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# CIVIC UNITY COMMITTEE OF SEATTLE

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

417 EAST PINE BUILDING SEATTLE 22, WASHINGTON Minor 2727

June 12, 1953

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

#### Honorable Members:

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


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

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

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

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

Faithfully yours,

  
John H. Heitzman  
President



JHH:mg