



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2023
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
FROM: Dave Perrault, City Administrator
SUBJECT: Removal of Deed Restrictions

Budgeted Amount:	Actual Amount:	Funding Source:
N/A	N/A	N/A

For Council Consideration

Council should consider providing direction on engaging with Just Deeds and providing residents the option to remove racial covenants from their home deeds.

Background

Council recently directed Staff to look at working with Just Deeds to assist residents with removing racial covenants on their home deeds. Through the first half of the 20th century, it was not uncommon for home builders, real estate, agents, and even units of government to have racial covenants included in deeds to homes that precluded non-white ownership and rentals. While federal and state law prohibit the enforcement of such covenants today, some may still exist in the original deed language. Across Ramsey County, and including Arden Hills, there are deeds that still include these covenants. Ramsey County has partnered with the organization Just Deeds, <https://justdeeds.org/> to provide residents with a simple, no cost way to remove these covenants from their deeds. Other cities, such as, Shoreview, Falcon Heights, and Roseville have partnered with Just Deeds. There is no cost to the City, but the City would need to pass a resolution of support, and also help market and promote the service to its residents. From there, residents would work directly with Just Deeds on removing any racial covenants from their deeds. Residents interested in seeing if their property has a racial covenant can visit the U of M’s mapping prejudice webpage, <https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/>, which is working to identify properties with covenants.

Assuming Council wants this to move forward, Council should give direction on whether or not it would like a formal presentation from Just Deeds at a Council meeting or simply pass the resolution on consent and move forward.

Budget Impact

No known budget impacts at this time

Attachment

N/A