THE CITIZENS FOR A UNITED DETROIT COLLECTION

Papers, 1964

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Accession Number 484 L.C. Number

The papers of the Citizens for a United Detroit were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in June of 1971 by John J. Weaver and were opened for research in April 1983.

The Citizens for a United Detroit began as a series of ad hoc meetings in the sunnier of 1964 to discuss action to be taken on the forthcoming Homeowners Ordinance which was to appear on the ballot as Proposition I in the Detroit primary election, September, 1964. The Citizens for a United Detroit was formally constituted June 29, 1964 with the election of the Very Reverend John Weaver, Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul as chair, and ten co-chairs representing major religious faiths, labor, business and corrmunity agencies. An executive committee was formed and Michael Kerwin was loaned by the UAW to serve as full-time staff director. Robert Hoppe assumed the office of Secretary-Treasurer and subsequently the Honorable Jerome Cavanagh accepted the post of Honorary Chairman.

The proposed Homeowners ordinance was backed by the Greater Detroit Homeowners Council and was allegedly advanced to protect certain rights of residents and property owners. The Citizens of a United Detroit argued that the proposed ordinance would institute segregated housing and would restrict housing available to minority groups.

The papers consist primarily of minutes, correspondence, clippings, and news releases of the Citizens for a United Detroit in its summer campaign against the proposed ordinance.

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