

Statement to the Omaha City
Planning Board in support
of

Omaha Inter=Faith Housing
Petition for re-zoning 50th
and Grand St. site for multiple
"Town House" dwellings.

January 3, 1968

I am Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks and I have been the spiritual leader of The Congregation of Temple Israel for nearly 16 years.

I am proud to say that my own Congregation, Temple Israel, and the Beth El Synagogue, whose rabbi is Myer S. Kripke, Treasurer of Omaha Inter-Faith Housing have both from the very beginning of the venture been eagerly associated with Omaha Inter-Faith Housing - its purposes and goals.

I should mention in quite practical terms that one boundary of the property we are discussing adjoins the land of the Dr. Phillip Sher Home for the Aged which is a project of our total Jewish Community.

Both the officers of the Sher Home, as neighbors, and the Board of the Federation representing virtually all the Jewish population of our city are positive in their support of the Omaha Inter-Faith Housing Project and the plan which has been submitted to you.

Interpreting the view of the Jewish Community acting in concert with all of the other faiths, but speaking for myself, I would say to you most emphatically that the accomplishment of this project would represent one of the finest fruits of religious cooperation and ecumenical effort ever achieved in our community.

The problems of life in the urban community are many and severe.

People of every faith are disturbed by their religious sensitivities which urge them to do something concrete about these problems.

The proposal before you is the result of such desire and the careful and competent thinking and planning of a group of religious oriented laymen and clergymen over a period of $2\frac{1}{2}$ years.

I believe the plan to be sound. I am impressed with the commitment of our religious community as a corporation to effect it, to maintain and manage it. I believe that in its way the project as described to you will be magnificent contribution to the neighborhood in which it is to be built, to our city as a whole and, most of all, to the health and welfare of those who will one day live in it.

I ask most sincerely that you gentlemen of the Planning Board act favorably on our request.