



Jigsaw Reading #1: Policing Rochester's Redlined Neighborhoods Past & Present

Directions: Read the following sources. Circle and underline important words. Answer the questions after each source and the Final Questions.

Source 1A:

Reflections on Rochester policing, Dr. Walter Cooper

Among his many national, state, and local activities, Cooper was Chairman of the Education Committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1959 to 1965, a Founding Member of the Rochester Urban League in 1965 and was part of the team demanding justice for Rufus Farewell in 1962.



FAIRWELL AND WIFE — Rufus Fairwell spoke briefly at mass protest rally held for him at church.

300 March on City Hall In Fairwell Case Protest

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, AUG. 25, 1961



FULL HOUSE—Crowd applauds one of speakers at meeting on "Police Authority, Negro Communities"

sponsored by NAACP. Meeting was orderly. NAACP and the city's stands were stated during the rally.

Police brutality was the hot-button issue that was the universal experience of blacks. Numerous cases of alleged abuse were common knowledge in black neighborhoods.

One of the most flagrant cases was that of Rufus Fairwell in August, 1962. The police department promised to publish the findings of an investigation into the incident. At the last moment it refused to do so. No officers were disciplined for the brutality. A Grand Jury investigated the case and delivered its findings: Fairwell did not assault the policemen; they did not assault him. Yet Fairwell suffered two cracked vertebrae and severe damage to his eye. He appeared at his hearing in a wheelchair

On January 17, 1963, at Baden Street Settlement Agency, I chaired an NAACP meeting on police brutality. An estimated crowd of between 600 to 800 people attended, and one of the featured speakers was Malcolm X, who electrified the audience with his articulate and fiery speech, as indicated by the following:

"My people have caught hell long enough.... You do not get anything by being polite.... The only time you get something is when you let the man know you are fed up."

The crowd responded with cheers and adulation, but he ended his speech by instructing the audience to go home in peace and not involve themselves in destructive behavior.

 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 1A? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?**

Source 1B:

“Puerto Ricans Denied Access to Midtown and Racism from RPD 1969”
Democrat & Chronicle, February 23, 1969; [full article](#).

A protest last week by the city's Puerto Rican community once again called attention to the city's growing Spanish-speaking minority.

The problem came to a head here on Valentine's Day, when Spanish-speaking people picketed the Public Safety Building to protest alleged mistreatment of their people by police. Then they went in and laid a list of 17 demands on the desk of Chief William Lombard, who has since been working with Puerto Rican leaders to resolve them.

The demands included investigating the cases of 18 persons who complained of mistreatment. One of those arrested on a charge of loitering in Midtown Plaza was Milton Valladares, 34, senior group leader in Ibero's employment program. Here is the story that Valladares shared:

*Two police officers walked up and addressed one of the two Puerto Ricans Valladares was talking with, neither of whom understood much English.

Officer: "You speak English?"

Puerto Rican man: "No."

Officer: "Well, if you don't speak English, get out of this place,' 'cause it's time you learned it."

*The officer ordered him and the other man to leave also and Valladares responded,

Valladares: "Listen, you're violating my civil rights."

Officer: "Move, or I'll arrest you."

Valladares: "If you want to kick me out, you'll have to kick out all the others here. (Many other people were walking about the plaza at the time, he said.)"

Valladares was arrested for loitering.

 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 1B? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?**



■ **1988:** The Rev. Raymond Graves, president of United Church Ministry (later called United Church Ministries), rallies outraged community members to protest the fatal shooting of Calvin Green by white police officer Gary Smith.

Source 1C:

Timeline adapted from Barbara Lacker-Ware and Theodore Forsyth, [The Case for an Independent Police Accountability System: Transforming the Civilian Review Process in Rochester](#), 2017 and Police Accountability Board, [read here](http://rocpab.org) (rocpab.org).

1963: Police Advisory Board in Rochester created; the Board reviewed police misconduct

1970: Police Advisory Board disbanded after a five-year legal battle with Rochester's Police Union

1977: Complaint Investigation Committee created by Rochester City Council (ineffective committee)

1988: Raymond Graves and the United Church Ministry protest the officer involved shooting of Calvin Green by a white police officer.

1992: Rochester Chief of Police found guilty of embezzlement and conspiracy. The Civilian Review Board (CRB) created by Rochester City Council. "Each CRB panel is made up of three trained volunteers who review the investigation of a complaint against a Rochester police officer, issue a finding and forward the finding to the Chief of Police for consideration."

2019: Rochestarians voted for an independent Police Accountability Board (PAB) power to investigate complaints of misconduct, to use subpoena power to compel the production of evidence and witnesses, disciplinary power, the power to review and evaluate RPD patterns, practices, and policies and the power to recommend systemic changes.

2020: Death of Daniel Prude

2021: The PAB currently lacks the power to discipline officers found guilty of wrongdoing. The PAB is working with its lawyers to develop the procedural rules that will allow it to accept complaints regarding specific instances of officer misconduct.

June 2021: Police Accountability Board given \$5,000,000 budget to hire 50 employees to begin reviewing complaints, crafting policy, and creating accountability. Learn more at

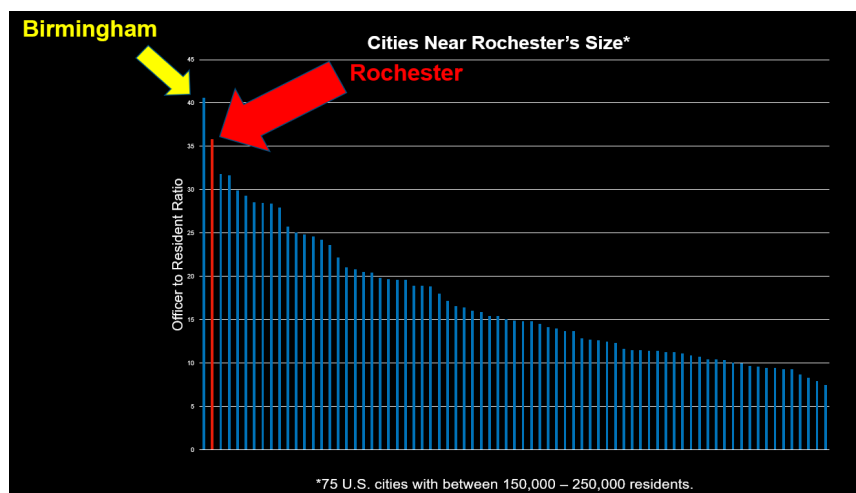
<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/PAB/>


 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 1C? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?**

Source 1D:

Police Accountability Board Presentation, 2021 by Executive Director Conor Dwyer Reynolds and Board Chair Shani Wilson

Does RPD Reflect Rochester?		
	Rochesterians	Officers
Non-White	52%	13%
Hispanic*	19%	11%
Female	52%	13%
City Residents	100%	6%
<i>*Term used in data sources</i>		



 What do you notice and wonder about Source 1D? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?

[illegible]

"So, we have those conversations a lot here right, and we talk about de-funding the police, we hear a lot of white folks saying 'oh my God, why would we do that?' 'Oh my God, our neighborhoods aren't going to be safe' and what we say is like, 'if we de-fund the police, our neighborhoods would look just like Pittsford, we'll look just like Webster, we'll look just like Palmyra, or Mendon' or wherever they are, people would be able to walk outside of their house and not be over policed," said Gantt.

Free The People ROC said in addition to protesting, organizers have talked to lawmakers and say many are willing to aid in drafting legislation to change how emergency crews respond to mental health incidents like Daniel Prude's.

"For us, the next step is that these officers are arrested, so of course we want the policy done, but we don't want to put the cart before the horse, we want the people who murdered Daniel Prude to be arrested, to be fired and to be convicted," she said.

The group is calling for more than justice for Prude and changes in the police system.

Free The People ROC also wants changes to issues impacting Rochester communities as a whole — like housing, education and wages.

"We talk a lot about Daniel Prude, but also we live in a city where people don't have access to healthcare, people don't have access to housing, people don't have access to quality education or even a basic education, we live in a society where people are working two and three jobs just to make ends meet and they're not getting paid a livable wage and still can't make ends meet," she said.

 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 1E? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?**

Final Questions

 Using these sources, how has racism impacted Monroe County?

 How did people respond? Be sure to identify specific forms of civic action (see chart)?

 Going forward, what might be the most effective tool for addressing this issue?



Jigsaw Reading #2: Civic Action in the Suburbs for and against Integration

Directions: Read the following sources. Circle and underline important words. Answer the questions after each source and the Final Questions.



Ermine Byas and husband, Thomas, stand in front of their Gatehouse Trail home in Henrietta. The couple moved from Irondequoit to Henrietta in the mid-1960s — after a racial incident — to have a safer place to raise their two children.

Source 2A:

“Black Families Saw Open Arms in Henrietta,”
Dolores Orman, *Democrat & Chronicle*, Rochester,
New York, 21 Feb 1994

Thirty years have passed, but Ermine Byas still remembers the precise details of that night (in 1964). It was around midnight as she began climbing the stairs on her way to bed. Suddenly, she was startled by the sound of smashing glass. A large rock had crashed through the bay window and landed on the couch. "I thought, 'My Lord, I had just been sitting there,'" she said. It was July 1964, and the Byas' were one of just a handful of black families living in Irondequoit.

With that rock, the impact of the racial tension then raging in Rochester and across the nation had struck the Byas home. The incident propelled Ermine Byas and her husband, Thomas, a dentist, to find a safer haven to raise their two children. They chose the town of Henrietta, where tract houses were quickly cropping up in former fields. The Byases were pioneers in the black migration that has made Henrietta the most integrated suburb in Monroe County. In 1960, the town had a mere 11 black residents, making up 0.1 percent of the population.

“The developers didn’t want to sell it to us,” said Ermine Byas of the lot her family eventually bought in Henrietta.

After she and her husband made a 2nd appointment to view the model house in the development, a rep of the builder told them that someone else had already put in a bid for the lot and the whole tract was sold out.

The Byas filed a discrimination complaint with the state Human Rights Commission and won the right to buy their place on Gatehouse Trail in Henrietta.

 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 2A? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?**

Source 2B:

“Understanding Exclusionary Zoning and Its Impact on Concentrated Poverty” by Elliott Anne Rigsby, the Century Foundation, an independent think tank, June 23, 2016. [Click here](#) or go to tinyurl.com/zoningmc for the 2022 Zoning Map of Monroe County NY.

The [Fair Housing Act](#) prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, ability, and familial status. Notably, however, it does not prohibit class-based discrimination. As a result, the Fair Housing Act provides a [loophole for discrimination](#) that confines low-income people to certain neighborhoods by systematically preventing them—through economic tactics such as minimum lot size and other expensive requirements—from moving into areas with access to opportunity. [Click here for the full article](#).

 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 2B? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions)?**

Source 2C:

Environmental Protection Clinic report, Yale Law School, 2020.

“Meanwhile, white city residents began to leave for the suburbs. Penfield saw rapid growth as a result, and it took steps to preserve its new affluence. In 1969, the suburb adopted a policy of a type that would come to be known as “exclusionary zoning”: it limited new development almost entirely to single-family houses and set minimum sizes for homes and yards. Town officials also took more informal steps, refusing to support the construction of low- and moderate-cost housing even where it was permitted. Together, these actions increased the cost of Penfield’s housing beyond the means of lower-income families.”

[According to Edbuild’s 2020 report ‘[Fault Lines](#)’], [Click here to read the full report.](#)

Town of Penfield Planning Board, Meeting Minutes, August 2, 1966.

Penfield Town Board member Walter Peter said he had 46 residents call to ask if a proposal to include affordable housing in the town’s land use plan was a “wedge to bring colored people into town” – and that town officials should “listen to” residents when it came to land use plans.

 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 2C? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?**

Source 2D:

Robert Rhodes*, editorial from **Democrat & Chronicle**, Rochester, NY, May 2, 1968.

*Robert Rhodes was the president of Rochester's NAACP in 1965 and one of the first people of color to own a home in Pittsford.



Should the suburbs promote low or middle income housing? [Pittsford] recently regressed into the past of restrictive covenants. This narrow view must be countered by the broader based view of metropolitan Rochester area and its total problems.

From this vantage point, it can be seen that a central core composed of a majority of low income housing, is a core destined to die. The death of the city will in turn, cause the surrounding towns also to die.

This action can be halted by an aware community. A total community which can devise ways to provide for orderly growth of the total region. This growth must necessarily include all income, class, and social groups. Exclusion will stagnate an area or town.

Joseph C. Wilson, president of Xerox, president of the Community Chest (United Way), and chairman of the Metropolitan housing council along with a blue-ribbon committee of other prominent businessmen and religious leaders attacked town zoning laws in a public letter.

Restrictive zoning laws, they said, "are really prohibitions born of expediency--naked notices that post suburban land as a preserve of indifference and intolerance. voters have a chance to take the biggest step forward to date in helping alleviate the housing shortage in Monroe County"



 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 2D? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?**

Source 2E:

“Pittsford town leaders split on future of housing” by Tanner Jubenville, 13 WHAM news, September 27, 2019, accessed on November 20, 2020.



Town Councilman Kevin Beckford (first person of color elected to Pittsford's Town Board)

"I think we need to make sure we provide an entry point for young families to move to Pittsford so we're not an exclusive, affluent neighborhood," said Beckford. Beckford says he's proposed an amendment to the town's comprehensive plan, which is currently being worked on. His amendment would offer incentives to developers to help build housing suited to incomes between \$50,000-\$90,000.

Town Supervisor William A. Smith:

"Pittsford affordability is always going to be higher than affordability anywhere in the surrounding area, and the reason is because Pittsford is such a great place to live, people are willing to pay a premium to live here," said Smith. Smith said there are other, more affordable options nearby, in places like Henrietta, East Rochester, and Brighton. "There's affordable housing very close to us, where people can live nearby and participate in our public events, enjoy our parks, enjoy our trails," said Smith.

[For the full article, click here.](#)

 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 2E? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?**

Final Questions

 Using these sources, how has racism impacted Monroe County?

 How did people respond? Be sure to identify specific forms of civic action (see chart)?

 Going forward, what might be the most effective tool for addressing this issue?



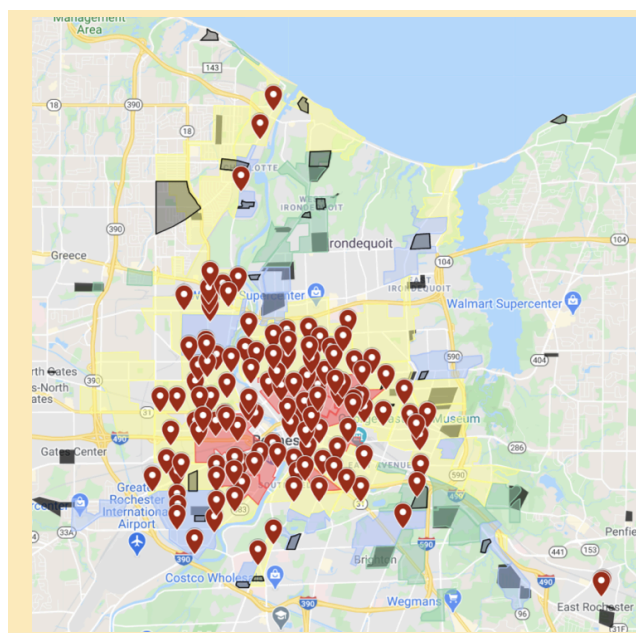
Jigsaw Reading #3: Health Equity in Rochester

Directions: Read the following sources. Circle and underline important words. Answer the questions after each source and the Final Questions.

Source 3A:

Hart's and Star Markets Locations (1943), mapped on the Rochester Redlining Map (1935).

[Click here](#) to use an interactive map used to create Sources 3A and 3B.



[Today] there are zero Hart's grocery stores in Rochester. Hart's Local Grocers, an independent, locally owned grocery store at 10 Winthrop St., will close March 24 [2019] after five years in business. A close-out sale will be held the week of March 18."

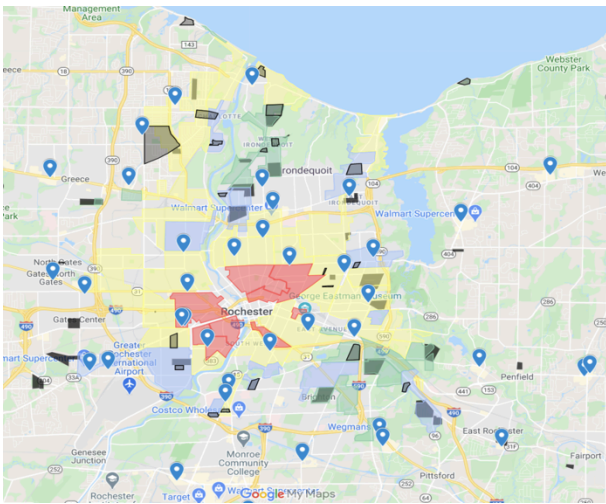
[Click here for full article.](#)

Source 3B:

Star and Wegmans Locations, 1979 (Map by Margaret Demment. Data from the Rochester City Directory Collection, Local History and Genealogy Division, Rochester Public Library, Rochester, NY.)

Brothers Walter and John Wegman (Robert Wegman's father and uncle) learned the food business by working in their parents' store in Rochester. Wegmans is a regional supermarket chain with 101 stores: 47 in New York, 18 in Pennsylvania, 9 in New Jersey, 12 in Virginia, 8 in Maryland, 6 in Massachusetts, and 1 in North Carolina. It is one of the largest private companies in the U.S. Wegmans is a family-owned company, founded in 1916, headquartered in Rochester, NY.

Wegmans and Star Markets Locations in 1979 From The degradation of the food retail landscape by Mitch Gruber 2017

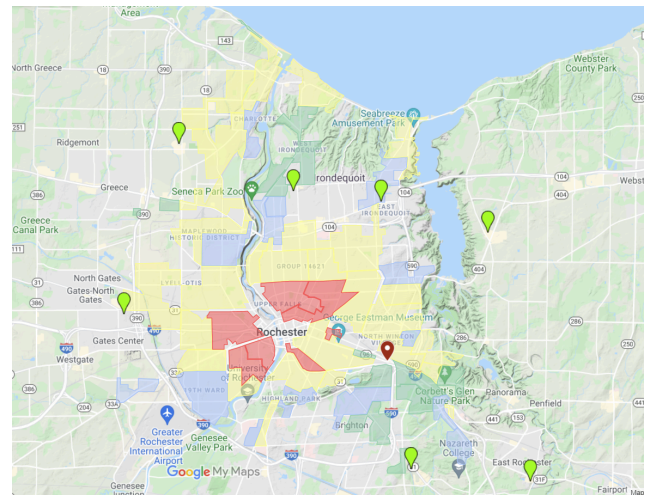


This map shows 1979 Star and Wegmans locations (blue point arrows) mapped on the 1935 Redlining Map.

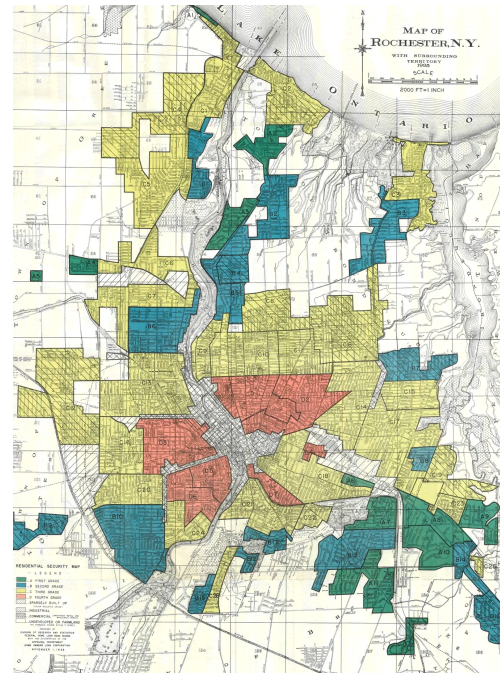
“Both Star and Wegmans followed the behavior of supermarket companies around the country by closing small urban locations and opening large suburban stores. Over the next two decades, the food retail landscape grew more bountiful in the suburbs and sparser in the city as the grocery market share in Rochester became even more concentrated.” Star Market went out of business in 1982, in part because of the “coupon war” it had waged against Wegmans. With Star out of business, Wegmans nearly monopolized the food retail landscape in Rochester. It owned sixty percent of the grocery market share, the second highest percentage for any supermarket in a single city. Without having to compete with Star, Wegmans accelerated its pattern of closing urban stores and opening suburban locations. It could close small, outdated stores in city neighborhoods and not worry about losing those customers to a nearby Star. Between 1979 and 2007, Wegmans closed every single urban store other than one location on the affluent East Avenue, which bordered the wealthy suburb of Brighton

-Mitch Gruber p. 239-240 | [full dissertation here](#)


Wegmans Locations



The map above shows 2016 Wegmans locations (green point arrows, red arrow represents the remaining city location) mapped on the 1935 Redlining Map.



This is the 1935 Redlining Map in Rochester, NY.

 **What do you notice and wonder about Sources 3A and 3B? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?**

Source 3C:

Common Ground Health, *Color of Health The Devastating Toll of Racism on Black Lives*, July 2021. Full report [linked here](#).

“To eat healthy, you have to go broke,” concludes the northeast Rochester resident. “There’s a lot of poverty in this neighborhood, and we can’t afford it.”

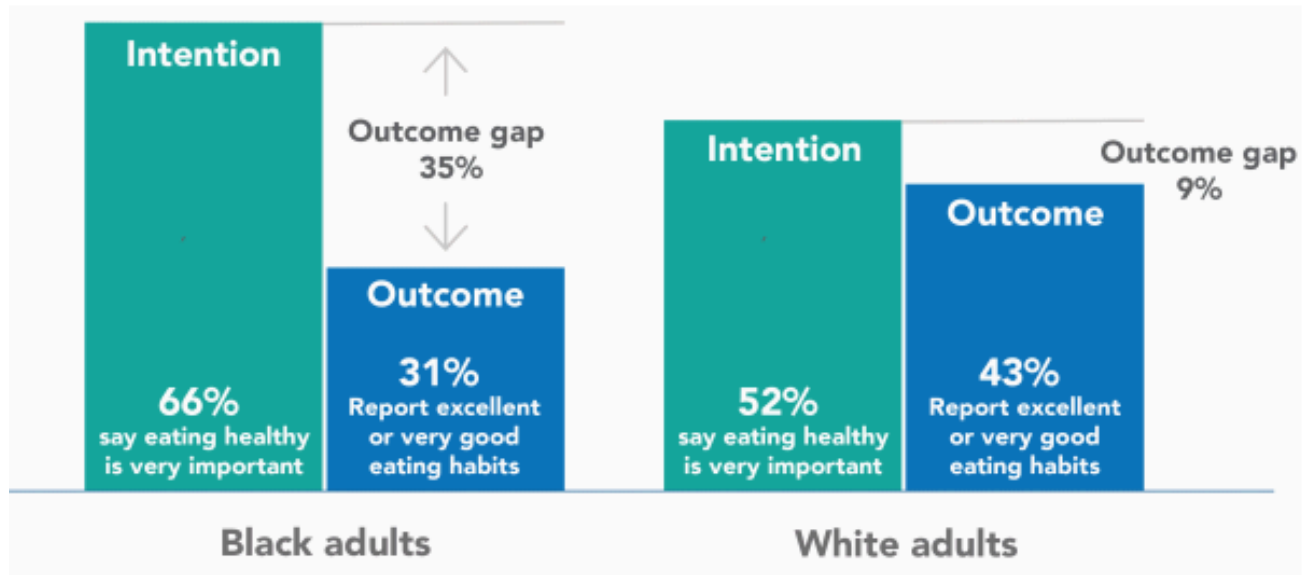
Copeland aims for good nutrition anyway. His entire family had no choice but to make dietary changes after his wife’s heart attack several years ago. He explains: “We cut down the salts. We went from white bread to wheat bread. Even the crackers, everything is wheat. From butter to margarine. We went to a more heart-healthy diet not only for her, but for all of us.”

While beneficial, these dietary improvements have been extremely challenging to maintain. Aside from budgetary concerns, convenient access to nutritious food presents another hurdle. Because Copeland’s family doesn’t have a car, grocery store visits require hiring a taxi, making each trip more complicated, time-consuming and expensive...

Food insecurity — being without reliable access to affordable, nutritious food — is a major public-health concern. The My Health Story survey showed that nearly 1 in 5 (19%) Black adults were “always stressed about having enough money to afford healthy food” compared to 11% of White adults.

Barriers prevent many Black people from meeting their healthy eating goals

Self-reported survey responses Finger Lakes region



Source: My Health Survey 2018. Analysis of Finger Lakes nine county region by Common Ground HealthAge/Sex-adjusted

📌 What do you notice and wonder about Source 3C? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions)?

Source 3D:

Barbara Van Kerkhove and Ruhi Maker, "[COVID-19 Disparities In Rochester, NY: The Legacy Of Redlining In The City Of Frederick Douglass And Susan B. Anthony](#)," October 1, 2020.

The report by the [National Community Reinvestment Coalition](#) shows that life expectancies vary in Rochester by about five years between redlined and high-rated neighborhoods, according to government classifications dating from the 1930s.

On June 3, a [group of Rochester's Black and Latino community leaders](#) declared racism a public health crisis. They urged communities of color to remain vigilant in fighting the spread of COVID-19.

The groups, La Cumbre and the Greater Rochester Black Agenda Group, [linked the disparate impact of COVID-19](#) on Black and Brown communities to the fact that Black and Latinx people disproportionately suffer from various health conditions that are COVID-19 comorbidities. With the [new report from NCRC and their academic partners](#), we know these comorbidities are a direct result of segregation in housing....

Recommendations

In order to effectively address segregation, discrimination and the disparate impact of COVID-19, change needs to happen at the systemic level, including:

- Federal, state and local policies to stabilize tenants and homeowners in neighborhoods with high rates of COVID-19.
- A living wage that reflects the true cost of housing, child care, health care and higher education.
- Access to affordable housing, child care, health care and higher education as a right, funded by a fair and equitable tax structure.
- Paid sick leave so that people can afford to stay home, when they or a family member is sick.
- A public bank that will achieve cost savings, strengthen local economies, support community economic development and address infrastructure and housing needs for localities.
- Fair lending testing of all financial products, with enforcement and monetary consequences for financial institutions that discriminate against Black and Brown communities.
- Land use policies that foster the development of affordable family housing, including allowing multifamily housing in residential areas, and reduce permitting complexity.
- Affirmatively supporting the creation and sustainability of community land trusts

 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 3D? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions)?**

Final Questions

 Using these sources, how has racism impacted Monroe County?

 How did people respond? Be sure to identify specific forms of civic action (see chart)?

 Going forward, what might be the most effective tool for addressing this issue?



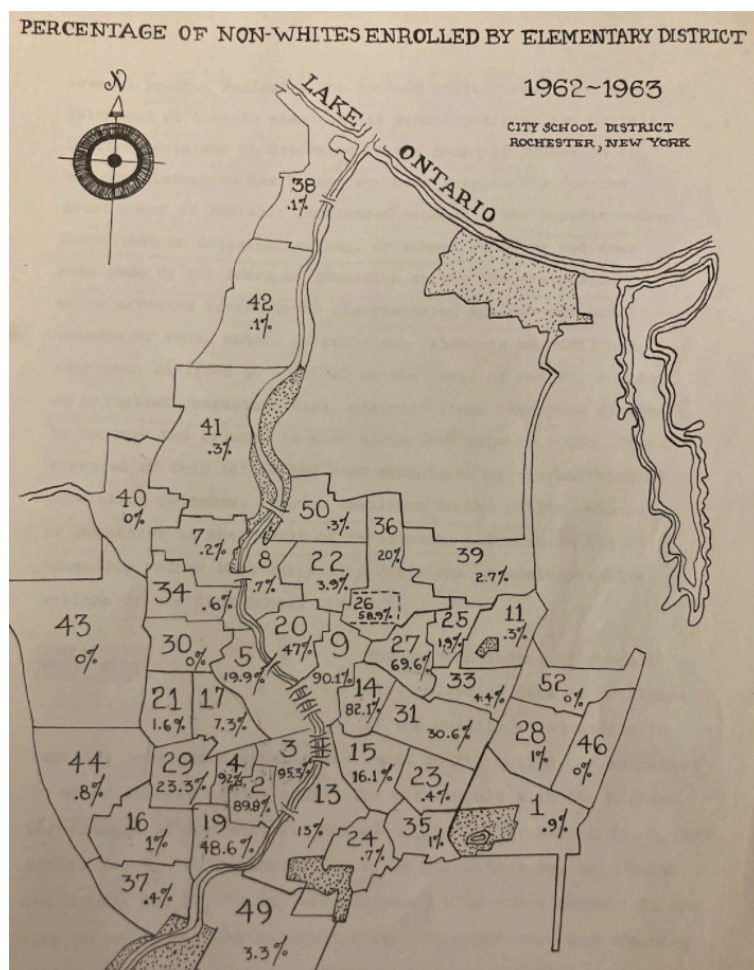
Jigsaw Reading #4: School Integration

Directions: Read the following sources. Circle and underline important words. Answer the questions after each source and the Final Questions.

Source 4A:

Rochester City School District Non-White Enrollment by Elementary District 1962-1973

Note: Suburban school districts were almost 100% white at this time. Henrietta was the most integrated school district with just 11 individual people of color living in the entire town of Henrietta.

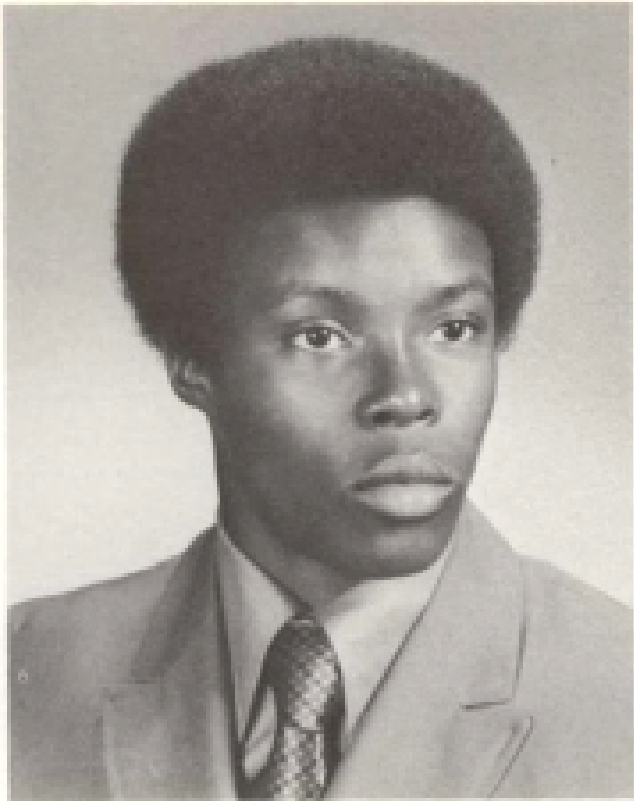


What do you notice and wonder about Source 4A? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, civic actions)?

Source 4B:

James Beard: Interview with Justin Murphy on School Integration at Charlotte H.S. on 5/31/19

Note: In 1971 RCSD responded to state mandates and pressure from coalitions of White and Black Parents demanding integration at RCSD by attempting to integrate their Junior and Senior High Schools. James Beard was one of the students who integrated Charlotte H.S.



James Beard

Graduated Charlotte 1971. Went to School 4, then Madison for one year before busing. Lived on Jefferson Avenue. There was only one white kid at School

It was an extreme culture shock and it was racist as hell. They hadn't seen any black people at the school. Our first experience was basically one of conflict, racial slurs and the like. We would have to gather together in order to protect each other.

Would get caught in the bathroom and beat up. I was really shy in grammar school so I used to get beat up a lot. When I went to Charlotte and experienced prejudice and racism, something clicked in my head and I don't know what it was. I brought everyone together and said, we need to do something about this, because this isn't working.

Because of what was happening during that time, Black Power and FIGHT, I was

engulfed and connected with that whole black power movement. I was a ferocious reader. Mao Tse Tung, Gandhi, MLK, Malcolm X, Che, Kabbalian? It was a combination of reading spiritual materials and revolutionary materials at a young age. My father was like a gentle giant. He did not teach us to hate white people. He did not teach us racism. But what he did teach us, me and my brothers and sisters, was basically to deal with people how they present themselves to you. He was not a scared man nor was he a racist man. They were Christians who loved people. I used to say to my father: the problem with the world is white people. He said, oh really? Do you feel that way about Mr. Harwood. I said, no, no, not Mr. Harwood, Mr. Harwood's cool. He said, oh, how about Jimmy? No, Jimmy's cool. And Cooch is cool (white kid at grammar school). But he said, everybody else? I said, yep. And he didn't like that.

Getting Bussed to Charlotte H.S.

We're on the bus and as soon as we get to the graveyard on Lake Avenue, they would hide in the graveyard and there was a wall, and they'd come out from behind the wall and throw bricks, rocks, iron, anything they could find at the bus. They'd bust the windows, people would start screaming.

Miss Jones was our advisor for BSU [Black Student Union]. She was always encouraging us to not start anything and be peaceful. One day a dummy with a noose and a black face, hanging from a tree, with a sign that said 'kill all N-----s.' A girl had a nervous breakdown. Miss Jones, I remember that lady had tears in her eyes. She said, enough is enough. Probably in 11th grade. Fights started taking place almost right away, and it was a continual struggle.

I remember one time we [Black students] locked ourselves in the auditorium. There was enough venom in the school for us to have to lock ourselves in the auditorium [to keep us safe].

There were very racist teachers there, and we knew who they were. Everybody knew it. It was a sense of, why are you here? Where did you come from? You don't belong here. You messed up our school. Everything was fine before you came here, and now look at what's going on. This integration thing is not working. Would they say it straight out? No, but you knew it. That wasn't the majority of teachers; maybe one out of 10 or 20. But it was so obvious from those who didn't want us there, you knew.



When I got there, it was like I knew it. I knew white people were racist as hell. And for some reason, they're not going to make me leave. I'm staying right the f--- here. You're not going to make me leave.

My father and aunts and uncles would come to school and sit on the front lawn to make sure

D and C Mob outside Charlotte H.S.

we were all right. They'd have a picnic blanket. 1971. They switched off and did it for weeks at a time on a daily basis. When they started throwing rocks at the bus, they'd all get together and drive us to school, like a caravan. They were extremely peaceful. They were about keeping the peace so we wouldn't get hurt.

I remember one riot we had where they called the cops in and they were facing us. And I said, wait a minute, those guys across the streets are the ones with the bats and guns and everything – why aren't you facing them?

They'd line up and keep us behind them. The guys across the street: “n-----s this, n-----s that, throwing sh--.” I said, wait a minute, they're throwing shit! Why's your back turned!

To be honest with you, yeah, it was scary, but you didn't have time to be afraid. You only had time to act. If you were afraid, you froze, and we couldn't afford to freeze.

Isaiah Blanding was on the bus one day when they were throwing rocks. The bus driver froze. Isaiah tried to get him out of the seat to drive the bus himself. Isaiah has been a bus driver for RTS for almost 40 years.



Black Student
Union

I became chair of the black coalition of Rochester (all BSUs together). When I took leadership, my whole thing was to keep every black person in that school safe. It wasn't about, let's go start a riot and fight somebody. There was too many. I was just strategically organizing, letting everybody know in the city what was happening in Charlotte. I was encouraged by my family. Keep doing what you're doing, son. You're not about having people fight but it's about keeping peace. I never encouraged fighting. It was too dangerous; there wasn't enough of us.

We would have meetings; we would talk about how we were to go to class; that there would

always be a man – that's what we called ourselves, men – that would escort the girls to class. They should never be by themselves. As much as possible, we should always be in groups, never alone. They tried to run Jonathan over with a car. It was horrific. That pissed me the hell off. I said, I know we're fighting and all that, but you tried to kill Jonathan? We used to meet with white kids all the time: Molly Murante, Stuart Lobenstein, David Bess. They were the head of student government. When we would talk about it and what we needed to do – many of the kids we'd be in class together, then they get out of class and they're throwing shit and fighting us. We did the best we could to try to instill some peace among the races.

It was so entrenched, the attitudes were so engrained. Now that I'm an older man, they actually believe the stuff they were thinking. That dummy hanging from the tree – that even got me. And that was no joke to my parents – not even a little bit.

Interacted with Rev. Florence. All the community leaders, I had their ear. They would mentor me. Sent to the National Association of Black Students, about racism in schools.

Willie Carter president of BSU at Marshall; Freddie at Franklin (now dead) We would meet the black coalition of Rochester, and Marshall had some issues too, but not like we had. We had the biggest problem. We would strategize on how to keep peace.

The BSUs, we weren't about being revolutionary, let's go kill somebody. It was, how do we protect ourselves? And if something does happen, how do we make sure we don't get killed or slaughtered or beat up? And how do we talk about coexistence, regardless of the fact that you hate me and I don't like you either?

What needs to take place politically in the city? Can we get some security at the school to help protect us? Hell no, nobody's paying for that?

My thought was, I have a right to be at this school if I want to be at this school. The board of education and the political climate at that time was more about the laws that had been enacted around integration. But the problems that were taking place as a result of it had not been addressed. That's the bottom line. They were pushing to make sure they were in compliance with the law, and that was the primary purpose. We must be in compliance; we've got to integrate. But they had nothing set up for the fact that nobody wanted us there. They had no action plan – what do we do now that black kids are being beaten up, dummies are being hung from trees, kids are organizing to be in the graveyard early in the morning to throw bricks, then making sure they're there again in the afternoon to throw more bricks. When we play sports, let's show up in the stands...

I never went to one class reunion. Am I bitter? I respond to them; I say, hey man, I hope you're doing well, how many kids you got, all that. But I just can't go to that place.

It taught me a lot. I know how to code-switch. When you're young and you're black and you come from a totally black environment and community, you learn something when you're immersed into a white culture and community that's automatic. You learn how to deal with white people in a way that's almost organic. I am so grateful, regardless of all that happened at Charlotte – all the tears, all the fighting, all the blood, everything – I am so grateful that I got the opportunity to meet people whether they were black, white, that I came to understand – wait a minute. Because I didn't have any white friends. There were no white people in my community. When I started to develop friendships with these young white guys, I had a conscious shift, and my revolutionary – all white people need to just die – regardless of what was going on at Charlotte, I then knew – wait a minute, all white people aren't like that. I actually love some of these people. And I know that sounds crazy, but I'm grateful for that.


 **What do you notice and wonder about Source 4B? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?**

Source 4C:

Democrat and Chronicle, archival photo, 1971-1972 school year.

*In February 1972, the Rochester City School board rescinds the school integration plan.



 What do you notice and wonder about Source 4C? What feelings are coming up for you (Consider noting issues, problems, and civic actions taken)?

Source 4D:

EdBuild's Fault Lines Report 2020

Name	Enrollment	Poverty Rate	Local Revenue Per Pupil	State Revenue Per Pupil	Percent Nonwhite	Median Household Income
Penfield	4,581	5%	\$13,521	\$7,822	16%	\$80,926
Rochester	29,436	47%	\$3,905	\$20,338	90%	\$32,347

“The nation’s most segregating school district border divides Rochester from Penfield. Brighton is number 6 and West Irondequoit is number 7 in the country.”

 **How are these statistics informed by James Beard’s story?**

Final Questions

 Using these sources, how has racism impacted Monroe County?

 How did people respond? Be sure to identify specific forms of civic action (see chart)?

 Going forward, what might be the most effective tool for addressing this issue?