

Citation: Petition of Seattle Housing Authority regarding demolition of shacks, May 12, 1941. CF 170058. Comptroller Files, 1802-01, Seattle Municipal Archives.

<p><b>FILE NO. 170058</b></p> <p>Petition OF Seattle Housing Authority For legal steps making for the demolition of shacks.</p> <p><i>11/17/42 - file</i></p>	<p>FILED May 12, 1941.</p> <p>W. C. THOMAS CITY COMPTROLLER AND CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL DEPUTY</p>	<p>ACTION OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>REFERRED MAY 12 1941</p> <p>REPORTED</p> <p>REPORTED</p> <p>REPORTED</p> <p>REF. FOR COUNCIL</p>	<p>TO PUBLIC SAFETY</p> <p>REPORT ADOPTED</p> <p>REPORT ADOPTED</p> <p>G. B. CHD.</p> <p>NOV 23 1942</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">ON FILE</p>
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### REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your SPECIAL COMMITTEE (SHACK TOWN REMOVAL) Committee

to which was referred the within Petition

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

the same be placed on file.

  

*Norton*  
CHAIRMAN

*Powell*  
CHAIRMAN

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G. W. COPLEN  
CHAIRMAN

MRS. F. D. HENDERSON  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

KENNETH J. MORFORD

CHARLES W. DOYLE

## HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE

TELEPHONE  
MAIN 7855

250 Central Building  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
JESSE EPSTEIN

May 9, 1941

Mrs. Frances F. Powell  
City Councilwoman  
City of Seattle  
County-City Building  
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mrs. Powell:

Under date of March 4, 1941, we submitted to the City Council the results of our survey of shacks in the City of Seattle, together with the following recommendations:

- (1) That none of the present occupants of shacks be forced to vacate at the present time.
- (2) That as soon, however, as any shack is no longer inhabited by its present occupants, the proper departments of the City be authorized and directed to demolish it.
- (3) That the proper departments of the City be authorized and directed to demolish immediately all presently vacant shacks.
- (4) That these departments be authorized and directed to prevent the building of any additional shacks in the City of Seattle.
- (5) That notices of these intentions of the City be given to all occupants of shacks, and public notices posted in concentrated and other shack areas.

Following the above report and at your request, representatives of several private social welfare agencies and public departments met with you and other members of the City Council to discuss the possibility of hastening the objective outlined under recommendation No. 2, above. At the meeting, because it appeared that this vacating of shacks might be accelerated by municipal notices to vacate at specified times, the represented agencies offered to extend their services under the supervision of the Seattle Housing Authority to those shack occupants who were given notice to vacate. This offer was made with the understanding that the legal aspects of the situation would be officially initiated and completed by the City before the services by social agencies to shack dwellers who wished assistance in relocating could be instituted.

The function of the social agencies is necessarily limited to direct services to specific individuals and can be offered only after the legal steps have been taken by the City or one of its designated departments; namely, the posting of notices to vacate, and the determination of the date on which specific shacks are to be vacated. Upon official information by the City, or through one of its designated departments, that this legal action has been taken, social agencies under the supervision of the Seattle Housing Authority would then offer their services directly to those shack

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dwellers who wished assistance in finding other living quarters.

The Seattle Housing Authority is willing to serve in an advisory capacity if called upon, concerning the determination of the order in which shacks are to be vacated, so that the legal steps to be taken by the City will be effectively coordinated with the capacity of the social agencies to offer their services to the individuals who may wish to have such services in finding other living quarters. The services of the public and private social agencies which will work under the supervision of the Seattle Housing Authority are offered to the City Council as a supplementary activity to the legal action which the City may wish to take with respect to the shacktown problem. In those instances where the programs of the social agencies are not broad enough to cope with any particular relocation problem, the solution must necessarily be found elsewhere.

This proposal is concurred in by the Seattle Welfare Council, King County Welfare Department, Wamily Society of Seattle, and Travelers Aid Society.

Sincerely yours,



Jesse Epstein  
Executive Director

JE:PN

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