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21 July 1954

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Mr. Thurgood Marshall
107 West 43rd Street
New York 36, New York

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Dallas Convention because of pressing schedule here. I understand that the convention was the greatest ever, of which I am very proud and happy.

On July 7, 1954, I, as Legal Redress Chairman of the Asheville and West Asheville Branches of the N.A.A.C.P. filed with the City Manager, Mayor and City Council a request that facilities at a certain park, owned by the city be made available for the use of the Negroes of this community.

Mr. Weldon Weir, City Manager of Asheville called me today and advised me that the City Council while sitting as a body corporate resolved that in view of the apparent indecision of the whole country, in the manner in which desegregation is to be effectuated, it was the opinion of the Council that the present policy of excluding Negroes should not be changed at this time. He recommended in his conversation that patience be used and that we wait until after the October decision to see where the Supreme Court tells us to go.

I stated to him that there was no condition or no waiting period in the decision under which our right to use the park is based. I am seeking your advice as to the advisability of resorting to the Courts at this time.

The N.A.A.C.P. in Asheville still needs stimulating and I know that you are the one to do it. I hope that sometime during your busy schedule you will find time to come to Asheville to deliver for us an address and start our Freedom Fund Campaign rolling. If you find it impossible to come, I would appreciate it if you would speak to Mr. White as to his availability of delivering the address.

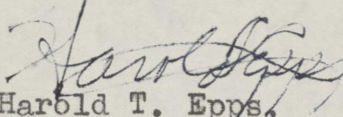
I Shall be in New York sometime during the early part of August.

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If you are there at that time, I shall look forward to seeing you.

May I, at this time extend to you and your staff hearty congratulations for your history making victory.

Very truly yours,


Harold T. Epps,
Attorney

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