

## **IDEA 5 Recognize, confront, organize, and act to ease racial and class isolation in Indianapolis, one of America's 21 most segregated cities**

Here are links to information regarding Indy as one of the 21 most segregated US cities:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/most-segregated-cities-census-maps-2013-4>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/walkingsf/5560477952/in/album-72157626354149574/>

*How OpportunINDY will go about easing segregation is the question.* Understanding the map and what actions to take will be clearer to the initiative by reading Prof. Richard Pierce's *Polite Protest* concerning the long history of housing/segregation in Indianapolis. [http://www.untag-smd.ac.id/files/Perpustakaan\\_Digital\\_2/POLITICAL%20ECONOMY%20Polite%20protest%20%20the%20political%20economy%20of%20race%20in%20Indianapolis,%201920-1970.pdf](http://www.untag-smd.ac.id/files/Perpustakaan_Digital_2/POLITICAL%20ECONOMY%20Polite%20protest%20%20the%20political%20economy%20of%20race%20in%20Indianapolis,%201920-1970.pdf)

Note the very low percentage of African Americans south of Washington St. on the map and thus the other side of our Indy coin: the subtle, but traditional, social class isolation of poor whites in many of these neighborhoods situated "on the other side of the tracks." This has been this way for a long, long time. Read a story about this legacy by UIndy's Dr. Michael Cartwright <http://kinumedia.org/vorcreatex2/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Rich-local-Southside-heritage-lives-on-in-forgotten-areas.pdf>

"If you can convince the lowest white man he's better than the best colored man, he won't notice you're picking his pocket. Hell, give him somebody to look down on, and he'll empty his pockets for you."  
~ Lyndon B. Johnson

An associated issue here--which is very contentious, but applies to Indy--is the established *political* segregation of poor whites and poor Blacks that feeds a tradition of mutual distrust experienced by these two groups who need to collaborate to solve the common economic oppression they both face.

The question is: *cui bono?* who benefits when poor whites and blacks do not work together?