

Citation: Proposed Open Housing Ordinance pamphlet, 1963. Folder "Human Rights Commission 1963," Box 14. Seattle Office of the Mayor Records, 5210-01. Seattle Municipal Archives.

SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Statement of Policy

THE CITY OF SEATTLE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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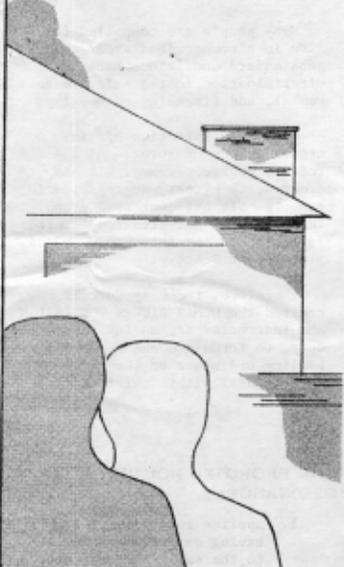
Holding, with our founding fathers,
"these truths to be self-evident,
that all men are created equal, that
they are endowed by their Creator
with certain unalienable Rights, that
among these are Life, Liberty, and
the Pursuit of Happiness", the purpose
of the Seattle Human Rights Commission
is to make the full exercise of these
Rights possible for all the people of
Seattle.

To this end, the Commission Goals are:

1. Create a climate of understanding and cooperation among the various racial and ethnic groups of Seattle;
2. Assure that the same criteria for opportunity of housing, employment, education, health, recreation, and public accommodation are applied to each individual;
3. Promote participation in the various aspects of the city's life by all citizens; and
4. Encourage individual and group efforts to raise community standards.

Room 305, Seattle Municipal Building
Seattle, Washington - 98104
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Human Rights
**PROPOSED
OPEN HOUSING
ORDINANCE**



as recommended
by the
SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

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The City of Seattle is made up of people of every race, color, religion, ancestry, and national origin. All have contributed to the development of Seattle. With rapid growth and complexity, have come problems affecting public safety, public health, and general welfare.

Many people are compelled to live in circumscribed areas under substandard conditions because of discrimination in the sale, lease, rental, and financing of housing.

Such discrimination has increased costs of government and reduced public revenue. It has created, in effect, segregation in schools. It has increased group tensions. It has affected adversely the plans for future growth and progress of Seattle.

Therefore, the City Council created the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION and instructed it, as its first duty, to formulate and recommend a housing ordinance to the Mayor and City Council within thirty days.

THE PROPOSED HOUSING ORDINANCE:

1. Applies to all persons having any relationship to the sale or rental of housing accommodations.

2. Would prohibit discrimination based SOLELY on race, color, religion, ancestry, and national origin.

THE ORDINANCE PERMITS:

1. Religious institutions providing housing to give preference on the basis of religion, not on the basis of race, color, ancestry, or national origin.
2. Persons residing in a dwelling unit to rent space therein to one or two people of their own choice.
3. Freedom of choice on factors other than race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin.

IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORDINANCE, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WILL:

1. Receive complaints filed in writing within 30 days of the alleged violations.
2. Investigate all complaints filed.

3. If it is found that a violation probably exists, the Commission will endeavor to eliminate or remove any apparent violation by means of conciliation and persuasion.

4. If all such conciliatory efforts fail, the Commission may recommend that the Corporation Counsel prosecute in the proper court. Upon conviction, the court, in its judgement may impose a penalty not to exceed \$500 and/or six months imprisonment in the city jail, each day continuance of this violation constituting a separate offense. The person charged has all the presumptions of innocence and rights of appeal provided by law.

The Commission has recommended that the City Council adopt this ordinance as an emergency measure in order that it may be in effect as soon as possible.

By these means the open housing ordinance seeks to guarantee equal opportunity for all in the purchase or rental of housing accommodations.