

City Commission Determined To Keep Parks Segregated

Montgomery apparently has no intention of following New Orleans' example regarding integration of parks.

Officials in the Crescent City reluctantly announced Sunday they will open all municipal parks to Negroes and whites alike obedience to a "mandate" from the U.S. Supreme Court.

But commissioners here, served with a copy of a complaint filed by Negroes in U.S. District Court, repeated earlier statements that come what may, parks in Montgomery will not be integrated.

They said Monday they will close all parks, Negro and white, before allowing them to be racially integrated.

"The City Commission wishes to reaffirm its statement made Aug. 25, 1958, when a petition signed by a group of Negroes was issued asking the use of Oak Park and other parks to the Negroes," Mayor W. A. Gayle said Monday in a written statement signed by himself and Commissioners Frank W. Parks and Clyde C. Sellers.

"In order that there be no misunderstanding as to the attitude of the city commissioners, we state that we have no intention of operating any integrated parks in the City of Montgomery," the statement said.

It concluded by saying "we are asking for the continued support (See OFFICIALS, Page 2A)

Officials

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of all the good citizens of Montgomery.”

PETITION ANSWER

The Aug. 25 statement was in answer to a petition signed by the Rev. Martin Lutner King Jr. and other integration leaders asking for the opening of Oak Park and “all other parks” to Negroes.

The commissioners, in denying the petition, pointed out that the city has provided “excellent” park facilities for Negroes. The facilities include Washington Park, Kings Hill Park, Clay Basketball Court, Trenholm Court, Mobile Heights and Houston Hill, they said.

They said it “was to the best interest of all our citizens that the races not be integrated.”
