

CARTON 9:42 THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

Mayor's Committee for Civic Duty

1947-1949

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7 of 9

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COLLECTION NAME: DeHume papers

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Pages to copy

NAACP 1955 (Continued)	Letter to Thurgood Marshall 2/3/55	2
	Memorandum 1/25/55	2
NAACP 1951-53	"Housing" Special 1953 (8)	5
NAACP Miscellaneous 1952	News Release "Oakland Fire Chief ..."	1
	News clipping: Fire Chief orders End to Seg.	1
Mayors Comm. for Civic Unity	"An Ordinance Declaring the Policy ..."	1
	minutes 1/6/49	1
	minutes 12/2/48	2
	Letter 9/21/48	1
	" 8/31/48	1
	" 8/27/48	1
	" 10/6/48	1
	minutes 3/4/48	1
Oakland Fire Dept 1955	"Our Recommendations" + Letter 21 June 55	6
Oakland Fire Dept (A.C.)	Letter 3 January 56	4

130

Corrected Copy

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE POLICY OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND IN REGARD TO DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT AND MAKING UNLAWFUL SUCH DISCRIMINATION BY THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND PERSONS HEREAFTER ACQUIRING CITY CONTRACTS OR FRANCHISES.

Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Oakland as follows:

Section 1. Findings and declaration of policy

During and since the war years there has been a great increase in the population of the Negro and other minority groups in this City. Accompanying the increase has been an alarming growth in inter-group tensions. Experience in other communities has shown that positive measures for the promotion of civic unity and for the elimination of discrimination based on race, religion or national origin tend to allay inter-group tensions. Conversely, experience has shown that neglect of the problems of inter-group relations leads to heightened tensions, with consequent unrest, disturbances, disorders and impairment of the general welfare of the community.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the City of Oakland to promote and encourage good-will and understanding among the various racial, religious and national groups in the community, and to oppose discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry.

This ordinance shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of this City, for the protection of the public welfare and the peace and security of the inhabitants thereof.

Section 2. Discrimination in employment by City

(A) It shall be unlawful for any head of department, official, agent or employee of the City of Oakland, or any commission, department, division, board or agency thereof, acting for or on behalf of said City, in any matter involving employment by said City, to discriminate on the ground of or because of race, color, creed, national origin or ancestry against any person otherwise qualified, in employment or in tenure, terms or conditions of employment; or to so discriminate in promotion or increase in compensation; or to adopt or enforce any rule or employment policy which so discriminates between employees or prospective employees; or to seek information relative to race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry from any person or employee as a condition of employment, tenure, terms or in connection with conditions of employment, promotion or increase in compensation; or to so discriminate in the selection of personnel for training.

(B) Said City and all of its contracting agencies and departments shall include in all contracts and franchises hereafter negotiated, let or awarded a provision obligating the contractor not to discriminate on the ground of or because of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry against any employee of, or applicant for employment, with such contractor, and shall require such contractor to include a similar provision in all subcontracts.

(C) The Mayor shall appoint with the approval of the City Council a Commission of three (3) to serve without compensation for a period of three (3) years in staggered terms. The commission shall serve as a reviewing board to hear, investigate, and report to the District Attorney's Office any and all complaints made under this Ordinance. It is the intention of this Ordinance that the commission shall seek as far as possible to resolve such disputes without resort to law.

In the event such disputes are not resolved and the order of the Ordinance is not fulfilled, the case shall be certified to the District Attorney's Office for full prosecution.

(D) Violation of any of the provisions of this Section shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment for not more than six months.

Violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance by any officer charged with the duty of appointing, promoting, or grading any employee or employees, or making recommendations as to employment or compensation, shall be considered a failure of good behavior, justifying dismissal from city employment, as well as the foregoing fine and imprisonment.

MINUTES
MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR CIVIC UNITY
January 6, 1949

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 P.M. with the following members and guests present:

Miss Helen Grant	Mr. Howard Desky
Mrs. C. A. Chichester	Reverend John Dillingham
Mr. Spurgeon Avakian	Dr. Harold Geistweit
Mr. Robert Looney	

Mr. Looney, executive secretary to Mayor Smith, presided over the meeting due to the fact that there was no longer a chairman.

A brief discussion was had by the members of the committee in regard to the pending non-discrimination ordinance.

Because of the fact that the committee members were originally appointed to serve one year and then either be reappointed or replaced by new members, a motion was made by Mr. Avakian that the Mayor select an entirely new committee. These to be selected from present membership as well as from outsiders. Seconded by Dr. Geistweit. The motion carried.

There being no further business that could be taken care of until the appointment of the new committee, the meeting adjourned until such time as the new committee would be appointed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maurine McDonald

Maurine McDonald - Secretary
Mayor's Committee for Civic Unity

MINUTES OF MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR
CIVIC UNITY

December 2, 1948

The meeting was called to order with the following members present:

Mr. Hachiro Yuasa	Mr. Howard Desky
Mr. Claude Allen	Mr. Harry S. Juc
Mr. Laurence Dellums	Mr. Enrico Dell'Osso
Rev. John Dillingham	Miss Helen Grant
Mrs. Clara Petersen	Mr. Spurgeon Avakian
Mrs. C. A. Chichester	Mr. Thomas Berkley
Dr. Frank Toothaker	

The committee had been notified that the hearing before the City Council regarding discrimination ordinance had been postponed until the December 23rd meeting.

Dr. Toothaker informed the committee that he would be resigning as Chairman of the Committee in January to take a new post in Arizona with his church. John Soelberg resigned from the committee, by letter, because of ill health.

There was general discussion, by the committee, of the Council meeting at which the non-discrimination ordinance was first read. It was agreed that there would be two members of the City Council actually opposing the ordinance at the time of its presentation.

Mr. Berkley had received the evidence of non-discrimination that was requested by Councilman Youell. One organization in evidence is a city agency. Mr. Dellums stated that most evidence in the employment office could not be secured because of threats of employers against the USES if the information were to be made public. He was hopeful that some of this information could be obtained in some way and would not hurt any of the parties at the employment agency.

Mr. Dellums stated that he had contacted Patrick McDonough and Robert Ash and that they were more than willing to speak before the City Council in behalf of the non-discrimination ordinance. Dr. Toothaker saw Mr. Wood and the same reaction was received from him. Mr. Wood would like a legal member of the committee to explain to him the social, ethical and moral aspects of the ordinance.

The committee was accused of trying to sneak something over by putting the non-discrimination through Council, but the committee members are all agreed that this ordinance has been studied and worked on for practically a year prior to its being brought before council and that it is not a revolutionary thing because it has been in effect in various forms in the larger cities of the United States for some time. Namely in such places as Chicago, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Seattle and Minneapolis. There are eight or nine state non-discrimination ordinances and twelve city non-discrimination ordinances in the country. These are not small towns but metropolitan cities.

The ordinance not one that curbs business operation but one that, if the company does discriminate, gives the city a right to say "You can't do business with me." The Federal Government did this by its Fair Employment Act, saying in fact "if you discriminate against our people, we discriminate against you."

Actual amount of complaints, arising from the proposed ordinance, issued by the City Attorney's Office pursuant to the passage of the ordinance will be few because of the proposed board set up in the ordinance to take care of such cases before they came up before the City Attorney. It is felt that most of the cases will be able to be taken care of and settled by the board without litigation.

A motion was made that Mr. Avakian would speak for the committee on December 23rd when the ordinance comes up for the second reading before the City Council.

Chairman Toothaker to appoint a committee to call upon Mr. Knowland, after a consultation with the Mayor.

The committee to request the City Clerk to arrange reserved seating for Mayor's Committee on Civic Unity for the December 23rd meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurine McDonald

Maurine McDonald - Secretary
Mayor's Committee for Civic Unity

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Oakland, California

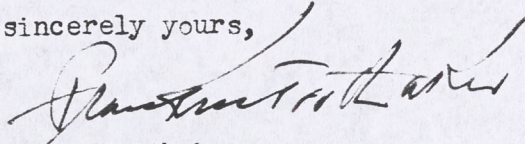
September 21, 1948

Mr. John Soelberg and
Mr. C. Laurence Dellums

Dear Members of the Mayor's Committee:

Pursuant to the plans laid by the previous Mayor's Committee meeting, Dr. Geistweit, Chairman of the special committee on the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance and I met today and are asking you to arrange a conference with Councilman Raymond Pease. We believe that Councilman Pease is favorable to our cause but suggest a conference in order that we may be able to strengthen and encourage members who are favorable and in return may secure valuable suggestions concerning the strategy that will lead to success. We leave all matters of details, preparation and arrangement to you and eagerly await your report.

Very sincerely yours,



Frank Morey Toothaker

FMT.fl

August 31, 1948

Mr. Joseph Edward Smith, Mayor
City of Oakland
Room 305 City Hall
Oakland 12, California

Dear Mayor Smith:

I am very sorry but I will not be able to attend the luncheon on September 8, because, at that time, I will be in Chicago enroute to Detroit.

With very best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

CLD:gv

C. Laurence Dellums

CITY OF OAKLAND
CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH EDWARD SMITH
MAYOR

August 27, 1948

Mr. Laurence Dellums
1716 - 7th Street
Oakland, California

Dear Mr. Dellums:

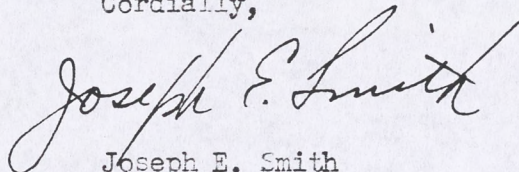
You are cordially invited to be the guest of the City Council and myself at a luncheon at the Hotel Leamington on Wednesday, September 8th, 1948 at 12:15 P.M.

The purpose of this luncheon is to bring together the City Council and the Civic Unity Committee so that we might discuss the work of the Civic Unity Committee.

Kindly notify me as soon as possible as to whether or not we shall have the pleasure of your company at the luncheon.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph E. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joseph E. Smith
MAYOR

JES/mbm

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ROOM 305 CITY HALL
OAKLAND 12, CALIFORNIA

JOSEPH EDWARD SMITH
MAYOR

October 6th, 1947

Mr. C. Laurence Dellums
1716 - Seventh Street,
Oakland #7, California.

Dear Mr. Dellums:

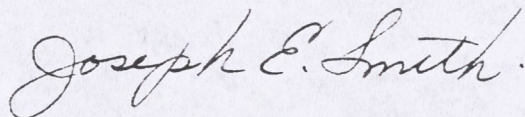
At the request of several organizations and responsible individuals of this community, who are working toward the common purpose of improving the relations among people of different national, racial and religious origin in our city, I am creating a Mayor's Committee for Civic Unity.

It is my desire that such a committee will find facts and make recommendations to me and the City Council concerning community problems, minority, national, racial and religious groups to the end that we may all work together to build a more united citizenry, extend Democracy and increase opportunity for all our citizens regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

Knowing your interest in these problems and anticipating your willingness to serve your community in this way, I am appointing you as a member of the Mayor's Committee for Civic Unity.

You will be further notified regarding the date of the first meeting of the committee.

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Edward Smith
MAYOR

JES/hlm

MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR CIVIC UNITY
MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 1948

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman. The following members were present:

Mr. Claude Allen	Mr. Paul Heide
Mr. Thomas Berkley	Mrs. Clara Peterson
Mrs. C.A. Chichester	Rev. Frank M. Toothaker
Mr. C. Laurence Dellums	Mr. Howard Wells
Rev. Harold N. Geistweit	Mr. Hachiro Yuasa

A motion was made that the minutes of the February 26th meeting be accepted as mailed. Motion carried.

The Chairman found that Mr. Dellums had not as yet been assigned to any of the sub-committees, and therefore appointed him to the Law Enforcement Committee.

A letter from Dr. Mary Alice Sarvis, requested that the committee grant her a two months leave of absence from the committee and that Mrs. Jane Davis take her place at that time. A motion was made to grant Dr. Sarvis her leave. The motion carried. No motion was made on the acceptance of Mrs. Davis as a substitute member and the matter was left open for further discussion.

A letter received from the NAACP, requested that one of the minority groups be appointed to the Housing Authority Board. Mr. Berkley moved that it be recommended to the Mayor that a member of one of the minority groups within the City be appointed to the Housing Authority Board and attach to the recommendation a list of suggested persons qualified for the appointment. Mrs. Chichester seconded the motion and it was carried. Mr. Sapper made a motion that the Chairman and two others, that the Chairman may select, compose the committee to select names to be suggested, and report them to the Committee as a whole for acceptance. Seconded by Mr. Berkley, the motion carried.

The matter of the non-discrimination ordinance, as stated in the minutes of the last meeting, to be put to vote by the committee was verbally accepted by Mr. Soelberg, through the Chairman, and by a letter from Mr. Avakian. Mr. Allen moved that the ordinance be presented to the Mayor and through him, to the City Council for action. This was seconded by Mrs. Chichester and unanimously passed by the committee. A letter to be sent to the Mayor attaching the ordinance and referring to the minutes as recorded herewith.

Mr. Sapper reported upon the results of his discussion with Mr. Knowland of the Oakland Tribune in regard to the excessive use of the word "Negro" in describing suspected persons in crime in Oakland. Mr. Knowland assured Mr. Sapper that every precaution would be exercised in this matter and that the word "Negro" would be used for descriptive or identification matter only.

Mrs. Peterson, of the Recreation and Health sub-committee, had met with the Council of Social Agencies' office with a staff worker on their recreation file. She states that they were in the process of getting volunteers to help re-organize and cross file all of their material, and in that process, at the request of the sub-committee, attempt to list any public recreation facility where there is racial discrimination.

The Employment sub-committee reported that they would meet next week. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurine McDonald
Maurine McDonald
Secretary