

File No. 12635

his application, whether the houses are to be used as residences for white or colored persons. Before issuing the permit applied for the notice prescribed by said Section 5 shall be published by you at the expense of the applicant; and, unless, within five days from the date of the last publication of the notice, protest be made in writing to you by a majority of the property owners in the block against the granting of the permit applied for, the permit shall issue, - provided of course, the application be, in other respects, in accordance with the law.

The only language of Section 7, which seems to require any explanation, is that occurring on the second and third lines of said Section, which language is, as follows:

"Whenever, after the passage of this Ordinance, a majority of the owners of any real or leasehold property in the block, etc".

In my opinion, in order to determine whether the majority of the owners of either real or leasehold property in a block are in favor of or against the application covered by said Section, you are to disregard the actual number of lots in the block, and consider only the number of individuals owning property therein.

In other words, if one individual in any such block owned ten houses and another individual owned only one house, each would only constitute one owner.

It would appear also, from the language employed, that if A owned ten lots in fee, while B owned a leasehold interest in another lot, subject to a ground-rent owned by C, A should be counted as merely one owner, while B would be counted as another owner, and C as still another owner.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) Edgar Allan Poe,  
City Solicitor.