AP/USH+

Final Project 2022 – Supporting Question #3

* **Supporting Question #3** - How have restrictive covenants affected housing in the Rochester region?

1. Watch the video [Racial covenants found on thousands of Monroe County property deeds | WHAM (13wham.com)](https://13wham.com/news/local/racial-covenants-found-on-thousands-of-monroe-county-property-deeds) and record your notes on racial covenants

|  |
| --- |
| -Racist language stating that "the premises cannot be owned or occupied by a coloured person" are on original land deeds in Pittsford, Rochester, Irondequoit, and other towns.  -Christopher Brandt, who lives in Irondequoit, said he found a racial covenant in his deed after hearing about their existence on thousands of others.  -These restrictions were meant to keep non-white civilians outside of the neighbourhood  -Councilmembers of towns are pushing for people to have the option to remove these restrictions from their deeds as a step forward |

1. As you read the articles about restrictive covenants in Rochester, identify THREE thoughts, TWO questions, and ONE epiphany. Then list what actions have been taken on the next page.

* <https://www.rochestercitynewspaper.com/rochester/report-monroe-county-awash-in-racist-land-deeds/Content?oid=12089317>
* [A Trip Through Meadowbrook – Meadowbrook (meadowbrookbrighton.org)](https://meadowbrookbrighton.org/about-meadowbrook/history/a-trip-through-meadowbrook/)
* [Racist restrictions buried in property records | Rochester Business Journal (rbj.net)](https://rbj.net/2020/04/08/racist-restrictions-buried-in-property-records/)
* [Brighton neighborhood formally renounces racist covenants in land deeds | WHAM (13wham.com)](https://13wham.com/news/local/brighton-neighborhood-formally-renounces-racist-covenants-in-land-deeds)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Thoughts (3) | Questions (2) | Epiphany - realization (1) |
| Enforced by the police to encourage PoC out of White-Dominated Neighbourhoods  For that neighbourhood to qualify for government grants and loans they were required to put racial segregation in the housing deeds.  A lot of people saw no need to change the deeds as they didn’t see how it affected them and their houses future owners in the modern age. A lot of owners saw it as a more symbolic change that would erase a discriminatory rule. | Can residents of these neighbourhoods and houses demand that these technicalities be taken out of their deeds?  Can the effects of these restrictions be reversed from the way our people of colour are currently located? | A lot of neighbourhoods didn’t do it for strictly racist reasons, and some did it for strictly monetary means as they wouldn’t qualify for government grants otherwise |
| **What actions were taken to address the issue of restrictive covenants in your sources?**   * Many sought to remove the racist afflictions from their deeds. This required most of the residents to do so and garnering support for this sometimes proved difficult. * County clerk offices in New York can follow California's lead and include a cover sheet explaining and disavowing any racial covenants on all publicly issued deeds. * “This policy would educate property owners about the power and history of racial covenants,” the report said. * Signs about racial covenants could be posted in county clerk offices. After learning of the report's conclusions, the Monroe County Clerk's Office did this. * Homeowners can also take matters into their own hands by hiring a lawyer and pursuing the removal of the covenants through the legal system. * Anti-racist covenants could be placed on properties by developers or groups of neighbours, prohibiting future owners from refusing to sell or lease homes to persons based on their race or ethnicity. | | | |