

Housing
gen.

Nathan Lewin
Second Assistant
Civil Rights Division

May 20, 1968

James P. Turner, Chief
Central Section

JPT:JO:mbd

Otey v. Common Council of Milwaukee
36 Law Week 2601 (April 2, 1968)

This refers to your memorandum of May 17, 1968 concerning the above entitled matter.

Judge Tehan rendered judgment on March 5, 1968, prohibiting the City from holding the referendum on a resolution which would have restricted the property owner's right to sell his property.

No appeal was taken. Subsequently, however, the Common Council, in an about face, passed a strong open housing ordinance prohibiting discrimination in the sale or rental of all housing except owner-occupied property of one or two units. The exemption applies only to private sales transactions and not those through brokers.

It is to be noted that after the ordinance was passed, Father James Groppi, who had led daily marches seeking such legislation, discontinued the marches and stated, "We feel it is a significant victory."

No further action is to be taken in this matter.

cc: Pollak
Fiss
Turner
Ossea

Jim Turner, Chief
Central Section

May 17, 1968

Nathan Lewin
Second Assistant

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Please have an attorney in your section look at this case and determine whether an appeal has been taken. If so, I would appreciate a recommendation as to whether we should participate amicus in the Court of Appeals.

cc: Mr. Pollak
Mr. Fiss ✓