

**POLICE REPORT**Captain Neon Mayor RannFebry 5 1909

This Card or sign complained of has been removed, at least it can not be seen from the outside or sidewalk. The proprietor Mr. Henry was quite angry about the officers calling and requesting him to remove the sign. Stating he was not violating any law or order but finally removed the sign.

*O. Gutzmacher*  
Chief Police

Officer.....

.....  
Relief.

# POLICE REPORT

Captain Bailey

Feb 4, 1909

190

George Henry, Proprietor of the Owl Restaurant, 68-4th Street have a card displayed on inside of door stating "No colored patrons wanted"

Your information.

Officer Sgt E.W. Cole

Day

Relief.

# The Advocate Publishing Company

E. D. Cannady and ~~Rev. W. W. Matthews~~  
Editors

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133½ Fifth Street, Room 5

Portland, Oregon, Feb. 2nd, 1909.

His Honor Mayor Lane,  
City Hall,  
Portland, Ore.

Dear Sir:-

Persuant to your instructions to write you a formal letter setting forth our grievance as relative to the signs displayed in the windows of certain public houses in full view of pedestrians we write you herewith accordingly. In a certain restaurant on 4th street between Oak and Pine there is a sign aimed directly at the Afro-American citizens.

Chapter 3, Article 4, section 4b of the Charter of the City of Portland contains a section on the regulating, preventing and prohibiting or the maintainance or the display of sign-boards, signs, posters or other advertisements, or advertising matter which are offensive, improper, unsightly and, etc.

These signs to which we refer are offensive, publicly insulting to an lawful abiding class of citizens; an representative people and an refined intelligent contingent of Portlandites.

Furthermore they are unnecessary in so far as if any discrimination is to be practiced; being informed of such those discriminated against go peacefully on their way.

Again it is undemocratic in so far that it creates a line of distinction based upon race and color which would give rise to the intensifying of race antagonism and conflict, in as much as every respectable

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Afro-American using the public highway in this vicinity will be confronted by such an open insult; and every passerby seeing such sign will unintentionally give thought to an objectionable phase of a question which perhaps had he not viewed such a display, would have left the mind fair and unbiased.

As a precedent we recall the action of councilman Fred T. Merrill who, in the year 1902 or thereabouts, ordered to be taken down from the "Seattle House" on 2nd street between Burnside and Couch; the "Comstock" on Third street between Burnside and Couch and "The Cosmopolitan" on Third street and extending through to 4th street near Couch; like signs as those of which we are complaining.

Urging that your honor hear our grievance as set forth herein, and imploring a speedy remedy, we are,

respectfully,

Lewis H. Sawley.  
Ch' man.

E. D. Cannady.

S. St. Clair

F. D. Thomas

Committee Colored Taxpayers League.

Portland, Oregon.