



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

AGENDA SECTION	WORK SESSION ITEMS
MEETING DATE	MARCH 1, 2021

ITEM:	The Just Deeds Project	
DEPARTMENT:	Administration	BY/DATE: Kelli Bourgeois, February 26, 2021
CITY STRATEGY: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding a bold "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Safe Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diverse, Welcoming "Small-Town" Feel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent Housing/Neighborhoods	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equity and Affordability	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong Infrastructure/Public Services	
<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for Play and Learning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaged, Multi-Generational, Multi-Cultural Population	

BACKGROUND:

Councilmember Jacobs asked about the possibility for the City to research covenants and deeds to identify those with old covenant language prohibiting people of color to purchase real estate in marked areas, a form of redlining. The U of M did a map for Hennepin County, <https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/>, which provides a graphic depiction of how prevalent those types of covenants and deed restrictions were. Although they are illegal and unenforceable today, many titles still include the hurtful, divisive language.

To address this, the City of Golden Valley started "The Just Deeds Project", <https://justdeeds.org/>, which is a program cities can become a part of which commits the Cities to following truths and principles:

- Systemic racism in housing occurs today. Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color continue to face discrimination and lack of access to affordable housing and home ownership.
- Continued denial of opportunities to build generational wealth through home ownership perpetuates inequity within our communities.
- We will not erase or deny history. We will acknowledge it and learn from it.
- We are dedicated to honesty about institutional roles (public and private) in building and perpetuating systemic racism.
- We commit to begin and participate in hard conversations within our communities and institutions about our shared history of discrimination and systemic racism.
- We pledge to examine the current policies and practices of our institutions to prevent future racist actions.
- When we identify racism in our institutions and processes, we will actively work to remove it.

Staff would appreciate having a discussion with Council regarding this Project and if it's something you are interested in pursuing further. Thank you!