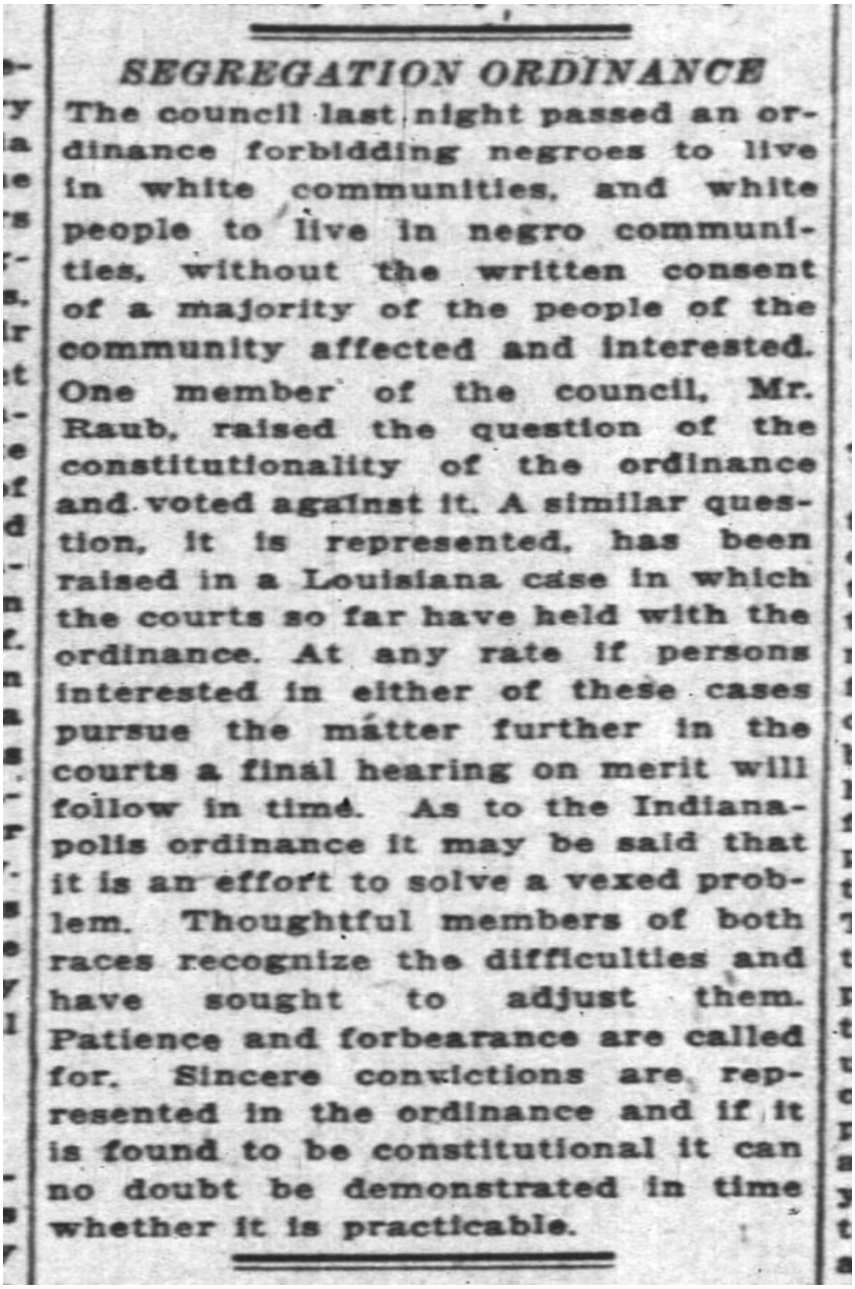
Indianapolis Segregation Ordinance March 15, 1926



SEGREGATION ORDINANCE

The council last night passed an ordinance forbidding negroes to live in white communities, and white people to live in negro communities, without the written consent of a majority of the people of the community affected and interested. One member of the council, Mr. Raub, raised the question of the constitutionality of the ordinance and voted against it. A similar question, it is represented, has been raised in a Louisiana case in which the courts so far have held with the ordinance. At any rate if persons interested in either of these cases pursue the matter further in the courts a final hearing on merit will follow in time. As to the Indianapolis ordinance it may be said that it is an effort to solve a vexed problem. Thoughtful members of both races recognize the difficulties and have sought to adjust them. Patience and forbearance are called for. Sincere convictions are represented in the ordinance and if it is found to be constitutional it can no doubt be demonstrated in time whether it is practicable.

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The law was based on similar situations in New Orleans and Louisville, KY. Though Indianapolis Mayor Duvall signed "race bill" into law, the ordinance was voided by Circuit Court in November.