

RACISM in black & white

This is a snip from the 1923 deed to UDC's building.

This clause states:

"...no part of said premises shall ever be conveyed or occupied by any person not of the Caucasian race."

In consideration of a similar waiver on the part of the vendor and vendee and grantees affecting the entire Morgan Park Subdivision the vendor heretofore, legal representative and assigns, hereby waive forever all right to sell, assign, transfer or convey all or any right, title and interest in and to the within contract or in and to the lands mentioned hereon or upon and after the completion of the terms hereof to sell, assign, transfer or convey the whole or any part of the within described premises or at any time to let, lease, rent or permit to be occupied the whole or any part of said premises by or to any person or persons other than those of the Caucasian race; and the vendee - covenant - and agree- and it is made an express condition of this contract that no part of said premises shall ever be conveyed or occupied by any person not of the Caucasian race.

Today, **the building is owned by a Black people** who are working with their community to overcome the obstacles that a history of racism has caused.

CAPTION:

This deed is just one small but impactful illustration of the many ways that overt and systemic racism has shaped the community at 7 Mile and Mt. Elliot over the last 98 years.

This clause shows racism in plain language, printed in black and white. Other chapters of this story are not as blatant, but it is our hope to tell all the stories of our adopted neighborhood in Detroit's 3rd District, whether those stories are as clear as this one or more subtle—yet no less destructive.

The Urban Development Corporation is a completely volunteer non-profit entity dedicated to telling the stories of the challenges that urban neighborhoods face and the history that shaped them. We use those stories and other means to advocate for change for urban neighborhoods and the families who live in them.

Nearly a hundred years later, our building is owned by a group of Black men and women dedicated to making positive change for other Black people.

The chapters in the story of this neighborhood continue to be written. Change of this magnitude is slow...but the pages continue to turn.

With every bit of help, change happens faster.

Please follow us, donate or contact us to learn how you can join us on our mission to create positive change for families who live in urban communities suffering from issues related to poverty, hardship and the many forms of oppression.