Citation: A.C. Van Soelen to E. June Smith, May 2, 1962. Folder "Housing 1962," Box 8. Seattle Office of the Mayor Records, 5210-01. Seattle Municipal Archives.

May 2, 1962

RECEIVED
MAY 3 1962
Mayor's Office

Mrs. E. June Smith
Vice President, Seattle Branch
N.A.A.C.P.
2310 East Pine
Seattle 22

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I have your letter of April 26, 1962 enclosing copy of your letter of the same date addressed to the Washington State Board Against Discrimination, Seattle Office, with copies to Mayor Clinton, Governor Rosellini, "Real Estate Board" and myself. You ask that I read the "complaint" and determine what "legislation" has been violated and how the same can be "enforced" against the Lake Washington Realty Company, 34th Avenue & East Union, referred to in your letter of complaint which concerns a house advertised for sale and which you were told had already been sold. Further, that you were shown another house and that your demand to see the house which was advertised and was said to have been sold, was refused. All of this is said to relate to the "housing situation in Seattle for negroes."

In reply you are advised that if an offense contrary to state law is suggested, complaint should be made to the Prosecuting Attorney of King County. If unlawful discrimination is suggested, complaint is properly addressed to the Washington State Board Against Discrimination.

The conduct of the representative of the realty company you complain of is not in my opinion an offense against any city ordinance and I can only suggest that if you believe such conduct should be expressly prohibited by law, that you and your organization should so inform members of, and candidates for, the State Legislature for consideration at the 1963 session thereof.

Yours very truly

A. C. VAN SOELEN
Corporation Counsel

ACV:FF
cc Mayor Clinton