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HEARING ON FOURTH YEAR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

The scheduled public hearing on the Fourth Year Community Development Block Grant application process was called.

Mr. Vernon Sawyer, Director of Community Development, explained that the hearing covers the Community Development program for next year; that there are a number of requirements that cities must meet in order to continue to be eligible for and receive annual block grants for funds under the National Housing and Community Development Act. The most important requirements he stated as follows:

1. Each city must prepare an annual Community Development plan for use of the funds. This plan must respond to the City's needs for improving housing for, and affording other benefits to, its low and moderate income citizens. This annual plan must be for a three-year period. Three 3-year plans have already been prepared and approved by previous Mayors and City Councils - this will be the fourth.
2. Each city must prepare an annual application to HUD for its grant of funds to which it is entitled or for which it is otherwise eligible.
3. Each city must give its citizens an opportunity to participate in the planning process for the preparation of these two documents and must consider their views, requests, statements and suggestions.

This public hearing presents the first step in the planning process for preparation of both the 3-year plan and the application for the Fourth Community Development year. The estimated amount of money that Charlotte will be eligible to receive during the entire six years of the CD program is \$48,846,000. For the sixth and last year of the program the amount is \$5,323,000. That is the estimated amount of money that the Council will be allocating to meet Community Development needs during the preparation of this year's plan. The funds for the first five years of the six-year program have already been allocated by previous Councils to be spent in nine target areas; plus money for loans and grants only in the Wilmore and Dilworth communities. He stated the map shows by target areas the amounts that have already been allocated.

Mr. Sawyer stated he will give a brief explanation of the purpose of the Community Development Program and some of the activities for which the CD Block Grant funds can be spent, for the benefit of the citizens who are present.

The primary purpose of the Community Development Program is to provide decent housing - a suitable living environment, and to expand the economic opportunities principally for persons of low and moderate income. This purpose is to be accomplished by engaging in certain eligible activities that are listed on the charts which he displayed. The board categories of activities for which Charlotte's funds have been allocated and are being spent today were also shown on the charts. Certain activities are ineligible - these were listed on the charts.

He stated the 1977 Housing and Community Development Act recently approved by Congress added several additional activities for which the Community Development funds can be spent. These he listed as:
(1) Money can be spent for Economic Development activities; (2) For grants to neighborhood based private non-profit entities - local development corporations or small business investment corporations; (3) For citywide spot rehabilitation, finances for low and moderate income persons; (4) Certain housing pre-construction costs in order to implement an approved housing assistance plan. He stated regulations from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to implement these activities have been proposed but they are not final yet.

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He stated that the previous Mayor and City Council approved a general policy that 20 percent of the total funds that Charlotte is to receive will be used to finance Human Resource service programs. He pointed out the total amount for the six years as well as the amount already allocated for the first five years.

4. Any city which has a Community Development program is required by federal law to have a Housing Assistance Plan. It is a part of the application for the Community Development Block Grant funds. In order to provide citizens an opportunity to be heard regarding the Assistance Plan and to present their views, recommendations and suggestions, a separate public hearing will be held on Thursday evening, December 15.

No action regarding the citizens views, statements, suggestions and requests is required or expected today. It is simply Council's opportunity to listen to the citizens and consider their views so that they can take action at a later time during their consideration of what they want to include in the Third Year plan and application. He stated that notices and applications have been sent out to all present and past agencies with whom they have contracts, social services and others of which they have knowledge, to appear here today. Neighborhood organizations and representatives of the Community Development target areas have been invited to appear at the Tuesday hearing.

He stated other members of his staff are present to help answer any questions, but the main purpose of this hearing is to listen to the citizens present their views regarding the Fourth Year Community Development Plan.

Charles R. Cox - Johnson C. Smith University.

Mr. Cox thanked the Council for the support received last summer in their summer sports program for youth in the target areas of Charlotte. As to the future, they would like consideration for a similar type program for the coming summer. They have already been to Atlanta for a meeting with the NCAA and they will again get approval from them to proceed with this program.

Another program he would like to speak about is the competitive swimming program for the disadvantaged. They all know that private clubs, high school clubs, Y clubs, etc. have set the expense so great that the disadvantaged do not have an opportunity to participate in such activities. If these kids go through a competitive swimming program some of them might have an opportunity to go on to college as a result of their athletic skill in swimming. This is what they hope this type of program will do.

Responding to questions from Councilmembers, Mr. Cox stated there were a total of 450 participants in the program last summer - 250 were from the Grier Heights and Cherry areas. He stated this is not a program for the handicapped; that last year was the first year they have been funded, but it is not a new type of program, it has been in the United States for about nine years. They use the Johnson C. Smith facilities - indoor and heated, six-lane pools. He is an employee of the university.

James K. Polk - Small Business Orientation and Management Program.

Mr. Polk stated he has a private business and have a contract with Community Development to provide a small business orientation and management program for residents of the CD target areas. The program is designed to provide some basic understanding of the business enterprise system, a working knowledge of small business management techniques and practices and information concerning resources available for people who are trying to develop a viable business. The program is conducted three nights a week for two weeks for a total of 20 hours, doing what they call an orientation session. They are linked with Central Piedmont Community College but are separately funded. They encourage people after they participate in this orientation program to avail themselves of programs offered at CPCC either to increase their knowledge of business or, to continue their college training to perhaps get into other types of business or professions. This is basically how they are involved in the program and what they attempt to do.

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Mr. Burkhalter stated it is the contract with Mr. Polk's company - Management Manpower Associates, Inc. - which is on today's regular agenda for amendment. That Councilmembers may want to ask questions while he is here. That he is asking for the right to go outside the target areas.

Mr. Polk responded to questions from Councilmember Carroll by stating his program started in August; that although the orientation session lasts only two weeks, they provide ongoing counselling with the individual for the extent of the contract which is 12 months.

Councilmember Carroll addressed comments to Mr. Sawyer, stating he does not exactly see how people from outside the target areas can participate in the program; that there are a number of programs where participation is restricted to the target areas. It is a good idea but how can they do it?

Mr. Sawyer replied that most of the activities that are funded are restricted to target areas; this just happens to be one that HUD has removed the restriction on. It occurred recently, just before the new proposed activities were added. It has the approval of HUD and is an eligible expense. The main reason is that it is primarily to benefit minority contractors and disadvantaged contractors. If you restrict that to the target areas, the numbers involved would be few - they have experienced that; so few come into the program that it is now open to the entire city.

Councilmember Carroll asked if there are other types of programs which HUD has now said do not have to be restricted to target areas? Mr. Sawyer replied this is the only one he knows of other than the new activities added under the 1977 Act. Again the regulations for implementing these new activities have only been proposed, the final regulations should come out within the next month, or right after the beginning of the year.

Councilmember Carroll requested that if Mr. Sawyer becomes aware of any other additional programs which are not target area restricted, that he let Council know.

Councilmember Gantt stated that these boundaries were, in fact, set up by Council and we have been literally locked to those areas since the beginning of this program. There were good reasons at that time, but a number of people have begun to question whether or not all of the poor folk in Charlotte live in those nine target areas or whether or not certain kinds of programs might have a benefit on the target areas, such as finding minority businessmen who are engaged in businesses in this community who serve the nine target areas but are without the benefit of certain of these programs.

Councilmember Carroll stated this is what he was getting at. He was interested in the fact that this program did go beyond the target area restrictions and was wondering how we might expand other programs in that direction.

Councilmember Short asked if he started in August of this year, how did he happen to have CD funding at all? Mr. Sawyer stated it was through this contract and the contract was approved in August of this year.

Mario Neill - Family Housing Service.

Mr. Neill stated Family Housing Service is an organization which provides homeownership and related counselling to low income and moderate families. They try to give individual attention to those families who need it. They are recognized nationally by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and can be broken down basically into four components - counselling, consumer education, home repair and winterization.

Their counselling department employs six people and they counsel in such areas as mortgages, rental delinquencies, landlord-tenant problems, identification and correction of sub-standard housing, credit and other barriers that will prevent these people from obtaining loans, housing opportunities. In case they cannot help them they refer them to agencies that can.

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Consumer education involves a staff of three and they conduct their classes in association with Central Piedmont Community College - one such course is money management.

Home repair employs three people and the funds for these three are provided by CETA; the materials they use are all donated.

The winterization and emergency field assistance program was set up last year at the request of the City and they of course have a contract with the City to assist these people in severe weather when they cannot find assistance themselves. They feel that 1979 will call for continued and comprehensive programs and feel that Family Housing Service can provide them. That some of the people they deal with a families faced with relocation by the City and they try to help them find affordable places to live. They try to cure and assist in the sub-standard housing problems.

He stated Family Housing Services seeks to expand its operation in the next two years and hopes to be a real force in the stabilization of our neighborhoods. They propose to provide 5400 units, service representing 8,640 hours to 450 target area residents for a total of \$135,000. In recognizing those needs and the success of Family Housing Services, they are requesting continued funding from the Community Development Block Grant.

Councilmember Gantt asked the level of their funding now and does the proposal he has made compare to what they are doing now?

Mr. Neill replied they just recently received a contract through the end of their fiscal year, September 1978, and are looking into 1979. Currently he believes they have been granted \$90,000.

Councilmember Gantt stated they are asking for \$135,000 - how much more in the way of additional services are they planning. Mr. Neill stated he does not have the figures for the number of units they propose to serve in 1978, but this is based upon the units that they propose to serve in 1979, which will increase proportionately and will take into consideration such things as inflation, etc.

Councilmember Leeper asked if the winterization program deals specifically with the nine target areas and Mr. Neill replied that is right. Councilmember Leeper asked how that works in conjunction with the Charlotte Area Fund. Mr. Neill replied there might be some similarities but they have nothing really to do with the Charlotte Area Fund.

Councilmember Frech asked at what point or who decides when the fuel assistance program begins? At what point will it be decided that we are having a severe enough winter to justify it? Mr. Neill replied this is decided by the Community Development authorities themselves; that Family Housing Services stands ready to go in once they are notified.

Mr. Sawyer stated the contractor makes the decision in consultation with his department; it is primarily the contractor's decision, after the contractor determines that the need cannot be met with resources from other agencies that are otherwise available citywide. They want to be sure, first, that all services available to any resident of the city are also available to the residents of the target areas. When those resources are exhausted, then the resources of this contract come into play.

Councilmember Cox stated Mr. Sawyer had said earlier that Council had approved all but one year, that Council had done something for all but one year of these six years - what did they do? Mr. Sawyer replied it is necessary for the City to have a 3-year plan that it is working on during any one year. Our first 3-year plan covered the years 1975, 1976 and 1977, so it was necessary for the Council to allocate the money for those three years at the beginning of that plan. The next plan, which was a 3-year plan, knocked off the 1975 and added 1978; the last plan was for the years 1978, 1979 and 1980 (the third 3-year plan). For this year the 3-year plan begins July 1, 1978 and will be for the years 1979, 1980 and 1981.

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Therefore, when you add 1981, you add the need to allocate the money that will be available in that year; they are talking about programs that will be happening in those three years - 1979, 1980 and 1981.

Mr. Burkhalter pointed out that previous Councils did do this, but this Council can change any of these from 1979, 1980 and 1981.

The question was asked as to what degree the 1978 program has been changed since the first 3-year plan in which 1978 was included; has it been raised?

Mr. Sawyer replied they always plan within the money that Council allocates; that the \$9,508,000 reflects substantially the same thing as three years ago - that is, unless the citizens or representatives of the target areas come in and request additional money and have it granted, but that has not taken place.

Art Lynch - Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council; CD Contractors Association.

Mr. Lynch stated he represents two organizations. The CDCA is composed of Community Development contractors who formed an organization primarily to be more supportive of each other in providing services to target area residents. He commended the staff of the Community Development Department for the good job done in planning and implementing CD Social Services contracts during the first three years of the CD program. However, the temporary nature of CD funding is causing ongoing problems for CD contractors as they plan to meet the long range needs for Community Development area residents.

Specifically - (1) The CD social service programs are allowed only 20 percent of the total Community Development grant funds. (2) The funds available for CD social service programs have been spent or are obligated to continue ongoing programs at a decreasing level of funding during the fourth, fifth and sixth CD years. The CD Contractors Association asks that the City Council and the City of Charlotte assist them in securing additional funding. It is imperative that they obtain funding for the fourth Community Development year which begins July 1, 1978.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council contracted with the City in November of 1975 to provide specialized services and activities to high school age students and their parents residing within the target areas. Over 5,200 target area residents have been involved in their program activities. Broken down to a participant cost over the three years the funding amounts to exactly \$41.79 per participant - probably one of the lowest participant costs of any program contracted with CD. Their primary intent has been to provide a sense of social mobility and hope to students and their families who are often living within economically deprived areas and who live with a sense of frustration daily.

The services include academic remediation and tutorial services to students who are under-achieving in the school system. At the present time they work with junior and senior high school students. He stated that over 75 percent of our students are reading four or more years behind their actual grade level. This may not mean anything to some people, but you need to look at the correlated factors of drop-out, absenteeism, students not performing in school, becoming discipline problems. The students they are working with today, who will be the leaders of tomorrow, they hope to generate within them a sense of motivation and a sense of self esteem that they can achieve so that they will not become burdens upon our community or upon our welfare system.

Mr. Lynch stated in fiscal year 1975, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council was requesting approximately \$40,000 to continue its program services; that their contract track record speaks for itself in that each year they have surpassed the participant program specified in their contract, and have provided quality services to target area residents. That Council's support of the CMYC career development program will contribute to the personal development and success of those less fortunate residents of our community.

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Councilmember Short asked if the CMYC and Rev. Battle's organization both conduct tutorial programs? Mr. Lynch replied yes, that Rev. Battle's program primarily works with elementary school students and sub-junior highs; that the Youth Council bridges the gap between the junior high students that Rev. Battle does not work with and high school students; There is really not an overlap. This is another thing that the Community Development Contractors Association attempts to do. They attempt to eliminate whatever overlap exists in the programs. He stated that at the same time the need is so paramount in Charlotte that even though duplication may not be economically feasible, it is something that is needed to meet the needs of community residents.

Councilmember Chafin stated she shares the Contractors Association's concern about our diminishing funds for social service programs, but where would Mr. Lynch propose that they get additional funds?

Mr. Lynch stated they have discussed this numerous times. That Council is acting under HUD and also its own previous decision that only 20 percent of the funds can be used. He stated the CD Contractors Association is not looking for its own continued existence, even though it would be somewhat advantageous to certain programs, but they are looking primarily at the need of community residents. He does not think the majority of Community Development contractors would care who the money went to as long as there was additional money to address the needs of community residents; there is a sense of desperation and frustration that many of the community residents live under. If it means looking for grants, or looking for additional funding sources or applying to the devil himself for money, they would be more than open to wherever the money would come from.

Councilmember Gantt stated the truth of the matter is that many members of Council are thinking that Community Development will have to be extended by Congress; that it may be years before they can find another resource to get more funding.

Mr. Lynch stated when the Contractors Association first organized they looked at the fact that they could be a lobbying group. One of the reasons they feel they should be a lobbying group is because they are directly involved in the day-to-day lives and the services that community residents need. At the same time, they are not a union in that they cannot go on strike.

Councilmember Gantt asked Mr. Sawyer if they have ever gotten any information from HUD on the 20 percent requirement. That they had quite a bit of debate on this at the beginning of the program.

Mr. Sawyer replied no - that this never has gotten into the legislation. It was included in one bill at one time. That there is a considerable amount of information available as a result of the House and Senate Committee debate, but in the final analysis it was taken out of the bill, but it was perceived that not more than 20 percent be allocated for social programs. At that time, the Council went as far as it felt it could go and stay within the limits of the intent.

Councilmember Selden asked if there is any form of measurement of the accomplishments of this organization that might be used to enhance the securing of additional funds in later fiscal years? Mr. Lynch replied most of the contracts have extensive evaluation from the CD Department in order to adhere to the contractual terms and also to see exactly to ascertain the needs of the community. There is a multitude of information that he is sure most of the contractors have assimilated over a long period of time. They share it among themselves and at times they share it with the CD Department and other agencies. They look at themselves as operating both pilot programs and needed services. He does not think there has yet been a comprehensive study to document the overall effects or results of what their programs have done. That each individual contract could stand on its own evaluation.

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Councilmember Selden asked if there is anything in the longer report which he has given to Council in written form that might be used to justify their request. Mr. Lynch replied that most of the information in his proposal will just basically list the number of students if you worked in certain areas. They do have information in their office files showing why certain areas of their program worked where certain areas of other programs have not worked - such as dealing with students with academic achievement levels below par. They have been able to work with students in a nine-week period and provide them with a least a one-year gain within that time. That is because they have six students to each instructor; the school system averages anywhere from 20 to 30 students per instructor. They have also been able to show why certain steps they implement are more successful than others. They can also show why there still exists certain problems. One area they are dealing with now shows a high unemployment rate among young people and they find that 75 percent of their students can hardly read the job application so they are going to definitely run into a problem when they go out into the private market to fill out a job application.

Councilmember Carroll asked if he feels that the Contractors adequately understand and know what the needs of the people are in the target areas?

Mr. Lynch replied he would have to say that a majority of the contractors would know; that is because of the fact that most of the contractors do not sit in their offices all day; they have to get out into the street and meet the residents who they are working with. They are constantly barraged with the information the residents are bringing to them and also their viewpoints.

Councilmember Carroll stated the previous City Council just a few weeks ago allocated \$60,000 a year for planning on what the needs of low income folks are in target areas and in Charlotte. That would be \$180,000 over a three-year period. He is wondering whether or not this organization could perhaps have some input that would allow that money to be better spent.

Mr. Lynch stated he would hate to make any enemies on Council because they have to come up for a contract next year, but he does think that there should have been some consideration for the contractors being involved with the planners. He personally feels that \$60,000 may add some benefit per year to the City of Charlotte as far as the social planning goes, but at the same time, because of the fact that he sees a lot of needs that need to be resolved now in CD areas, he thinks those monies could have been better spent.

Mr. Sawyer stated he would like to respond to that. There has not been in this city a working and effective City Social Planning Council that you could turn to for help in determining needs, so the money has been allocated on the best judgment of his department and the City Council to the needs which have been most obvious - needs that have been expressed by organizations before City Council. That good appeal may not represent the worse need. After two years of experience it was determined that the need was an objective, ongoing, social planning unit. It could be added to the Planning Commission staff where it would be in a position to have the greatest overview and approach it from the most objective standards to try to determine the real needs that exist and inform the Council. That in deference to Mr. Lynch and the other contractors, they are all providing needed services, good services. There may be other needs that are unmet and this social planning unit would be capable of determining those needs through all avenues. As far as locating the unit in the right place so that it will have the objectivity it needs, they felt their recommendation to locate it in the Planning Commission was best.

Councilmember Carroll stated what bothers him a little bit is that it looks like they would be embarking on a program to determine what our needs are and spend \$180,000 to do that over a three-year period and at the end of that period, the program is over and we have an assessment of what the needs are; that whether the needs themselves are not more urgent and perhaps something that we are more aware of - he is just throwing this out for other members of Council to think about.

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Mr. Sawyer stated inherent in that proposal was the recognition that this should be an ongoing service. That once the Community Development funds are ended at the end of the six years - if that occurs - then maybe some other funds can be found to give it continuing light, if at that time the City Council sees a need for it; that he thinks the first three years will prove its value.

Lucy Gist - Bethlehem Center.

Ms. Gist, Director of Bethlehem Center, referred Councilmembers to the written report she had give them which listed the prior contracts they have had with Community Development, the dates of the contracts, the \$15,598 that bought the equipment for furnishing the new building, the special summer activities program of last summer which cost \$29,668 and served a total of 797.

She stated they are now under contract with CD for operating from October 31, 1977 to August 27, 1978. She stated they were scheduled to serve 75 children in the afternoon and have already surpassed this with children from all over the area. The center put in \$34,000 in management and time to remodel two buildings - one to house the senior citizens building and to make the present office for the CD program.

They come today to present a contract for a special summer day camp to start June 19, 1978 to August 12, 1978 for a sum of \$757,776 - an eight-week program for 440 target area children. They also want to continue the concentrated educational enrichment program for 990 residents. This serves from pre-school children through the senior citizens. They have many activities for 200 senior citizens.

She stated they have also listed contracts with CETA where they will be working with 60 youth in employment. When that runs out in 1979 they would like to come back to Council - they have talked with Community Development about this - about the possibility of picking that up for \$160,000 in 55 target areas.

Susan McGhee - IMPACT Leisure Education Program.

Ms. McGhee stated IMPACT runs a leisure education program that is to enable and educate the development of disabled youths residing in CD target areas and between the ages of 8 and 21. Their aim is to help them function independently, and not have to rely on another agency, to effectively use their leisure time. The service is presented to the family and the youth at no cost and can also be used in their homes and in their community. They work in the areas of knowledge of community resources and remedial resources; use of money; room skills, appropriate public behavior and use of public transportation.

She quoted from a letter received from the President of IMPACT Enterprises: "It is our opinion and the opinion of our principal consultant, Dr. Jean Mundy, that the staff and operation has developed to the point where the program development, guidance and quality control which have been provided by IMPACT Enterprises, Inc. is no longer necessary. The program and staff have developed to the level where they are now self sufficient and can operate effectively and efficiently. Therefore, it is our opinion that in light of the level of development reached by the program and staff, the program be continued through direct contracting with local agencies, with the staff directly involved or some similar mechanism which may be available to you."

Ms. McGhee stated that the leisure education program is a valid service and it does need to be continued. In the first five months of their contract with the Community Development Department they have served 102 developmental disabled youths; 21 of these have reached independent functioning and have been terminated from the program. Only 11 have been dropped. Due to referrals from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, the Center for Human Development and other City and County agencies, they have a waiting list now of 91 clients; at present they are serving 92. She

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She stated this establishes the need for the continuation of the program and their proposal is that it be continued through an organization by the name of ILEAP, Inc..

In response to a question from Councilmember Trosch, Ms. Gist stated it is their proposal to operate independently of the Florida-based organization. That the program was originally set up to turn over to local organizations; that is what they are attempting to do at this time.

Councilmember Trosch stated she attended a budgetary hearing last year and they were having problems finding clientele at that time; that they apparently have no more problems if they have a waiting list.

Ms. McGhee stated a function budget was agreed on. There was some adjustment done along the profit level. That IMPACT is a profit-oriented organization. Their prime interest is to go through a non-profit organization. They feel they can serve more clients who need their services.

Dr. Gary Mims - IMPACT Leisure Education Program.

Dr. Mims stated ILEAP Services proposes continuing the therapeutic leisure education programming at the same program level that IMPACT Enterprises conducted during the last two and a half fiscal years. However, they propose expanding the scope of services of existing programs to include some programming for a different class of client, a different age group of clients, which would be recipients of the Chores program and some participants in the Hot Meals programs.

In addition to that, they propose to expand the overall scope of the program to include therapeutic leisure education programming for a greater number of CD area residents now receiving services from a number of CD social service contractors. These would include week-end camping experiences for CD area youth receiving programming at Bethlehem and Gethsemane Centers. An additional program would be therapeutic leisure education for homebound, disabled and elderly individual CD area residents on the Chores program and participating in the hot meals program. They also propose offering in-service training, consultation, assistance in acquiring funding, testing and evaluation for some of the existing programs.

Francis Jeffries - Johnston Memorial YMCA.

Mr. Jeffries stated that in December of 1975 some concerns were brought to the "Y" staff as to some of the needs in the North Charlotte Target Area. That they sat down with some community people, looked at the problems and saw that maybe the "Y" could relate to some of these needs. They then talked with some of the Community Development staff and started making some plans. They held an objective planning workshop that reinforced some of these needs, and in June 1976 began funding through the Community Development program to serve North Charlotte Target Area youth with memberships, program fees, swimming lessons, day camp fees - things such as this. For the June-to-August 1976 program they received \$11,800. This was a preceding program to trigger their first year program.

For the period from September 1976 through August 1977 they received \$26,500; and from September 1977 through August 1978, the figure is \$46,750. Their proposal today is for \$52,200. He stated that in the area of youth memberships, family memberships, program fees and things such as that, they surpassed all of the objectives with this past year's program; they even had to sustain some of the memberships with other funds. Their program now involves 650 different youth and families. One of the things they feel they have achieved with this program is involving youth and families in programs that are constructive. This was one of the major concerns initially that there were not enough constructive programs in North Charlotte. They include such things as leadership training programs that help the community as well as the youth to learn the responsibility of carrying out service projects. He stated one thing the Contractors Association does is collaborate the efforts of such organizations as the Community School of the Arts. That

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some of the North Charlotte Target Area youth are involved in an art program, hopefully a piano program. They are working with Gethsemane AME Zion in their program, involving North Charlotte youth without any extra cost to the City. Also, they are working with the hot lunch program in providing a driver for their North Charlotte based program at Johnston Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Short, Mr. Jeffries stated Johnston Memorial is a family "Y". He invited Councilmembers to come out and observe their program any time; and if they have any feedback for them as an agency of the City (even if they do not receive funding) it would be very helpful to them in extending their services.

Paul McBroom - Central Piedmont Community College - Community Education Program.

Mr. McBroom stated the CPCC Community Education Program has operated for almost 12 months and during that period of time, they have served 850 people. That the real story is who was involved and what they were doing. The majority of the students - 725 - had never had a CPCC class before. The types of students they had were everything from welfare mothers who came out for a sewing class or who, after being out and away from home, decided to go back and tackle high school completion with maybe a long range goal of getting some vocational training, to older adults from the age of 85 on down who came out for anything from exercise classes to classes on how to make a quilt, pottery and other things.

He stated during the next funding year, they propose to do basically the same thing, adding to that, in cooperation with the City of Charlotte Manpower Department, a chance to put some people in college training who have finished high school and have proven they are ready to get into the job market with some type of marketing skills.

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Rev. George Battle - Gethsemane Enrichment Program.

Rev. Battle stated they are indebted to the City of Charlotte, to Mr. Burkhalter, Mr. Sawyer and their staffs, that they are especially indebted to Mr. Sawyer. He would like to attest to some of the things that Art Lynch said, however, they have their own success story printed in the package which he will give each Councilmember.

He stated they feel that by the time a child reaches the age of 7 he has developed a certain style of thinking about himself that is very hard to change in later years. That by working with kids age 4 through junior high or elementary school, they are able to shape his destiny in such a way that he will become a taxpayer instead of one that will become trouble for the City or County. They are very excited about the impact they are having on crime in their areas. They are grateful to the Charlotte News for printing their story.

He stated in their Enrichment Program they work with the entire family unit instead of just the individual child. If you do not deal with the entire family situation, what you are doing might be in vain when the child goes back into the home.

Councilmember Gantt stated that this program for the 1978-79 year proposes about 1/2 million dollars. This program is spreading considerably further than the original boundaries? Rev. Battle agreed. Councilman Gantt stated that the item on today's agenda will increase their contract another \$75,000 to pick up the Grier Heights area in mid-year. Rev. Battle stated he wants them to understand that is only costing about \$1.72 per child per hour. Councilmember Gantt stated his track record with the number of children they have gotten to is excellent - there is no question about that. That he is trying to find a relationship here between his budget for this present year with the budget he is asking for next year. Is he proposing an expansion of the scope of his program?

Rev. Battle stated the budget is primarily for Five Points, Third Ward, West Morehead and Grier Heights areas. With picking up Grier Heights there will be no additional staff. The biggest item in the Grier Heights budget will be the three vans they need to transport the kids. The staff - the tutor is making \$4.00 per hour. It costs him 13¢ per hour to do what he is doing as he is not paid full time in terms of when he works with them. The staff is people with masters degrees who work in these areas to give the quality to their program that is needed. Also, the social security has gone up; that the biggest item that has increased in the budget is for the cost of supplies per child. Most of the time they have had an operational budget for 200 kids, but most of the time now they have on the roll now about 364. They always allow things in the budget to be cut; they ask for an ideal budget, hoping that they will get a practical one.

Councilmember Gantt stated, in fairness to Rev. Battle, he just added all of the things together and what he essentially would have if he had a "hold the line, no accounting for inflation" figure, this year's budget would be about \$386,000 and what he is asking for is \$424,000.

Rev. Battle stated he wants Council to know that they are one of the few agencies that have no federal funds - this is all that they have. He wants them to know that they got into this on the basis of a need - a need that was not being met not only in the Five Points Target Area but that other programs have come about because they demonstrated a need and documented the need. That whenever they do this, they can always be assured that they are working in areas where this need is not being met by any other agency. It is not a duplication of services; it is something that has been tested and tried and the success is there.

He agreed that they have also gotten funding from businesses and other places. He invited Councilmembers to their Christmas party which is made possible by the business people. He hopes Council will give them this budget because they can continue to make Council look good and can continue to be proud of working for Council in this area.

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Councilmember Leeper asked if the money that is requested on today's agenda would be used for transportation or for vehicles? Rev. Battle replied no, the money they are asking for in the Grier area would include 15 tutors, 5 aides and 3 vans and a snack for the kids in the afternoon which would about to 55¢ per child; and the cost of supplies. The program will be facilitated within the community where it resides. Councilmember Leeper asked about the hours and Rev. Battle replied they work with the adult population in terms of school liaison, all day; but the kids are there from 3:30 until 7:30.

Rev. Rudolph Hendricks - Summer Program for South Tryon Target Area.

Rev. Hendricks stated he is minister of South Tryon Street Presbyterian Church; that his track record is one that he is not very proud of because he has been to Council twice and each time he was sent back. That some of the others may be hasty generalizations anyway.

He stated he came a couple of years ago to propose a summer program to this Council and was told at that particular time that there was already an activity going on in that community and that there was no more money to share. He did not believe it but he went away and told the constituents that he was representing. He came last year and was told he was too late; so he is here today not of his own wishes but by the wishes of about one hundred families who have drawn up a petition which he had with him.

He stated there are a lot of people in that area who would be served and the service would not be overlapping because they would be working with different individuals. He is appalled at the thought that in the summers his church had to connect with other churches in the Mecklenburg Presbytery in order to meet the needs of some young people in that community. However, they say that the City was providing needs for those persons.

They also have senior citizens that they are involved with; but they get no funds from the City, nor any other sources - only out of the Mecklenburg Presbytery. He is very proud of the Presbytery, but at the same time he is very embarrassed at the thought that there are taxpayers - citizens - in that area who are in need and nothing is being done about it.

He brought a proposal today but he did not bring copies for Councilmembers because with his past track record he did not think it was necessary to provide paper to make a fire in their fireplaces.

He stated they are interested in working with children from six to sixteen. They propose a summer program that will begin on June 19 and will end in August. Their program is somewhat different - they will be working with 125, no more than 150. They will be preparing young people in that community to carry on a conversation with a person to get a job; they will be preparing these people in areas they are weak in. They will be working with older people on a person to person basis. Whether they realize it or not, when you get a certain age you do not want anyone to know you cannot spell or cannot read. They will work with these people on a personal basis, keeping his secret to himself.

They will be exposing some young people to some of the things in our community that they very seldom get to be a part of. He stated he has two horses and this summer they had a church picnic. He was surprised that some of the young people in that community had never touched a horse.

He stated he hopes Council will grant him this right. He has been in that area for twelve years and he thinks he can speak unequivocally for the black people in that community. He knows what it is to live in a house without a carpet; he knows what it is to be able to count the chickens under the house; he knows what it is to have to use all the cover that you have in the house and then go put the clean clothes on the bed. He is talking about out of experience of the people; about one hundred families that have signed this petition. He hopes that when he comes before Council again his track record will be a little better; that they will not send him back because they have the power to bring forth a good program in that area.

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Councilmember Gantt asked how this program and what he proposes to do relate to the ongoing program of Bethlehem Center? That many of them have felt this program covered that section of the community, particularly in the area of enrichment.

Rev. Hendricks replied their program will be held in the community; it will work with the children at their need; it will work with the senior citizens who come to their church constantly. He is not going to say anything about anybody else's program because he can only talk about what he intends to do. That when the evidence comes up he hopes his will be the true ones. They have enough children and senior citizens in that area to have several programs. The church is in the middle of two housing projects - Brookhill and Southside and whether Council knows it or not that is where the low income people come in from Georgia, from North Carolina and from South Carolina because the housing is cheap. He stated he does not intend to bus anybody in to the program to get the number. If at any time they find they are not arriving at the proper number that they get the proposal for, they will come back to Council and ask for it to be dissolved. They are asking for a very small amount of money in this day of high economics - only \$21,059.75.

Councilmember Trosch asked if this expands the program that the Presbytery is already funding? Rev. Hendricks replied this does not expand the program that the Presbytery is funding; the only reason that the Presbytery is involved in this program is because he goes to them each year asking for this type program; that all of the Presbytery is not involved - they have Covenant, Sardis, Carmel, Selwyn Avenue and South Tryon Churches. Last year Christ Episcopal Church provided them with a young lady who helped with the tutoring.

William O. Hoey - Mecklenburg Court Volunteers.

Mr. Hoey, director of Mecklenburg Court Volunteers, stated this is a program working with young adults and juveniles who are on probation. They are from the age of 7 through 25. The volunteers work one-on-one with these probationers, hoping to change their attitudes and their life styles so that they can become productive citizens of the community rather than spending a lifetime in prison.

Referring to his report which he had made available to the Councilmembers, he stated they did a cost analysis comparing the cost of sending kids to Jackson Training School or Swannanoa at an average cost of between \$8,000 and \$11,000. He stated they were able, after being funded in 1976 through this year, to provide the service by keeping 68 probationers in our community at a cost of only \$405.43. That this shows that it is cheaper to keep these kids at home rather than sending them off to training school and have volunteers here whose cost and time have not been included in this package. They are hopeful of obtaining \$25,744 in CD funds for next year. This does not include any office furniture, materials. They have a staff of three. They are also funded with CETA funds for the two positions other than his. In the short time that their program has been in existence, they have matched a total 104 probationers; that he thinks that is an outstanding job. They hope to continue with Council's assistance. There is no program in this area that is doing the same thing they are doing.

Melba VonSprecken - Hot Lunch Program for Elderly.

Ms. VonSprecken stated she is very pleased to be here to tell them about their continuing plan for the fourth year. They would like to continue at the level of preparing 600 meals per day, five days a week for the elderly. She does not believe they are being duplicated by any other agency.

She picked a month at random - the month of October. During that month, not only did they bring 600 people in to have hot meals, they also did 861 visits or transports in addition to bringing the people in for the

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hot meals. This gives them a captive audience to work with and to bring other agencies in. They do support this with all of the other services in Mecklenburg County - coming here for their food stamps, for our Health Department, Social Security and other agencies. They also work with Rev. Battle's group. They try to cooperate with the other contractors. She thinks this has been a benefit in the contractors getting together to see that there is no overlapping. They work together not only with transportation but in other areas.

During the month of October they served 10,952 meals. They are pleased with the program; they would like the Councilmembers to come out anytime to visit them. That the Christmas season is a very busy one. There are four sites. She stated one of the meals is being cooked on site; one is to go on site; the other two are still being catered. The North Charlotte location is on-site; Gethsemane, they hope to go on-site by February; West Boulevard, they cannot go on-site because they just do not have the facilities; Grier Heights is also being catered.

James Hannah - McCrorey YMCA.

Mr. Hannah stated they have been working in the CD program for the last two years and he is here today to request funds for the third year. His report is in the hands of the Councilmembers.

He stated their Day Camp program is located in the West Boulevard area. They go into every corner and segment in that particular area and seek out the kids; they work with those 5 to 12 years of age. This year they are proposing to work with 675 boys and girls. He stated this program is not dictated by the YMCA staff. They have a Citizens Participating Committee in this area and they hold meetings around in the various communities so that the committee will be involved in the participation of whatever program contents that they will conduct during that period of time.

They have a number of activities they will be participating in - they are things that the people have said they wanted. The trips are very enjoyable as well as educational. They took about 175 to the Morehead Planetarium and it was a first for most of them. It was very worthwhile.

They are proposing four two-week schedules beginning on June 19; and one-week session from August 14-18. The fifth session is going to be shorter because they do not know exactly when the school year will begin.

He stated the budget is itemized in his written report but the total expenditure is approximately \$51,395.00.

Councilmember Dannelly asked how many youth did this program serve last year? Mr. Hannah replied last year's figure was about 650. They are different youth, not the same ones. They go into Dalton Village, into King's Park, into Key Way, Reid's Park and a number of others.

Bill Woodard - Homemakers Upjohn - Chore Services.

Mr. Woodard stated they are in the middle of their second year of their contract for chore services. At the end of the first year, there was some concern from Council as to whether they should even be funded a second year. The reason for that was that they had no track record, they had no basis of need. That he felt this was a problem of referrals that has been whipped. They contracted directly with Community Development this year rather than^{as} a sub-contractor to DSS. He has always felt that his chore program really is a supportive service to the work that the Social Services Department does in the area of chores in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

He stated the reason he is here for Fourth Year funding is that there are no four year funds allocated for the chore program in the Community Development program. He has talked with Mr. Chapin many times and they searched for funds for this. He feels that the ideal situation would be a matching type situation with some Community Development funds matched with possibly

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Title 20 funds, however, there does not seem to be any Title 20 funds available. They feel that this is a very, very needed program. They are also one of the contractors that could flourish very well without this contract. Homemakers and the Upjohn Company specifically, are in many different areas - they are in the medical services area, Medicaid and Medicare. They have found out that in the chore program that approximately 65 to 70 percent of the people they are serving need medical assistance. They have tried to pick these people up under the Medicare or the Medicaid program rather than with Community Development funds. They have gone through approximately 86 people to date this year and have a waiting list of approximately 10; that he feels they are only just scratching the surface. As he stated, there are no plans for fourth year funding for the chore services program, but they feel that it is vital. The Department of Social Services feel they do not have funds available.

In response to a question from Councilmember Trosch, he explained the agenda item which pertains to chore services. He stated they had a sudden influx of patients over about two months where they went through the existing funds for the program in the second year by November 1. They have asked for the allocation of funds for the third year to run from November 1 through June 30 of this year.

Councilmember Leeper asked where they get the personnel to run this program? Mr. Woodard replied they get the personnel through their own staff and also they try to hire, whenever possible, Target Area residents and train them to go into the area. That has not been the most successful part of the program - they have had 9 or 10 eligible Target Area residents that have come into the program and worked. The problem primarily is that they do not have transportation - many of the people need to be taken to get food stamps or something. He stated one of the goals of the program was to hire Target Area residents. They are asking for a total of \$116,000 for the fourth year.

Jim Black - MOTION, Inc.

Mr. Black stated MOTION, Inc. over the past years has been the kind of innovative organization that has been addressing itself to the problem of housing production, and he expects it to play a major role in the housing scene in Charlotte in the years to come. He stated most of the people he met in the campaign kept talking about the need for housing and how there were 1500 people on the waiting list at the Housing Authority who needed homes. Now, he is told that there might be some kind of problem in extending the contract with MOTION. Since there are at least 1500 people who need some shelter, added to the number of people who also live in sub-standard housing, as opposed to doing away with the agency that deals directly in housing, then he thinks Council might need to understand that they need to take advantage of the agencies that already exist. MOTION is one of those particular agencies. That they have a terrific track record as far as most people seem to think - the Orchard Apartments and the Greenville Apartments that just opened; and there are other projects that are underway. If we are talking about housing and the idea of putting people into those houses, then since we already have an agency in the City that deals with that, if there are any problems maybe those problems can be worked out and MOTION be allowed to exist. That is basically what he was supposed to say.

Councilmember Gantt stated there is an item on the agenda today to extend the contract with MOTION for another month. That there has been some question on Council as to what MOTION's role should be; that there are many members of Council interested in having the services they have; they want to hopefully over the next month decide what the role of MOTION should be.

Mayor Harris stated the main thing they want to do is for MOTION to work with the City staff; that is the most important thing.

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Ernie Alford - MOTION, Inc.

Mr. Alford, Executive Director of MOTION, Inc., stated it is essentially a housing development corporation - non-profit, under contract to the City. That MOTION now probably has a past track record which can be substantiated as to their ability to develop and to meet the needs of low and moderate income people in this City in the area of housing. They make no claims that MOTION can solve all of the local housing problems. But they claim that no other single agency can do as much. They feel that a united effort between MOTION and the other institutions involved in housing production in this City will at least begin to attack the problem that is not only plaguing the City of Charlotte but cities across the Country of this size.

He stated as to the potential of MOTION's involvement in the future, under the proposals for Community Development plans for the coming year, there is a call for more than a hundred units of rehabilitated housing. As a part of the First Ward Plan there is an agreement for 60 units of new constructed housing. He really does not think there is a need to "re-invent the wheel" when they have clearly established the fact that they can produce in the area of single family and multi family housing for low income people. That their primary strong point would be that MOTION has a unique combination and that is that they are a community based group. That very often we get away from the need to have that kind of community base and community input. MOTION clearly has that, coupled with the expertise and understanding of the technical areas of housing development, and they have been able to establish a rapport and respect with people of the business community which has enabled them to go forward with the projects they have had to date. He stated they developed most of their units under adverse conditions when housing as well as money was scarce.

He stated that the previous Council allocated \$1.5 million to housing and he would like to see a fair share of that money go into housing and he feels that MOTION has earned the right to at least participate in the development of some of that.

He stated, in response to a question from Council, that the reason for the extension process on the MOTION contract was simply a contract negotiating kind of point which is not unusual to private enterprise. They were presented with a proposed contract by Mr. Sawyer's department. The Board of Directors felt that MOTION's role should have been to a greater extent than was proposed in that contract. They, therefore, made a counter proposal in a contract for services which they feel they can honestly provide and services they feel are honestly needed by the people in the communities. It is on that basis alone that the contract is now under review by the Community Development Department. Hopefully, within the next 30 days they will be able to come to some kind of agreement and move forward with the business of trying to provide some housing.

Councilmember Short stated that surely Mr. Alford has seen the report of the Evaluation Department recommending that management and counselling no longer be contracted to MOTION. He asked what his view of that is? Is it causing him any problems?

Mr. Alford replied it does to some extent. First of all, he would like to point out that they are not just haphazardly in the business of management - two members of the staff, including himself, are candidates for the CPM status which is one of the highest honors you can get in the field of personal property management. The primary reason for originally getting into the management business was that they wanted to be able to chart the course of these projects. That to build them and leave them would really not be the kind of thing that they originally intended to do. They can, however, adjust their situation as the needs require.

He confirmed a statement by Councilmember Short that MOTION was an outgrowth of the original Model Cities program, financed by the federal program and later transferred to local government - that was two years ago.

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Councilmember Short stated that Mr. Alford indicates very strongly that operate as a business function, although non-profit. Would he consider bidding on the contract? Mr. Alford replied that of course his Board would have to make the final decision on that. As an employee he really cannot answer, but that MOTION has provided and performed in bad times and now that the money is available there is something to be said for good faith at this point. Now that money is available they would certainly like to be included.

Councilmember Leeper stated there are two vacancies on the Board of Directors; who determines who is on the Board? Mr. Alford replied at this point they are still operating under the original guidelines set up back when they were founded under the Model Cities Program. There are two people from the community, two people recommended by Council; they had people from the Model Cities Advisory Council at that time, etc. They would like to fill those positions with persons suggested by City Council so that Council could probably have more input and set their minds at ease as to what MOTION is doing and what they are all about.

Councilmember Leeper stated there has been some question about the management and compensation part of MOTION's services. That Mr. Alford has said that he feels they can provide the housing, the management and the compensation. Mr. Alford replied yes he does feel that way. That they have proven they can provide this service and they have been trained in the area so it is not something that they are just picking up off the cuff to try to do. He stated they are flexible enough that they can adjust and adapt their program to meet whatever the current housing needs may be for the City. Councilmember Leeper stated he thinks MOTION is a very needed organization.

Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated he intended to say this when the renewal of the contract comes up on the agenda, but since Mr. Alford is here now, maybe this is the time. That in the evaluation there was some real serious questions they had concerning the loan fund and it was recommended that the City prepare an audit on the revolving loan fund. He stated he feels that information is highly necessary before Council can make a decision on this at the end of 30 days. He stated to Mr. Alford that he proposes to ask the City auditors to go in and check this and he hopes they will get the cooperation needed. He stated there is no indication of wrongdoing - he is not talking about that - but if you have given \$400,000 to something over a period of years, he thinks you are entitled to know where it is and what happened to it. That this is the kind of thing they should do and will be contact with MOTION in the next few days.

Mr. Alford stated they welcome any audit. That he might also add that MOTION undergoes an independent audit each year by an independent CPA firm but they certainly welcome any additional audits that might be forthcoming.

Councilmember Dannelly asked if he understood correctly that relative to housing, MOTION is able to operate in areas where other governmental agencies are not able to operate? Mr. Alford replied that would be correct.

Councilmember Short stated they do operate citywide even though they do receive a certain amount of CD money? Mr. Alford replied that is correct. That in the stipulation of the plan - for example, in the First Ward Plan, the 60 units of housing that it speaks of, the first 25 will be built in the first year, the other 35 over the next five years and they can either be in that Target Area or in an area of concentration somewhere else in the City. That they would not be providing specific CD services by locating them in another area.

Dr. Bertha Maxwell - Johnson C. Smith University.

Dr. Maxwell stated she does not have a proposal to present at this time, but she does have some concerns which she would like to express to Council. She stated that Johnson C. Smith has historically been a beacon in the

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Five Points community. Now that this community is undergoing changes it is imperative that they maintain this role and further enhance it. When she speaks of being a beacon, that when you look at such members as Mr. Dannelly, should he perform well they must think of him as their own; and if the Mayor's remarks concerning her own contributions to the community has any value, she is also a product of the university.

As an institution located within the Target Areas of Charlotte, she is greatly concerned about the programs being allocated to this institution in regards to training. Therefore, while she has no track record at all, certainly within the next year or two she intends to improve that. She is also greatly concerned about the hiring of Johnson C. Smith graduates in positions throughout not only the Five Point area but also other target areas. Another concern is that of support for the five-year plan at Johnson C. Smith University. That in their planning document, Council will see an opportunity not only to become involved itself, not only for the Community Development program to become involved but the entire community of Charlotte. She urged that they not only support the programs of those people located in the Five Points area but that in the future they consider the programs that will be coming from the university in the area of training.

Councilmember Short stated these programs are apparently not hampered by the requirement that schools are not eligible? Dr. Maxwell replied she is talking about human services programs in the area of training. She felt very closely aligned to the gentleman who spoke about his not being funded from the other side of town; she has very similar feelings because she did submit a proposal - maybe it will "fire" too - but she is going back with the same proposal because she thinks it was a very innovative plan - it was very different perhaps, it was not just sewing. That when you talk about employment, no matter what area you pick up a magazine or research on anything on unemployment you find that blacks are the highest rate of unemployment. That they can do something about helping that type of statistic.

Paul Herbert - Community School of Arts.

Mr. Herbert stated the School of Arts proposal was approved September 22 so they are in their third month of operation. The program is called Orff Introduction to Music. The program is designed to provide 424 hours of class instruction for 405 students in the fall and 105 hours of instruction for 304 students in the summer. The target areas include Southside Park, West Morehead, Five Points, Third Ward and North Tryon. It works in conjunction with the faculty and staff of the AME Gethesemane Zion Church's enrichment program, Bethlehem Center's pre-school and after school program, Johnston Memorial YMCA's service program to Highland Elementary School - they are really pleased about this as originally they were busing the children to the Y from Highland; now they are going directly to the school; it has helped to establish a relationship with the school system which is helping to open up their music program - and the Hornets Nest Girl Scout Council, where they are fitting in many workshops that will apply to their music merit badge program. Staff meetings between CSA teachers, agency staff, and CSA administrative staff are held each month to provide for coordinated cohesive classes.

In January they have budgetted in this program for 22 rising fifth graders who will be able to progress to individual piano lessons comprised of a 1/2 hour lesson, a 1 hour Dalcroze Introduction to Music class and a 1/2 hour conference once a week. Students will be encouraged to proceed into the public school instrumental program in September. Eight public schools are cooperating with agency personnel in assisting the students and wherever possible making use of the school's pianos for supervised piano practice.

Four parent participation programs are scheduled in this contract. The idea is to get parents involved, to get feedback from the parents and let the parents become a part of each student's learning experience.

He stated the program has benefitted from the active involvement and support of the Community Development staff and agencies have seen the Orff program as a valuable asset to their offerings.

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Mr. Herbert stated their plans for 1978-79 are contingent upon Council approval and available funds through Community Development. They hope to expand to three new target areas - Cherry, West Boulevard and Grier Heights. This would mean an estimated increase of 368 students or an estimated \$8,756.00, a 60 percent increase over the current \$14,593.00. This would bring the total CD target area participation to 980 students.

He stated they are looking forward to expanding their relationship with the community via the CD Department. That the CD staff, target area agencies and the Community School of the Arts are working hard to provide the best music instruction possible for target area residents. That the effects are seen in the many excited and smiling faces of the kids involved in the program.

Joe Michie - Child Development Pediatric Unit of Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Michie, Assistant Director of Community Development, stated he is speaking on behalf of Drs. Olson Huff and James Park of the Child Development program at Memorial Hospital. He quoted from their letter which stated they would very much like to appear personally for the public hearing but previous commitments make it impossible.

He quoted from their report as follows: "Identification of the young infant in the Community Development target areas who are at risk for developmental disabilities becomes mandatory if early intervention and treatment programs to strengthen the individual's ultimate potential are to be successful. Early intervention has been shown to save future expense and to help make a more productive citizen for the community. It is extremely important to invest in the total development of the young lives in the target areas. The enclosed proposal avoids duplication of services by utilizing community agencies and services already in operation. This includes medical and non-medical services and the requested funds are proportioned to give greater emphasis on early identification and diagnostic services that are not currently available for young infants and children in the target areas."

Mr. Michie stated that basically what they are asking for is to doing screening in the Pediatric Department of Memorial Hospital for newborn and other children - pre-school age children. It would include lab work-ups, diagnostic testing and interviewing of the children with referral to the Human Development Center, private physicians and other services that might be available. The purpose would be to spot treatables before they enter school. Such things as mental retardation, learning disabilities, hearing disabilities, cerebral palsy, speech, visual impairment, physical handicaps, emotional, and others.

He stated this proposal has been under consideration in the Community Development Department for several months. It has been referred to Dr. Miller, the County Health Officer, for his input and suggestions. Basically the proposal would be services from two part-time physicians, an administrative assistant, two nurses and various support activity - a social worker, lab fees, X-rays, etc. The first year they are asking for \$123,484; for the fifth Community Development year, \$123,982; for the sixth and final CD year, \$141,005 - a total program commitment of \$388,171 over the next three years.

In response to a question from Council, he stated this is a program that has never been funded before by the City, or fully supported by Memorial Hospital, the County and others. The function of this screening process in the Pediatric Department is in operation at Memorial; they just do not have the money to do all the job that they would like to do. That it is anticipated that the children who are clients of the program would come from Community Development area families.

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Edith Hubbard - Hornets Nest Girl Scouts.

Ms. Hubbard stated basically Hornets Nest Girl Scout Council wishes to go on record requesting for fourth year funding the present grant amount they have of \$28,613.00. Some of those funds are presently in capital expenditures. They propose next year to put those in operating costs. They are presently serving 435 girls in the target area; 60 adults in the target area; and they provide all Girl Scout related activities to that program.

Alan Stewart - Community Hypertension Control Program.

Mr. Stewart stated he is Director of Long Range Planning for the American Heart Association Chapter in Charlotte. He introduced Barbara Yarbrow, director of the Community Hypertension Control Program.

He stated that hypertension is a crucial problem in the world today; it is a major health problem. A study made by the North Carolina of Human Resources showed that of the eight major diseases in our state, hypertension is included in over 55 percent of all diagnoses. An estimated 44,000 persons in Mecklenburg County have hypertension; half of these people are not even aware of it; only 1/8 of these persons are receiving adequate treatment. Surveys show that the public really does not know much about hypertension, and its consequences and detection.

Because of the nature of hypertension, the majority of people are unaware that they even have the condition. Many who know they have it are lacking in motivation to try to work it out and follow a treatment regimen. A patient has to be educated because of the severe consequences of hypertension and what it does to them.

He stated the American Heart Association has tried to answer this problem. In the City of Charlotte, their chapter has opened the Community Hypertension Control Program in September. One of the basic areas of their encouragement and work is in the target areas in Charlotte. Their office is located on a major bus route - Elizabeth Avenue - so that they will be available to all people in the target areas. The service is free; they have counselling, referral. They have listed in their report the number of people who have been screened since September indicating those who knew they had hypertension and those who did not. They hope this program will be continuous; their funding is very weak at this time; they hope to have some support from the City to try and solve this health problem.

Ms. Yarbrow stated that three days a week they are open to screen anyone who walks in for high blood pressure. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they go out into different communities and supply this service in those areas. She stated they have never been funded by Community Development.

Mayor Harris thanked all of the participants in the hearing for their patience, and announced that the hearing would be continued on Tuesday night.

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The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, met on Tuesday, December 13, 1977, at 7:30 o'clock p. m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, for the purpose of continuing the Public Hearing on the Fourth Year Community Development Block Grant Application. Presiding was Mayor Kenneth R. Harris, with Councilmembers Betty Chafin, Thomas Cox, Charlie Dannelly, Laura Frech, Harvey B. Gantt, Ron Leeper, Pat Locke, George K. Selden, H. Milton Short and Minette Trosch present.

ABSENT: Councilmember Don Carroll.

Mr. Vernon Sawyer, Director of Community Development, briefly outlined the purpose of the hearing.

Reneau VanLandingham - Dilworth Association.

Mr. VanLandingham identified on the map the Dilworth Target Area and invited Councilmembers to drive through their community and observe what has been accomplished in the Dilworth area, particularly in this CD Tax Area. Continued efforts are still needed to insure the complete reversal of the decline of some portions of the area. His request was submitted five items.

(Item 1) - Council will shortly receive notification from Raleigh that older section of Dilworth has been placed on the study list for nomination to the National Register of Historical Places. This is another first for the City of Charlotte. While the local Historical District of Fourth Street brings distinction to our City, a National Historical District will bring national recognition, if it is approved. If this study proceeds as past studies, then four or five years will pass before the study will take place. He requested that approximately \$4,000 be available for funding and immediate private study of this area which will prepare the necessary information for decision by City Council and the State Department of Cultural Resources.

(Item 2) - Under new guidelines, Economic Development funds can be made available directly to non-profit neighborhood associations. In order to assist in the renovation of low and middle income housing in their neighborhood, and in order to keep costs low through our non-profit status, they request approximately \$75,000 to set up a revolving fund by which historically significant houses can be renovated by the DCDA and resold at the lowest possible cost to the purchaser. This money could then become available for other city uses once the process is well underway.

(Item 3) - With the large number of elderly living in Dilworth and our greater realization of the handicapped who find it difficult to travel distances which most of us take for granted, the request approximately \$150,000 for sidewalk and curb repair in the CD target area. Fifty years of wear and tear, not to mention the devastation by tree roots, have taken their toll on the sidewalks in this particular area. Some improvements have already been made, but others are needed.

(Item 4) - This is their second request regarding a Community House for the neighborhood. This would not be a recreational facility, but a restored house that would serve neighborhood administrative purposes and hopefully de-centralize and aid City-County agencies in meeting the needs of residents who find it difficult to reach centralized facilities now, and certainly will in the future. Approximately \$50,000 is all that is required for this pilot program, which could serve as an example of how neighborhoods can take some of the burden of solving social problems which were mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan - the human services program.

(Item 5) - The Dilworth Association has located property in the neighborhood which may be suitable for a Senior Citizens Retirement Complex. Here, again, this could be operated on a low cost, not-for-profit basis. They do not have the wherewithal to even study this million dollar concept.

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and request approximately \$20,000 for a study which would develop a statement of cost versus expected income and form the basis for the decision-making process. This unique idea of citizens helping themselves has sparked interest from Community Development and the Housing Authority.

Mr. VanLandingham stated Councilmembers and Community Development will be receiving more information about each one of these items in the future. A national historian has said "government has not yet learned what should be large and what can be small," and they hope that our Charlotte government will learn this and let each neighborhood in Charlotte do their small part with the help of larger City Government.

Ms. Terry Hogan - Woodland Community Development Association.

Ms. Hogan, Route 14, Box 457, Paw Creek Area, stated that effective December 1, 1977, the Woodland Community located in the Paw Creek section of Mecklenburg County was annexed into the City of Charlotte and a number of persons who would have been eligible for FHA grants and small interest loans have now lost that eligibility.

That their Community Association would like to request that the Community Development Department include the Woodland community as a target area for immediate community improvement, in its future community development program implementation. She listed the reasons as: Poor housing; need of housing rehabilitation program; need for water and sewer systems, street lights, road improvement, sidewalks, programs for the elderly, recreation facilities and programs and for public transportation.

Rev. George Battle - President Five Points Community Organization

The Clerk advised Council that Rev. Battle would not be present but had filed his request for the record.

Kelly Alexander, Jr. - Third Ward Area.

Mr. Alexander, 112 North Irwin Street, stated he is not a resident of Third Ward but is the operator of a business in that target area and is also chairman of the Labor and Industry Committee of the Charlotte NAACP. He stated he is concerned that we will arrive at Year Six of the Community Development Program having promised the poor of Charlotte much and delivered little. To prevent this, we must proceed into the Fourth Year with the clear knowledge that the residents of the CD target areas want concrete results - that is, results they can see. The same expert blend of public and private investment that on one hand has revitalized the square with the Civic Center, new hotel, office tower and overstreet shopping; and on the other creates a Fourth Ward historical preservation district that could well become the cultural center of our community; that expertise must make dramatic physical changes in the Community Development areas such as Third Ward and Five Points.

In the Third Ward area, attention needs to be paid to the quality of business developments that will be permitted to operate along Fifth and West Trade Streets. As he understands it, those streets now divide the Third Ward area into really two separate areas with that acting as a bumper. Whatever that development is, it must help preserve Third Ward, not serve as a great wall or as a new focus for sex-for-sale trade. He was shocked when only a few months ago, it was suggested that West Trade Street be converted into an adult entertainment area. How could serious political leaders suggest that the center of the Community Development Target Area be converted into an area for legal prostitution, pandering, peep shows and the like?

In his opinion, Community Development Target Areas like Third Ward and Five Points, need to be served by de-centralized city service centers - a mini-City Hall or community center. Such a center would be a place

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where neighborhood groups could hold meetings, a clinic could be provided for the medical needs of the area, utility bills could be paid, child and adult day care services provided, and such things.

Turning to another area of concern, it is not enough to simply draw up a plan that says single family homes will be here and apartments there and on such and such a corner. It is an open secret that if low and moderate income families are to own property in or near central business districts, the City must take the lead in helping create a pool of long-term mortgage money that will be available to low and moderate income persons at interest rates well below the market level. Local or federal tax money might have to be used to pay the difference between, say, a 3 percent mortgage offered to a Community Development Target Area resident and the market interest rate. A special property tax rate should be considered for owner-occupied single and multi-family property. This, coupled with low interest mortgage money, would help to encourage homesteading by families and discourage speculative development by slum lords. To echo the words of a Third Ward resident as heard at a recent community meeting: "When are you going to use the same planning skills in Third Ward that you have used in Fourth Ward and on the Square?" He stated 1978 should be that year.

Ms. Virginia Woolard - Third Ward Area.

Ms. Woolard, 638 Hempstead Street, stated she was born in 1935 in the heart of Third Ward on what was then called Grove Street. Riding through the area now gives no perception of what Third Ward was like back then. West Trade Street was the only thoroughfare or east-west through street. Grove Street is now West Fourth Street - a very wide thoroughfare; Fifth Street was a dead-end street - and now it is a very heavily travelled thoroughfare. When she lived there, the entire area which we now describe as Third Ward for the purpose of Community Development, generally was the community related to Elmwood Cemetery, Southern Railway tracks and lower Irwin Creek. It was a community that naturally related to the central part of the city; a unified community. With the streets the city has put through there, it is almost as though a bomb has been dropped on the community, and splintered it. It is just little slivers of land that go out from the uptown area. The final blow of this destruction to the neighborhood came this past year when they put in the connecting street between West Trade and West Fourth Street. That leaves the space with a rather grotesque appearance.

She stated her home is still there on West Fourth Street and still maintained. It is rented out and she is in the area every day and feels a real emotional tie to the community still. She speaks as an interested person in the hope that the City will develop a real interest in this area. It is a vital part of the uptown development. She stated she feels real bad that it has to be called Third Ward - or First Ward or Fourth Ward. She hopes that one of the things that will come out of looking at the uptown development will be some sort of umbrella type development for these three uptown communities and that we can have much more participation by residents in the development of creative planning much sooner in the process. She hopes that this will be one step that this particular Council will take in that we come up with some very creative planning for this (as some people refer to it) "uptown crescent" from First Ward through Fourth Ward, to Elmwood Cemetery, down into this particular area called Third Ward. She hopes that Council will set up priorities and will maintain the priorities which it already has. If they will stick to the plans they already have, stick firmly to good planning principles, then we will have one of the most beautiful sections and will be so proud of it. It would be the largest single-family residential development uptown; that a lot of people will be wanting to live there. It is right beside a park - just beautiful. If they will just keep those buffers in there, they will be so proud of that development.

She stated there are many, many ideas that the residents have, things that are meaningful to them now, as Mr. Alexander mentioned. There is no place left for a community to gather; the schools she attended are gone. The

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optional school is there but it is really not a neighborhood facility. She does not have the answers in terms of what is possible, but they do need to be sensitive to the fact that there is no community now. That we have the best planners you could ever want, if we will just give them a chance.

Ms. Carrie Graves - West Boulevard Area.

Ms. Graves, 2206 Farmer Street, asked Council to keep in mind that the West Boulevard Area was chosen as a special project for Community Development for the Park and Human Resource building. That first they would ask that due to the pressing and critical need in housing, special transportation for the elderly and poor, employment and training, land use and development, community beautification programs, etc., that Community Development be an on-going project in their area. They would further ask that Community Development funds be used for the upgrading of homes, physically and economically. There is a need for a job training center that would offer training for the unskilled and unemployable, day care and employment for qualified residents of their community. Residents of their community should be sought out for management, supervisory positions, construction and development. They further ask that Community Development have a sincere concern for these persons to be employed in meaningful job opportunities after the training needed for a particular career is completed.

She stated the Park and Human Resource Center is greatly appreciated, however there are some corrections that are needed. There is a need for more of the trees to be taken down. Some of the playground equipment is placed too close to trees, which is very dangerous. They also feel for the safety of the children who use the park; they need to clear out more of the forestry. They see the need for more equipment placed throughout the park, including a swimming pool and another tennis court. She has checked on the kind of swimming pool she is talking about and it would be a million and a half dollars. She is going for the whole cake for their community. She hopes that the City will communicate with the Public Works Department in the gift of more land that is available through that area. They further believe that due to the confusion and disregard to the community organization, the West Boulevard coalition, the City should reconsider the ancient and disregard to community participation as it relates to the Park and Recreation Department. They feel as a community they should have more input into the kinds of programs or community organizations they feel and know is needed for their community.

They also see the need for the use of the gym on Sunday evenings; they feel they should be able to use the facilities for fund raising projects for their community and not for Parks and Recreation. They want to have something there this summer, and the only way they can have it is if they raise money or give it back to Park and Recreation, which does not make sense to her. They feel strongly that Park and Recreation should be controlled by the Council with community participation. These are changing times and with Community Development funds, communities are supposed to be seen and heard. They feel they have been sidetracked by Park and Recreation and also with the availability of transportation to and from their community to the inter center for the elderly and poor. Transportation was in their plans.

They further feel that the Park and Recreation facility was understaffed this summer and that the communication needed for their day camp program was not sufficient. The gymnasium is far off limits for projects and programs for their children through the YMCA; the gym is closed during the mid part of the day. This was not necessary because additional staff was supposed to have been hired to fit this need and the need for use of the gym on Sunday evening. She stated the West Boulevard Coalition Steering Committee offered to volunteer time to be responsible for over-seeing the buildings; that if they could leave their homes and stay out all times of the night and day for the planning and development stages they should be trusted to over-see the building. As a matter of fact, they see the need for a Board of Directors made up of community folk to oversee the overall

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operations of any Community Development project, to the relationship of the needs of people and what some bureaucrat and over-educated body may feel they need. They have been very disillusioned with Park and Recreation administration - not the Center director - in their sensitivity towards the needs of their community. They already see the need for expansion of the Human Resource building. It almost like the County Office Building because needs of the present cannot be met because of lack of space.

She stated they need to sit down with their district representatives, the Community Development Department and the at-large Council, Mayor and City Manager to talk and plan for their community. She cannot state all that is needed tonight. The Mayor has already asked her to search out the needs of the total community and the smaller areas that make up the West Boulevard Community; that she knows this is a special concern of their district representative.

Another area she wishes to address is the women in our community of Charlotte; that the City should form a coalition with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Commission on the Status of Women. Low-income women should be more visible, especially black women, and other cultural and ethnic women. She is personally interested in Community Development and Council doing a history of black and native American women. This could involve students as internes from J. C. Smith, the Black Studies Department of UNCC and the newly Susan B. Anthony project at CPCC.

She stated there are numerous means for the Community Development funds that have been overlooked in Charlotte. That we are far behind in park development; but she feels they are further behind with the development of minds and bodies that desperately need help and support. She sees many, many ways that jobs can be created that are meaningful and fulfilling and could lead to career development. For transportation in their area, approximately four vans are needed. They will have to sit down with experts in the money area to determine how much this will cost because they want this to be in conjunction with the McCrorey branch YMCA for a total year around program - after school and night time child care and nutrition program. She asked that this need be especially designed to offset funding of the YMCA.

She sees the need for further funding to incorporate the program needs for the West Boulevard area. She suggested the use of St. Marks Church be looked at for the possibility of serving more families within their area; that when the survey is made of the needs of target area families, target area families should be included on the payroll for doing the survey. In the plans for the park, the proposal was in for a covered bridge and beautification of the creek area. She proposed that Council give funding for this needed item, but not with Community Development funds; that it be done with Public Works money and employ the labor force from the West Boulevard Target Area.

Councilmember Leeper asked Ms. Graves if when she referred to the survey to determine the needs of the target areas, she was talking about the proposal they had from the Community Development Association of Contractors? She replied yes.

Mr. Sawyer stated a survey has not been started - it was a proposal. That Council approved the adding of a Social Planning function to the Planning Commission staff to try to determine the human resource needs out of the 20 percent of the funds, but that has not been staffed yet.

Councilmember Dannelly stated Ms. Graves made a statement with which he is not familiar; that in fund raising activities at the facility the money is turned over to Park and Recreation for them to use for their own needs. Ms. Graves stated they were told they only charge a fee and they were going to give the money back to Park and Recreation to buy equipment for parks and recreation.

Mayor Harris stated they would try to get an answer to that question.

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David Grier - West Boulevard Area

Mr. Grier, 2578 Hemphill Street, stated he reiterates everything Ms. Graves said; that the West Boulevard Target Area be greatly considered in the CD Block Grant Plan. He stated the grants should be made only to owner-occupants - senior citizens who need home repairs - not to persons who rent apartments. These senior citizens are on fixed incomes. There is a need for more sidewalks, street lights and stop lights out there. Bus transportation should be considered for the senior citizens to get to programs at the community center, the shopping centers, clinics, hospitals, etc.

Some programs need re-scheduling as some of the senior activities are planned while the people are working - that is why some of the activities are not well attended. Also, some of the children's activities that were planned last summer along with the churches and other community things, before the center was built, were in the afternoon and the children wanted to come in the morning when it was cool. He also requested that the Amay James Center Complex be open on a staggered basis to include some Sunday evenings for planned community, family activities.

He stated the directors of Amay James Center met with Mr. Wiley Williams, Mr. Marion Diehl and a group of Park and Recreation supervisors a few weeks before the dedication in April. That the need for having the Center open on a separate basis was one of their requests then and it still is. They left the meeting with the impression that this would be granted, on a pilot basis since no other center is open on Sundays. Something was said about having workers to work and they volunteered their help right then and there. He stated they do not think they need the whole Park and Recreation to supervise the Amay James Center - just the opening. They are only asking for two or three hour periods. They have made it known that they would not have the "gymnasium" open for any athletic contests at all on Sundays; they only thing they want is to have some community activities that are planned.

Mayor Harris stated he hopes more of the speakers will say they are glad to have Amay James Center - it is a great facility.

Councilmember Leeper asked if he could be more specific about transportation. Is he talking about bus transportation? Mr. Grier replied yes, or vans. Some way of getting them to the activities. The hot lunch program sometimes picks them up but that is not often. Even when they were in the embryonic stage of the Center, this was one of the requests on their long list. Councilmember Leeper asked if they are not in the same area with the neighborhood centers that use those vans to transport senior citizens around?

Mr. Grier stated they cannot have a lot of activities in the neighborhood centers because it is not built like the others - Amay James is different and they are glad it is different. The gym has a stage in it - the neighborhood center does not have a stage. There have been some groups who want to have fashion shows or something and they need the stage.

Ms. Graves stated the neighborhood buses work like this: They take people to the doctor, Social Services or whatever. You may get on that bus in 9 o'clock in the morning and you may not get back home until 5 o'clock because you have to go wherever the bus goes. They are talking about transportation that can be used for their community which they asked for; also they were promised additional staff for the Center when they met across the hall.

Mr. Wylie Williams, Assistant City Manager, referring to the meeting which was held "across the hall", stated there was discussion about additional staff and the additional hours that they wanted to have the center open. Of course, there are all sorts of problems associated with that - dealing with the liability for City equipment, just any number of things that could not be handled at that particular time. He stated - and repeated - that there was no commitment made for any additional staff or any pilot program, but there was a discussion and consideration for all of the things

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they wanted at that time. They extended themselves as far as they could with the money available and that is where they are now.

The Mayor asked if this is a jointly run facility? Mr. Williams replied there are two centers - the Human Resources Center and the Park and Recreation Center.

Ms. Barbara Neely - West Morehead Area.

Ms. Neely, 1448 South Church Street, stated she is manager of the Third Ward Citizens Center located at this address, west of Morehead Street. They would like for Council to take under consideration the needs of their community; that the citizens think that it is not just the problem of rezoning, but the effect it will have on their lives. Most of the elderly people have spent most of their lives there and know of no other place to go. It is just like one big happy family, living and growing together.

She asked Council to please, before they scatter them apart, take into consideration rebuilding the area and keeping their community together. If they cannot do that, then please give them first priority in relocating. She filed with the Clerk a list of names of citizens who join her in this request.

Councilmember Leeper addressed a question to Mr. Sawyer, stating that it seems there are a number of people in that area who really do not know what is to take place in that area. Are they supposed to be relocated out of that whole area; are they not going to build anymore single family homes in that area?

Mr. Sawyer replied the plan is to buy all of the residential property and relocate the residents from that area because the area is practically gone already for industrial and commercial purposes - it just is not the proper environment for residential use anymore. They have had many meetings over there and have worked very closely with Ms. Arlene Higgins with the YWCA. If there is anyone over there who does not know the plan or what is going on, then he is surprised. That a great deal of opportunity has been given through meetings and through Ms. Higgins' efforts, and their own efforts; the neighborhood representative is over there a great deal of the time. If Ms. Neely will just point them to the area where these people live they will certainly contact them and make sure that they know.

Councilmember Leeper asked what are the plans in terms of re-locating? Mr. Sawyer replied they have given top priority in their relocation efforts to those families that they have become aware of through their surveys who are elderly, handicapped or hardshipped - those who will be most hurt by another severe winter. This was a big issue as a result of the severe cold winter we had last year and they jumped the gun and found money to buy a big block of property ahead of time just so they could start relocation activities before the worst winter weather set in. A number have been relocated.

Ms. Sadie Jordan, Relocation Supervisor for Community Development, stated that 29 have been relocated to date; that the top priority of all the CD target areas is placed on the Morehead Area. The majority of the residents of that area have requested relocation, even prior to Community Development getting into the area. They were all aware of the plan and they wanted them to move ahead of schedule in the acquisition of their property and the relocation of those families and individuals. She explained that they have a quality of relocation that they strive for - they have talked with each one of the residents and told them that they are in the priority schedule for relocation. However, they have to relocate from each of the nine target areas; they will not try to relocate anymore than they feel the market for replacement dwellings will bear. Steps have been taken to make sure that those people who are remaining in the area will be taken care of for the winter.

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A Councilmember asked if this is the Clanton Hill area and Mr. Sawyer replied yes, that area was part of the West Boulevard project. All of those families were relocated about a year ago.

Councilmember Chafin stated to Ms. Neely that Council gets somewhat confused when they hear the citizens from the West Morehead Area because one year Council is told they would like to remain in the community and the next year representatives come before them pleading for assistance in relocation, stating they recognize the severe problems the housing situation in the area presents for the families, particularly the elderly. Now, this year Ms. Neely is back again suggesting that they would like to remain in the area. Is there some confusion in the lives of the residents?

Ms. Neely replied the City bought it and the citizens were told they were going to tear it down and they go confused. That is what it really is. Ms. Chafin asked if most of the citizens do not now understand that they are, in fact, going to be relocated? Ms. Neely replied they do not really understand; they do not really want to go anywhere.

Councilmember Leeper stated what he has been hearing is that they would rather be in that area where they have grown up and lived all their lives. The housing does not accommodate them, and if they can be relocated out until the area is rebuilt in terms of residences and then relocated back in. That this is what they are talking about.

There was general discussion on just what area they are talking about. It was agreed the area they are discussing is labeled as the West Morehead Area although many of the residents still refer to it as Third Ward, with Mr. Sawyer explaining that Summit Avenue is the southern boundary of the West Morehead Area - the Seaboard Railroad is the southern boundary of Third Ward, which is just two blocks north of Morehead. He stated that Third Ward is to be retained as a single family residential area. It is the Seaboard Railroad on the south; Elmwood Cemetery on the north; the main line of the Southern Railroad on the east and I-77 on the west.

Councilmember Short stated before the industrial plans for the rest of the area were adopted there must have been public hearings relating to the adoption of a plan like this. Is he correct?

Mr. Sawyer replied there were public hearings held; that it goes back at least three years - during 1975 was the start. Mr. Short stated he is a little surprised at Ms. Neely's comments because his own memory is that this was a very popular plan at the time. Mr. Sawyer stated the YWCA does maintain an office and a center out there. This is the center for which Ms. Neely is the manager. Ms. Neely was asked if she and Ms. Higgins agree on this and she stated she has talked with her and they have an agreement.

Mayor Harris stated evidently they are going to have to communicate some more with the citizens of the area, and Mr. Sawyer stated they will, they have someone to do that.

Ms. Ethel Mae Young - West Morehead Area

Ms. Young stated she resides at 426 Fannie Circle in the Grier Heights Community; she operates a small business - Young's Cafe - at 1445 South Church Street in the West Morehead Target Area. The property is owned by Mr. Israel Simcoe. She is aware of the rezoning plans for the area which are for business, industrial and commercial; that there are plans for the relocation of the present residents of the area. She requested that her business be included in the relocation plan as the business is totally dependent on the people of the area.

Councilmember Gantt stated he is aware of this latest plan and it does seem to him that in the West Morehead Area they are indeed talking about maintaining that area as largely industrial and commercial and that where you have situations where there is a family-oriented business you are putting that particular homeowner or property owner in severe circumstances - you are eliminating their source of income. That it seems to him that whether or not the plan has adherence to that particular unit

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or not, they should have the sensitivity to include them in the relocation process - if it is a grocery store or cafe related to the community. If it is a structure that should not be torn down, it should be bought and sold back for some other use, but that person ought to be compensated because it is their source of income.

Mr. Sawyer requested Ms. Jordan to speak on the status of this particular unit. She stated that Ms. Young has talked with Mr. Robinson and although her property was not considered in the present acquisition plan that is called for, it is in the amendment. They will be able to do that if the amendment is approved by Council.

Mr. Sawyer stated there are a number of properties, and maybe this is one of them, that are outside of the area designated for acquisition that does depend for its livelihood on the residents of the area which is acquired. That Council amended the plan before to include two churches because if they removed the people they removed the constituency of the church.

Ms. Jordan stated the total plan for West Morehead calls for the acquisition of more property than was approved in the first year. Ms. Young's property is included in the 1978-1981 acquisition years boundary.

Mr. Sawyer stated this is the normal year-by-year amendment to catch up with the allocation that Council has made.

Councilmember Leeper stated, assuming a normal schedule, what time would this move the cafe? Mr. Sawyer replied he does not know exactly.

Councilmember Cox stated he can understand how you move people into another place to live; he can even understand by stretching it a little bit how you can move the church; but how do you move a business?

Mr. Sawyer replied they have moved many businesses. They move it into another area. Money has been appropriated by Congress which benefits small businesses to bridge that gap between losing the customers over here and building up the trade over here - that amount can be up to \$10,000 maximum amount. Of course, there is a formula of eligibility; he is sure Ms. Young is eligible for a lot of that money. In addition to that small business benefit, they pay moving expenses, loss of some personal property, etc.

Ms. Jordan stated they are eligible for a small business replacement loan that is granted by the Small Business Administration in Charlotte. There is also an Economic Development section that works very closely with them to make sure that if they want to continue in their business that it will increase instead of decrease.

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Charles Williams - 127-29 West Boulevard

Mr. Williams stated the property they have in mind is on Bland Street. They want to follow up on the letters written to the Community Development Department requesting city action on property located at 127-29 West Bland Street, in the West Morehead Street area.

This property is the Wilson Memorial Church property; now the property of Metropolitan United Presbyterian Church. The Metropolitan Church is in the process of building a new church in the heart of a low income neighborhood, located near the Little Rock Homes and the Boulevard Homes. The people in the area have limited income.

He stated with their limited facilities they are working with the drug abuse program, the scout program and other programs. They feel this community cannot afford to be without these. Money is needed now for them to continue their building program without interruption.

Mr. Williams asked that they be given immediate consideration. A letter one year ago was addressed to Mr. Vernon Sawyer's office about this Bland Street property. The problem is that Metropolitan is building on the corner of West Boulevard and Old Steele Creek Road in an area where they feel they have a greater group for service, and a greater need for their services. They are trying to meet some of the needs half way from their sources; however this property is part of their funds they need to continue building. They are now in the middle of that building program, and they need to do something about the Bland Street property. They are asking the City to use its resources to see that this property could be sold, bought or something. They need it right away.

Mr. Sawyer stated the church is caught in a similar situation as the cafe. It is located in an area where they have not gotten to yet with the money. They get the money year by year and progress as they get additional money.

Mr. Phillips of the Community Development Department stated they anticipate scheduling a meeting with the Planning Commission sometime in January to go with the amendment to the West Morehead Project Area.

Mr. Sawyer stated once it goes to the Planning Commission it is on its normal course to reach City Council following normal Planning Commission review; then it comes to City Council for public hearing; after that if Council approves it, they are ready to buy the property. It takes about six weeks from submission to the Planning Commission until approval; it could be longer.

Councilmember Gantt stated we are talking about allocation of funds starting in 1978. He is interested in knowing whether or not the discussion just completed relates to the 78 fiscal year which we are now in, the acquisition monies we have available in the West Morehead Street area right now, and whether we have targeted all those properties we are going to acquire now. That Mr. Williams seems to be talking about a situation as to whether or not before July of next fiscal year, are the funds now in this particular budget?

Mr. Sawyer asked Mr. Phillips if the money is available to buy the property if the amendment is approved in January or February? Mr. Phillips replied there is a small amount left to use for purchase of property between now and June 30, 1978; however, it means if we use that we would have to withhold purchasing property we already have scheduled to purchase during that period of time. Normally the purchase would come after July 1 when the funds become available. It is a matter of priorities. If it is an urgent matter, money could be shifted around to do it.

Councilmember Gantt stated it seems to him there is some rationale to taking a look at some of the property we are trying to service in these areas. An example - if the acquisition schedule involves the purchase of properties by an absentee landlord who owns an entire street, does he get to the top of the list, or does Ms. Young, the Church that is struggling? How do you

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determine how those funds are going to be used, and just who is going to be serviced first?

Mr. Sawyer replied they try to maintain an orderly schedule for acquisition, and all their other work. They are sensitive, and do respond to requests and needs. That a big chunk of the money went to buy a property as described - an absentee landlord who owned a big block of very bad shacks. They did that, not to accommodate the owner, but because the people living in there were in very dire straits.

He stated he does not know what the situation is with the properties they are planning to buy; maybe there are some hardship cases there they responded to and the people are just not here to speak up. He stated they can take care of emergency situations, and they do. They will look at the church, and the cafe.

Councilmember Gantt stated what he had in mind in the example he gave, is they might have a situation where the orderly progression of acquisitions involve an entire street, where 50 percent of the houses are abandoned; they may want to service people who are occupying dwellings and relocate them; but they might decide they do not want to acquire or use all the funds to acquire already abandoned units. Then to fine tune that acquisition process to look at what staff might consider to be hardship cases such as the church struggling to build in another community where it needs the funds from the acquisition of the church building.

Mr. Sawyer replied they can do that, and they will.

Councilmember Selden asked if the policy of acquisition permits the splitting of major tracts of land where there are a number of houses, and on a reasonable basis; or is it an economy and the practical way to go the whole bit at one time? Mr. Sawyer replied it is an economy; and it is very practical to go the whole route at one time unless there is some special circumstance that would warrant the difference in costs. Councilmember Selden they could split one if it is justified? Mr. Sawyer replied they could; they have to go through about the same motions to acquire it all; in fact they have to go through more motions to acquire part of it because it then becomes severance.

Mayor Harris stated he hopes that Mr. Sawyer will make a note of this church and the cafe, and get back with them. Mr. Phillips stated they have already started the appraisal process on the two churches in that area, and Mr. Williams' is one of them.

Max Webb, 1728 Academy Street, North Charlotte Action Association.

Mr. Webb stated they feel up to this point Community Development program in their area has been a success, and with further funding it can be a total success.

He stated some of the needs they think are vital to the upgrading of the community to change it from one that was on its way out to one that is on its way back, are as follows; there are no priorities but just some of the recommendations and suggestions they wish to make:

1. Place sidewalks on the following streets for the safety of residents having to walk along streets - Leigh Avenue, Woodside Avenue, Duncan Avenue, Lundsford Place, and 34th Street, from The Plaza to Wesley Avenue.
2. Street repaving -upgarde the topping on Leigh Avenue, Woodside Avenue, Duncan Avenue and Lundsford Place.
3. Drainage improvements - (a) correct drainage problem in the Woodside, Lundsford, Drummond Avenue area. This is presently an erosion problem and needs to be corrected before serious damage is done to homes being upgraded by the Community Development program. (b) correct drainage in area at end of Card Street, running down to Davidson Street. Drainage

- bed is filled in, causing flooding and marshy conditions when it rains. It has become a health hazard and a safety hazard to those who live in the area. (c) correct drainage in Bearwood-Dinglewood area, and pipe in drainage along Atmore Street on the north side. It is a safety hazard to people walking along the street, and a flooding problem when it rains, and a traffic hazard should an automobile have to get off the road because of car trouble.
4. Park improvements - immediate work to be done on the Bearwood Park area. This was approved and was suppose to have been done, but so far nothing has been done to show that it has been taken seriously.
 5. Loan and grant program - (1) Need for more money allotted for the total program of grants and loans. More people will be able to upgrade their homes if more monies are allotted for this important phase of the Community Development program. (2) Feel need to increase grants from \$4500 to \$6000. The cost of inflation makes it almost impossible to bring a home up to minimum code with a grant of only \$4500. The \$6000 would come closer to meeting the needs of home upgrading under the present inflationary conditions.
 6. Request continued funding for the Johnston YMCA Program. (a) Funds for the youth programs have proven to be successful for the youth of the area, and they request they be continued and increased if possible. (b) Funds are needed to enable Senior Citizens to participate in Y programs at a reduced rate because of limited income. Some scholarships for this could also be provided. (c) Mr. Webb stated he would like to place a priority on this one- a full size bus for the YMCA to be able to carry on its programs where transportation is needed. He would say their programs and activities have increased a 1000 percent since they received support from this Council.
 7. Continue funds for the Hot Lunch Program in the North Charlotte Area. Reports say this is one of the most successful hot lunch programs in the county. Average serving on the premises is about 70 per day, and carry outs are about 50 per day. A waiting list for carry outs is on file.
 8. Continue efforts to revitalize the business area of North Charlotte. Allocate money for helping property owners and businessmen to improve business property on a cooperative basis as suggested by the Research Triangle Commission study.

Councilmember Gantt asked if he has figures on the breakdown of loans and grants made in the North Charlotte area? Mr. Sid Barber of the Area replied in the three years that CD has been active in the North Charlotte area, they have had a total of 292 homes inspected - for code violations. As of todate a total of 163 have loans and grants totalling \$786,914. Councilmember Gantt stated he is aware that over the last three years the area has been very active in the loan and grant program, and Mr. Webb requested that the appropriation be raised from \$4500 to \$5,000. He asked if there is an eligibility requirement in terms of income, and are the funds used primarily for code improvements? Mr. Sawyer replied there is an income limit of \$4500 which is also the maximum amount of the grant; this maximum is set by us. He stated they are studying the need to raise the grant amount, and are looking at a top ceiling of \$6500. It is true that \$4500 will not stretch very far any more. All the money, whether it is a loan or grant, must go first to correcting the code violations, and then beyond that other property improvements.

Councilmember Gantt stated the people he talks to in that area are most pleased about being able to improve their own homes with this grant money. That he just wonders if we would want to examine again the grant program? Mr. Sawyer replied they do, and they are, and will come to Council with a recommendation for the entire program, not just North Charlotte.

Councilmember Gantt stated he only wishes that there was more activity in the other target areas. That he thinks North Charlotte is far ahead just from the number he has seen. He asked if the reason is because there is a higher home-ownership in that particular target area? Mr. Sawyer replied he is not sure, but perhaps so. Councilmember Gantt stated he hopes there is not a communication problem in terms of people not knowing about this in the other areas.

Mr. Webb stated due to Mr. Barber's efforts and Reverend Horne's efforts this has been accomplished. They have worked at this. Mr. Sawyer stated it is a very active organization; they go out of their way to encourage the homeowners to cooperate, and helps them.

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Councilmember Gantt stated he notices that in one of the speeches he missed that people are concerned about what it is this program can do that will be visible and meaningful to the residents. He thinks the loan and grant program is probably the thing that would hit home quicker than anything else we do when a person can improve his home and get \$4500 free. He would hope the Neighborhood Agency working with these other communities will get active with the Neighborhood Association and try to find every homeowner down there who is eligible and get them ready for the grant fund. He would like to see more activity in that area.

Mr. Barber stated he has talked to several of their people who have had their houses rehabed. They invite Council members to come out, look at them, and enjoy it with them.

MS. Mary McLaughlin, 729 Baldwin Avenue, Cherry Community

Ms. McLaughlin stated the Cherry Redevelopment area was classified as a rehabilitation, conservation and re-conditioning area by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Plannin Commission in June, 1976. The purpose of the scheduled rehabilitation of Cherry, according to the Community Development Plan, was to arrest the decline and deterioration of the neighborhoods within the Cherry target area, to preserve the housing stock, and to provide physical improvements and social services, so as to insure the long-term maintenance of a sound residential community.

These stated objectives coincide with the wishes of the residents of Cherry, expressed at numerous times in the context of neighborhood meetings, city council meetings, rezoning hearings, etc. It should have been a beautiful relationship.

So what has gone wrong? Why has so little work been done in Cherry over the long period of time since Cherry was designated a community development target area? The answer is that the old proposals were not designed to achieve the goals of preserving and rehabilitating a residential community. Because of the unique character of the Cherry area, the tried and true solutions that may have worked in other sections of the city will not work in Cherry. This put the Cherry residents in the role of a reactor; they had to veto countless proposals because they would not work in Cherry.

Ms. McLaughlin stated in a series of meetings with Mr. Sawyer and his staff, they have come to a basic agreement on an approach that is likely to save Cherry as a strong, safe, stable residential community. The details have not been worked out and the actual presentation will be made to City Council by Mr. Sawyer at the appropriate time. Cherry is at last on the move and is moving in the same direction as the Community Development Department.

Now that the residents have reached basic agreement with the Community Development Department on the overall approach for Cherry, the Community Organization has moved out of its posture of vetoing unsound plans; they want to move into the role of assisting the Department in developing and implementing a sound plan. The Cherry Community Organization is becoming better organized. It has established the Cherry Community Organization as a non-profit neighborhood corporation under North Carolina state law. (She passed the charter to the Mayor and Council to view). By incorporation they will be able to take a more active part in the development and implementation of the community development plans. The broad objective is to stabilize the residential character of the community by encouraging greater home ownership and by rehabilitating as many homes as possible. They will try to use homesteading.

The aim of the Cherry Community Organization do not end there; they are looking beyond solving the neighborhood problems by studying ways in which they can meet the social, educational and recreational needs of the Cherry Community.

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She stated in order to develop a sound, detailed plan, the Cherry Organization needs to obtain very detailed information about the social and physical characteristics of the community. This means they will have to make a detailed survey, door to door, including a complete inspection of the rehabilitation needs of every dwelling. Only by compiling this information can they make a realistic assessment of the rehabilitation costs, and therefore, the overall budget planning for Cherry.

She stated the Cherry Community Organization wants to do this survey itself, but they need a full time staff person with sufficient resources to organize this survey.

Ms. McLaughlin stated they are asking the City Council to approve a grant to the Cherry Community Organization to hire a staff person with the resources to put together this study that will be the basis for developing a detailed plan with the Community Development Department.

Councilmember Leeper asked how much funding they are talking about? Ms. McLaughlin replied at this time they do not know. What they want is a full time person with no commitments to any other thing but to devote their time to the study. They do not want a person to come one day, and then not show for two or three days. The sooner they can complete the study, the quicker they can start working. The amount is about \$10,000.

Councilmember Gantt stated he thinks the idea of having the Community take an active role in wanting to do their own survey is an excellent one. It may bring out some things we do not have the sensitivity to see. He would hope we can find funds, and he thinks somewhere even in HUD, there is this kind of money for an advisory planner to sit on their Board to do their surveys and to work with the Community Development Department. Because if you have the confidence in someone doing your survey and study of the area then that starts us a long way down the road to begin talking about specifics about the problems.

Personally, he thinks there are some more serious problems that will be found down the line. But this is a great start, and he would hope the results will be seen.

Ms. McLaughlin stated the person they would like to have has to be an expert in knowing evaluation. They will work along with this person, but they are tired of being fed, and want to help feed themselves. This way they can get something done.

Rev. W. M. Cavers, 2008 St. Marks Street - MOTION, Inc. - ABSENT

Mrs. Barbara Simpson, 331 Gene Avenue, Grier Heights Community

Mrs Simpson stated on behalf of the Grier Heights Community she comes to speak of the things they would like to have done for the improvement and betterment of their community.

She stated she is quite abreast of the things that have and have not been done in the First, Second and Third Year Plan. She is also aware of the progress being made in other communities. In addition to the already requested improvements, they would like the following necessities to be added to their request:

Fourth Year Requests:

Physical Improvements

- (1) We request that Villa Heights Court be improved with grading, new pavement, curb and gutters, sidewalks and the drainage system improved.
- (2) We request that Marvin Road be widened in its entirety to enable free flow of traffic. That sidewalks with curb and gutters be constructed on this street also.
- (3) We request that right of way or whatever means necessary to eliminate the flooding at the rear of Villa Court Apartments be obtained.
- (4) We request that a traffic light be installed at the intersection of Orange Street and Randolph Road.
- (5) We request that a caution light (blinking red and yellow) be installed at the intersection of Fannie Circle and Orange Street.
- (6) We request that flooding in the vicinity of 3121 Marney Avenue be eliminated.
- (7) We request the intersection of Skyland Avenue and Dunn Avenue be improved to permit easier turns, to the East or West into Dunn Avenue.
- (8) We request the intersection of Orange Street and Dunn Avenue be improved to permit easier turns to the East or West onto Dunn Avenue.
- (9) We request along with the improvement already scheduled for Goldwyn and Ellington Street, a retaining wall be constructed at 131 Goldwyn and 3613 Ellington Street respectively.
- (10) We request that the opening of Burkland Drive into Marvin Road be given top priority as one of our next major street improvement projects.

HUMAN SERVICES AND REHABILITATION

- (1) We request that the Community Development Department and the owners of Villa Court Apartments, Marvin Road Apartments and Grier Height Apartments join together and implement an Ombustman Program for the maintenance of these apartments.
- (2) We request that a grant be made to our community so we might begin construction of our long desired center for the elderly. A representative from our community will speak to this project and its operation.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- (1) We request the ordinance to clear our community of the hazardous structures such as 311-B Skyland Avenue be enforced. We feel that if this is not done soon, there will be injuries or lost of life. There is a large hole in this apartment, and we have walked out through there, and there is a church that is next to it, and we have found children standing with their heads thru this hole and we come out and we find children standing and looking through this hole, and we are afraid that some child will get hurt.
- (2) We request that our community receive adequate, efficient, and scheduled city services, such as garbage pick-ups, street sweepings, street washing, tree pruning, trash pick-ups and scheduled storm drains cleaned. We ask for the same services as our neighboring communities of Cotswold, Eastover, and Elizabeth.

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James K. Polk, 316 Gene Avenue, Grier Heights Community

Mr. Polk stated he has passed to the Mayor and Council copies of a proposal from their community for the purpose of establishing a multi-purpose Senior Citizens Center. This proposal spells out what they hope to do, the services they hope to provide in that center, and a budget is attached.

All of the information is there in terms of what they hope to provide in the center. At the present time there is a facility in the Grier Heights Community, and they are asking Council to fund a grant to rehabilitate and to add on to this facility in order to house the programs that are described in the proposal. The floor plan is on the last page of the document.

The estimated cost for renovation and addition to the center will cost \$67,000 plus, and they are asking for a grant to pay for these additions and renovations. The program budget for the first year will total some \$82,000; they would like very much for Council to pay for this.

He stated they intend to, and they have some resources available, and they think they can help raise a part of the \$82,000. But they want Council to consider giving them this money to operate the center. In addition to monies that they will probably raise from other sources, volunteer workers from the community will work in the center to help provide the services.

Councilman Short asked if this would be a live-in place? Mr. Polk replied it would not. At the present time in the Community they have a hot meals program; they have talked with the people responsible for providing that service in the Community at the present time, hopefully it would move to this new site. They have talked with those people sometime ago in an attempt to put this together. They propose a day care center for the elderly. The people will come in from 9:00 to 5:00, receive meals and will be provided with all the services that one should be provided with all the services that one should be provided, such as facility for educational and recreational types of programs.

In the evenings, from 5:00 until 10:00 p.m., they hope to provide a service for elderly in the community. It is a type of respite care. It would provide the opportunities for people who have to care for elder members of their families to attend church in the evening, to attend movies, etc, and to work if the work situation is so they could get out about 10:00 and pick up the people. They are talking about three or four distinct types of program efforts in the community. They think it will serve the community well. They are serving approximately 130 to 150 people in the Community at this time. They are talking about people 60 years of age and over, and disabled members of the community. They think it is a service they want to reach out and provide, and it would be operated by a non-profit corporation.

Mayor Harris asked if it will be restricted to this neighborhood, or are they talking about anyone? Mr. Polk replied for anyone.

John Proctor, 4218 Arbor Way, Grier Heights Community.

Mr. Proctor stated he is here to try to emphasize what Ms. Gibson brought up - the need for Community Development to get on with the program it has set forth in developing the community. He would like to urge Community Development to come forth with a work schedule with tentative dates that they will set; or something so they can have some idea of when this work will be done. It has been two years, and a little bit of work has been done out there. They need this work to be done. The improvements they are speaking about cannot cost a great deal of money.

The problem with this particular community - he is speaking not of Grier Heights as a whole, but of a section of Grier Heights commonly known as Stumptown, or as shown on some city maps as Harlem Heights. This is a cancer as far as the City of Charlotte goes. There is a great deal of crime in this area because of improper city services, and he is speaking of garbage and trash pickups as Ms. Simpson did. People have to walk through a trashy situation.

Mr. Proctor stated he has a full time man who spends most of his time picking up and he just cannot keep it clean. People who walk through this kind of trash day in and day out tend to live in trashy situations. He believes a great deal can be done without a great deal of money being spent to turn this neighborhood

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around. The housing in the area is relatively new. He is representing some other owners who are not here, and the total replacement cost of this property today would be about Three and half or four million dollars. If this property is destroyed, which some of it already is, and if it continues to be destroyed, the City is ultimately going to be faced with housing of the 500 families. He does not know where they are going to live because these people do not have much money.

Mr. Proctor stated he hopes that we will be responsible and he has committed all the time that is necessary to see that these things are done. He is free to work with the city and community development and other agencies and will do so willingly.

Councilman Short asked if there is a timetable for Grier Heights? Mr. Sawyer replied they do, and he will be glad to make a copy available to Mr. Proctor. That he believes that the fact is most of the improvements are scheduled for another area, the main area of Grier Heights; and this is at Marvin Road and Villa Court area and you can call it Stumptown, and he is not sure at the moment what improvements are planned over there. He stated Mr. Proctor is quite right; there has been problems with trash and garbage situations.

Councilman Gantt stated the lady who spoke a little earlier, Mrs. Simpson, her special priority section of her report, should not have to be a part of this - scheduled city services. But he bets everyone on this Council assumed the garbage is picked up on a scheduled basis; that the streets are swept and washed, and the trees are pruned, and trash is picked up just as it is in all other sections of the community. It just does not seem necessary for this kind of request to come up when we are talking about other improvements.

Mr. Proctor stated he thinks it is an improper question; that Ms. Simpson opened the door to it, and he did want to address it. Councilman Gantt stated he thinks Mr. Proctor has a right to bring it up; but what he is saying is that we assume those services are already being provided under the normal situation.

Councilmember Chafin stated she shares Mr. Gantt's concerns, and she hopes Council can get a report from the City Manager on the delivery of basic city services into this area.

Councilmember Trosch asked if this area is just this side of the belt road? Mr. Proctor replied that is correct. Councilmember Trosch asked how they will be able to get over to the park from this community when the road goes through? Mr. Sawyer replied he remembers the discussion, but he does not remember the solution.

Ms. Simpson stated they requested an overhead walkway so the children could get to the park? Mr. Sawyer stated he thinks there was another request for a light; it seems to him this is the point where the Judge ordered the light be installed and it was, and then he ordered it taken down. Ms. Simpson replied a light was put up one day and taken down the next. Mr. Sawyer stated that was by court order. He asked Mr. Wylie Williams if he knows the situation; has the light been ordered back up at the appropriate time? Mayor Harris stated this will be brought up the date when it is discussed

Councilmember Trosch asked if the walkway is related to these funds? Mr. Sawyer replied a walkway over the street could be an eligible cost, if it serves the citizens in the area to get them over to the park. Councilmember Trosch stated she did not see anything in this request, and that is why she brought this question up. Ms. Simpson replied it is in their third year request. The request today is their fourth year request. Mr. Sawyer stated the planning is always ahead of the action. That it does not necessarily mean it will be funded; there is never enough money to do all of these things unless you make it available. That he assumes Council will not make it available unless it comes down in the block grant from HUD. That is the limit of our eligibility. So we are spreading it fairly thing. Therefore we are not able to do all or meet all the requests that come from any given area. There is always more request for more things than there is money available.

Mr. Proctor stated as he has said before a part of Grier Heights is a very stable neighborhood, and many people who live in this stable neighborhood are scared to death of people who live in his property. That he is saying, and what Ms. Simpson is also saying, is this should be the top priority to get his area

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cleaned up so these people can have some pride - the tenants can begin to have pride in their neighborhood. Mr. Sawyer replied he is not arguing about the need; but priorities have gone elsewhere because this request has not come until now. That they have been aware of the situation, but it has not been that high on the priority list of the neighborhood.

Councilmember Trosch asked in the request for the home for the Senior Citizens is it a home that exists now, or a building they want to build? Mr. Polk replied it is a home.

Councilmember Frech stated in the physical improvements requested if not some of these things requests are things that should be provided not necessarily through community development, but through other city programs like caution lights and red lights? Are those normally done through community development, or are they done through traffic engineering? Mayor Harris replied normally that is a traffic engineering cost; but in a CD area, every improvement we usually can put in there comes out of CD funds. Councilmember Frech asked if it is the same pattern with the services and that is why this area is not getting adequate improvements? Mayor Harris replied Council will have that decision to make.

Councilmember Frech stated she does not understand what the request No. 1 under Human Services and Rehabilitation - the ombustman program for maintenance in the apartments - the program in which Community Development and the owners of the apartments would participate? Ms. Simpson replied they would like to ask CD to help pay a person to be in charge and to be on the property at times when there are elderly people who live there, and they need something to be done; or when they need some type of services there would be someone there, living there in the apartments and able to take care of, and do anything that needed to be done. That at one time Mr. Proctor said he would give a person an apartment. Even though Mr. Proctor would give someone an apartment to work on the property, that person would still need some money. You have to buy food. So they would like a person to pay them a salary and take care of the little things that need to be done. This is what they are asking.

Councilmember Frech asked Mr. Proctor if he is the owner of the three apartments? Mr. Proctor replied he owns some property out there; he also has a small management company. He owns 152 units, and is managing an additional 72 units of which Villa Courts is a part.

Mr. Polk stated in addition to what Ms. Simpson said, in the original application to HUD, you talked about a community education component, and based on that community education component, we are talking about providing community education in the community through the ombustman of some type of program where we work with people on how to improve their lives; how to care for properties, not necessarily rental properties, but properties in the community. This whole concept of community education is related to improving the lives of people in a community, whatever organization. In the original application there is a piece on community education; and we are basically talking about that approach.

Councilmember Frech asked how many people would be providing with day care? Mr. Polk replied roughly 100. Through day care and the hot meals program, 100 people. In terms of the actual day care where they are really staying in, it will probably be less than the 100 people served in the hot meals program. It would be a 100 people in for special types of programs. In the day care portion they could probably comfortably house 25 people in terms of the ability to provide rest areas and that type of thing.

Councilmember Frech asked if they are asking for funds for both renovation and from

Mr. Polk replied yes, they hope to help provide some of the funds for operation or through other resources. Councilmember Frech asked if they plan to submit a more detailed budget, and Mr. Polk replied yes.

Mrs. Mary Dantzler, 413 Benjamin Street, Southside-Brookhill Community.

Mrs. Dantzler stated she is a resident of Southside Park, residing in Southside Homes. This includes Brookhill, Southside Homes, Chicago Avenue and Miller Street.

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Mrs. Dantzler stated they are very proud of the new day care center staffed by the Bethlehem Center. They are very glad that Tyson's Grocery Store relocated in their area. It has been a tremendous help to the residents - it has a beauty parlor, and a clothing store all under one roof. Work is being done in the Southside Area to eliminate the flooding problem. Construction has begun in Brookhill Park, and the residents are very pleased to see this.

She stated the Southside-Brookhill Community request a grant be awarded to the Housing Authority to enable them to make housing in the Southside Home area more sound and more comfortable for residents there. They request these funds be used to repair, replace and improve the following:

- (a) Place dumpsters at convenient locations in the area for garbage collection and pick up.
- (b) Landscaping in front of doorways improved to eliminate flooding and improve the drainage of water.
- (c) Replace and repair defective gutters.
- (d) Place wooden doors with mail slots, dead-bolt locks and door bells on homes needing them.
- (e) Porch lights for all residents in need of them.

Mrs. Dantzler stated they request (1) Sidewalks or pedestrian ways to be constructed from Benjamin Street to Baltimore Avenue.

- (2) Sidewalks be constructed from Fairwood Avenue, along Baltimore Avenue to Remount Road on the west side.
- (3) Request sidewalks from Maye Street to Banks Street constructed.
- (4) Request again the construction of a pedestrian way over Remount Road to enable children to safely get across this heavily traveled street, from Brookhill Apartments Area to the new park under construction.
- (5) Request sidewalks be constructed on Baltimore Avenue, from Griffith Street to Fairwood Avenue on the west side of Baltimore Avenue.
- (6) Request adequate street lights installed in the Brookhill Area where most needed.
- (7) Request that the type of sidewalks that will enable the handicapped to move easily throughout the community be constructed with new sidewalks and where feasible on now existing sidewalks - more trees and more parking.

Human Services and Rehabilitation

- (1) Request that the Community Development Department initiate with the Police Department a Neighborhood Watch Program for residents of the Brookhill Area.
- (2) Request that the Division of Community Development responsible for low income interest loans make available to the owners of Brookhill Apartments a loan to make residential structures in this area more sound and comfortable. If granted they request these funds be used to replace, repair and improve the following: (a) Weatherstrippings and all other winterization techniques be done to these apartments. (b) A concentrated rodent control program started to curb rats and other rodents. (c) That driveways and parking areas in the Brookhill Apartments be improved and where additional space is needed. (d) that standard and weather-proof doors be placed in all units in need of them.
- (3) Request a community worker for recreational activities for our children.
- (4) Request a center for adults and elderly be built.

Economic Development

- (1) Request the Economic Development Division of Community Development help in securing a washerette for the community.

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Special Requests

- (1) Request the Community Development Department to assist in communicating to a Police Office official the need for additional mail boxes placed in locations for pick-up points.
- (2) Request the Community Development Department to assist in communicating to the Housing Authority or whatever agency is responsible for minor repairs and the inadequacies of these repairs.
- (3) Relocate all families that remain in Southview Area due to problems of winter.
- (4) Continue the hot lunch program.

Councilmember Selden asked if there has been any request made to the Housing Authority on these items that relate to that Authority? Mrs Dantzler asked Mr. Wallace of the Community Development Department to reply to the question? Mr. Wallace replied at the meeting with the Community people there is a representative from the Housing Authority that speaks to the needs such as these. But at the meeting when the list was compiled they still requested that these items be included in their request; these things came up at the meeting when the representative was not present. Councilmember Selden asked if it would not be appropriate to furnish these requests directly to the Housing Authority.

Councilmember Leeper asked if the Community Development responsible for the parks that are now being placed in the southside area? Mr. Sawyer replied they are responsible for the improvements that go in; after the improvements are finished, then all of it goes to the Park and Recreation. Councilmember Leeper asked if the community had any input into the kinds of things that would be done? Mr. Sawyer replied yes; that the plan responded to their request. Councilmember Leeper stated because of the nature of Remount Road, there will be a considerable amount of traffic on Remount Road, and to have to cross is going to be a real problem.

Malachi J. Green, 220 West 10th Street- Black Business

Mr. Green stated there are some concerns in the community that he wants to call Council's attention to. That he wants to talk about some concerns that they have in the Black Business Community which has been essentially gutted by many of the policies of this City over the past few years, and since the beginning of time.

The economic disenfranchisement of the Black Community in Charlotte was done under the guise of Urban Redevelopment which was simply a euphuism for black removal. The branding of black neighborhoods as slums and the subsequent removal of the people and the businesses they supported from the lands coveted by white developers gutted economic strives of black people. But by the time it was discovered that the dynamic of the community had been destroyed, irreparable damage had been done to an entire people in the city. The economic consequences of this fundamentally sociological decision are only now being felt. Its reverberations are resounding throughout the community. The long and short of the process was the destruction of black businesses. The whole process was a land grab. The same sort of land swindle the majority of communities have been guilty of since the beginning of civil society. It was thievery; it was institutionalized stealing. The economic consequences of this are still reverberating through this community.

You are probably asking how can that man stand up there and say those things. This is a new day. There is no such thing as urban redevelopment any more. We are talking about the Community Development Department of the City of Charlotte, and everybody knows that the Community Development is doing good things for the poor, downtrodden minority community in our great and fair city. But he submits that poison is poison and will kill just as quick. No matter what you call it or how you dress it up, the redevelopment commission is now the community development department. Does a tiger become not a tiger because you called it a kitty cat? Under the guise of removing blight and refurbishing neighborhoods, getting rid of housing, the redevelopment commission took housing from "my brothers and sisters", mostly whom were old folks, who had worked in kitchens and scrubbed the floors to pay for them so they could live in the twilight of their lives with some mode of dignity. But the land these houses were located on grew increasingly valuable as the core of the

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city expanded. Therefore plans to get those folks off that land was formulated. The plan emerged as redevelopment. Now it is community development.

But you say this is an instrument of national policy; you say we must refurbish our inner city if our civilization is to be passed on. This means simply that those "niggers" have got to go. All over this country blacks are being driven out of the inner city; whites are taking over previously black neighborhoods; black businesses are as usual, being shut out of the process. But the black community lost the ability to control their destiny simply when under redevelopment this trend continues because there are only a few firms operating now to place any kind of dynamic emphasis on the black community in this town. Most of them were destroyed in redevelopment. As a matter of fact, there is only one firm that is currently building houses for folks who cannot procure houses under the open can even get, and that firm is Motion. Motion is a black run outfit and most of the displaced families in the community are black. The Housing Authority which is the other agency providing housing for people who cannot procure housing on the open market is a white run outfit. Even though most of the people who live in public housing are black. This fact alone points out the principal problem for blacks in Charlotte. Everything which affects the destiny of black people is essentially run by white people. In the case of the Community Development, it is essentially the same people who dispossed those black people to start with. If there is to be true community development in the black community, the city must mandate that the community development program find a way - a decent way, an effective way - of dealing with black firms, black agencies; yea and black people. Housing development should go through Motion, and black realty firms. Construction contracts should be set aside for black contractors. The Black Community Base Service Organization should administer the social programs. Not to do so would be to find the fox in the chicken coop, and say help yourself.

We are talking about two or three things. More than 11 percent of city contracts have been going to black contractors. This is a situation that should not be allowed to continue. The city has to stop hiring whites to deal with blacks. This indicates a fundamental mistrust of the ability of black firms. One is driven to say that somehow the city must see something sinister in black success. After all we have put all kinds of stumbling blocks in your way and you have been successful - you've got to be doing something illegal.

My father, a most successful businessman, who refuses to do business with the city, says it is illegal for blacks to make money or to be successful. Motion developed highly visible successes, and the City started picking on it. But it was significant the city officials became dissatisfied with Motion performance only after it started having impact on the community. Dealing with black businesses, there is a need for establishment of a capital organization in Charlotte for the express purpose of upgrading, and providing capital to assist in that herculean effort. Since the Community Development has probably had more dealings with blacks in this city, than any other agency, then it should be mandated by Council to participate, to aid, to assist in the herculean effort; to do what is necessary to raise that segment of our economic life in the black community, the black business community, which has to function effectively if we are to ever seize our own destiny in our hands, and be able to get out from under the yoke that we have been placed under.

The recent flack in the newspaper relative to the hiring of a white contractor to teach black construction people estimating is an example of the kind of innate racism mentality that permeates and drives the black man up a wall. We have lived in this community for a long time, some of us, and some of us have tried to be good citizens and to participate in the body politic and so on. Yet we are driven to the point now where we would like to withdraw. But we cannot do that; we go home at night, and say "well, I'm going to go back and try again tomorrow."

Councilmember Short asked Mr. Green if he represents an organization? Mr. Green replied he does not; that he is speaking as a citizen and as a black businessman, though we belong to organizations and hold offices in black business organizations. We are not representing anybody at this point.

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Councilmember Gantt stated those members who have been on Council know that one of the biggest concerns he has, and a number of people in Charlotte have, that for so long we have been involved and gotten so use to dealing with welfare situations. That a lot of what Mr. Green is saying is that black businesses want an opportunity. That prior to the election he asked the City to give him some information as to the level of participation was on the part of minority contractors. And they indicated a very dismal and low figure for all city contracts. In the CD program which was designed and has as one of its objectives involvement of minorities, was a participation of only about eleven percent. That is the eleven percent Mr. Green referred to, which is a very low figure. He stated Council should be aware of the bitterness and very deep concern about the facts they are being left out.

Councilmember Selden asked if the eleven percent includes the service organizations with which we have contracts, such as Motion? Councilmember Gantt replied that Motion is a non-profit organization; it does not include Motion; that we are talking about \$30 odd million of funds.

Mr. Green stated he is not as much concerned about jobs; that he thinks blacks represents a greater percent of Community Development Department in terms of staffing than probably any other city department. There are some very fine people over there and enjoy some good relationships with some of those people. But he is speaking specifically of business opportunities. That assistance to business is fine; but we have been in a position where the black businessman has been assisted now for a very long time with essentially no substantive results. That in most cases it results in a dodge.

Mrs. Jean Williams, 915 Woodside Avenue, Plaza Hills-Villa Heights

Mrs Williams stated she would like to request that the CD area be extended to include Holt Street at Drummond Avenue, Pinckney, Parson and Everett Place in North Charlotte Target Area.

Mrs. Peggy Beckwith, Director of Assoc. for Sickle Cell Disease

Mrs. Beckwith stated she represents a human service program, and feels we must tonight begin to face the reality of what priority is as it relates to our interest in the community. That she is sure all of them agree with her that health should be the number one in priority. Her basic concern about health care is in the area of genetic disorders, and more specifically sickle cell anemia. There are funds being allocated for programs dealing with genetic disorders, dealing with sickle cell anemia. These allocations do not include the Association of Sickle disease, although she has been before Council twice asking for funds, and has submitted two proposals. None have been approved.

Mrs. Beckwith stated she is grateful that she has been able to serve this community, and has been able to serve the people with sickle cell anemia because there has been a federally funded program over the past five years. This program has brought into this community approximately a half million dollars; but none of this money came from the local community. This makes her feel very bad, because people who have sickle cell anemia are people who need help, and need help in many areas. They need more help than the Association can give them in the amount of money they are getting from the federal government.

She stated she is here tonight to ask again. If they do not have her proposals from previous requests, she will be glad to submit them again. She asked them to reconsider them for some funds in the area of health. With \$150,000 they could enlarge the program; they could increase the program. When she submitted her proposal to HEW last year, which ranked in the top ten in the nation - the Charlotte Sickle Cell Program is considered the model of the program in the country. All the other 52 states know about the Sickle Cell program in Mecklenburg County. She would like to know how many of them know something about what this program does. It is time that we consider what is being brought to the community from outside. What we are going to do as a community to strengthen these things.

Basically what they do in the Sickle Cell Program is to operate a four-component program - education awareness, screening and testing, counseling, follow-up and referrals and facilitation of medical care. Counseling is one of the areas where they do need to expand. There are other agencies testing for sickle

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hemoglobin for other abnormal hemoglobin disorders. These people are tossed to the wind. Once they have been diagnosed as having sickle cell anemia, sickle cell traits or any other abnormal hemoglobin disorder, they are getting no help other than the help they get through the Association for Sickle Cell disease. Between April, 1977 and this date, they have picked up a case load of over 100 people who were tested in a new born screening program, and no kind of counselling was offered. She says these things to seek to have them see the need for what is being done and to give consideration to the funds being allocated.

She asked they be allowed to serve the people who need to be served. She stated the prevalence of sickle cell disease as a genetic disorder has the highest prevalence of any other genetic disease. In blacks the trait is one out of every ten; in whites it is one out of every 250.

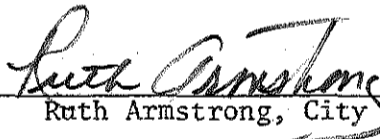
Councilmember Gantt asked for a breakdown on the Social Service Program where they have been funded for some period of time? Mrs. Beckwith replied they are funded on a 12-month basis. When she submitted her requests this year, she used the eight target areas as her target areas; she is unable to services these target areas, because she had to cut back on funds. They have the expertise for dealing with these areas, but they do not have the funds.

To adequately enlarge this program, and to meet the needs of the citizens of Mecklenburg County or the Metrolina Area, they need about \$150,000.

During the explanation of how the sickle cell trait affects the body, Mrs. Beckwith stated it shortens the life span; the person is chronically ill; needs constant medical care; constant medical treatment; needs constant financial assistance.

ADJOURMENT.

Upon motion of Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Chafin, and un-animously carried, the meeting adjourned.


Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk