

Send to Junius
of Newark Legal Services Project
114 Branford Pl., NK

MEMORANDUM

August 22, 1967

TO: Junius Williams

RE: Political Impact of Proposed Medical School Site

There are at least two probable affects the proposed Medical School Site would have on Newark if it were permitted to be implemented as planned.

~~PROPOSED~~

see A/Whit

I. In the proposed 112-acre site, there are ? registered voters, almost all of whom are Black men and women. All of them would automatically and immediately lose their registration if forced to move due to the Medical School Clearance.

It will be argued those voters can retain their status on the registration rolls simply by filing a Change of Address card with the county. But this is like arguing that a store's client should know about all the ~~credit client~~ terms imposed by fine print in a contract and we all know this never works and in fact ^{has been ruled} (BY NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT) to be ~~ruled~~ ^{an} unadmissable and unreasonable assumption.

In fact, most voters are not aware they can and indeed must file the Change of Address card in order to retain their registration. It just won't happen.

Therefore, the net effect of the move will be to eliminate thousands of registered votes from the

registration rolls. This in effect is simple discrimination against Black people. This undoubtedly one of the primary reasons the move ^{was} conceived in the first place.

2. In addition to this effect, another inevitable effect of such a devastating and discriminatory move would be to cripple the potential political power of Black residents of the South Ward of Newark, ~~New Jersey~~.

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^{Specifically}, if the proposed conspiracy is permitted to run its course, the inevitable result will be to eliminate approximately 7 districts from the Central Ward. At present the central Ward has only 34 election districts, the smallest number in the city. The South Ward has 47 districts, the largest number.

Therefore, if the Medical Site is cleared of all residents and the Central Ward loses seven ~~(7)~~ districts, it is almost inevitable they will be taken from the districts in the South Ward immediately adjoining the Central Ward.

These districts, if taken from the South Ward, would subtract approximately 3,500 to 4,000 registered Black votes from the South Ward, thus greatly diminishing the chances of the Black residents of ^{the} ward electing a Black councilman.

Thus it was not surprising that Mr. Bernstein, councilman from the South Ward, introduced the motion in the council to approve the contract with the Medical School,

Intent to gerrymander is important.

What kind of proof is necessary to show intent? what kind of constructive intent can be fashioned

Denek Winans

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