	Co-Op	10/65
25. Mr. and Mrs. Richard White	3121 Western Avenue	Co-Op	10/65
26. Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Waddell, Jr.	342 Dogwood	Co-Op	10/65
27. Mr. and Mrs. Judge Dickson	157 Dogwood	Co-Op	9/65 ⁶
28. Major and Mrs. Sam S. Younger Mr. Terry C. Gray	84 Fir St 411 Dogwood Ct	Co-Op Co-Op	1/66 10/65
29. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Angell	210 Ash St.	Co-Op	2/66
30. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kimes	19 Elm St	Co-Op	5/66
31. Mr. and Mrs. Calvin C. Brandon	143 Dogwood	Co-Op	5/66
32. Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Brown	300 Ash St	Co-Op	6/66
33. Charles and Jarilyn (w) Riley	227 Juniper Street	Co-Op	7/66
34. Mr. and M s. Nicholas Thomas	24 Krotiak	Co-Op	8/66
35. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Wells	193 Ash St.	Co-Op	8/66
36. John and Jessie Mae Robinson	48 Birch St.	Co-Op	8/66
37. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Mc Guire	3409 Western Ave	Co-Op	10/66
38. Mr. and Mrs. William J. Harris	180 Park Street	Co-Op	9/66
39. Homer and Bertha Dillard, Jr .	92 Norwood Blvd	Co-Op	9/ 66
40. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hamilton, Jr.	111B Fir Street	Rental Unit	10/66
41. Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Hammond	187 Birch	Co-Op	12/66
42. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wilson	253 Fir Street	Co-Op	12/66
43. Mr. and Mrs. William Walton	160 Elm	Co-Op	1/67
44. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Shackelford	2815 Western Ave.	Co-Op	12/66
45. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Foster	79 Cedar St	Co-Op	2/67.
46. Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Moore	92B Dogwood	Co-Op	3/67
47. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brooks	33 Krotiak Road	Co-Op	6/67
48. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Walls	20 McGarity Road	Rental Unit (2 nd)	6/67
49. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson	14 Ash Street	Co-Op	6/67
50. Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Clayton Bomer	3011 Western Avenue	Co-Op	7/67
51. Mr. and Mrs. James Stevens	68 Birch St	Co-Op	7/67
52. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Morgan	15 Cedar St.	Co-Op	7/67

⁶ Moved 4/66

53. Mr. and Mrs. William Malloy	366 Dogwood	Co-Op	8/67
54. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brooks	455 Dogwood	Co-Op	9/67
55. Ms. Pamela Thompson (Teacher Dist 163)	228A Dogwood	Co-Op	8/67
56. Charles George	103 Elm St	Co-Op	9/67
57. Ms. W.E. Martin and Daughter Vivian	35 Elm St	Co-Op	9/67
58. Mr and Ms. Jerome C. Cater, Jr.	3414 Western Ave.	Rental	9/67
59. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Simpson	393 Dogwood	Co-Op	9/67
60. Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Collins	310 Lakewood	Co-Op	9/67
61. Mr. and Mrs. Byron Weston	313 Fir	Co-Op	10/67
62. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carothers	269 Juniper	Co-Op	10/67
63. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Donald Jr. 10/67	122 Elm	Co-Op	
64. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Freeman 10/67	133 Birch	Co-Op	
65. Mr. and Mrs. David Bryant 10/67	278 Lakewood Blvd	Co-Op	
66. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson	268 Dogwood	Co-Op	11/67
67. Sgt. and Mrs. Ed Gentry	3208 Western	Rental	1/68
68. Mr. and Mrs. Adam Russell 1/98	59 Ash St	Co-Op	
69. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Alelxander	30 Ash St.	Co-Op	1/98
70. Dr. L. V. Fennoy	210 Ash Street	Co-Op	2/98
71. Wyman and Clarence Conner 3/98	76 Ash St.	Co-Op	
72. Dr. and Mrs. Hubert Duvivier ⁷	142 Ash	Co-Op	3/68
73. Ms. Bernice Means 4/68	243 Krotiak Road	Co-Op	
74. Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Scott Lee	318 Ash	Co-Op	4/68

⁷ French, wife white

May 26, 1964

MEMO TO: COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
FROM: ROBERT A. DINERSTEIN
SUBJECT: 164 PARK STREET

A co-op unit at 164 Park Street has been approved for occupancy by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Lanum. Mr. Lanum, age 25, is presently employed by the International Harvester Company where he is the first Negro in a special personnel training program. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, with a B.S. in Industrial Design, and is currently working on a B.S. in Engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology. He served six months in the Army and is continuing his military service in the Army Reserve.

Anna is also a graduate of Southern Illinois, with a degree in Education. She is a teacher for Illinois School District 130, Blue Island, and previously taught in the elementary schools for two years in Bloomington, Illinois.

The Lanums have no children at present; they have been married for about two years. They are natives of southern Illinois and not members of any organizations in Chicago, where they currently live. Mr. Lanum mentioned at work that they were interested in improved housing, and a fellow trainee who resides in the Park Forest cooperatives suggested that the Lanums consider that location. Mrs. Lanum's principal is a Park Forest resident, and it was only after they had selected a unit that they learned about the history of Park Forest and the several move-ins that have occurred. The Lanums are Methodists.

The move-in is tentatively planned for this weekend and our preferred date for neighborhood calling is Thursday evening. I will be in touch with you.

The Lanums will be the 12th Negro family to acquire property, the 11th in residence in Park Forest.

RAD:hco

cc: President and Board
H. X. Dietch
Chief Hamby
R. G. Pierce

July 22, 1964

MEMO TO: COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
FROM: ROBERT A. DINERSTEIN
SUBJECT: 95 ELM STREET

Following Mr. Tollefson's report of Father Reading's telephone message, Mrs. Baeuerlen and I met with about a dozen residents of the Court at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Billburg, 67 Elm Street, on the evening of July 21. We had intended to call on individual families but found that a meeting had been arranged by Mr. Billburg.

We explained the policy of the Village Government and the history of minority residence in Park Forest because many of those present are new residents. The principal question in most minds was how many additional Negro families might move into the Court where there are now two vacancies. We explained what our objectives are in seeking dispersal of Negro families and our understanding that the Co-op organizations will aid us in this program. That answer disposed of most of the concern, except for that of Mr. and Mrs. Billburg who are strongly prejudiced, reportedly because of bad experiences in Chicago.

The treasurer of the Co-op was also present and he assured the group that the breakdown in communications that occurred in connection with this move-in would not be repeated. He revealed that the Co-op Board has not acted on the Brown's application. This is not an unusual situation, because newcomers are often allowed to take occupancy in advance of formal approval. I pointed out to him that we have previously urged the Co-op organizations to avoid this in the case of Negro families so as to eliminate the possibility of having to move one out because of failure to meet their credit requirements.

Several times during our meeting those present expressed regret that the Commission had not made calls in the Court in advance of the move-in. Because the residents were entirely unprepared, there was a spontaneous display of emotions which has resulted in the Court being badly divided between those who expressed opposition and those who either approved or took no position. Even the Billburgs felt that had we made our calls in advance this division would not have occurred, and although they would still be unhappy there would have been no exchange of differences between the residents.

It appears to us that this is a clear-cut demonstration of the need for continued neighborhood calls.

RAD:hco

cc: President and Board of Trustees
Henry X. Dietch
Robert G. Pierce
Chief Hamby
W. G. Tollefson

March 9, 1965

MEMO TO: COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
FROM: ROBERT A. DINERSTEIN
SUBJECT: 118 BIRCH STREET

Memo 7-1-65

A Co-op unit at 118 Birch Street has been approved for occupancy by Mrs. Ida M. Curtis. Mrs. Curtis, 32, is divorced from her husband who lives in Cincinnati. Mrs. Curtis has been employed by the Foundation for Co-operative Housing for the past five years and is presently coordinator of sales and community relations at the London Town House project, 101st and Cottage Grove. Her previous assignment was in Detroit. Mrs. Curtis studied business administration at the University of Cincinnati and hopes to complete her college training in the future.

Mrs. Curtis has two daughters: Ivy, age 17, is a high school senior living in Cincinnati and will enter Howard University next September as a pre-medical student; Debra, age 16, is a sophomore and will attend Rich East.

The Curtises have always lived in integrated communities and attended integrated schools. Debra is aware of the fact that she will be the first Negro student at Rich East. Mrs. Curtis is a Baptist and her daughters have been pursuing their own paths in the matter of religious affiliation. Ivy joined the Episcopal Church and Debra has been considering Catholicism.

The Curtises will be the thirtieth Negro family residing in Park Forest, the fourteenth in the multiple family area.

RAD:hco

cc: President and Board of Trustees
Henry X. Dietch
R. G. Pierce
Chief Hamby
Coordinating Council

Village of Park Forest

PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS 60466

TELEPHONE Pilgrim 8-1112

PRESIDENT

Bernard G. Cunningham

TRUSTEES

Lynn G. Brenne
Leo H. Jacobson

J. Ron McLeod
Shirley Mellecker

CLERK

Helen H. Karl

Mayer Singerman
Quentin H. Wood

VILLAGE MANAGER

Robert G. Pierce

January 11, 1968

TO ALL PARK FOREST REALTORS:

Gentlemen:

The Park Forest Commission on Human Relations completed a report to the President and Board of Trustees on "An Ordinance to Prohibit Discrimination in Housing."

One of the Commission's recommendations was the preparation of some changes in the Park Forest Code of Ordinances to assure that housing both for sale and for rent would be available on a non-discriminatory basis.

The basic objectives of such an ordinance are outlined in the enclosed draft of the proposed ordinance, which will be considered by the President and Board of Trustees at Second Reading on Monday, January 22.

Because the Second Reading is the time for fixing the final language of the ordinance, we wish to solicit your comments in advance of that meeting.

Already, for example, several brokers have suggested that the real estate broker representative who will be appointed to the Park Forest Commission on Human Relations be either a broker-owner, broker-partner, or broker-principal of the corporation in which he is the manager-broker. To facilitate handling of your suggestions, we would appreciate your reply in writing, prior to January 19.

Currently, there are 101 Negro families in the village - 41 in single-family housing, and 60 in the cooperative and rental areas of the village. While some of the Negro families have acquired single-family houses through brokers, most of them have acquired housing either as a result of a foreclosure or as the result of the Federal Executive Order which banned discrimination in FHA financed projects after November, 1962.

The Commission noted in its report that 32 FHA or VA foreclosures have been acquired in Park Forest by Negro families, and during the same period at least 78 foreclosures were acquired by white purchasers.

They also noted that while 64 Negro families have moved into cooperative units which are subject to the non-discriminatory requirement, only one Negro family has subsequently moved from the cooperatives into single-family housing. This is to be contrasted with the usual migration from the cooperative-rental units into single-family housing which has been taking place since the construction of the first single-family housing in 1951.

Both the Board of Trustees and the Commission on Human Relations continue to be concerned about clustering. Your cooperation in this area continues to be appreciated.

If you have any questions, or if you wish further explanation, please do not hesitate to call upon anyone in the Village Government.

Very truly yours,

B. G. Cunningham
Village President

BGC:hco
Enc.

FEDERAL LAWS AFFECTING HOUSING

- In 1963 President John F. Kennedy issued an Executive Order to affirmatively market VA and FHA foreclosures
- 1964 Civil Rights Act
- 1968 Park Forest Fair Housing Ordinance

FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

NOTE: Section 1-7 of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Park Forest states as follows:

General penalty for violation of Code; continuing violations.

Whenever in this Code or in any ordinance of the village any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense, or whenever in such Code or ordinance the doing of any act is required or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful, where no other specific penalty is provided therefor, the violation of any such provision of this Code or any ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for any one offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 649
An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois, by Adding Article XII, Chapter 2, Deleting Article IX, Chapter 19 and Adding Chapter 24½.

BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois, that the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois, be amended as follows:

I. The Code of Ordinances, Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois, is hereby amended by:

A. Adding the following Article XII, Chapter 2:

Section 2-257

There is hereby created a Commission on Human Relations consisting of nine (9) members, residents of the Village, who shall each serve for terms of three (3) years; at least one of said members shall be an attorney and at least one of said members shall be a licensed real estate broker who is a member of the local Real Estate Board and whose Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be annually designated by the President and Board of Trustees. The terms of office for the initial appointments shall be: three (3) members for three (3) years; three (3) members for two (2) years; and three (3) members for one (1) year.

Section 2-258.

Duties of the Commission on Human Relations.

(a) The Commission shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose and provisions of this Article and Chapter 24½.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Commission to advise and make reports and recommendations on such matters to the Board and to assist the Village government in such other human relation affairs as may arise from time to time.

(c) Receive, record and investigate complaints charging any unlawful discriminatory practices.

(d) The Commission shall seek conciliation of parties involved in such complaints by conferences, hold public hearings where necessary, make findings of fact, issue recommendations, and publish its findings of fact and recommendations in accordance with the provisions of this Article and Chapter 24½.

(e) An annual report shall be made to the Board concerning the enforcement of this Article, including recommendations relating thereto.

B. Deleting Article IX, Chapter 19 in its entirety and renumber Article X and Article XI as Article IX and Article X, respectively.

C. Add the following Chapter 24½:

CHAPTER 24½. Regulating and Licensing Real Estate Brokers and Prohibiting Discrimination in Real Estate Transactions.

Article I. In General

Sec. 24½-1. Definitions.

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning respectively assigned to them:

Commission means the Commission on Human Relations of the Village.

Lease includes sub-lease, assignment, and rent (or rental), and includes any contract to do any of the foregoing.

Lending institution means any bank, insurance company, savings and loan association, other person in the business of lending money or guaranteeing loans, any person in the business of obtaining, arranging or negotiating loans or guarantees as agent or broker, and any person in the business of buying or selling loans or instruments for the payment of money which are secured by title to or a security interest in real property, but shall not include any religious institution or organization nor any charitable or educational organization operated, supervised or controlled by a religious institution or organization.

National Origin includes national origin and ancestors.

Owner means any person who holds legal or equitable title to, or owns any beneficial interest in, any real property or who holds legal or equitable title to shares of, or holds any beneficial interest in, any real estate cooperative which owns any real property.

Purchase includes any contract to purchase.

Real Estate Broker means any person who for a consideration sells or offers for sale, buys or offers to buy, or negotiates the purchase or sale or exchange of real property, or who leases, or offers to lease, or rents or offers for rent, any real property, or negotiates leases thereof, or of the improvements therein for another or others, or who employs any person as a real estate salesman to perform any of the above acts.

Real Estate Salesman means any person licensed as a real estate salesman in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 114½ of the Illinois Revised Statutes, or required thereby to be so licensed.

Real Estate Transaction means the purchase, sale, exchange or lease of any real property and an option to do any of the foregoing.

Sale includes any contract to sell, exchange or to convey, transfer or assign legal or equitable title to or beneficial interest in real property.

Article II. Real Estate Broker

Sec. 24½-2. License Required.

(a) It shall be unlawful to carry on the business of real estate broker, directly or indirectly, in the village without first having obtained a village real estate broker's license, or to violate the terms of any such license, when so granted.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any real estate broker to erect or maintain any sign on any real estate without first having obtained a village real estate bro-

ker's license.

Section 24½-3. Application.

Applications for such licenses shall be made to the Village Clerk in writing, signed by the applicant if an individual, and signed by all the partners of a partnership, or by a duly authorized officer thereof if a corporation, verified by oath or affidavit, and shall contain the information required by this chapter, and such other information as may be required by the Board in their discretion after said application has been submitted to the Village Clerk.

Sec. 24½-4. Revocation.

The President shall have the power to revoke all licenses issued under this article, whenever a licensee, directly or indirectly, shall be guilty of:

(a) Making any substantial misrepresentation, or engaging in untruthful advertising, or

(b) Making any false promises of a character likely to influence, persuade, or induce action contrary to the best interest of the village and preservation of property values in the village, or

(c) Pursuing a continued and flagrant course of misrepresentation or the making of false promises through agents or salesmen or advertising or otherwise, or

(d) Any misleading or untruthful advertising, or using any trade name or insignia of membership in any real estate organization of which the licensee is not a member, or

(e) Acting for more than one party in a transaction without the knowledge of all parties for whom he acts, or

(f) Failure to furnish copies upon request of all documents relating to a real estate transaction to all parties executing the same, or

(g) Paying a commission or valuable consideration to any person for acts or services performed in violation of this article, or

(h) Having demonstrated unworthiness or incompetency to act as a real estate broker in such manner as to endanger the interests of the public, or

(i) Employing any person as a salesman on a purely temporary or single deal basis as a means of evading the law regarding payment of commissions or any of the provisions of this Chapter, or

(j) Displaying a "for rent" or "for sale" sign on any property without the written consent of an owner or his duly authorized agent, or advertising that any property is for sale or for rent in a newspaper or other publication without the consent of the owner or his authorized agent, or

(k) Failing, within a reasonable time, to provide information requested by the President as a result of a formal or informal complaint to the village, which would indicate a violation of this Chapter, or

(l) Being found by the Commission or a Court of competent jurisdiction to have acted in a discriminatory manner in real estate transactions contrary to the provisions of this Chapter, or

(m) Disregarding or violating any applicable provision of this Code, or

(n) Any other conduct, whether of the same or a different character from that hereinbefore specified which constitutes dishonest dealing.

Article III.

Prohibiting Discrimination Sec. 24½-16.

Discrimination Prohibited.

No owner, lessee, or sub-lessee of real property, real estate broker or salesman, lender, financial institution, advertiser, or agent of any of the foregoing, shall discriminate against any other person because of the religion, race, color or national origin of such other person or because of the religion, race, color, or national origin of the friends or associates of such other person, in regard to the sale or rental of, or dealings concerning real property. Any such discrimination shall be considered an unfair real estate practice. Without limiting the foregoing, it shall also be an unfair real estate practice and unlawful for any real estate broker or other person to:

(a) Publish or circulate, or cause to be published or circulated, any notice, statement or advertisement, or to announce a policy, or to use any form of application for the purchase, lease, rental or financing of real property, or to make any record or inquiry in connection with the prospective purchase, rental or lease of real property, which expresses directly or indirectly any limitation, specification or discrimination, or any intent to make any such limitation, specification or discrimination.

(b) Deceive, or overcharge any person for real property in the village, or to make any distinction, discrimination or restriction against any person as to the conditions or privileges of any kind relating to the sale, rental, lease or occupancy of real property.

(c) Discriminate or to participate in discrimination in connection with borrowing or lending money, guaranteeing loans, accepting mortgages or otherwise obtaining or making available funds for the purchase, acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repairs or maintenance of any real property in the village.

(d) Solicit or to enter into an agreement for the sale, lease or listing for sale or lease, of any real property within the village on ground of loss of value due to the present or prospective entry into any neighborhood of any person or persons of any particular race, color, religion or national origin or ancestry.

(e) Distribute or cause to be distributed, written material or statements designed to induce any owner of any real property in the village to sell or lease his or her real property because of any present or prospective change in the race, religion, color or national origin or ancestry of persons in the neighborhood.

(f) Make any misrepresentations concerning the listing for sale or the anticipated listing for sale or the sale of any real property for the purpose of inducing or attempting to induce the sale or listing for sale of any real property by representing that the presence or anticipated presence of persons of any particular race, religion, or national origin in the area will or may result in the lowering of real property values in the block, neighborhood or area in which the property is located.

(g) Refuse to sell or rent real property because of race, color, religion or national origin.

(h) Refuse to show to any person who has specified his needs, and affirmed his ability to finance the purchase or lease of real property, the list or other records identifying all real properties reasonably meeting such specifications.

Section 24½-17. Limitation.

(a) This Chapter shall not apply to the rental of any room in any owner-occupied single-family dwelling.

(b) Nothing in this Chapter shall require an owner to offer for sale or lease real property to the public at large, nor shall this Chapter be deemed to prohibit discrimination for any reason other than religion, race, color, or national origin that may otherwise be legal.

(c) Nothing in this chapter shall require a broker or owner to offer real property for sale or lease or to show real property to any person if such person is not negotiating for the purchase or lease of such real property in good faith.

Section 24½-18.

Complaints and Enforcement.

(a) Any person aggrieved in any manner by a violation of any provision of this Chapter may file with the Commission a written verified complaint setting forth his grievance. The complaint shall state (1) the name and address of the complainant (2) the name and address of the person against whom the complaint is brought, if known to the complainant and (3) the facts surrounding the alleged violation of this Chapter. Such complaint shall state the name and address of all persons believed to have knowledge concerning the alleged violation. The Commission shall provide a printed form of complaint for the use of aggrieved persons.

(b) The complaint shall be accompanied by a filing fee of \$25.00, which shall be deposited with the Village Treasurer. If, in accordance with the procedures hereinafter set forth, the Commission shall determine that probably cause exists for the complaint, or if the alleged violation or complaint is eliminated by conference, conciliation or persuasion, or if any of the charges alleged in the complaint are sustained, the Village Treasurer, upon recommendation of the Commission, shall return the filing fee to the complainant. If it is determined that probable cause does not exist for the complaint, or the charges alleged in the complaint are not sustained, the filing fee shall be retained.

(c) After the filing of the complaint, the Commission shall serve a copy of the complaint, by certified mail, on the party or parties charged and the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Commission shall designate a Panel of at least three Commission members to make a prompt investigation in connection therewith.

(d) If such Panel shall determine after such investigation that probable cause exists for the allegations of the complaint,

(1) The Panel shall set a date for a conference, and notify the parties thereof by certified mail; and

(2) At such conference, the Panel or any member thereof shall interview the complainant and the person or persons against whom the complaint has been directed and shall attempt to resolve the complaint by all proper methods of conciliation and persuasion.

If, at any time within thirty (30) days after the date of filing of the complaint, such Panel shall determine that such attempts at conciliation would not be in furtherance of the objectives of this Chapter, the Panel shall so notify the Commission and the Commission shall thereupon proceed promptly to a full hearing of the complaint, in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. Under any circumstances the Panel shall make its determination not later than thirty (30) days after the date of the filing of the complaint.

Section 24½-19.

Hearings by Commission.

(a) Such hearing shall be con-

ducted by the Commission, upon notice by certified mail to all parties. The Commission shall provide a qualified court reporter to reduce the hearing to writing. The Commission shall have power to administer oaths and take sworn testimony. All parties named in the complaint shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and shall have the right to call witnesses on their own behalf and to cross-examine witnesses.

(b) At the conclusion of such hearing, the Commission shall render to the Board a written report with findings and recommendations, which shall also be served by certified mail upon the complainant and the party or parties charged. If there is to be further action, the Commission shall provide a transcript of the hearing to the Board. No report shall be delayed more than thirty (30) days after the date of the first issuance of notice for commencement of a hearing.

Section 24½-20. Enforcement.

(a) Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Commission's report and recommendations, the Board may issue a cease and desist order or direct the Village Prosecutor or Village Attorney to do any one or more of the following, as shall be necessary for the enforcement of this Chapter:

(1) To institute and prosecute proceedings to enforce, against any person found in violation of this Chapter, the fine provided for in this Code.

(2) To apply to any court of competent jurisdiction.

(3) To issue a restraining order against any person found in violation of this Chapter.

(4) For such other or further relief as may seem to the court appropriate for the enforcement of this Chapter and the elimination of violations thereof.

(5) In the case of any violation of this Chapter by any person in the course of performing under a contract or sub-contract with the State or any political subdivision or agency thereof, or with the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, to notify by certified mail such contracting agency for the purpose of causing it to terminate such contract or any portion thereof, either absolutely or on condition of compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(b) The Commission shall be empowered at the conclusion of the proceedings held under this Chapter to recommend to the President the revocation, suspension or refusal to renew the real estate broker's license issued by him of any person holding such license who is found guilty of the discriminatory practices prohibited by this Code and to notify by certified mail the Department of Registration and Education for the purpose of causing the Department to revoke, suspend or refuse to renew the license granted by such Department to any real estate broker or real estate salesman found to have violated any provision of this Chapter.

Section 24½-21. Limitation of

Time to File Complaints.

Any complaint shall be barred from consideration unless it is filed with the Commission within thirty (30) days after the alleged discriminatory practice occurred.

II. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication, according to law.

APPROVED:

[s] Bernard G. Cunningham,
Village President

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopted: 1-29-68

Approved: 1-29-68

Published: 2-1-68

ATTEST:

[s] Helen H. Karl,

Village Clerk

(Reprinted from the February 1, 1968 issue of the Park Forest Star.)

(m) Disregarding or violating any applicable provision of this Code, or
(n) Any other conduct, whether of the same or a different character from that hereinbefore specified which constitutes dishonest dealing.

**Article III.
Prohibiting Discrimination
Sec. 24½-16.
Discrimination Prohibited.**

No owner, lessee, or sub-lessee of real property, real estate broker or salesman, lender, financial institution, advertiser, or agent of any of the foregoing, shall discriminate against any other person because of the religion, race, color or national origin of such other person or because of the religion, race, color, or national origin of the friends or associates of such other person, in regard to the sale or rental of, or dealings concerning real property. Any such discrimination shall be considered an unfair real estate practice. Without limiting the foregoing, it shall also be an unfair real estate practice and unlawful for any real estate broker or other person to:

(a) Publish or circulate, or cause to be published or circulated, any notice, statement or advertisement, or to announce a policy, or to use any form of application for the purchase, lease, rental or financing of real property, or to make any record or inquiry in connection with the prospective purchase, rental or lease of real property, which expresses directly or indirectly any limitation, specification or discrimination, or any intent to make any such limitation, specification or discrimination.

(b) Deceive, or overcharge any person for real property in the village, or to make any distinction, discrimination or restriction against any person as to the conditions or privileges of any kind relating to the sale, rental, lease or occupancy of real property.

(c) Discriminate or to participate in discrimination in connection with borrowing or lending money, guaranteeing loans, accepting mortgages or otherwise obtaining or making available funds for the purchase, acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repairs or maintenance of any real property in the village.

(d) Solicit or to enter into an agreement for the sale, lease or listing for sale or lease, of any real property within the village on ground of loss of value due to the present or prospective entry into any neighborhood of any person or persons of any particular race, color, religion or national origin or ancestry.

(e) Distribute or cause to be distributed, written material or statements designed to induce any owner of any real property in the village to sell or lease his or her real property because of any present or prospective change in the race, religion, color or national origin or ancestry of persons in the neighborhood.

(f) Make any misrepresentations concerning the listing for sale or the anticipated listing for sale or the sale of any real property for the purpose of inducing or attempting to induce the sale or listing for sale of any real property by representing that the presence or anticipated presence of persons of any particular race, religion, or national origin in the area will or may result in the lowering of real property values in the block, neighborhood or area in which the property is located.

(g) Refuse to sell or rent real property because of race, color, religion or national origin.

(h) Refuse to show to any person who has specified his needs, and affirmed his ability to finance the purchase or lease of real property, the list or other records identifying all real properties reasonably meeting such specifications.

Section 24½-17. Limitation.

(a) This Chapter shall not apply to the rental of any room in any owner-occupied single-family dwelling.

(b) Nothing in this Chapter shall require an owner to offer for sale or lease real property to the public at large, nor shall this Chapter be deemed to prohibit discrimination for any reason other than religion, race, color, or national origin that may otherwise be legal.

(c) Nothing in this chapter shall require a broker or owner to offer real property for sale or lease or to show real property to any person if such person is not negotiating for the purchase or lease of such real property in good faith.

**Section 24½-18.
Complaints and Enforcement.**

(a) Any person aggrieved in any manner by a violation of any provision of this Chapter may file with the Commission a written verified complaint setting forth his grievance. The complaint shall state (1) the name and address of the complainant (2) the name and address of the person against whom the complaint is brought, if known to the complainant and (3) the facts surrounding the alleged violation of this Chapter. Such complaint shall state the name and address of all persons believed to have knowledge concerning the alleged violation. The Commission shall provide a printed form of complaint for the use of aggrieved persons.

(b) The complaint shall be accompanied by a filing fee of \$25.00, which shall be deposited with the Village Treasurer. If, in accordance with the procedures hereinafter set forth, the Commission shall determine that probably cause exists for the complaint, or if the alleged violation or complaint is eliminated by conference, conciliation or persuasion, or if any of the charges alleged in the complaint are sustained, the Village Treasurer, upon recommendation of the Commission, shall return the filing fee to the complainant. If it is determined that probable cause does not exist for the complaint, or the charges alleged in the complaint are not sustained, the filing fee shall be retained.

(c) After the filing of the complaint, the Commission shall serve a copy of the complaint, by certified mail, on the party or parties charged and the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Commission shall designate a Panel of at least three Commission members to make a prompt investigation in connection therewith.

(d) If such Panel shall determine after such investigation that probable cause exists for the allegations of the complaint.

(1) The Panel shall set a date for a conference, and notify the parties thereof by certified mail; and

(2) At such conference, the Panel or any member thereof shall interview the complainant and the person or persons against whom the complaint has been directed and shall attempt to resolve the complaint by all proper methods of conciliation and persuasion.

If, at any time within thirty (30) days after the date of filing of the complaint, such Panel shall determine that such attempts at conciliation would not be in furtherance of the objectives of this Chapter, the Panel shall so notify the Commission and the Commission shall thereupon proceed promptly to a full hearing of the complaint, in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. Under any circumstances the Panel shall make its determination not later than thirty (30) days after the date of the filing of the complaint.

Section 24½-19.

Hearings by Commission.

(a) Such hearing shall be con-

ducted by the Commission, upon notice by certified mail to all parties. The Commission shall provide a qualified court reporter to reduce the hearing to writing. The Commission shall have power to administer oaths and take sworn testimony. All parties named in the complaint shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and shall have the right to call witnesses on their own behalf and to cross-examine witnesses.

(b) At the conclusion of such hearing, the Commission shall render to the Board a written report with findings and recommendations, which shall also be served by certified mail upon the complainant and the party or parties charged. If there is to be further action, the Commission shall provide a transcript of the hearing to the Board. No report shall be delayed more than thirty (30) days after the date of the first instance of notice for commencement of a hearing.

Section 24½-20. Enforcement.

(a) Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Commission's report and recommendations, the Board may issue a cease and desist order or direct the Village Prosecutor or Village Attorney to do any one or more of the following, as shall be necessary for the enforcement of this Chapter:

(1) To institute and prosecute proceedings to enforce, against any person found in violation of this Chapter, the fine provided for in this Code.

(2) To apply to any court of competent jurisdiction.

(3) For an order restraining any person from violating any provision of this Chapter.

(4) For such other or further relief as may seem to the court appropriate for the enforcement of this Chapter and the elimination of violations thereof.

(5) In the case of any violation of this Chapter by any person in the course of performing under a contract or sub-contract with the State or any political subdivision or agency thereof, or with the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, to notify by certified mail such contracting agency for the purpose of causing it to terminate such contract or any portion thereof, either absolutely or on condition of compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(b) The Commission shall be empowered at the conclusion of the proceedings held under this Chapter to recommend to the President the revocation, suspension or refusal to renew the real estate broker's license issued by him of any person holding such license who is found guilty of the discriminatory practices prohibited by this Code and to notify by certified mail the Department of Registration and Education for the purpose of causing the Department to revoke, suspend or refuse to renew the license granted by such Department to any real estate broker or real estate salesman found to have violated any provision of this Chapter.

Section 24½-21. Limitation of Time to File Complaints.

Any complaint shall be barred from consideration unless it is filed with the Commission within thirty (30) days after the alleged discriminatory practice occurred.

II. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication, according to law.

APPROVED:

[s] Bernard G. Cunningham,
Village President

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Adopted: 1-29-68

Approved: 1-29-68

Published: 2-1-68

ATTEST:

[s] Helen H. Karl,
Village Clerk

HELLO DR. WILSON

Integration Comes To Park Forest

*First Negro Family Quietly
Moved In Two Weeks Ago*

The "model" southern suburb of Park Forest ended its second week of integration without incident Saturday.

On Dec. 28, without fanfare, the first Negro family in the village's 10-year history moved into a home at 375 Wilshire.

The "move-in" came quietly as bitterness and vandalism flared in north suburban Deerfield, where integration is also sought.

WE'RE optimistic, now, that there is going to be no trouble here," said Robert Dinerstein, Park Forest village president.

"But I wouldn't pretend for one minute that everybody in Park Forest is happy about integration — because a lot of people aren't."

Village officials had no part in the sale of the home, he pointed out.

"However, under the constitution," he said, "the village government can have only one policy:

"To extend the full protection of the law to all citizens without discrimination — and you can bet that that's what we'll continue doing."

THE NEGRO family is that of Charles Wilson, an assistant professor of economics at De Paul University.

He and his wife have three pre-school age children.

They bought the three-bedroom home early in December from a former member of the village's Human Relations Commission whose job required that he move to Kalamazoo, Mich.

Wilson is a graduate of the University of Illinois, where he was awarded a doctorate in philosophy.

STATE REP. Anthony Scariano of Park Forest, who acted as attorney in the deal, said Wilson paid \$21,500 for the home.

"The buyer originally wanted \$25,000 for the home, and had advertised it for \$22,900," Scariano said.

"So you can see this wasn't a case of somebody paying an exorbitant price to 'break' an all-white suburb."

WILSON SAID he had wanted to move into Park Forest for some time "because it's the kind of place where I'd like to raise my kids."

"Our neighbors have been very kind to us," Wilson said.

"I am aware of the responsibility of my position here, and my family and I will try our very best to conduct ourselves so that everyone concerned will benefit."

SCARIANO said the most serious problem arising from the sale "are the wild rumors sweeping the village."

He said people were saying that the move was sponsored by the NAACP; that Wilson is a "professional block buster"; that there are "a dozen more Negro families about to move in."

"None of the rumors is true," Scariano stressed.

"Wilson is just an average guy who wanted a house."

POLICE Chief Milan Plavsic said there had been only one "near incident."

A handful of teen-agers "that the police had had trouble with before" showed up in front of the Wilson home New Year's Day.

Police in a cruising squad car saw them and took them down to the station. The youths admitted they planned to mark "KKK" (Klu Klux Klan) signs on the sidewalk, car and garage.

"We gave them a tongue-lashing and told them we meant business about protection for everybody," Plavsic said. "There has been no trouble since."

VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

STATEMENT BY VILLAGE PRESIDENT, ROBERT A. DINERSTEIN
JANUARY 12, 1960

Under the Constitutions of the United States and of the State of Illinois, the Park Forest Village Government must extend equal services and protection of the law to all citizens without any discrimination. We must maintain law and order. These must be our policies.

In the matter of a Negro family moving into the Village, we learned of the impending move from the seller of the home after the sale had taken place. We verified the report, and learned facts about the family. We advised the clergy so that they would be able to dispel rumors. We visited nearby neighbors to acquaint them with the facts and with the policies we must follow under the Constitution.

One of our objectives in these visits was to give facts to counter rumors. Another was to calm fears so that we would avoid panic selling of property with its resultant effect on property values. Since then we have also discussed these facts with many civic leaders in the community.

I am proud to be able to say that the neighborhood and the community have reacted to this news in an intelligent manner. Many people are not happy with the event, but all recognize that ours is a country of laws and that we must respect these laws if we are to maintain our form of government and our freedom.

The continued cooperation of the people of Park Forest will be required if we are to avoid the disasters that have befallen other communities under these circumstances. I have faith and confidence in the intelligence and understanding of our people, and in their determination to abide by the laws of our country.

RAD:kwa

The Family Buys a Home

On December 28, 1959, the suburb of Park Forest, Illinois, received its first Negro family when Charles Z. Wilson, an assistant professor at De Paul University, bought a \$21,000 ranch home and moved in with his family of five. It didn't happen that easily of course! Wilson attempted to buy or rent a home in Park Forest through regular channels but was rebuffed. Through personal contacts, however, he found a homeowner who wanted to sell and took over the mortgage. More fortunately, his move into this formerly all-white village occurred without fuss, bother, or violence while bitterness and vandalism flared in north suburban Deerfield where the selling of housing on an integrated basis was contemplated.

The Village Asserts Leadership

The quiet successful integration in Park Forest was accomplished through careful planning and community education. Village officials had expected a Negro would buy property there sooner or later and had laid plans for an orderly process,

The village board and the village Human Relations Commission visited homes explaining the situation to homeowners "not telling them what to think, just giving them all the facts about changing residential patterns." They felt that "most people don't want to act illegally" and respond in a democratic manner when they realize that: 1) there is no legal way to prevent change, 2) property values will not drop if homeowners stand firm and 3) "panic selling" is the real cause of sharp decline in property values.

In addition to its educational program, the Village Board immediately announced its intention to "extend the full protection of the law to all citizens without discrimination." This policy was evidenced by the forthright action of the police force in the only "near incident" that occurred. In this case, a handful of teenagers who congregated in front of the Wilson home were taken down to the station where the chief "gave them a tongue-lashing and told them we mean business about protection for everybody." There were no further incidents.

The Happy Ending: Human and Property Values Maintained

At present, the Wilson family leads a normal suburban life. Generally, the Wilsons are viewed as "just another neighbor." They are not overly active in community affairs. Mrs. W. is a member of the League of Women Voters and the PTA. Mr. W., often described as "too good a tennis player," participates in activities in which he has an interest, like the deliberations on a junior college for the community. The little W's are accepted not only by the kids next-door but have other friends in the neighborhood.

Property values? The houses around them are not for sale. Several homes in the neighborhood that were for sale at the time of the move-in were sold during the past year at the going rate. Some homeowners had threatened to deal with realtors who used "block busting" tactics to make a profit, but the Human Relations Commission (with approval of the Village Board) sought the cooperation of realtors who respected their desire to have stable prices. The threat was quickly smothered...property values are quite stable.

February 3, 1961

ILLINOIS COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RELATIONS
160 N. La Salle St.
Chicago, Illinois

List Suburb Homes Available To Negroes

A list of 60 homes available to Negro buyers in 33 predominantly white suburbs was issued Wednesday by the Chicago Urban League.

Edwin C. Berry, executive director of the league, said issuance of the list is the first step "in a public education campaign to inform Negroes of housing opportunities available on a nondiscriminatory basis in Chicago and its suburbs."

Wednesday's list covered only suburban areas and included homes at prices ranging from a high of \$44,000 in Evanston to \$12,200 in Park Forest.

Groups Co-operate

Berry said the Urban League is co-operating with HOME Inc., a nonprofit organization concerned with Negro housing opportunities, in providing the information.

Berry observed that the number of Negro homeowners has increased greatly in the last decade in Chicago. Also growing is the number of Negroes in

the middle class bracket, he said.

"These people can afford decent housing," Berry continued. "There is no reason why they should not have it."

Lists of housing available to Negroes in suburbs or all-white areas of Chicago will be distributed periodically to the press, to the Urban League Council of Religious Leaders and to Urban League members, Berry said.

Seek New Areas

The league is particularly interested in opening new housing areas to Negroes because of an unmet demand by middle-income Negroes for 15,000 homes and because of the decentralization of industry, Berry stated.

"If Negroes cannot move to the suburbs, they will face increasingly higher welfare and delinquency problems," Berry said.

He contended that 42 of 75 community areas in Chicago have "unwritten but highly visible policies of Negro exclusion, as do 104 of the 115

Cook County suburbs which ring the central city."

Many of the homes listed by the league now are owned by the Veterans Administration and the Federal Housing Administration.

The Urban League's list follows:

NORTH SUBURBS—Evanston, two homes at \$44,000 and \$34,500; Highland Park, four homes at \$36,000, \$32,000, \$30,500 and \$25,000; Northbrook, one at \$21,500; Skokie, three at \$37,500, \$25,000 and \$23,500; Wilmette, one at \$22,000.

NORTHWEST SUBURBS—Elk Grove Village, one at \$23,100; Hanover Park, two at \$16,700 and \$15,600; Hoffman Estates, eight at \$22,500, \$19,600, \$18,500, \$17,900, \$17,700, \$17,700, \$17,000 and \$16,200; Mount Prospect, one at \$23,000; Park Ridge, one at \$28,000; Rolling Meadows, one at \$14,500; Schaumburg, one at \$23,500.

WESTERN SUBURBS—Brookfield, one at \$23,500; Downers Grove, two at \$31,000 and \$16,500; Elmhurst,

one at \$20,900; Glen Ellyn, one at \$21,200; La Grange Park, one at \$27,500; Lisle, one at \$23,500; Lombard, two at \$18,500 and \$15,900; Naperville, one at \$30,000; Villa Park, one at \$23,000.

SOUTHWEST SUBURBS—Alsip, one at \$17,500; Arbury Hills, four at \$17,200, \$15,650, \$14,500 and \$12,350; Blue Island one at \$14,800; Orland Park, one at \$21,000; Orland Park Gardens, four at \$17,700, \$17,700, \$17,300 and \$16,200; Tinley Park, two at \$17,500 and \$14,400.

SOUTH SUBURBS—Chicago Heights one at \$38,000; Country Club Hills, three at \$24,900, \$14,000 and \$13,900; Crete, one at \$25,500; Dolton, five at \$20,000, \$17,000, \$14,700, \$14,000 and \$13,500; Park Forrest, eight at \$21,500, \$20,800, \$18,700, \$17,500, \$15,500, \$15,500, \$13,300, and \$12,200; Sauk Village, three at \$14,700, \$13,900, and \$13,900.

Suburb Racial Picture
The Urban League said the following is the present white-nonwhite population situation in the suburbs. Total popula-

tion is shown first, with non-white total following:

Evanston 79,283—9,544; Highland Park 25,532—553; Northbrook 11,635—36; Skokie 59,364—271; Wilmette 13,368—273.

Elk Grove Village 6,608—2; Hanover Park 451—none; Hoffman Estates 8,296—13; Mount Prospect 18,906—30; Park Ridge 32,659—36; Rolling Meadows 10,874—14; Schaumburg 986—none.

Brookfield 20,429—30; Downers Grove 21,154—56; Elmhurst 16,991—63; Glen

Ellyn 15,972—82; La Grange Park 13,793—8; Lisle 4,219—1; Lombard 22,561—24; Naperville 12,933—29; Villa Park 20,391—31.

Alsip 3,770—42; Arbury Hills (no figures available); Blue Island 17,622—323; Orland Park 2,592—7; Orland Park Gardens (no figures available); Tinley Park 6,392—4.

Chicago Heights 34,331—6,564; Country Club Hills 3,421—1; Crete 3,463—none; Dolton 18,746—16; Park Forest 29,993—192; Sauk Village 4,687—15.

**Instructions to Village Employees
For Answering Questions With Respect to Local
Residence of Members of the Negro Race**

These instructions have been issued with the approval of the Village President and every member of the Board of Trustees:

The Constitution of the United States and of the State of Illinois establish that there can be no question as to the policy of the Village Government in the event that a Negro family should make its home in Park Forest. However, in view of the questions sometimes addressed to Village personnel by individuals who are disturbed by rumors they have heard, this short statement has been prepared as a guide in replying to these inquiries.

It is probable that a variety of opinions on this subject are held by the individuals who make up the staff of the Village Government. It is important to remember that as public servants, it is absolutely necessary to support the policy of the Village Government even though it may not conform entirely with personal opinions.

The Village Government must extend equal services and protection of the law to all its citizens without any discrimination between them. The Village Government neither encourages nor discourages the residence in the Village of members of the Negro race. However, the Village Government carefully investigates all information which reaches it, so that preparations can be made to avoid any undesirable incidents. In the event that a Negro family should make its home in Park Forest, the Village Government will assure that family the same protection of the law that is afforded to any other resident or property owner in the Village.

July 27, 1959
Park Forest, Illinois

FIRST PARK FOREST AFRICAN-AMERICAN HOMEOWNERS

- Dec 1959 – Dr. and Mrs. Wilson
- Dec 1962 – Mr. and Mrs. T. Robbins
- Aug 1963 – Mr. and Mrs. Allen Glen
- Sep 1963 – Mr. William Taylor
- Sep 1963 – Dr. and Mrs. William Jackson
- Sep 1963 – Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hayes
- Oct 1963 – Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Robinson
- Oct 1963 – Mr. and Mrs. William Henderson
- Dec 1963 – Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Davis
- Dec 1963 – Mr. and Mrs. William Simpson

Park Forest Pioneer African-American Home Owners *

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1. Dr. and Mrs. Charles Wilson		House	1959
2. Mr. and Mrs. Terry Robbins	273 Blackhawk	House	12/62
3. Mr. and Mrs. Allen Glen	429 Shabbona	House	8/63
4. Dr. and Ms. William Jackson	124 Monee Rd	House	9/63
5. Harold and Joyce Hayes	172 Nauvoo St	House	9/63
6. Mr. and Ms. Alonzo Davis	339 Niagara Street	House	12/63
7. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Robinson	115 Hay Street	House	10/63
8. William (Virginia) Henderson	157 Algonquin St.	House	10/63
9. William and Juanita Simpson	403 Wilshire	House	12/63
10. Mr. and Mrs. Percy Williams	116 Sauk Trail	House	6/64
11. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McKinney	146 Iroquois St.	House	7/64
12. Mr. and Mrs. Urlin L. Clark (Lenore)	403 Todd	House	8/64
13. Mr and Mrs. Willie Davis	22 Sauk Trail	House	8/64
14. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ross	444 Shabonna	House	11/64
15. Mr. and Mrs. David Fosset	403 Shabonna	House	11/64
16. Calvin and Ineasie Lacefield	432 Neosho Street	House	7/65
17. Mr. and Mrs. John Hannah	8 Allegheny Court	House	7/65
18. Mr. and Mrs. James Phelums ¹	331 Waldmann Dr.	House	10/65
19. Hayward and Effie McKerson	362 Sauk Trail	House	10/65
20. Frank and Clementine Irions ²	517 Illinois ³ .	House	1/66
21. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Flemings ⁴	322 Shawnee St.	House	2/66
22. Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hicks	332 Mohawk St	House	2/66
23. Mr. and Mrs. William Rice	320 Indianwood Blvd	House	3/66
24. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Clark	205 Orchard Drive	House	3/66

¹ 7 children daughter of the Fosset's e

² 8 children in family

³ 1st new home sold to Negro Family by developer Park Forest Homes.

⁴ Left in 6/66 - to New York

AP

Park Forest Pioneer African-American Home Owners *

2

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
25. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Johnson	495 Talala Street	House	4/66
26. Mr. and Mrs. Sampson Rice	312 Windsor Street	House	5/66
27. Henry Jr. and Debby (Brown) Bickham,	121 Peach Street	House	6/66
28. Mr. and Mrs. John Hart	322 Shawnee Street	House	6/66
29. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Norris	314 Somonauk	House	7/66
30. Mr. and Mrs (w). Shelby Steele	565 Homan Ave.	House	8/66
31. Leroy and Karen (w) Blackful, Jr.	313 Sauk Trail	House	8/66
32. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Murray	437 Indianwood	House	11/66
33. Anna and Robert (w) Taylor	508 Chase	House	9/66
34. Thomas and Agnes Augustine	215 Lee St.	House	3/67
35. Mr. and Mrs.(w) Jonas Holmes	245 Indianwood	House	5/67
36. Cap and Mossie Wallace (retired couple)	229 Alleganey	House	8/67
37. Mr. and Ms. Emuris Eley	173 Nauvoo St	House	9/67
38. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Roberts	180 Nanti Street	House	9/67
39. Mr. and Ms. Robert Thayer	245 Sauk Trail	House	9/67
40. Mr. and Mrs. Archie Holmes	176 Nanti Street ⁵	House	9/67
41. Mr. and Mrs. Lucky Anderson	328 Minocqua St.	House	11/97
42. Dr. and Mrs. Theodore Hunter	86 Water Street	House	2/68
43. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lanum	465 Talaia	House	2/68
44. Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Ray	284 Mowhawk Street	House	3/68
45. Mr. and Mrs. James A. Jackson	115 Algonquin Street	House	4/68
46. Mr. and Mrs. Homer Dillard, Jr.	401 Neolsha St.	House	4/98

⁵ Concern regarding clustering - attempted to interest family in another location

November 16, 1962

MEMO TO: President and Board of Trustees
FROM: Robert A. Dinerstein
SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation With Mr. Robbins Concerning 273 Blackhawk Drive

I held a lengthy conversation with Mr. Terry L. Robbins at his place of employment, NALCO Chemical Company, and learned the following:

(1) Mr. Robbins is waiting for Veterans Administration to complete a "careful credit check." He does not know how long this will take, and understands that during this period the Veterans Administration holds the listing open for higher bids. After he receives Veterans Administration's approval, it will be several weeks before he would be able to move. He is now renting and would want to recover a security deposit.

(2) I emphasized the importance of his advising Chief Hamby and me of his plans. He assured me that he would be able to advise us several weeks in advance of a moving date.

(3) He and his wife are active members of the Emerald Avenue Presbyterian Church in Chicago. He had planned on remaining active in that church because "the neighborhood is changing" and he wants to help continue it as an integrated church. I recommended that he contact the Minister of a Park Forest Church and mentioned Grace United Protestant Church because of the location of the house.

(4) I asked Mr. Robbins if he had any plans to alter the house. He said his wife does not like the color of the exterior, but he was not sure whether he would make any changes until Spring.

(5) He has met some people from the "neighborhood" one from Sangamon Street, and one from a block or so away on Blackhawk Drive. A NALCO employee, Sheldon M. Kleinman, lives on Sangamon Court.

(6) Mr. Robbins is not affiliated with the NAACP or any other similar organization.

(7) The Robbins children are ages 7 (Grade 2) and 8 (Grade 3) both at Parker Elementary School.

(8) I asked Mr. Robbins about the history of seeking housing in Park Forest and the following is his report:

November 16, 1962

2.

About September 15, he visited the Rental Office and spoke with Mr. Rashkin and made application for a rental unit including a check. Later he received a telephone call from Mr. Rashkin who advised him that they were unable to entertain his application. He subsequently received a blank sheet of paper in the mail with his check attached.

About November 1, he visited the Co-op Office where he was told by Mr. Engelhart to withhold making application until after December 15 at which time the Co-op Organization would be in control.

Mr. Robbins is active in a senior high school youth program in his church. Through this activity he met a Joe Sample who is a member of Mayor Daley's Youth Commission. He reported the above two incidents to Mr. Sample, who referred him to Harry Teshima, who Mr. Sample knew in Park Forest. Mr. Robbins called on Mr. Teshima who asked him if he had considered purchasing a home in Park Forest and drove him around the Community. Mr. Robbins considered at least one other house in Park Forest, but it was located on Western Avenue which he felt was too exposed a location.

Mr. Robbins reported to me the information we have already had about his contact with the realtors in Park Forest, whom he considered to be devious, following which he placed his deposit with a Chicago realtor.

At the conclusion of our conversation, I restated the policy of the Village Government, and the position of the Commission on Human Relations--that we did not care whether or not he moved to Park Forest, and certainly were not intending to encourage or assist him; that he should not over simplify the possible complications of such a move either because of our own experience, or because of the optimism of his friends; that some might question the desirability of his selected location; and that our sole interest is the welfare of the community which could be best served by following the procedures I recommended once he had made the decision to move.

RAD:sj

cc: Commission on Human Relations
Robert G. Pierce, Village Manager
William I. Hamby, Acting Chief of Police

December 4, 1962

MEMO TO: Commission on Human Relations
FROM: B. G. Cunningham, Village President
SUBJECT: Neighbor Calls in the Vicinity of 273 Blackhawk

In an effort to establish a pattern of similarity in our calls in the vicinity of 273 Blackhawk, I am requesting that you observe the following procedures:

1. Please do not start the calls until 7 P.M., Tuesday, December 4.
2. Please mention no move-in date. If the question comes up, please state only that the Robbins are entitled to the occupancy of their residence since last Saturday.
3. Please leave a copy of the State of Illinois Civil Rights booklet. Copies were furnished to you last Saturday. In addition, you may want to leave a mimeographed copy of President Kennedy's remarks which appeared in the Sun Times. Five extra copies are herewith.
4. During the interview please point out that the Village neither discourages or encourages residents by any race, color or creed, however, there can be no question about the intention to keep the peace and preserve law and order.
5. Also point out that VIOLENCE is the worst thing that could possibly take place. It will not only discourage future home purchases in the area by other buyers, but it will also accelerate the selling of dwellings on the part of law abiding citizens who want no part of any such activities. Request each family's cooperation. Ask them to contact the Police Department (PI 8-4700) if there are suspicious or unusual occurrences in the neighborhood.
6. When you complete this interview, please partially record their reactions on the back of the 3x5 card. When you have completed your calls for the evening, please leave the cards at the Village Hall with Mr. Pierce.

BGC:sj
enc.

cc: Robert A. Dinerstein
Board of Trustees
Henry X. Dietch
Jacob I. Eregman

Robert G. Pierce
William I. Hamby

August 19, 1963

MEMO TO: COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
FROM: GALE A. CHRISTOPHER

1. There will be a meeting of the Human Relations Commission on Friday, August 23rd, at 8:30 P.M. at the Village Hall. There is no particular problem to be considered, but it would appear wise to have a general review of our actual and potential move-ins.
2. 172 Nauvoo Street. We are informed that the offer of Harold Hayes has been accepted by the FHA and Mr. Hayes confirmed this by telephone today. The transaction has not been closed but this should be accomplished within the next two weeks. They hope to move in early September. Hayes is referred to in Bob Dinerstein's memo of July 22nd as being interested in the house on Waldmann Drive. His interest in a Park Forest house originated with Jim Williams, the East Chicago Heights real estate broker who is handling this transaction. His attorney is Marvin Gavin, with offices at 30 West Washington Street (AN 3-3116). Mr. Hayes is a recreation director in East Chicago Heights and became acquainted with Mr. Williams who is on the East Chicago Heights Recreation Board. Both Mr. Hayes and his wife, Joyce, are graduates of George Williams College. She is employed by the Chicago Board of Education. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes are Catholic and presently attend Our Lady of Solace Church at 6220 South Sangamon Street in Chicago. They intend to affiliate with a Catholic Church in Park Forest. Mr. Hayes is well acquainted with Don Clayton who lives at 359 Oakwood Street. Mr. Clayton is on the faculty of George Williams College. The Hayes have no children. I asked Mr. Hayes his reason for moving to Park Forest and he stated that he and his wife merely wanted a nice house in the suburbs within their price range. They had decided it was about time to settle down and start raising a family. This will no doubt please Pope Paul.
3. 157 Algonquin Street. This transaction seems to be bogged down in financing difficulties. Late last week I talked to Mr. Henderson's attorney, Hugh Schwartzberg. He stated that the contract sale approach seemed to have fallen through because the required payments were more than the Hendersons could afford. It appears that there is a second mortgage on this house, a little detail which Olin had probably forgotten about. Mr. Schwartzberg said they were now going to attempt normal mortgage financing for the Hendersons. He believes this will be possible because Mr. Henderson's actual income is considerably higher than his base salary due to overtime. Schwartzberg reports that Henderson's employer is willing to certify that he will have an annual income of approximately \$8,000.
4. 429 Shabbona Drive. The Glenns moved in today - no cakes and no problems.

GALE A. CHRISTOPHER

GAC:hco

cc: R. G. Pierce
President and Board of Trustees
Village Attorney
Acting Chief Hamby

August 29, 1963

MEMO TO: COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
CC: President and Board of Trustees
R. G. Pierce
Wm. Hamby
H. X. Dietch

FROM: ROBERT A. DINERSTEIN

SUBJECT: 124 MONEE ROAD

Dr. and Mrs. William Jackson have purchased an FHA foreclosed home at 124 Monee Road. The FHA loan was approved today and the Jacksons will be permitted to occupy the house in advance of closing.

The Jacksons are now renting in Chicago and, because their lease expires September 1, plan to move to Park Forest on Saturday, August 31.

Dr. Jackson is 29, a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta and the University of Illinois medical school. He interned at Wayne County Hospital in Detroit and was in general practice in Rockford for three years prior to opening a practice in Chicago Heights a few months ago. He is on the staff of St. James Hospital. Dr. Jackson is the father of a three-year old boy by a previous marriage. The boy is an occasional visitor.

Mrs. Jackson attended Northwestern University and graduated from the University of Wisconsin. She is an occupational therapist in the Drexel Home for the Aged in Chicago. She is on vacation until September 9.

Mrs. Jackson is Lutheran and Dr. Jackson attends St. Phillips Lutheran Church in Chicago with her, although he is a Congregationalist. They plan to visit Hope Lutheran Church but have not decided whether to join or retain their Chicago church affiliation. Mrs. Jackson is a member of the Lutheran choir and has been active in other musical groups. She is also active in the Provident Hospital Auxiliary in Chicago.

The Jacksons decided to move near his practice in Chicago Heights and, when they were unable to find suitable housing in Chicago Heights, were shown several foreclosures in Park Forest by Jackson Gray Realty. Through ~~the~~ ^{Wilson} they purchased their new home.

The Jacksons have visited the house several times and were observed on one occasion by their neighbor at 126 Monee Road but did not meet them. Mrs. Jackson plans to be in the house tomorrow for installation of telephone and preparation for moving by a commercial mover on Saturday.

In response to my question, Mrs. Jackson stated that this move is solely theirs and is not associated with any organizational activity.

RAD:hco

Village of Park Forest

PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS

• TELEPHONE Pilgrim 8-1112

PRESIDENT

Bernard G. Cunningham

Jack H. Cornelius
James R. Glennon

TRUSTEES

Leo H. Jacobson
William E. Murphy

Beverly B. Savitt
Quentin H. Wood

CLERK

Gretchen K. Haverkamp

VILLAGE MANAGER

Robert G. Pierce

August 30, 1963

TO ALL PARK FOREST CLERGY AND RABBINATE:

The Village Government has received notice of the sale of property at 124 Monee Road by the FHA through their foreclosure procedure to a Dr. and Mrs. William Jackson of Chicago. They are a Negro couple with no children.

Because of your prior interest and cooperation with both the Commission and the Village Board, this letter has been prepared to acquaint you with the facts as we know them pertaining to the Jackson family. Dr. William Jackson is 29 years of age, a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta and the University of Illinois Medical School. After interning at Wayne County Hospital in Detroit, Dr. Jackson practiced in Rockford for three years prior to opening an office in Chicago Heights a few months ago. Dr. Jackson is on the staff of St. James Hospital. He has been married previously and has a son three years old who is an occasional visitor to his home.

Mrs. Jackson attended Northwestern University and graduated from the University of Wisconsin, and is an occupational therapist for the aged peoples home in Chicago. Mrs. Jackson is active in various musical groups and the Provident Hospital Auxiliary.

The family currently attends St. Phillips Lutheran Church in Chicago. Dr. Jackson and his wife decided to live near his office in Chicago Heights, and when they were unable to find suitable housing in Chicago Heights, were shown several FHA foreclosures in Park Forest.

You have previously been furnished information about the Village's position in matters such as this. If you have any questions, or if you have information which you feel would be of value to the Commission or the Board, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Commission on Human Relations or any member of the Board of Trustees, including myself.

Very truly yours,

B. G. Cunningham
Village President

BGC:sj

Village of Park Forest

PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS

• TELEPHONE Pilgrim 8-1112.

PRESIDENT

Bernard G. Cunningham

Jack H. Cornelius
James R. Glennon

TRUSTEES

Leo H. Jacobson
William E. Murphy

Beverly B. Savitt
Quentin H. Wood

CLERK

Gretchen K. Haverkamp

September 30, 1963

VILLAGE MANAGER
Robert G. Pierce

TO ALL PARK FOREST REALTORS:

You will recall that on August 8, 1963 a meeting was held with the Park Forest Clergy and Rabbinate concerning the possibility of two Negro families moving to Park Forest. On August 9 you were furnished with biographical facts about the Henderson family.

The Village has now received confirmation of the purchase of property at 157 Algonquin Street by Mr. and Mrs. William Henderson of Chicago. In the event you no longer have the information available, the biographical information on the Hendersons known to the Village is repeated below:

Mr. Henderson is a drafting analyst and has been employed for 3½ years with his present employer. He attended college for one year and has had several years training in professional trade schools.

The Hendersons have three children: Karen, 7, entering second grade; Kevin, 6, entering first grade; and Keith, 3 years old.

The Hendersons are Lutherans and will affiliate with Trinity Lutheran Church in Park Forest. They have already been called on by Reverend Leonard A. Anderson, Assistant Pastor of this Church.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have been active in civic affairs. Mrs. Henderson organized a PTA in the Schiller School and has served several terms as President. She has also been responsible for several groups in programs of the Illinois Youth Commission. Mr. Henderson is the head of a housing organization, has worked with the Illinois Youth Commission, and with the Boy Scouts.

If you have any questions, or if you have information which you feel would be of value to the Commission or the Board, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Commission on Human Relations or any member of the Board of Trustees, including myself.

Very truly yours,



Village President

BGC:hco

MEMO TO: Commission on Human Relations
FROM: Robert G. Pierce, Village Manager
SUBJECT: 172 Nauvoo Street

The Village has been advised as of Wednesday, August 14, 1963, that Mr. and Mrs. Harold O. Hayes, Jr. of 9051 South Stewart, Chicago, have made application to purchase from the FHA property at 172 Nauvoo Street in Park Forest. This property is one of those on the list of FHA foreclosures in Park Forest.

The Hayes family was brought to the attention of the Commission in an earlier memo of July 22, 1963, from Mr. Dinerstein.

RGP:sj
cc: B. G. Cunningham
Board of Trustees
Henry X. Dietch
William I. Hamby

October 24, 1963

MEMO TO: COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
FROM: ROBERT A. DINERSTEIN
SUBJECT: PROPERTY AT 115 HAY STREET

We will make neighborhood calls on Sunday, October 27. We will meet at the Village Hall at 7:00 p.m. in order to get a little earlier start. Please let me or Mr. Pierce know if you will not be there.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Robinson have acquired an FHA foreclosure at 115 Hay Street. Leonard Robinson, 29, is a native of New Jersey, graduate of Indiana University, and teaches physical education in the Chicago schools; he is now at the Lewis-Champlin School, 320 West Englewood. Yvonne Robinson is a native of Chicago Heights, attended Indiana University, and graduated from Pestalozzi Froebel Teachers College in Chicago. She is a primary school teacher in District 170, currently teaching third grade at the Franklin School.

The Robinsons have three children: Wayne, 7, in second grade; Leonard, 5, in kindergarten; and David, 2. They have not made plans for church affiliation in Park Forest; Mrs. Robinson is a member of the Union Evangelistic Church in Chicago Heights. Mr. Robinson has been active in youth work in Jones Memorial Center and the Chicago Heights Community Fund. Mrs. Robinson does volunteer work in a Chicago hospital.

The Robinsons have wanted to relocate from their present housing and found their best home value in Park Forest. Availability through the FHA was significant to them because it avoided the possible embarrassment of seeking housing through the usual real estate channels. They are not members of any "Civil Rights" organizations.

RAD:hco

cc: B. G. Cunningham
Trustees
Wm. Hamby
H. X. Dietch
R. G. Pierce

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

- 1953

- **Nicholas Brewer**
- **Sheldon Braunstein**
- **Gale Christopher**
- **Dorothy Dempsey**
- **Robert Miller**
- **Ruth Skaggs**
- **H.T. Stowell**

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
... TO ADVISE ...
... TO ADVISE ...

1. Please give a brief resume of the history of your group and

the reasons for its formation. IN 1951 THREE WAS ESTABLISHED. A
CON H.R. IN 1953 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RE-EVALUATED ITS POLIC
RECEIVED ITS 1951 RESOLUTION AND PASSED A NEW RESOLUTION WH
IS STILL IN EFFECT. THE BACKGROUND WHICH LEAD TO THE ESTABLISH
MENT OF THE COMMISSION WAS THE OCCURENCE OF RACE DISCRIMIN
ATION. THAT BY CONSIDERING THE POSSIBLE HUMAN RE-
LATIONS PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT OCCUR IN PARK FOREST, THE
VILLAGE WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO HANDLE THEM IN A MATURE
MANNER.

2. What are the major items currently being discussed by the
Commission on Human Relations?

HOW TO ASSURE THAT VILLAGE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES
ITS SERVICES EQUALLY WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE,
SEX, COLOR, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

3. On back of this sheet give a brief biographical sketch of each
member of your group and the reason he or she is particularly qualified
in the area of human relations.

4. What particular problems confronting the village have been worked
out with the aid of your commission?

VARIOUS REPORTED INCIDENTS OF ACTUAL OR
ALLEGED RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION
SITUATION WHEREIN A NEGRO FAMILY MOVED
INTO PARK FOREST.

5. Is there any way the general public could aid your group in
working out a particular problem?

BY GAINING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING, THEN
PRACTISING AND EXPECTING OTHERS TO
PRACTICE THE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES
OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM.

BY REFUSING TO CIRCULATE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS
AND RUMORS OF HUMAN RELATIONS PROBLEMS AND
CHALLENGING THE AUTHENTICITY OF REPORTS THEY HEAR

IN THIS MANNER, THE FUNCTION OF THE COMMISSION IS ... "TO INVESTIGATE SUCH MATTERS AS MAY BE REFERRED TO IT BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TO ADVISE AND MAKE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUCH MATTERS TO THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND TO ASSIST THE VILLAGE GOVERNMENT IN SUCH OTHER HUMAN RELATIONS AS MAY ARISE FROM TIME TO TIME." - FROM APPROXIMATELY P. 53, 31.

WHEREAS THE FIELD OF HUMAN RELATIONS IS BROAD AND THERE ARE A VARIETY OF AVENUES FOR THE WORK OF DIVERSE ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS, THE ROLE OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ENCOMPASSES ONLY SOME OF THE ASPECTS OF HUMAN RELATIONS.

THEREFORE, A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MUST BE WILLING TO LIMIT HIMSELF TO THIS CONCEPT AND FURTHER MUST ACCEPT THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION AS BEING ADVISORY TO THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES WHO ARE THE POLICY MAKERS. SINCE THE COMMISSION MAY BE REQUIRED TO FUNCTION IN TIMES OF EMOTIONAL STRESS, COMMUNITY LEADERS OF EVEN TEMPERMENT, SOUND JUDGMENT AND A FEELING FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT ARE DESIRED. THE COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE

- REV. NICHOLAS BREWER - VILLAGE CHAPLAIN
- MR. SHELDON BRAUNSTEIN - PAST - PRESIDENT BNAI B'R
AND FORMER LOCAL CHAIRMAN
OF ITS ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
- MR. GALE CHRISTOPHER - PRESIDENT IGS SCHOOL BO
FORMERLY CHAIRMAN ZONING BO
OF APPEALS.
- MRS WM. (DOROTHY) DEMPSEY - ACTIVE IN ST. IRANABUS CATHOLIC
INTER-RACIAL COUNCIL, EDITOR
OF ST. IRANABUS PARISH PAPER.

3. (C. W. H. D.)

MR. ROBERT HILLER - PRINCIPAL RICH TWP. H.S.
(CENTRAL CAMPUS)

MRS. LESTER (RUTH) SKAGGS - LONG-TIME VILLAGE
TRUSTEE, LWV, PRESENTLY
ALSO MEMBER VILLAGE
RECREATION BOARD

H. T. STOWEN - FORMERLY - CHAIRMAN P.F.
PLAN COMMISSION.

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6. What do you feel are problems in the general area of human relations which could arise in the village within the next five years?

FREEDOM OF RESIDENCE

Within the next 5-10 years?

In future years?

7. When and where are your meetings?

WE MEET AT THE VILLAGE HALL UPON CALL OF THE CHAIRMAN. WE MEET WHEN THERE IS

8. Additional comment: BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED

July 14, 1959

Mr. John L. Scott, Village Manager

On Monday, July 13, 1959 this department received numerous telephone calls throughout the day indicating a rumor prevalent in the Eastgate area to the effect that the house at 240 Arcadia, occupied by Leo N. Anderson and his wife, had been or was being sold to colored people. Upon reporting this rumor to the Village Manager it was decided that the Public Safety Director should visit the Andersons for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not any of the rumor was factual.

At about 3:30PM the Director of Public Safety went to the Anderson home and found a group of about a dozen or more adults sitting in the yard at the home of Anthony Menza, 238 Arcadia, discussing the situation. Upon the approach of the Director of Public Safety these people advised me that the Andersons were not at home. They asked me to have a chair and proceeded to express their concern over the rumor. They were most positive at this point that the dwelling had been sold. After about an hour of discussion with the group I left.

At 6:00PM I called Mr. Anderson and found him at home. I apprized him of the rumor and asked him if he would prefer to meet me in my office, to discuss the facts of the case. Mr. Anderson suggested that I come to his home.

At about 6:15PM I went to the Anderson home and upon approaching the house found about sixty adults in the yard at 238 Arcadia, some of them on the sidewalk and some in the street. A smaller group was gathered across the street. I was admitted to the home by Mr. Anderson. I apprized him of the rumor and informed him I was there for the sole purpose of gathering the facts so as to keep my department and myself properly informed.

Mr. Anderson made the following statement to me. Sometime in November of 1958 the Andersons purchased the house at 240 Arcadia, because it was a larger home than their former one, and they needed more room due to the fact that Mrs. Anderson's sister was living with them. Some months ago Mrs. Anderson's sister moved, making it necessary for the Andersons to find a smaller home. The Andersons placed their home in the hands of the Park Forest Realty Company for

July 14, 1959

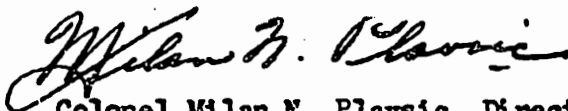
resale or trade for a smaller house. After having the home listed for several months without a satisfactory result from the Park Forest Homes, Mr. Anderson listed his place with the Travis Realty Company, 412 East 47th Street, Chicago, Illinois, whose clientele is composed largely of Italians and some colored people. Mr. Anderson stated that they began to get immediate results, based on their price, from some Italian families. On Sunday, July 12, 1959, Mr. O'Neil, a colored salesman for Travis Realty Company, brought a colored couple to the Anderson home, as prospective buyers. Mr. Anderson said that this colored man is either an engineer or electrician at Sateville prison and is employed by the State of Illinois. This colored family was interested in the home, but both they and the salesman asked the Andersons to talk to the neighbors with respect to their feelings relative to the probability of a colored family moving in. Mrs. Anderson, who is a credit manager at Montgomery Ward Company in Chicago Heights, asked the Menza family, on Monday morning, if they would seek this information in the neighborhood.

Mr. Anderson was very cooperative and was quite concerned about the feelings of his neighbors. He stated to me that it was not his intention to do anything that would upset the neighborhood and had not, now and would not in the future, contemplate selling to anyone objectionable to his neighbors.

I left the Anderson residence at approximately 7:30PM and most of the people that were gathered at the Menza residence at 238 Arcadia began to approach me as I went to my car. Mr. Anderson accompanied me out of the house and was placing his refuse cans at the curb, and he said in the presence of the crowd to me, "Colonel, you are at liberty to tell these people what I just told you, that I will not dispose of my house to anyone not acceptable to my neighbors." I there upon repeated this statement to these people.

This statement was accepted generally with the exception of one woman who said "I don't believe it." I told her that I believed Mr. Anderson and I felt that the people should accept it. In my first discussion with the group in the Menza yard, I made it quite clear that the purpose of my visit was to be properly informed of this incident and I advised the group of the rights of the Andersons or any person or persons who might purchase their home, and that these rights would be protected by the village and the Public Safety Department.

Respectfully submitted,



Colonel Milan N. Plavsic, Director
Department of Public Safety

MNP:ir

**Instructions to Village Employees
For Answering Questions With Respect to Local
Residence of Members of the Negro Race**

These instructions have been issued with the approval of the Village President and every member of the Board of Trustees:

The Constitution of the United States and of the State of Illinois establish that there can be no question as to the policy of the Village Government in the event that a Negro family should make its home in Park Forest. However, in view of the questions sometimes addressed to Village personnel by individuals who are disturbed by rumors they have heard, this short statement has been prepared as a guide in replying to these inquiries.

It is probable that a variety of opinions on this subject are held by the individuals who make up the staff of the Village Government. It is important to remember that as public servants, it is absolutely necessary to support the policy of the Village Government even though it may not conform entirely with personal opinions.

The Village Government must extend equal services and protection of the law to all its citizens without any discrimination between them. The Village Government neither encourages nor discourages the residence in the Village of members of the Negro race. However, the Village Government carefully investigates all information which reaches it, so that preparations can be made to avoid any undesirable incidents. In the event that a Negro family should make its home in Park Forest, the Village Government will assure that family the same protection of the law that is afforded to any other resident or property owner in the Village.

**July 27, 1959
Park Forest, Illinois**

WILLIAM SIMPSON PIONEER RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY TIVIST

THE STAR • SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 1996

A different memory

To the Editor:

Upon reading Dennis Wheeler's reminiscences of the Park Forest Plaza (now the Centre), I harkened back to when I moved into the town, in 1963 — a black man moving into a community that had just begun to loosen its segregation against African Americans. It was a move made possible through the courageous rebellion against the repression of African Americans by the civil rights movement, and the extraordinary determination of a few residents of the south suburban area that housing segregation should be eliminated — not the government of Park Forest (or any other community).

The racial atmosphere for blacks in Park Forest (or anywhere else) was not one of "welcome," but resignation to the fact that laws had been passed that barred the prevailing exclusion of African Americans from purchasing houses. That is the atmosphere in which I first saw the Park Forest Plaza that Dennis Wheeler remembers so fondly; a

shopping center that had no black employees in its shops and remained that way for many years after I moved to the town. Wheeler says that the decline of the Plaza was precipitated by "... two local social phenomena": The arrival of the interstate highway system and ... the enclosed regional shopping malls. Well, that may well be, but I would say the Plaza's decline, as well as that of towns throughout the South Suburbs, like Chicago Heights, was also occasioned by the inability of whites to interact equitably with African Americans "freed" by the civil rights movement to move anywhere they wished.

By "interact equitably" I mean: to include the incoming black families into the ongoing political, economic and educational phases of the communities in such a fashion as to create true communities of racial operational diversity. This would have called for more than smiles and perfunctory "double-dating" at social functions. But all one has to do is look around, to see how inadequate was the cooperation of blacks and whites beyond the "superficial civility" stage. The two peoples function very little together as equal allies in the success of their mutual interests in the successful operation of the political, economic and educational sectors of towns.

That contributed a lot to the demise of the Park Forest Plaza, and will continue to inhibit its rehabilitation, unless ways are invented to "bring in" "all" the residents of the town as participating elements in the rejuvenation.

William Simpson
Park Forest

January 29, 1968

Board of Trustees

Village Hall

Park Forest, Ill.

Gentlemen:

RECEIVED

JAN 31 1967

VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

We wish to congratulate the Board for its just and forward-looking actions toward passing a fair housing ordinance. Such actions are further positive signs that perhaps our society may yet be the historical example for what a human community should be.

We would be remiss, however, if we did not express our disappointment that the Board did not consider it advisable to provide for the specific inclusion of a Negro member on the Commission on Human Relations that will carry out the provisions of the fair housing ordinance. We are disappointed too, that there is no specific inclusion of a Negro on the Commission panel which will pass on the validity of complaints. In this matter, the Board has missed an important trend of the times.

Over and over again, it is being pointed out that a key to the current militancy of Negroes is to be found in the historic practice which systematically excludes us from administrative bodies, and policy making activities, that vitally affect our wellbeing.

Numerous rationalizations have been offered for these practically universal exclusions. But whatever those rationalizations may have been in the past, however, clearly the time has come when the non-engagement of Negroes in policy making activities must cease. Indeed, it should be firmly understood, that

from henceforth on there will be insistent moral and political pressure from Negroes to set this deficiency aright.

The type of exclusion that must be abolished is amply demonstrated in the establishment of the Commission on Human Relations. Here we will have a policy making activity which will affect Negroes almost totally. Yet, though the ordinance specifies an attorney and a real estate broker for membership on the Commission, no such attention is accorded Negro representation. We do not know what arguments convinced the Board against the specification of a Negro on the Commission and its panel, but we most certainly do not countenance the argument that such a specification would open the flood gates to a burdensome number of claims by special groups wishing inclusion on the Commission. Nor are we intimidated by the argument that logic dictates the inclusion of all special groups, if one special racial, religious, or creedal group is specified. The plain, unvarnished fact of our society is that the need for fair housing legislation is necessitated by the institutionalized discrimination against Negroes in our society. Negroes are the alpha and omega of discrimination in our society in these times. Winning the battle over discrimination against Negroes will settle the matter for the other minorities.

We think that Negroes are specialists in their affairs, just as lawyers and real estate brokers are in their affairs, and we do not admit that there is some sacred specialness about the interests of the lawyer, or the real estate broker, which does not also apply to the interests of the Negro.

Again regret must be expressed for this disappointing omission in your otherwise laudatory actions.

Yours truly,
William Simpson
Juanita H. Simpson
403 Wilshire
Park Forest, Ill.