

**AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION OF FUNDS FOR HOMEOWNERS TO FILE
DISCHARGE AND RELEASE OF DISCRIMINATORY COVENANTS**

Discriminatory covenants based on racial, ethnic, religious, and other backgrounds were historically inserted into property deeds to prohibit the purchase, rental or occupation of a residence based on a protected class. These covenants were commonly used between 1910 and 1948 throughout the nation, including here in Dane County, until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that discriminatory covenants were illegal in 1948.

Dane County's Department of Planning and Development discovered 1,029 records covering approximately 4,000 properties in Dane County that contain at least one discriminatory covenant. On February 20, 2024, the Dane County Board of Supervisors approved 2024 Res 305, Repudiating Racial and Discriminatory Covenants in Dane County Property Records. This was in response to 2023 Wisconsin Act 210, signed into law by Governor Tony Evers. Act 210 allows property owners with discriminatory covenants to file an official document denouncing those covenants.

Currently, property owners in Dane County can denounce these covenants by completing the required document and filing the document with the Dane County Register of Deeds. The filing requires payment of a one-time fee of \$30.

The Wisconsin Realtors Association is providing a grant to Dane County to be used to offset the property owner's filing fee. The initial grant is \$3,000. The County may request and receive up to an additional \$10,000. These funds will be administered by the Planning and Development Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive hereby accept \$3,000 in funds from the Wisconsin Realtors Association for payment of recording fees for property owners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that revenue account PDPLNDIV NEW "Realtors Association Grant Revenue" be created with an initial budget amount of \$3,000 and expenditure account PDPLNDIV NEW "Realtors Association Grant Expense" be created with an initial budget amount of \$3,000, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to the extent additional revenue is received from the Realtors Association above the initial \$3,000, additional expenditures are authorized not to exceed the total amount of grant revenue received; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that unspent grant funds be carried forward to future fiscal years.