

**Citation:** Mayor Braman to C.H. Birney, October 24, 1964. Folder "Municipal Courts - Judge Replacement, 1964," Box 30. Seattle Office of the Mayor Records, 5210-01. Seattle Municipal Archives.

*Mun. Court  
Judge*

November 25, 1964

Mr. C. H. Birney  
115 West Olympic Place  
Seattle, Washington 98119

Dear Mr. Birney:

This will acknowledge your letter of October 24, expressing your thoughts relative to my recent appointment of Mr. Charles Smith as Judge of the Police Court.

While I appreciate the sincerity of your comments, I cannot agree fully with you. It has been my experience in talking to large numbers of the people who opposed the Open Housing Act to find that their opposition stemmed from their resistance to having a right of their own taken away from them by law, rather than an inherent dislike of the Negro.

Mr. Smith's appointment will bring to the bench not only a highly qualified attorney; but, as is also demonstrated, will have a substantial effect in resolving a very real problem that exists not only in Seattle but throughout the nation. I have been constantly warning my white brothers that, for their own future safety and happiness, this problem cannot be brushed aside as it has been in the past.

Incidentally, for your information, the appointment has received widespread acclaim from people in all walks of life, including some of the strong leaders in the anti-open housing campaign.

Sincerely,

J. D. Braman  
Mayor

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