

City of
Grand Rapids
Michigan 49503

September 14, 1982

Dear Mayor Drasin and Members of the City Commission:

The Community Relations Commission is joining with representatives of many community and religious organizations in presenting you with a resolution dealing with divestiture of City funds from South Africa. The resolution would require that the City's "idle" funds be invested only in those financial institutions which do not engage in business with South Africa. It directly parallels the resolution which the State of Michigan has already adopted.

We feel very strongly that the people of Grand Rapids should not be forced to support racism. The fact that racism in South Africa is guaranteed constitutionally makes the use of our monies to aid those in power there even more repugnant.

Therefore, we urge you to carefully consider this resolution and pass it at the earliest possible time.

For your information, I have included, in addition to the resolution, a question/answer information sheet on divestment and the letters of support from concerned organizations and citizens of the City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Georgianna Klein, Chairperson
Community Relations Commission

Presented to Commission
9/14/82
GK:cle
attachments

RESOLUTION

1. WHEREAS the City of Grand Rapids, via its City Commission, has clearly established that it does not condone, encourage, or support racism or discrimination based on race (one example of such is the City's "Affirmative Action Plan", which affirms "the right of all people to work and advance on the basis of true merit, ability and potential, without reference to race or color. . ."), and;
2. WHEREAS the people of the City of Grand Rapids would not encourage, condone or support discrimination on the basis of color or race, but would seek the elimination of such anywhere it might be practiced, and;
3. WHEREAS the South African Government practices legally-required discrimination against individuals on the basis of race and color, and;
4. WHEREAS investment of "idle" City funds in financial institutions making or maintaining loans to the Republic of South Africa, or to a subsidiary or affiliate of a United States firm operating in the Republic of South Africa can be construed as encouraging, condoning, and supporting such legally-required discrimination on the basis of race or color, and;
5. WHEREAS the City of Grand Rapids has recognized that investment of City funds "should not be made on an arbitrary basis", but should be based on the premise that "the people's money should be used for the people's benefit" (City of Grand Rapids Investment Policy Summary),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the people of the City of Grand Rapids enact the following amendment to the City's investment policy:

To be a depository of "idle" funds belonging to the City of Grand Rapids, a financial institution shall not encourage, support, or condone legally-required discrimination against an individual on the basis of race or color, by knowingly making or maintaining a loan to the Republic of South Africa, or to a subsidiary or affiliate of a United States firm operating in the Republic of South Africa. A financial institution shall be considered to have complied with this resolution if the financial institution has filed with the City Treasurer an affidavit attesting to the fact that it has, after January 1, 1984, no existing loans to the Republic of South Africa, a national corporation of the Republic of South Africa, or to a subsidiary or affiliate of a United States firm operating in the Republic of South Africa, as determined from information obtained from the United States Department of Commerce.

Definitions

- (a) "Financial Institution" means a bank chartered under the laws of a state, or the United States.

- (b) "National Corporation" means a corporation, or a subsidiary or affiliate of a corporation that is more than 50% owned or operated by the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

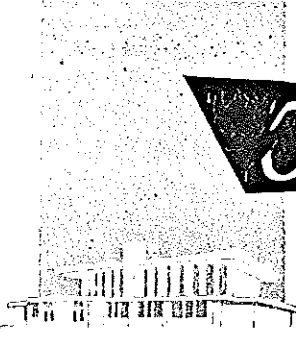
- (c) "Subsidiary or affiliate of a United States firm operating in the Republic of South Africa" means, as determined by the United States Department of Commerce, a firm incorporated under the laws of the Republic of South Africa, and controlled by a United States firm. A subsidiary or affiliate shall not be construed to mean a subsidiary or affiliate that is located in the United States.

- (d) "Idle Funds" means public funds not needed for current City of Grand Rapids governmental operations. (Investment Policy. Summary; adopted by City Commission June 21, 1977. Revised September 20, 1977; May 8, 1979, and November 20, 1979.



Temple Emanuel

1715 EAST FULTON STREET • GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN • PHONE GL 9-5975



DR. ALBERT M. LEWIS, RABBI

September 9, 1982

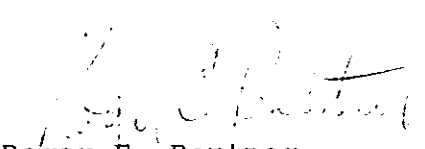
Mayor Abe L. Drasin and the Grand Rapids City Commission
City Hall
300 Monroe, N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502

Gentlemen:

As we understand it, the Community Relations Commission of the City of Grand Rapids will be appearing before you soon, requesting passage of a resolution requiring the City to remove its "idle" funds from financial institutions which do business with South Africa.

Since this resolution has already been passed by the State Legislature, as a representative of the Board of Trustees and congregation of Temple Emanuel, we would ask your consideration and passage of this resolution.

Yours truly,



Roger E. Beutner
President/Temple Emanuel

REB/pb

cc: Rabbi A. Lewis



AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER • 100 Center for International Programs

August 2, 1982

The Reverend Douglas Van Doren
Pastor
Plymouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
4010 Kalamazoo Avenue, S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Dear Reverend Van Doren:

Thank you for sharing with me a draft that has been proposed to the City Commission to the City of Grand Rapids concerning its affirmative action plan and its application to the situation in the Republic of South Africa.

The proposal as drafted very much parallels the action that has been taken by a number of universities, churches, and some state and local governments. As you probably know, the State of Michigan has passed virtually the same bill by a very substantial majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate about one year ago. I understand that the Michigan Banker's Association has not objected to that bill even though they had the chance to review it and comment upon it before the relevant committees of the House and Senate.

The bill is important because it makes a statement about the willingness of the peoples of Michigan and in your case of Grand Rapids to allow their monies to support the increased investment in and growth of strength of the Republic of South Africa under the present racially segregating government.

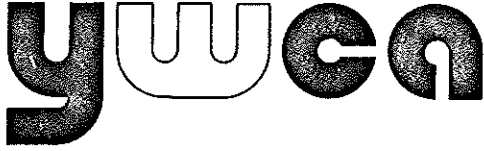
Therefore, I believe there would be wide consensus that your step is a minimal and a very moderate step which can be agreed upon by a wide spectrum of citizens of these United States and would be supported by all of those who have a deep concern for the long-term welfare of all the peoples of the Republic of South Africa. I should also note that a similar action has been taken by the Trustees of Michigan State University in an action which preceded that of the State of Michigan; therefore, it is clear that Grand Rapids will not be breaking new ground in Michigan for this action.

Best wishes in your work. Thank you for sharing with me your proposal.

Sincerely yours,

David Wiley
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Michigan State University

DW:wft



25 SHELDON BLVD. S.E. GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503
PHONE: 616-459-4681

Putnam Center
25 Sheldon Blvd. S.E. 49503
616- 459-7062

Camp Newaygo
Newaygo, Michigan 49337
616-652-1184

Domestic Crisis Center
25 Sheldon Blvd. S.E. 49503
616-451-2744

Lee A. Lyons,
Executive Director

Myrtle B. Starr,
President

Carolyn Grin,
Vice President

Bessie Ward,
Vice President

Kate Lynn,
Vice President

Cynthia Clair,
Recording Secretary

Barbara Lipscomb,
Corresponding Secretary

Helen Guyton,
Treasurer

August 24, 1982

City of Grand Rapids
City Commissioners
300 Monroe NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Dear Commissioners,

The YWCA supports action to withhold the investments of funds by the City of Grand Rapids to institutions that make loans to South Africa. Action of this nature is one clear way that the City of Grand Rapids can make a statement of its commitment for human rights.

The YWCA and many other individuals and organizations in Grand Rapids, across the country and around the world clearly must speak out against Apartheid.

We commend and support our city on this action.

Sincerely,

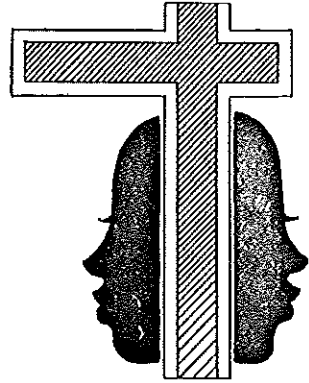
Lee A. Lyons
Executive Director



A United Way Agency

The YWCA serves, employs, and receives into membership all persons regardless of race, creed, national origin, or age.

AFROAMERICAN LAY CATHOLIC CAUCUS



— BOARD MEMBERS —

Sidney Bailey
Randolph Brown
Annie Green
F. Bernard Hall
Dorothy Hastings
Joanne Jones
Jacob Robinson
Elizabeth Scott
Velma Williams

diocese of grand rapids
240 Brown Street, S.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507
Phone (616) 245-9510

August 11, 1982

City of Grand Rapids
City Commissioners
300 Monroe Street, N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Dear Commissioners:

The Afroamerican Lay Catholic Caucus supports the call to withhold the investments of funds by the City of Grand Rapids to institutions that make loans to South Africa. This minimal but significant action is a positive expression of the City of Grand Rapids' stance toward human rights.

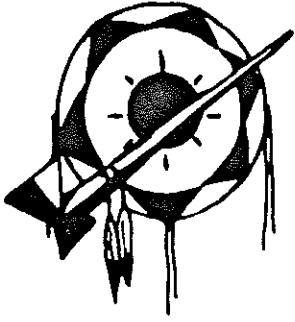
In today's world, it is evident that justice for our brothers and sisters on one continent affects all of us. Apartheid is an issue that needs to be addressed by all rational people. As citizens of this community, we commend and support you, the commissioners of our city, on this action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randolph Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Randolph Brown,
President

RB/bak



Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council

45 Lexington, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Phone: 774-8331

September 9, 1982

Ms. Georgianna Klein
Community Relations Commission
City of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

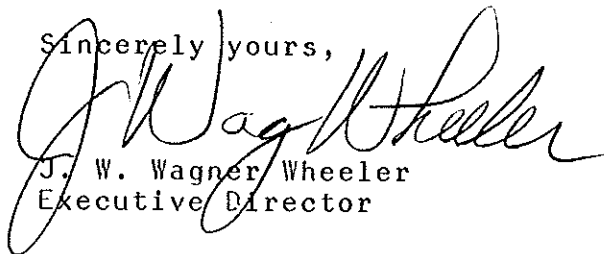
Dear Georgianna:

The Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council has taken the position of supporting and doing business with firms and organizations that have measurable affirmative action plans.

Within the realm, Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council opposes the Apartheid policy in South Africa.

With this position GRITC supports the concept that the City of Grand Rapids divest all funds with firms that do business with South Africa.

Sincerely yours,



J. W. Wagner Wheeler
Executive Director

2331 Okemos, S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
September 9, 1982

City of Grand Rapids
City Commissioners
300 Monroe Street, N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to let you know of my support of the amendment to the City's investment policy relative to "idle" City funds in financial institutions making or maintaining loans to the Republic of South Africa.

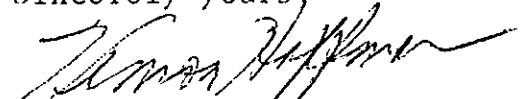
Since the South African Government practices legally required discrimination against individuals on the basis of race and color I think it important for the City of Grand Rapids to show that it opposes such discrimination.

This action would seem to be consistent with the already established posture of the City Commission through its Affirmative Action Plan which clearly indicates that the City of Grand Rapids does not condone, encourage, or support racism or discrimination based on race.

This is certainly only one small step. It is important, however, for the increasing weight of public opinion to be exercised in ways that demonstrate to the Republic of South Africa our opposition to their practice of legally required discrimination.

Thank you for this consideration of my opinion.

Sincerely yours,



(The Rev.) Vernon Hoffman

8/20/82

Dear City Commissioners:

Our committee which represents official and unofficial peace and justice groups throughout the Catholic Churches in the Grand Rapids Diocese wishes you to approve of the plan to no longer deposit "idle" funds into institutions that encourage or approve of the policy of apartheid in the country of South Africa.

We have reviewed the final draft of the proposal and approve of it.

Matthew F Goodheart

Matthew F. Goodheart
Member of CJPC

Justice and Peace Task Force
Plymouth Congregational United
Church of Christ
4010 Kalamazoo Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508
September 6, 1982

City Commission
300 Monroe NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear City Commissioners:

The Justice and Peace Task Force of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ at its August 25, 1982 meeting, voted unanimously to support action which would prohibit deposit of the City's "idle funds" in any financial institution which encourages support, or condones legally required discrimination on the basis of race or color by making or maintaining a loan to the Republic of South Africa or to a subsidiary or affiliate of a U.S. firm doing business in the Republic of South Africa.

We feel that this is a very appropriate and important action for the city to take, for without demonstrated disapproval of the insidious policy of apartheid, it will never change. Without this action, we also become supporters of apartheid and cast doubt on our commitment to just and fair treatment of all people within this city as well.

We urge your approval.

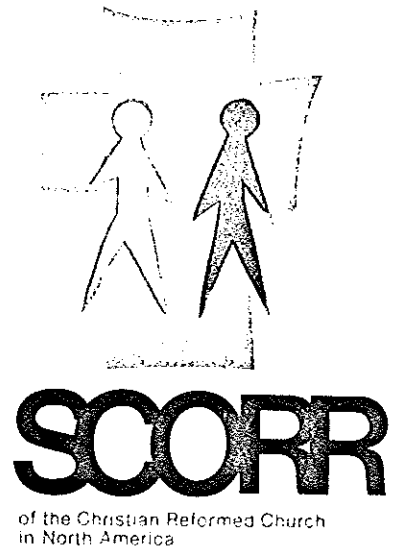
Sincerely,

Al Pugno
Al Pugno
Justice and Peace Task Force of
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

AP:bh

September 10, 1982


Honorable Abraham Drasin
and the Grand Rapids City Commission




Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Commission:

We write to you to indicate our heartfelt support for the efforts to pass a resolution which would remove the "idle" funds of the city of Grand Rapids from financial institutions which do business with South Africa. The problems surrounding this issue are enormously complex; ready solutions are not to be found, especially by those of us so far away from the issues. Yet it is important to take the steps that we can take to avoid participating in the injustice, and this resolution is such a step. Our city, a city of churches, must not knowingly participate in injustice. It is important for us as employees of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, which has its headquarters in this city, to know that this city takes a firm stand against injustice in South Africa as a natural part of our commitment to justice here in our own city. We respectfully urge your support of this resolution.

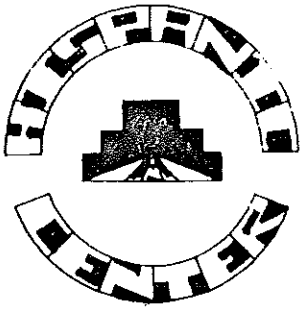
Sincerely,


Karl J. Westerhof
Director of Race Relations


Rev. William B. Ipema
Director of Leadership Development

cda

A NON PROFIT CORPORATION



muchos modos, una voz

HISPANIC CENTER OF WESTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

1922 DIVISION SOUTH GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49507
PHONE (616) 452-4010

September 13, 1982

Mayor Abe L. Drasin and City
Commissions of Grand Rapids
300 Monroe Ave.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Dear Mayor Drasin:

The City of Grand Rapids has long enjoyed a positive image of the All American City where families of people band together to enjoy freedom, equality and truly pursue happiness. While experiencing some economic discomfort, Grand Rapids still remains a bright spot in Michigan.

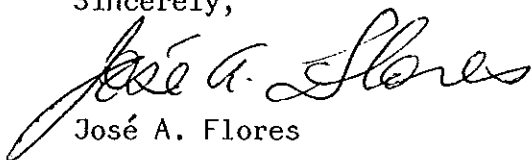
There appears to be great concern among Grand Rapids residents today about the investment policy as it pertains to "idle" city funds and their investment in South Africa. The basic objection obviously, is that South Africa has continued to practice legal segregation and required discrimination against Black Africans through a policy of apartheid.

We, of the Hispanic Center of Western MI. do not support racial discrimination as practiced in South Africa and would never invest funds toward any proponent of such policies. As citizens of Grand Rapids we are impelled to encourage the divergence of Grand Rapids idle funds investment in South Africa toward other equally profitable areas.

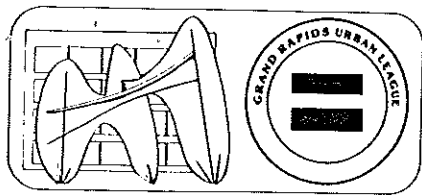
We, therefore, support an amendment to the Grand Rapids City Investment Policy which would prohibit investment of public funds toward the support of South Africa or equally segregationist institutions.

Thanking you for your attention.

Sincerely,



José A. Flores



GRAND RAPIDS URBAN LEAGUE, Inc.

745 Eastern Avenue, S.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Telephone 245-2207

Ralph Garlick
Chairperson

September 13, 1982

Hon. Benjamin F. Gibson
1st Vice-Chairperson

Rev. Don Eddy
2nd Vice-Chairperson

Grand Rapids City Commission
300 Monroe N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Daisy King
Secretary

Re: Apartheid

David M. Amberg
Treasurer

Dear Commissioners:

Board of Directors

Sister Rose Marie Abate
Joseph Albenze
Lana Boldi
Gretchen Bouwsma
Ellen Brown
Brian Cloyd
Bruce C. Cloyd, DDS
Reva Cook
Joseph Crump
William Gill
Daniel Groce
George K. Heartwell, Jr.
Shelley Hill
Sylvia Hugen
Russell Johnson
T.L. Love
Theresa D. McClellan
Patrick A. Miles
Freddie B. Rhodes
David A. Rodriguez
Elliott Serafin
Eva Sitek
Frederic Steggarda
Mary C. Thomas
Doris Tuinstra
Lynn Williamson
Sister Alice Wittenbach
Rae Zimmerman

The current racial policy of Apartheid, practiced by South Africa is an insult and injustice to the people of color in South Africa, as well as a violation of universally accepted human rights. As you may know the aforementioned policy sustain its existence on the monies of people which contribute directly to the South African Government.

The city of Grand Rapids has a moral obligation to sever all economic ties to South Africa whether they be direct or indirect. Therefore, as an initial step in this direction the Grand Rapids Urban League encourages you to enact a resolution which demands that the city of Grand Rapids divest all investment, direct or indirect, from business and banks which do business with South Africa in a manner that contributes to its economy in any manner. The Grand Rapids Urban League support the divestment resolution currently before you.

Sincerely,

Walter M. Brame

WMB/sjb

cc: Ralph Garlick
Don Eddy

Walter M. Brame *President and
Chief Executive Officer*



N.A.A.C.P.

P.O. Box 1933
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501
(616) 243-3523

OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS

Terri A. Weekley, *President*

September 13, 1982

Grand Rapids City Commission
300 Monroe N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Re: Apartheid

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

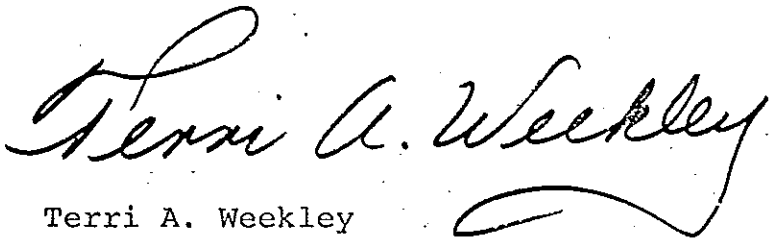
The N.A.A.C.P. is in full support of the divestment resolution currently before you.

Our national N.A.A.C.P. and its 1600 branches throughout this nation has taken a firm stand against apartheid. The apartheid practiced in South Africa is an insult and injustice to the people of color in South Africa as well as a violation of universally accepted human rights.

Most often, the policy of apartheid sustains its existence on the monies of people and companies who unknowingly or knowingly do business with businesses which contribute directly to the South African Government.

The City of Grand Rapids has an obligation to this city and its citizens not to participate in racist activities of any kind, and must sever all economic ties to South Africa whether it be direct or indirect. We encourage you to enact the resolution before you.

Sincerely,



Terri A. Weekley
President

... HELP US WIN EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS ...



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION
25 SHELDON S.E. GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN 49503 616 454-1642

September 13, 1982

The Grand Rapids City Commission
The City Hall
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Dear Commissioners:

This is to advise that the Board of Directors of the Institute for Global Education wholeheartedly endorse the City of Grand Rapids taking this minimal first step of divesting our public monies in banks that do business with the present government of the Republic of South Africa, as called for in the resolution which you are asked to approve.

We believe such action on your part to be wholly consistent with the affirmative action plans of the City and is in keeping with the Mayoral Proclamation regarding this matter issued during International Human Rights week in December of 1981.

As you may know, this resolution on divestiture of public funds is modeled after the one passed by the State legislature and signed by the Governor over a year ago.

Yours in Peace & Justice,

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

Edwin E. Prong, Secretary.

ep

On motion of Com. Bawman,

Commission adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

SANDRA L. WRIGHT
City Clerk

DOCUMENT FILED

40804 Resolution from Community Relations Commission re
divestiture of City funds from South Africa. (Submitted 9-14-82)