

CITIZENS LEAGUE REPORT

No. 55

**City of Minneapolis
Housing Code**

April 2, 1956

Citizens League

OF MINNEAPOLIS AND HENNEPIN COUNTY

601 Syndicate Building • FEderal 8-0791

Minneapolis 2

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Minneapolis City Council
Standing Committee on
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City Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that the Board of Directors of the Citizens League makes the following suggestions in line with its general support of an effective, enforceable housing code for the City of Minneapolis.

The primary objective here is to see that housing in Minneapolis meets at least certain minimum standards. To accomplish this objective the following things are needed:

- a) An ordinance containing a clear and definite statement of the standards which shall constitute the minimum. We believe that you are well on your way in the development of such an ordinance.
- b) Effective enforcement of the ordinance through
 - (1) Adequate inspection
 - (2) Adequate prosecution
 - (3) Adequate penalties and remedies.

To accomplish effective enforcement we believe that

1. A central inspection unit for dwelling inspections should be established under the Inspector of Buildings.
2. Housing inspectors should be general inspectors but should be familiar with inspectional specialties.
3. City inspections should be made in such manner as to be helpful and useful to property owners as well as to the public.

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4. To start, the dwelling inspectors should be recruited from present city inspectional personnel. Careful records should be kept for the first six months or so to provide experience history on which to project long time personnel needs.
5. An inspection fee schedule should be adopted for "call backs" and repeated inspections of persistent violators.
6. At least a system of registration of owners and operators of multiple dwelling units should be included in the ordinance as a minimum aid to enforcement. We reserve our decision as to whether licensing of multiple dwelling units is required in Minneapolis until further information is developed on the need for licensing.

Yours very truly,

Raymond D. Black
Executive Director

RDB:cm