

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Community Engagement Commission
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

AGENDA -
October 21, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER:
- B. WELCOME:
- C. ROLL CALL:
Karen Cooley-Kistler____ Julie Ebbesen____ Curt Stockford____ Mishy Wang____
Rebecca Leighton____ Denise King____

STAFF PRESENT:
Elke Johnson____

COUNCIL LIAISON:
Melanie Leehy____
- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- E. INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENT
- F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
- G. AGENDA
 - Unfinished business
 - 1. Human Rights Day
 - 2. Apartment Outreach
- H. ADJOURNMENT:

Next Regular Meeting is on Monday, November 18 at 6:30 PM

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ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	October 21, 2024
Agenda Item	Human Rights Day
Attachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial Covenant Letter for Homeowners • Form 40.10.1 • Instructions to complete form 10.10.1
Submitted By	Elke Johnson, Administrative & Communications Coordinator

Item	Human Rights Day
Description	<p>Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on December, 10th. It commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</p> <p>Human Rights Day will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at Falcon Heights City Hall. A time frame still needs to be secured. The theme will be removing racial covenants.</p> <p>On Wednesday, July 13, 2022, the Falcon Heights City Council took action to support the work of the Just Deeds project. As a result, Falcon Heights residents have the opportunity to acknowledge the historical discrimination caused by these covenants and to discharge them from their property records. Because Just Deeds relies on volunteer hours from attorneys and because a great number of homeowners requested that a racial covenant be removed from their property, the process has taken longer than anticipated.</p> <p>The City of Falcon Heights has now determined that City Staff with guidance from the Just Deeds Coalition can assist property owners wishing to remove a racial covenant from their property during Human Rights Day.</p> <p>Staff has drafted a letter to all homeowners that have a property with a racial covenant on their deed, along with instructions.</p> <p>Staff has been in contact with Mapping Prejudice, and Just Deeds, who have in turn reached out to the Ramsey County Records Office. Mapping Prejudice will be able to present at Human Rights Day. Just Deeds suggested having volunteer attorneys present at the event to assist residents with completing form 40.10.1.</p>
Budget Impact	TBD

Attachment(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form 40.10.1• Racial Covenant Letter for Homeowners• Instructions to complete form 10.10.1
Action(s) Requested	Continue discussions about this year's Human Rights Day Event.



10/18/2024

Dear Falcon Heights Resident,

Your property has been identified as having a racial covenant on your property record. Racial covenants are restrictions placed on residential properties (deeds, titles) from the 1940's to the early 1960's to prevent people who were not White from buying or occupying land. Most homeowners do not realize these exist. Standardized forms used during that time in real estate transactions contained these provisions which were seldom overlooked as part of the purchasing/closing process. A Supreme Court ruling in 1948 (Shelley v. Kraemer) ruled them unenforceable and in 1953 the Minnesota Legislature prohibited their use. However, they remain on the official records until they are legally removed – or discharged. While no longer enforceable, they remain a permanent part of your legal property record.

Examples of Racial Covenants:

DATE - 1946-04-23

COVENANT: *no person or persons other than of the Caucasian race shall be permitted to occupy said premises or any part thereof*

DATE - 1948-04-01

COVENANT: *No lot, plot, or parcel shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, used or occupied, nor any right thereto be granted, given, or permitted to any person, other than a member of the Caucasian race, except that this covenant shall not prevent occupancy by persons.*

On Wednesday, July 13, 2022, the Falcon Heights City Council approved a resolution to join the Just Deeds Coalition to help raise awareness and to assist property owners in discharging discriminatory covenants at no charge. With guidance from the Just Deeds project, Falcon Heights homeowners can disavow and renounce the restrictive covenants on their property records. Completion and filing of form 40.10.1 will remove (discharge) them from the legal property record, should you wish to do so, and there is no fee to do so.

Because Just Deeds relies on volunteer hours from attorneys and because a great number of homeowners requested that a racial covenant be removed from their property, the process has taken longer than anticipated.

The City of Falcon Heights has now determined that City Staff with guidance from the Just Deeds project can assist property owners wishing to remove a racial covenant from their property. On Tuesday, December 10, 2024 (INSERT TIME) the City will recognize Human Rights Day by administratively assisting residents to complete their form, notarize it, and submit

Instructions to complete a Minnesota Uniform Conveyance Form 40.10.01 (enclosed)

1. Visit the Mapping Prejudice map here: <https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu>.
2. Scroll down to about halfway and click on “See all Covenants.”
3. Scroll the cursor over your property
4. Click the mouse
5. A pop-up will appear that contains your legal description of your property (Addition, Lot, Block Number)
6. This information goes on the first page where it asks for “The real property owned, The date of the Covenant – fill that in the first blank of question 2 on page w.
7. The document number goes in the second blank
8. At the very bottom left-hand corner of the page, there is a place to insert name and address after: “THIS INSTRUMENT WAS DRAFTED BY”
 - a. You write in your name and address there.
9. Be sure to sign the form in front of the notary; do NOT sign it before.
10. Make an appointment at City Hall. If you are unable to attend on December 10 (INSERT TIME) you may ask for an alternative time. City Hall is open Monday-Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.
11. Either the City can mail your form on your behalf or you may mail it yourself to Ramsey County at the below address.

Ramsey County Recorder’s Office
Attn: Todd Uecker
90 Plato Blvd W
Saint Paul, MN 55107

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ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	October 21, 2024
Agenda Item	Apartment Outreach
Attachment	N/A
Submitted By	Elke Johnson, Administrative & Communications Coordinator

Item	Apartment Outreach Plan
Description	<p>Based on recent discussions, it has been identified by the Community Engagement Commission there should be more outreach to apartment dwellers to cultivate a sense of belonging in Falcon Heights.</p> <p>CEC has started discussions around an apartment outreach plan. Commissioners have identified that they should write up a script that can be used to reach out to apartment managers and owners. They started discussions around a timeline. They will need availability of 1 or 2 councilmembers.</p>
Budget Impact	N/A
Attachment(s)	N/A
Action(s) Requested	Staff suggest continuing the discussion for apartment outreach plan