

Human Relations Council of Niles Township

Devonshire Recreation Center

2-23-61

CHAIRMAN:

DR. J. KEITH KAVANAUGH
Principal
East Division, Niles Township
High School
Lincoln and Niles Avenues
Skokie, Illinois
ORchard 3-0280

February 17, 1961

VICE CHAIRMEN:

ROBERT ALLISON
Superintendent
School District 73 (East Prairie)

RABBI SIDNEY J. JACOBS
The Niles Township Jewish
Congregation

NICHOLAS OEHLBERG, JR.
Knights of Columbus

The Human Relations Council of Niles Township is an organization consisting of representative leaders of civic, church, and educational bodies in the community. The Council is issuing the following bulletin as a service to the Community, with regard to Mr. and Mrs. David P. Jones who recently became members of our community.

SECRETARY:

MARVIN O. GARLICH
Superintendent
School District 74 (Lincolnwood)
3925 Lunt Avenue
Lincolnwood 45, Illinois

TREASURER:

MYRON GREISDORF
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Niles Township Jewish Community
Council

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Niles Community Church

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Board of Trustees
Village of Golf

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Executive Director
Skokie Valley Y.M.C.A.

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St. John's Lutheran Church

RUSSEL J. MILLS
Superintendent
School District 72 (Fairview)

THE REV. ARTHUR R. SAUER
St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church

WILLIAM J. STOUTT, JR.
Principal
Golf School (District 67)

GEORGE STRYKER
President, Board of Education
School District 72 (Fairview)

RABBI KARL WEINER
Temple Judea of Niles Township

1. WHO ARE MR. AND MRS. DAVID P. JONES?

Lois and David Jones are a young professional Negro couple who have lived in the Chicago area for approximately ten years. Mr. Jones, a statistical analyst, received a B. A. degree from the University of Illinois in Economics and an M. A. degree from Loyola University in Social and Industrial Relations. He served 21 months in the Army, and holds a first lieutenant's commission. Mrs. Jones, an industrial research chemist, received a B. S. degree from St. Francis College in Joliet in Chemistry, and has done graduate work in Chemistry at Loyola University.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE SALE

Mr. and Mrs. Jones looked at houses in Skokie for a period of months, and tried to buy through normal real estate channels, but were completely unsuccessful. They then accepted the help of a white Skokie couple, personal friends of theirs, who were willing to purchase a home for them. The white couple have explained their participation in the following way:

"We acted as individuals, not for or on behalf of any organization, and certainly, not for profit. We deeply believe that every American has the right to live where he wants to and where he can afford to. . . . In making it possible for Mr. and Mrs. David Jones to live in a house of their choice, we have acted with no ulterior motive."

3. STATEMENT OF VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

After being informed on Saturday, January 28, 1961 that the Jones family planned to move into a home in Skokie, the Skokie Village Manager and Board of Trustees issued the following statement dated January 31, 1961:

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Skokie, the following statement is made.

The people of the Village of Skokie may rest assured that the constitutional and civil rights of all citizens and property owners, old and new, will be protected with all the resources at our command.

We are confident that all citizens of Skokie share our determination to maintain law and order, and to preserve the good name of our community.

(signed) Bernard L. Marsh
Village Manager"

4. RUMORS

There have been persistent rumors circulated in the last two weeks, such as:

- a. "I understand since the Jones family moved in, 4 additional Negro families are moving into _____ Avenue." (Numerous streets have been named.)

NOT TRUE*

- b. "I heard that 8 mortgages are being processed in a Skokie bank for homes sold to Negro families."

NOT TRUE*

- c. "I have heard that this is a test case by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and that within the next year this organization is planning to move 50 additional families into Skokie."

NOT TRUE*

- d. "I heard that the sale of the house to the Jones family was planned and has something to do with the All America City Contest."

NOT TRUE*

* Investigation of each one of these rumors has shown them to be completely without foundation. The rumors were checked by the Skokie Village Government, the Illinois Commission on Human Relations, the Catholic Interracial Council, and the American Friends Service Committee.

5. PROPERTY VALUES

Among the common misunderstandings regarding residential integration is the widely-held belief that property values will inevitably decline in the area around a home or homes occupied by nonwhite residents. This fear can be dispelled by the facts resulting from ever-increasing experiences in integrated living in many parts of the United States. Realtors and appraisers are taking a new look at what formerly was considered an inevitable consequence. Studies by realtors, appraisers and social scientists provide effective refutation of the myth that "property values will go down."

Most people want to respond in a democratic manner when they realize that:

- a. There is no legal way to prevent change.
b. Property values will not drop if homeowners do not panic and sell out.
c. "Panic selling" is the real cause of sharp decline in property values.

The movement of people from cities to suburbs is a national pattern. As is the case in all Chicago suburbs, Skokie has grown, with people of many backgrounds moving into the community. This pattern is likely to continue in all suburbs, due in large measure to rising levels of education and income.

It is now Skokie's opportunity to act according to the best of our democratic ideals and the laws of our land by graciously welcoming our new neighbors. Fine leadership has been provided in the past several weeks by Skokie Village Government officials, religious and educational leaders, and the Niles Township Real Estate Board.

With the continued cooperation and support of all our citizens, we in Skokie can proudly show the world that we are doing more than paying lip service to our principles.