



VILLAGE OF SKOKIE

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

5127 Oakton Street, Skokie, Illinois 60078

Dear Homeowner:

We understand that you are offering your home for sale. In selling your home, you have an opportunity to play a profound role in the future development of Skokie and of the Chicago metropolitan area.

As a homeowner, you can sell your home to a buyer of your choice. However, we urge that, as a Skokian with roots in suburbia, you accept your moral obligation to sell your home in accordance with sound principles of human relations . . . and a free society. For reasons which are discussed in the accompanying pamphlet, the Commission believes that in our nation — composed as it is of citizens of many races, religions and ethnic groups — a policy of equal housing opportunity for all is basic to these principles.

We urge you to read the accompanying pamphlet carefully. If you do so, we feel confident that you will agree on the importance of selling your home under the principle of equal housing opportunity, in accordance with Village policy. Your real estate broker stands ready to do so; he has been asked to handle every sale of a home on this basis unless he receives contrary written instructions from the seller.

You may hesitate to sell your home on this basis because you think your neighbors may object to members of some particular group as their neighbors. If this is so, you may wish to consult your clergyman on the matter. It may be well also to discuss this pamphlet with your neighbors. If there appears to be a conflict of views, a group discussion, with participation by a representative of the Commission, may be arranged by calling the Village Manager's office at OR 3-0500. Information can be provided which will overcome many common objections to equal housing opportunity. Documentation is available, for example, to show that there is little basis for the often expressed fear that the arrival of Negroes in a community such as ours must result in a drop of property values.

On the other hand, if, even after reading our pamphlet, you feel that you do not wish to follow Village policy and wish to place discriminatory restrictions on the sale of your home, you may instruct your broker of your wishes in writing. Such instructions should be sent within two weeks of the date of signing the contract of agency. A copy of your instructions should also be sent to the Skokie Human Relations Commission, Village Hall, Skokie, Illinois.

Remember, the choice should be yours, not your broker's. If you choose to provide equal housing opportunity, you will be taking a big step toward insuring a stable future for Skokie and the metropolitan area — a step of which you can be justifiably proud.

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