



# Historic Context Statement: Suburbanization and Race

City Council Meeting – November 15, 2022

# Overview

- Part of a larger citywide racial equity and reconciliation initiative in recognition of the history of racism in Long Beach and its impact on local residents.
- The effects of redlining and other discriminatory practices are still present today
- This Historic Context should influence future land use policies and zoning regulations.





# Project Scope

- Historic context focused on the connection of the built environment and housing restrictions and the fight for fair housing in Long Beach between 1945 – 1979
- Includes history of development, suburbanization and expansion in the City
- Includes an historical overview of the diverse communities in Long Beach
- Supplements the Citywide Historic Context
- Included related community outreach effort



# Historic Context Statement: Suburbanization and Race

- Narrative Overview
  - Discriminatory Practices of the Early 20th Century
  - Segregation and Discrimination in Long Beach between 1941 – 1959
  - Civil Rights and Integration between 1960 – 1975
  - North Long Beach Transformed between 1976 – 1979
  - Racial and Ethnic Groups of Long Beach
- List of properties and neighborhoods identified through research and by the community
- Bibliography of sources for future researchers



# Overview: Racial and Ethnic Groups in Long Beach

- African Americans
- Latina/o Community
- Japanese Americans
- Chinese Americans
- Filipino Americans
- Korean Americans
- Samoan Americans
- Vietnamese Americans
- Guamanian and Chamorro Americans
- Cambodian Americans
- Laotian and Hmong Americans

# Discriminatory Practices of the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1900-1944)

- Alien Land Laws
- Restrictive covenants (deed restrictions)
- Segregation
- Redlining
  - New deal housing institutions:
    - Home Owners Loan Corp.
    - Federal Housing Administration (FHA)
  - FHA rated neighborhoods as “security risks”
  - Denied mortgages based on race and ethnicity
  - Contributor to the legalization and institutionalization of racism and segregation





SECTION 1 ATTACHES HERE

MANHATTAN BEACH  
HERMOSA BEACH  
REDONDO BEACH  
PALOS VERDES  
TORRANCE  
LOMITA  
HARBOR CITY  
WILMINGTON  
SAN PEDRO  
LONG BEACH  
COMPTON

KEY MAP  
SHOWING AREA COVERED BY  
THE FOUR SECTIONS OF  
THOMAS BROS.  
MAP OF LOS ANGELES  
AND VICINITY

LEGEND  
RESIDENTIAL SECURITY MAP  
A FIRST GRADE  
B SECOND GRADE  
C THIRD GRADE  
D FOURTH GRADE  
SPARSELY BUILT UP  
COMMERCIAL "SPECIALTY" ZONING  
UNDEVELOPED OR FARM AND  
ORANGE GROVE INDICATED  
DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS  
FEDERAL HOME LOAN BOARD  
APPRaisal DEPARTMENT  
HOME OWNERS LOAN CORPORATION  
SEPTEMBER 10, 1935

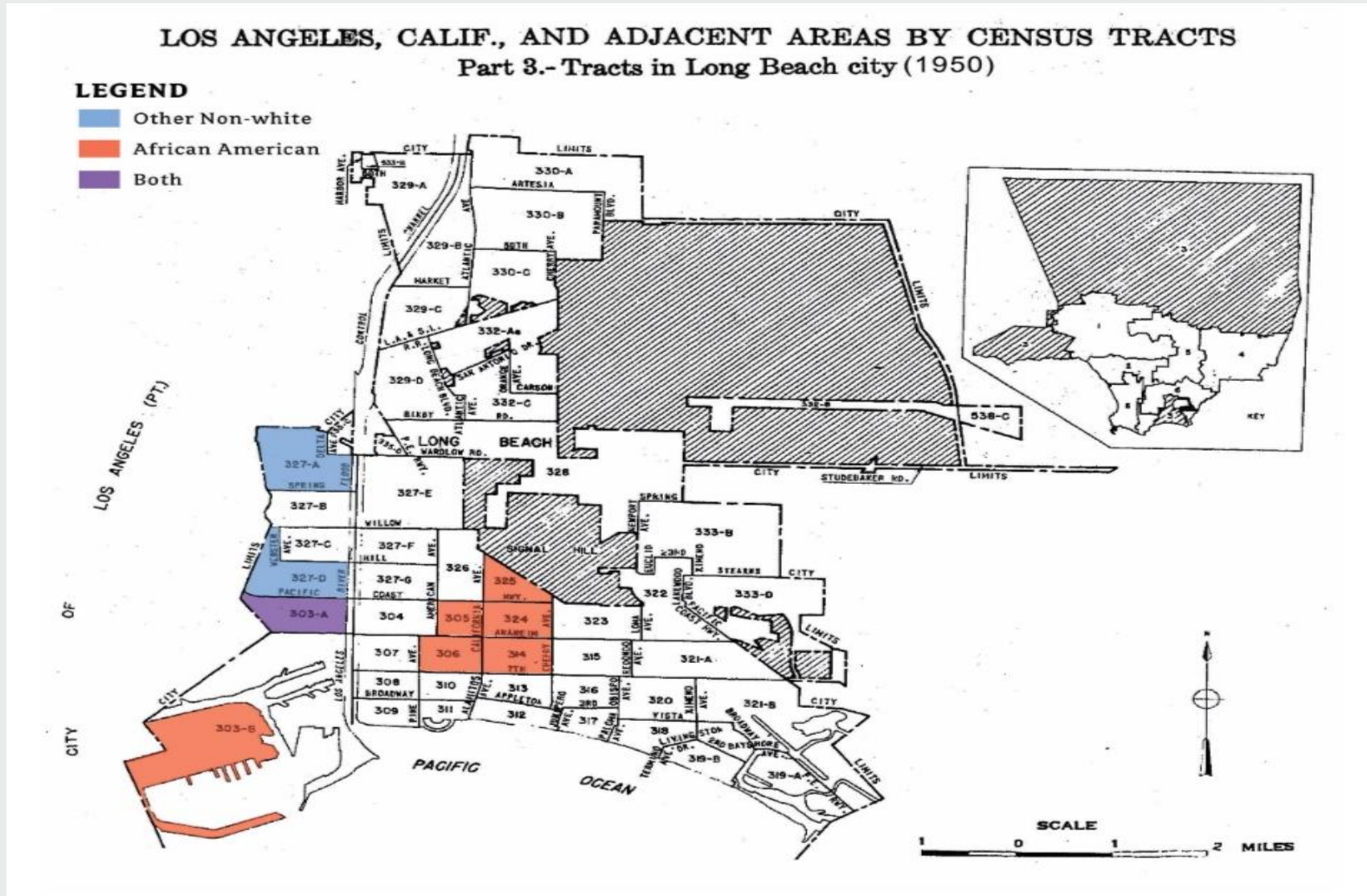
INSET MAP  
SOUTHEAST PART OF  
LONG BEACH

SECTION - 4

SCALE OF MILES

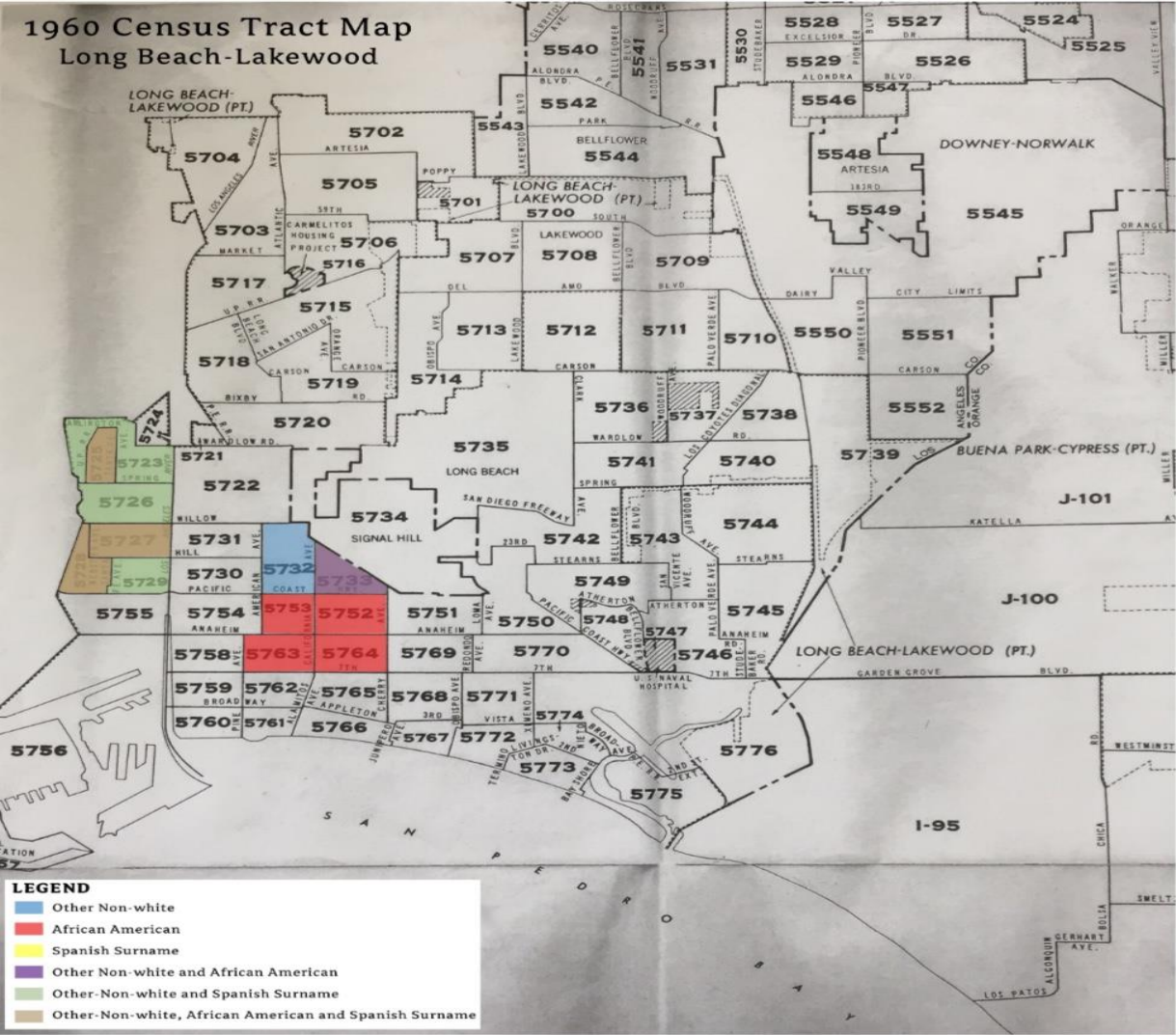


# 1950 Census Tract Map





# 1960 Census Tract Map



# Segregation and Discrimination in Long Beach (1945-1964)

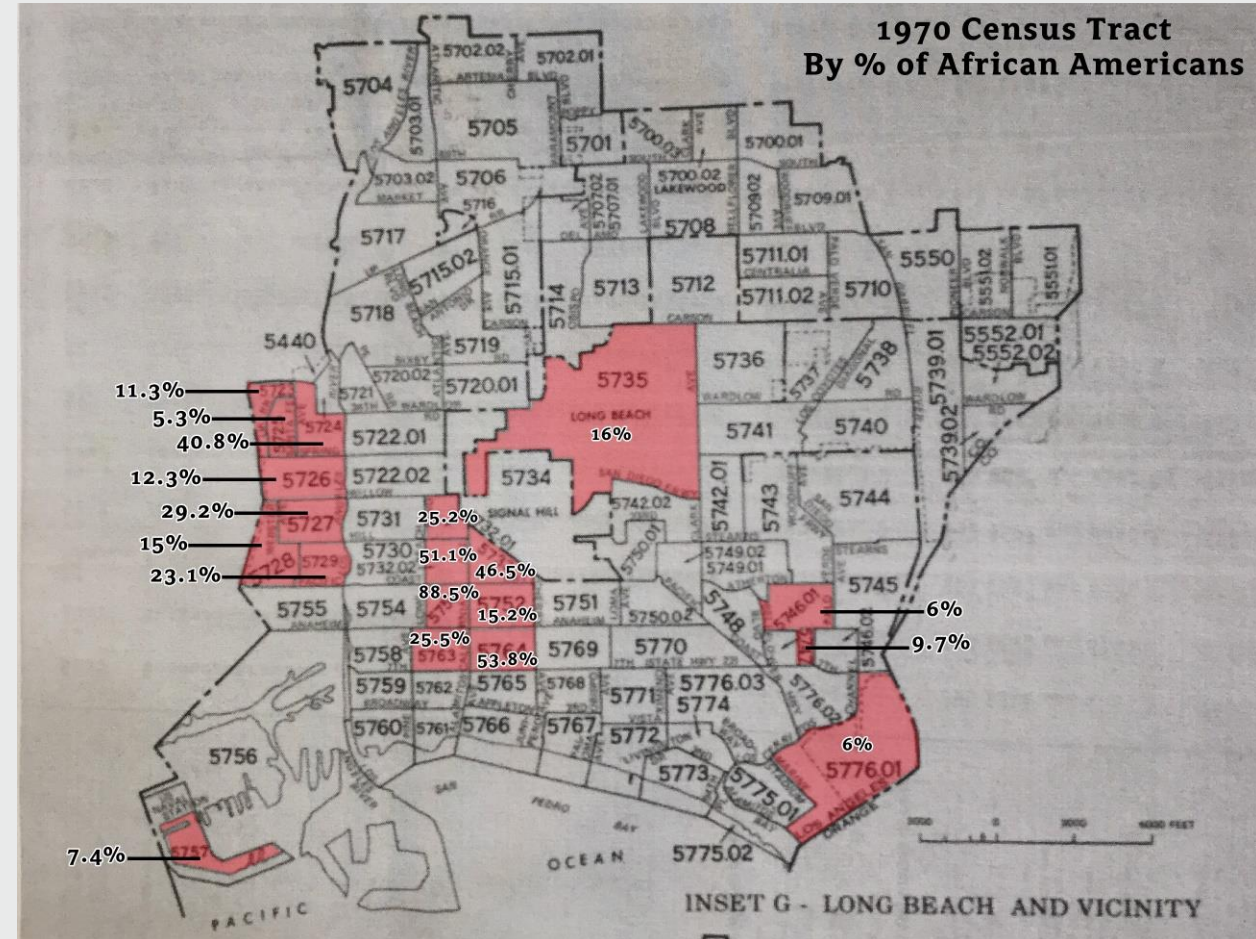
- Patterns of institutionalized segregation were well established
- Pre-1964, only eight African American families lived in non-integrated neighborhoods
- **Blockbusting:** realtors refer non-white home buyers to Westside neighborhoods and encourage panic selling by whites
- **"For Rent" signs:** landlords tell prospective renters of color that the unit has already been rented
- World War II-era housing projects were segregated
  - Truman Boyd Manor
  - Lexington Defense Housing
  - Cabrillo Homes War Emergency Housing Complex





# Integration in Long Beach (1964-1976)

- Fair Housing Act, 1963
- Proposition 14, 1964
- Fair Housing Foundation (FHF)
  - Initially founded to fight Proposition 14
- Westside Neighbors Association



# Long Beach Fair Housing Foundation

- Lawyer advocates and activist clergy
- Unique practices
  - Double escrow
  - Checkers
  - Lawsuits
- Placement of seven African American families by February 1964
- Placement of 1,500 African American families by July 1976
- Model for other fair housing organizations throughout California and the country





# Fight for Fair Housing: Associated Properties

- Fair Housing Foundation Office
- Residence associated with the Thomas E. and Enako Allen v. Paul and Blanche Staub case
- Westside home of Ann Trumbore
- Dr. Charles Terry Residence



# Recommendation

Recommendation to receive and file presentation on the Race and Suburbanization Historic Context Statement.  
(Citywide)





Thank you

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