

# INITIATIVE PETITION

## For Control of Mixed Blocks Occupied by Both White and Colored People

To the Honorable Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Saint Louis:

We, the undersigned qualified electors of the City of St. Louis and State of Missouri, pursuant to Article Five of the Charter of the City of St. Louis, now in force, hereby propose an ordinance of the City of St. Louis, and ask to have the same submitted to the vote of the electors of the City of St. Louis, to be by them adopted or rejected at the polls; and we submit said proposed ordinance to your Honorable Body, and request that said ordinance be submitted forthwith to a vote of the people at a special election to be held for that purpose.

Said ordinance proposed is in words and figures as follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO PREVENT ILL FEELING, CONFLICT AND COLLISIONS BETWEEN THE WHITE AND COLORED RACES IN THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS, IN THE CITY BLOCKS OCCUPIED BY BOTH RACES, AND TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC PEACE, AND PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE, BY MAKING REASONABLE PROVISIONS WHEREBY GRADUALLY SUCH BLOCKS MAY BECOME IN TIME OCCUPIED WHOLLY BY EITHER WHITE OR COLORED PEOPLE, THEREBY PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF WHITE AND COLORED PEOPLE RESPECTIVELY.

Be it ordained by the City of St. Louis as follows:

SECTION 1. That hereafter, it shall be unlawful for any white person to use as a residence, or place of abode or to establish and maintain as a place of public assembly any house, building or structure or any part thereof in any block, as same is hereinafter defined, on which seventy-five per cent or more of such houses, buildings or structures are occupied or used as residences, places of abode or public assembly by colored people, and twenty-five per cent or less of such houses, buildings or structures are occupied or used as residences, places of abode or public assembly by white people.

SECTION 2. That hereafter it shall be unlawful for any colored person to use as a residence or place of abode, or to establish and maintain as a place of public assembly any house, building or structure or any part thereof in any block, as same is hereinafter defined, on which seventy-five per cent or more of such houses, buildings or structures are occupied or used as residences, places of abode, or public assembly by white people, and twenty-five per cent or less of such houses, buildings or structures are occupied or used as residences, places of abode or public assembly by colored people.

SECTION 3. That the word block, as the same is used in this ordinance, shall be construed to mean both sides of a street to the rear of the lots thereon, between the two adjacent, intersecting or crossing streets. A house, any part of which is opposite the end of and facing in the direction of an intersecting street, shall be construed as being in the same block with the adjacent property with street or house numbers receding and which front in the same direction. Corner houses shall be deemed to be located in the block in which they are numbered.

**DEFINITION OF THE WORD "BLOCK."**

SECTION 4. That any person intending to build or erect for himself or as agent for another, any building to be used as a residence, place of abode, or place of public assembly, upon property situated on a block, as same is hereinabove defined, on which there are no buildings used as residences, places of abode, or places of public assembly, shall in the application for a permit, to the Building Commissioner of the City of St. Louis, declare for what purpose said proposed building, residence, or place of abode, for which said permit is asked, is to be used, whether as a residence, or place of abode or place of public assembly for white persons or for colored persons. Upon the filing of said application, the Building Commissioner shall, as soon as practicable thereafter, cause to be published twice a week for four consecutive weeks, in one English and one German daily newspaper in the City of St. Louis, and at the cost of said applicant, the fact that a building of the character described is proposed to be built at the place indicated in the permit, and to be used or occupied as a residence, place of abode, or place of public assembly, as the case may be, for white or colored people, and he shall cause to be posted in a conspicuous manner at some convenient place on or near the lot where such building is to be erected, a similar statement, within one week after the presentation of such application; and unless within five days after the date of the last publication thereof, protest be made in writing to the Building Commissioner by those owning more than fifty per cent of the foot frontage on said block, against the use mentioned in said application, the permit desired shall, if in other respects said application be in conformity with the ordinances of the city, be granted. Thereafter, all buildings erected on said block and all buildings erected on said block for other purposes, but which it may be desired thereafter to use as residences, places of abode or places of public assembly, shall be so used, either for white persons or for colored persons respectively, as may be determined by the permit granted in the manner hereinabove provided. If, however, the owners of more than fifty per cent of the foot frontage on said block in which the proposed building is to be erected, and for which a permit is asked, shall protest against the said building in the manner above provided, then in such case, no permit shall be issued on said application for the erection of said building for the use set out therein. Whenever a protest is filed under the provisions of this ordinance, those signing the protest shall state the exact number of feet of their respective property that front on the block in question, and each signature to such protest shall be acknowledged before a notary public, and any signature not so acknowledged shall be disregarded by the Building Commissioner.

The provisions of this section are intended to provide a method by which a block which is vacant may be improved and by which its use for either white persons or colored persons may be determined, but shall not be construed to affect unlawfully any constitutional right which any owner of property may possess to use or occupy his property, subject to reasonable police regulations.

SECTION 5. That nothing in this ordinance shall affect the location of residences, places of abode, or of public assembly established previous to the approval of this ordinance, and nothing herein shall be so construed as to prevent occupation of residences, by white or colored servants or employes on the premises on which they are so employed.

SECTION 6. That any and every person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than Ten (\$10.00) Dollars, nor more than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars, for each offense. Each day upon which a violation of this ordinance shall exist, shall be and constitute a separate offense.

**PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF ORDINANCE.**

The owner or agent of any building or any part of any building who shall cause or permit the same to be used in violation of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to the penalty prescribed by this ordinance.

SECTION 7. That the invalidity of any portion of this ordinance shall not affect the validity of any other portion thereof, which can be given effect without such invalid part.

SECTION 8. That this ordinance shall take effect ten days after the date of its passage.

And your petitioners hereby designate, by names and addresses, five persons as the Committee of the Petitioners, residents of the City of St. Louis, to-wit:

NAME.	ADDRESS.
Charles W. Logan.....	4970 Lotus Ave.
Wayne E. Wheeling.....	3818 Blaine Ave.
L. E. Rottweiler.....	2322 Geraldine Ave.
Arthur F. Stoehr.....	4528 Pennsylvania Ave.
Felix P. Lawrence.....	3939A Kennerly Ave.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, each of the undersigned for himself personally signed this petition, and states that he is a qualified elector of the City of St. Louis, and his residence is in the City of St. Louis, and that he has correctly written his place of residence in said City after his name.