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By Alice Collins
staff writer

Although the U.S. Government's housing discrimination lawsuit against Birmingham has faded from public focus, it is still on the minds of those most concerned with the eventual outcome.

U.S. District Judge Robert DeMascio's ruling in the case, awaited for six months, could come at any time. "I still feel very good about what the outcome is going to be," said Mayor Jack Sigler last week. "From the testimony I heard, the city came out a winner. But how can you really tell?"

"We don't have any idea when he's (DeMascio) going to reach a decision, but it seems like enough time has elapsed."

"I think about it all the time," said

former city commissioner Robert Kelly. "Because it's a terrible accusation to leave hanging over a community."

In the two-year-old lawsuit, the U.S. Department of Justice charges that the city discriminated on racial grounds in 1978 when it allowed a proposed combined senior-citizen, low-income family housing project to die.

The city specifically is charged with violating the U.S. Fair Housing Act of 1968.

THE WAIT for DeMascio's judgment in the highly publicized lawsuit began last October after attorneys for both sides presented closing oral arguments and written briefs.

The three-week-long trial in Federal Court in Detroit ended on Sept. 10. DeMascio heard closing oral arguments Oct. 1.

Attorneys in the case have not speculated publicly as to when DeMascio's ruling could come.

"We're all waiting like everyone else," said attorney William Saxton last week. Saxton, a specialist in discrimination cases, was hired by Birmingham to head its defense team. "Judges get very busy and have tremendous workloads and have to get things out (decisions) when they can," said Saxton. "I have no idea what Judge DeMascio's schedule has been and just have no idea as to time."

SAXTON said he is "still very confident that the decision will be in favor of the city."

Joel Selig, deputy chief of the general litigation section of the civil rights division of the Justice Department, contacted in Washington last week, de-

clined to comment on the pending decision.

"Obviously we have no information at this time," he said.

KELLY, commissioner from 1971-80, said last week, "In my opinion, the charges are totally unfounded, and consequently I'd hoped by now that we would have been exonerated."

"It's awful to stay in a state of expectation about this, especially when you know you did nothing wrong. Certainly, the reputation of one of the finest cities in the United States is at stake."

Kelly was the only commissioner to survive the political bloodletting which occurred during the housing controversy that led to the government's lawsuit. Kelly opposed the housing project and was vocal in that opposition.

CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on April 5, 1982, by Mayor Alton L. Bennett in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan.

PRESENT: Mayor Bennett, Councilmen Hartcock, Mitchell, Tupper, Yoder.

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: City Manager Deadman, Director Billing, Director Selfert, Attorney Kelly, City Clerk Bushey.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Minutes of other boards were received and/or filed.

A Public Hearing was held to receive input prior to adoption of the 1982-83 fiscal year budget and the proposed use of Federal Revenue Sharing Funds contained in that budget.

Council requested the City Manager to arrange a presentation by SEMTA relative to solving financial restraints affecting an acceptable public transportation system.

The following proclamations were issued:

KEEP FARMINGTON BEAUTIFUL - April 18 - May 31, 1982

ARBOR WEEK - April 18 - 24, 1982

POPPY MONTH (May) and POPPY DAYS - May 20, 21, 22, 1982

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK - April 18 - 24, 1982

NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK - May 1 - 9, 1982

GIRL SCOUT LEADER DAY - April 22, 1982

A resolution was adopted authorizing adjustments to the 1981-82 budget.

Council was advised of the Federal Court ruling relative to the Detroit sewer rates established in December of 1980.

After due consideration, Council voted to withdraw from the Rouge River Watershed Council.

Council indicated support of House Bill 5592 which would allow reductions in District Court appropriations.

Council supported House Bill 5465 which would change "Tax Collection Fee" to "Property Tax Administration Fee."

Don Munter asked that his statement to the Farmington Observer be entered into the record.

After reviewing House Bill 5391, Council voted to support the 75-cent surcharge this legislation would impose on certain tickets sold at the Pontiac Silverdome.

The Financial Reports for the General Fund and for the 47th District Court for eight months ending February 28, 1982, were received.

Monthly bills were approved for payment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ALTON L. BENNETT, Mayor
JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY, City Clerk

Published April 15, 1982

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FRI.-SAT.: 10 A.M.-11 P.M.

SUNDAY: 11 A.M.-9 P.M. **553-8777**