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# Niles Township Human Relations Council

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July 18, 1967

## STATEMENT OF THE NILES TOWNSHIP HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

### IN SUPPORT OF A FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE FOR THE

### VILLAGE OF SKOKIE

The Niles Township Human Relations Council wholeheartedly supports the enactment of a Fair Housing ordinance for the Village of Skokie. We endorse the policy position adopted by the Skokie Board of Trustees on July 12, 1965, which states that "it is morally wrong to deny equal housing opportunity when based on race, creed, color or national origin, whether by express or tacit agreement, silence or custom".

We welcome this effort by the Skokie Human Relations Commission to have our Village Board of Trustees enact an effective fair housing ordinance which will implement this policy.

The Niles Township Human Relations Council believes that open occupancy laws should be enacted on a local as well as a statewide basis. We are dismayed at the abject failure of the Illinois legislature to respond to the needs of our State by failing to enact any such legislation.

We endorse fair housing legislation that will eventually cover all parties concerned---the realtor, the developer, the apartment building owner, and the homeowner. We note with approval that the Village of Wheaton and other Illinois communities have seen fit to enact an ordinance covering both real estate brokers and homeowners. But, we recognize that segregated communities and the lack of equal housing opportunities result from the practices of the Real Estate industry; namely, their acceptance of discriminatory listings and their failure to show all housing to all applicants. Therefore, an appropriate step at this time is the enactment of a Village fair housing ordinance regulating the activities in Skokie of all real estate brokers and their agents.

July 18, 1967

We offer the following recommendations:

1. Real estate brokers and their agents who operate in the Skokie area should be licensed so that they are covered by the provisions of the Fair Housing ordinance.

2. Any proposed anti-blockbusting legislation should be included in and made a part of the Fair Housing ordinance.

3. Many multiple dwellings of more than 4 apartments in Skokie are managed by the owners without the use of a realtor. It would be unfair to cover those apartment buildings that are managed by realty firms while leaving uncovered all large multiple dwellings managed by the owner who, in effect, acts as his own realtor. Such multiple dwellings should be covered by this ordinance.

4. Responsibility for the administration and enforcement of the ordinance must be pinpointed. If the Commission is to have that responsibility, it must have authority to initiate investigations and to initiate, receive and investigate charges. In addition, there must be the subpoena power for use during investigations and hearings.

5. The ordinance must contain fair and workable procedures for conciliation. The remedy provisions of the ordinance should include the revocation of the Broker's license, and should also authorize the Commission or the Village to recommend to the Illinois Department of Registration and Education that the State license of the Broker be revoked.

6. The ordinance should include an available remedy for the individual homeseeker who suffers discrimination. Several such remedies have been included in other Illinois legislation. One possibility, contained in the Peoria Ordinance, is to permit the Commission, after a hearing, to order the guilty respondent to take such affirmative action as is required to effectuate the purposes of the ordinance.

It is important both during conciliation and in the final remedy to consider the aggrieved individual who, in seeking a place to live, suffers discrimination because of his race, creed, color or national origin.

Our Council firmly believes that your action at this time is in the best interest of our community. We support your efforts toward enacting a meaningful fair housing ordinance which will establish and enforce equal housing opportunities in Skokie.

Thank you.

The Board of Directors  
NILES TOWNSHIP HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL  
Mrs. Murray Jans, Chairman