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 Community Development Hearing

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, met on Wednesday, November 15, 1978, at 2:00 o'clock p. m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Application for the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh years. Presiding was Mayor Kenneth R. Harris with the following Councilmembers being present: Don Carroll, Betty Chafin, Charlie Dannelly, Laura Frech, Harvey B. Gantt, Pat Locke, George K. Selden, and Minette Trosch.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Tom Cox, Jr., Ron Leeper and Milton Short.

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INTRODUCTION.

Mayor Harris explained that this is the first of two public hearings scheduled by the City Council to receive comments from citizens concerning the Community Development Preliminary Plan and Application for the fifth, sixth and seventh years. He stated that during the past four years, these hearings have been "listening sessions" for the Mayor and Council, allowing interested citizens, agencies and groups to participate in the development of the Preliminary Plan and Application.

The Mayor stated that no decisions regarding the comments and requests on the Community Development program will be made today. That as the Community Development ads in the newspapers over the past few weeks have said "Our ears are open, we're listening."

Mr. Vernon Sawyer, Director of Community Development, spoke briefly introducing Mr. Michie who is responsible for the Social Services Contract programs, the Rehabilitation program, and the Citizen Participation program.

Mr. Joe Michie, an Assistant Director of Community Development, stated these hearings concern the application the City of Charlotte will be filing next April for CD Block Grant Funds. That the Mayor and City Council have specifically set this afternoon's hearing to allow Social Service contract agencies, other units of government, and organizations to present comments and proposals on how future Community Development Funds should be spent.

He called attention to a handout sheet which participants had received at the door which answered these questions: (1) What is the purpose of the Program?; (2) How can Community Development funds be used?; (3) What steps will be taken in the next four months?; (4) What opportunities are available for you to participate?; (5) What are other major program requirements?; (6) What is being done with Community Development funds now?; and (7) The names of the Department's Neighborhood Relations Staff who may be contacted for additional information.

Referring to a chart which was exhibited listing the dollars available for Fiscal Years 1980, 1981 and 1982, he stated the purpose of today's hearing will concern itself with recommendations primarily for the 1980, 1981 and 1982 figures. For the next coming year (1980) \$1,142,000, for 1981 and 1982, \$1,004,000 each as the Social Service portion of the budget. He stated these amounts are 20 percent of the total that the City is to receive for each of these years.

He stated that since the beginning of the first CD year, July 1, 1975, 22,224 CD area residents have been served by 25 contract programs at a cost of \$4,211,876. Not only have these services made a significant impact upon the clients served, but the contractors have furnished jobs for 443 people at an average payroll of slightly over one million dollars. 127 of these employees have been CD area residents earning \$185,957 per year.

He stated that currently the CD Department has in effect twelve contract programs and all of them are represented today. They include a health screening program, Upjohn Healthcare Services; counseling by Family Housing

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Services, Inc.; Community Education, CPCC; Special Education after school, Gethsemane Enrichment Program, Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church; a similar program provided by Bethlehem Center; a special education program provided by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council; Orff and music, Community School of the Arts; recreation, Johnston YMCA; probationer assistance, Mecklenburg Court Volunteers; recreation for the handicapped, ILEAP, Inc.; Girl Scouts; and Hot Meals.

Mr. Michie stated that several other agencies and individuals are also present; that the input received today will be duly noted by staff when the preliminary plan is presented to the Mayor and Council and agencies and neighborhood groups next month. That another public hearing will be held on January 22 at 3:00 to receive reaction and recommended changes to the preliminary plan before the actual application is filed. It is very important, therefore, to hear today's suggestions so that each request can be properly considered by the Mayor, City Council and staff.

REQUESTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM COMMUNITY AGENCIES.

Dr. Sherman Burson - Community Relations Committee.

Dr. Burson stated he is chairman of the Human Resources sub-committee of CRC and presented a proposal for a neighborhood resource training program. That in order to meet the need for referral which continues to exist in Charlotte despite the many services which the Information and Referral Service and other agencies are providing, a training program be provided for residents in all Community Development Target Areas.

This training would provide an overview of the services available from the major agencies, the general qualifications required for eligibility and the method for applying for such services. Such training would enable more people to find available services more easily by providing resource persons who live in the neighborhood and who could advise their own neighbors and refer them to the proper agency. They recognize that such training would not make the neighborhood resident capable of handling all referrals and that many referrals involve clients with multiple problems which can be properly handled only by thoroughly trained counselors. Nevertheless, a core of people living in each neighborhood could assist many persons in finding their way in the human service maze.

Such training could be provided in one specific neighborhood at a time by securing a neighborhood organization to sponsor the classes by providing space and child-care services and by promoting attendance at the classes. Instruction could be provided by the staff of the agencies whose services would be described, by the staff of the Information and Referral Service, or through CD's existing contract with Central Piedmont Community College. A coordinator would be required to secure sponsorship, stimulate interest among residents in the training, to convene and adjourn classes, and help assure that the needs of the class members are met by the program. A training program which held sessions for two hours a week would provide eight hours of training in a month's time and could provide baseline information on the major agency programs as well as knowledge of how to refer persons to the proper agency. The size of the classes would not be critical, and could be adjusted to available space and child-care services.

While training was being provided in one neighborhood, the coordinator could work in another neighborhood to develop sponsorship and prepare for a training program. It is estimated that one training program could be conducted each month thereafter, and that, allowing for holidays, ten such programs could be provided each year. If each class had 20 persons, a total of 200 persons could receive training as a neighborhood resource person in a year.

Dr. Burson stated that his sub-committee on Human Resources believes that this concept, which is based on the very successful Neighborhood Agents Program operated by Model Cities for several years here, can be implemented

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on an experimental basis now. Both Dr. Harold Lerner, Director of the Information and Referral Service, and Wayne Jones, Social Services Contract Administrator for Community Development have expressed interest in such a training program, and have offered to provide such training if classes can be organized by some other agency.

Dr. Burson stated they are set up to make a trial run on this and the cost for one year would be in the neighborhood of \$14,900.

(A more detailed proposal was filed with the Clerk.)

Ms. Peggy Beckwith - Association for Sickle Cell Disease.

Ms. Beckwith stated she is here to ask for funding because the services offered by the Association are important for the Target Area population which the Community Development funds are earmarked for. These services are needed because one out of every 625 live births in the non-white population has sickle cell anemia.

She stated the program they presently operate is grossly unfunded to provide services for an eight-county area. One of the tasks that she has before her as project director is to apply these funds by a method that will impact knowledge concerning sickle cell to the greatest number of persons, and seek additional funds at the state and local levels. Therefore, she stands before Council again to request that they see sickle cell anemia as a debilitating genetic disease with the highest infant mortality and morbidity rates of any other genetic disorder. It attacks the Target population the CD funds are earmarked for.

She stated the sickle cell syndrome not only affects the black population. There are a total of eight ethnic groups affected by the syndrome. These groups include people from South Asia, South America, the Caribbean, countries around the Mediterranean, as well as the non-white population of the United States.

Ms. Beckwith stated that to fund any primary care program for Target populations without looking at proposed health needs of that Target population would mean that an analysis and evaluation of spending is not important. That services provided to the Target population must be that which affects their primary care, including multi-team approaches.

She stated she is mindful of the fact that she has been before Council previously and was not funded. That she misunderstood directions that were given by this body to the staff which sets policy. She was informed on November 14 that she had held up the progress on the already submitted proposal in which funds had been allocated for the Association for Sickle Cell Disease. She is a believer in the need for the services that are rendered by the Association and she is always disturbed by the lack of funds to accomplish the task before them. Therefore, if there is a dollar to be given, if there is a dollar to be offered, she would like to be here any day, any hour to receive it. She asked that they not look again at sickle cell and refuse funding; that would again say "Well, it is a needed program but it is an isolated disease."

(A more detailed report was filed with the Clerk.)

Mr. Bill Woodard - Upjohn Chores Services.

Mr. Woodard expressed appreciation for Council's cooperation in the past; that they feel that the Chores Services program, along with the Health Screening program, is coming along very well in Mecklenburg County; that its number one value is that it allows the residents who might not be able to stay in their homes otherwise to do so. It also affords some opportunity for the Target Area in employment. That 40 percent of the people who they now have working in the program are from the Target area.

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He stated they are ahead of their thousand-person target schedule for screening; they did 131 screenings in the month of October. This was their first month for the screening. The Emergency Health Service program - they have had three cases to date; that this is to be an emergency medical type service, not one routinely given. Several of the Chore patients have been referred to the Medicare/Medicaid areas of their office, which comes under a different payment.

He stated Councilmembers are fairly familiar with this program - they are appreciative of their cooperation in the past and hope they can have this same cooperation in the future.

(A more detailed summary of the program was filed with the Clerk.)

Mr. Arthur Lynch - Community Development Contractors Association.

Mr. Lynch stated that since 1976, the Contractors Association has worked to improve the quality of services provided under the Community Development Grant Funds; and also to utilize community resources in serving less fortunate Target Area residents. Their programs are designed to provide preventive measures that will lead to the enhancement of opportunities and personal development for all CD area residents; that they have been fortunate in developing exemplary track records for the various program services they provide.

Overall, their programs are prime examples of City Government contracting with community agencies and organizations to provide greatly needed human services. Further, their programs have clearly shown that there is accountability in human service program efforts. All CD contractors operate under management by objectives, a policy utilized by many successful businesses; but even more important, all contractors must meet rigid evaluation/performance reviews to insure that the delivery of their services are in compliance with contractual specifications and also to demonstrate the effectiveness of their programs.

The contractors see themselves as a special interest group of collective organizations. Their interest is the growth of their community in both economic and human terms. They also see themselves as catalysts in addressing community problems with common sense solutions. In this role, they are addressing Council this afternoon to consider their continued partnership in progress, as they present to Council their plans for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Jim Preston / Ms. Rosalyn Cobb - Community School of the Arts.

Mr. Preston, representing the Board of Directors, expressed appreciation for the grants that the School has received in the past and hope they will be on the list for grants in the future. He stated they are starting the second year of contracted Orff Introduction to Music instruction at four Target Area centers and providing individual instruction in band instruments for some 18 to 22 fifth grade students. To date about 1,691 children, ages 3 to 9, have been served in this program; a great proportion of that number resulted from a summer program which was held last year. At the present time there are about 309 young people in the program, receiving a half-hour instruction per week at either AME Gethsemane Zion Church, Bethlehem Center, Allen Elementary School, or through the Hornet's Nest Girl Scout Council. In addition they expect that about 18 to 22 fifth graders will receive individual instruction in band instruments in order that they may participate more fully in the public school band program.

He stated the grant amount for this year was about \$14,500 and they would anticipate that the amount needed for next year would be about the same. They think it is a good buy in terms of quality of life and personal development for young people at a critical stage in what they think is a critical part of their overall development. They hope they can continue in the same mold.

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Ms. Cobb, Orff Introduction to Music instructor at the Target sites, stated her purpose in speaking is to clarify what Orff Introduction to Music is. It is a new idea in music instruction designed to give small children, especially, an experience in rhythm, in body movement, body awareness in singing - it is a new system in musical thought. It is highly successful in the United States right now. That it is really great that Charlotte has been able to use community funds to give other children a chance to experience this.

She stated one special feature is the highly intricately designed rhythm instruments, percussion instruments, which the children are taught to use after a system of education throughout the year. That the success of the program has been proven; it is really an enjoyment in learning to make your own music.

Ms. Barbara Lucas - Family Housing Services.

Ms. Lucas stated many people look at Human Service programs as a drain on the tax dollars. Family Housing Services believes that rather than being a drain on the tax dollars, they provide services which allow better use of the tax dollars. She cited a few examples.

Foreclosures - it costs the taxpayer \$10,000 for the average foreclosure; it costs less than \$500 for a counseling agency to bring that client current.

Money Management - It costs a lot of money ultimately to the taxpayer when people are over-extended and cannot meet their debts. Their Budget and Money Management provides this service.

The cost of slums is uncalculatable; they have been training youths in marketable skills in rehabing houses in the Target Areas.

She stated that last year FHS served 424 clients in the CD Target Areas at a cost of \$212 per client.

In FY-80 they anticipate continuing their comprehensive counseling program. Families will still need relocation assistance and counseling, rehabilitation problem assistance; they will need to avoid foreclosure evictions and find affordable places to live. The necessity for funding at a level adequate to assure continued quality counseling will necessitate probably a small cost of living increase. While Family Housing Services is cognizant of the decrease in available funds for Community Development human services, the need for the services provided by FHS is still apparent. They want to continue to serve these needs as long as they are able.

(A more detailed proposal was filed with the Clerk.)

Mr. Francis Jeffries - Johnston YMCA.

Mr. Jeffries stated the Johnston YMCA has been in the Community Development program approximately four years. They started in June of 1976 with an experimental summer project that was funded; then they went into a full year program starting in September of 1976. They have been able to involve more Charlotte Target Area residents, both youths and families, in special activities including programs that were already established and some that were set up because of special needs of the target area residents. The program has involved over 800 different residents. They are involved in membership as well as some of the other programs - swimming, flag football, basketball, baseball, cheerleading, bowling, day camp, arts and crafts, special educational and recreational trips, dancing, music, gymnastics, and other special activities such as the Halloween Carnival and Christmas Party.

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The residents are able to use different facilities of the Y when not in scheduled activities such as the swimming pool and gym. There are many of the youth, as well as adults, involved in volunteer work with the YMCA, and with helping other Target Area residents. At this time there are 55 of these people actually carrying out volunteer functions.

Mr. Jeffries stated that in the past they have also been able to collaborate with other Community Development Social Service contractors, such as the Gethsemane AME Zion Enrichment program, Bethlehem Center, Hot Lunch program, Community School of the Arts and Central Piedmont on the Square. This collaboration is another area that the Social Service contractors are trying to serve more of the participants.

The CD program at the Johnston Y tries to involve all of the Target Area residents; they hope to have more Hot Lunch involvement with senior citizens. They are also now planning for the development of a weight and fitness center at the Johnston Y. The money they have raised through their capital fund drive this past year includes funds which have been set aside to build such a center. They hope that this facility, as well as other facilities of the Y will be used in the fifth year.

Mr. Bill Hoey - Mecklenburg Court Volunteers.

Mr. Hoey stated the Mecklenburg Court Volunteers work with young adults and juveniles, between the ages of 7 and 25, with trained, qualified volunteers who provide their time and services to these young people so that they can redirect their lives so that they become positive citizens of our community. They are trying to prevent them from spending their lifetime in prison on the installment plan. It is interesting to note that in their program they try to get their volunteers to involve the families of these young people in their lives because they feel that there is a real lack of communication between the young people and their parents. They have ongoing training programs for the volunteers so that they can better expose the parents of these young people to the services that are available in the community.

He stated they have matched, in the past year, 113 volunteers with probationers. It costs the community between \$8,000 and \$10,000 a year to send a kid off to training school. They have served these young people at a cost of \$255 by keeping them in the community. They feel that with the emphasis being placed on community-based alternatives that Mecklenburg Court Volunteers is one of the answers to that. He is not saying that they have the total answer because there are other programs that can also serve in this area, but they are the only people in this community who are working with young people that are on probation.

He hopes Council will see fit to continue to fund them in the upcoming year.

(A more detailed report was filed with the Clerk.)

Ms. Adelaide H. Hunt - Gethsemane AME Zion Enrichment Program.

Ms. Hunt stated the Gethsemane Enrichment Program is not another school, nor does it attempt to compete with other schools. The program's primary objective is to supplement the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' ongoing academic program and expand the cultural talents of CD Target Area residents.

Four hundred students were served in the GEP summer sessions. This program emphasized tutoring in basic math, reading and writing skills, along with cultural enrichment activities and recreational activities such as painting, dancing, singing, acting, swimming, sightseeing, and touring the sites of North Carolina.

As of November 10, 1978, 321 students have been pre-tested and are enrolled in the GEP fall session. Also, during this period, 173 referrals have been made to the Social Services delivery agencies.

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They are divided into components. The Curriculum Support Component provides academic support to motivate and reinforce effective study skills needed to function in an integrated society. Individual education prescription packages have been prepared as an approach to improving students' reading, math and spelling skills. Their goal for this fiscal year is to raise the grade level of each student by six months.

The Supportive Staff Component coordinates efforts of the Gethsemane Enrichment program with those of other public and private non-profit social service delivery agencies to insure that the physical, emotional and social needs of Target Area students and their families are met. 173 referrals have been made as of this date.

The Cultural/Enrichment Component provides activities that are designed to expose and increase the cultural awareness of disadvantaged students by introducing them to activities such as museums, art exhibits, theatrical and musical performances, sporting events and amusement parks. These activities have enabled program participants to enhance their cultural awareness and to become more aware of their own talents and skills.

She stated they feel they are doing a very good job with the students in the Gethsemane Enrichment Program and invited visits from Councilmembers.

Mr. Jay Myers - CPCC.

Mr. Myers stated that CPCC was completing its second year of funding with the Community Development program, and this has been the highlight of all the activities at Central Piedmont. The College President's main policy is to have the College do everything it can to help everyone in the community, and this program has been one of the most enriching that they've had. They have been prominent in four major areas: Human Resource Development, Personal Education, Degree & Diploma, and Older Adults. More than 50 people finished high school and over 120 residents have enrolled in a degree or diploma program just during this year. They have already served 920 target residents, and will complete more than they contracted for - more than 1,040 by the end of the funding year.

The CPCC program covers the administrative costs, partial payment for rent of facilities, and the cost of tuition, books, supplies and transportation for students. CPCC pays the instructors' salaries, a portion of the administrative cost, most of the rent for facilities, and some of the other areas.

He added that it has been a real pleasure to work with Joe Michie and Vernon Sawyer over these past couple of years, and it has also been a real pleasure working with the other agencies that are involved with Community Development. He appreciated hearing some of those agencies say that CPCC has helped. The future funding for this year would be \$110,000.

Mr. George Enloe - McCrorey YMCA.

Mr. Enloe stated that for the past three years they had been looking forward to funding a Day Camp program they have been carrying on primarily in the West Boulevard area. This past year in particular they sought to qualify in the kind of things they had done there in the area of recreational activities and skill building areas. In the upcoming year they are hoping still to increase that kind of potential and to expand further into a year-round program. He said that they have found that, by dealing with the young people who were there for the three months or the two weeks of the scheduled program, they were able last year to handle some 520 children, of which they taught 410 to swim. Through a collaborative effort with the Greenville Center they were able to use their swimming pool, which allowed them to expand their services even more in the area of swimming instruction.

He stated that they were hopeful that with the coming year they would be able to do more things with other organizations and teach a greater number of skills to the children who are involved. To set the tone for this, they are also taking a look at the possibility of developing an after school fun club which will be a program designed to meet some of the needs of the working parents in that area and also to allow for a meaningful experience

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during the after school hours. This is not intended to be the enrichment program which many others have talked about; he explained that they are seeking to set up a pilot program with 250 children for three months. By the end of that program he hoped they would be able to do more along the lines of teaching them some things that might help them along with some other programs that the Y does as well as several other agencies in the area of summer recreation.

This past summer, along with swimming, they held tennis classes. They were also taking a look at the trips they had taken to correlate them with the schools that the children attend, to try to make those summer experiences enriching. They look forward to increasing their numbers in the next year at the same cost, from 500 to 675 students enrolled for a 10-week period. It is their hope that with the reviews and evaluations they've received for the previous three years of operation, they will see themselves able to get even greater reviews for the fourth year. The fourth year program would call for \$85,961.

(A more detailed report was filed with the Clerk.)

Ms. Candy Ellis - ILEAP Services

Ms. Ellis, Executive Director of ILEAP, referred to the general summary of ILEAP objectives and wanted to take a moment to describe how the program worked and to describe its impact on the community.

Leisure, or free time to be used at one's discretion, is an important facet of everyone's life, especially those who are developmentally disabled. Many disabled fail in community placement because they lack the necessary skills to utilize their free time in an effective manner. With proper training and guidance, the developmentally disabled learn to live more independently in the community and function more independently in their immediate environment.

Educating for leisure requires individualized programs to help the developmentally disabled or handicapped person learn how to enhance the quality of his life. Ms. Ellis stated that ILEAP's method of teaching leisure to the developmentally disabled is unique in that they work with individuals on a one-to-one basis in their homes and in the community, rather than at one specific location. The program aides spend a minimum of one and a half hours weekly with each client, working on objectives which have been determined through an assessment of the client's leisure skills. The areas of concentration are media resources, public transportation, money skills, public behavior, grooming, social skills, and community resources. Often these skills are taught simultaneously. For example, while teaching a child how to travel to a city park on the bus, they also teach money skills and appropriate behavior. Parents and other family members are a vital part of the child's leisure therapy since they must positively reinforce leisure skills between the weekly contacts with the staff.

ILEAP's contract for this fiscal year is \$72,000. They would like to continue the existing program which will enable them to meet the needs of at least 150 developmentally disabled kids next year. The anticipated cost is \$79,000.

Mr. Gerald Horne - Bethlehem Center

Mr. Horne wished to say a word of thanks to everyone present for their support. Community Development has helped Bethlehem Center for the past two years to serve 1,100 residents in several different programs. The largest are the summer activities program, preschool program, after school program, senior citizens program, weekend camping program and family recreation program.

He wanted to comment on the junior high summer program, an experiment they tried last year. They served over 230 junior high school students. It was a very successful program; it had never been tried before, but they hope to try it again next year.

Mr. Horne pointed out that all the programs were geared to different ages. For example, in the weekend camping program the youngest resident was 7 months old, the oldest was 84 years old. They try to serve the total community

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and not one specific age group, and all of the programs have been well received and attended by the community residents.

For the past 11 months the Bethlehem Center has been conducting a needs assessment survey of the Brookhill and Southside neighborhoods. They surveyed over 300 families, and as a result of the survey they would like to expand their preschool program and their senior citizens program next year. They found that there is quite a large segment of senior citizens who are not being served but with some additional money they could be. In the preschool program they have found out that by the second grade many of the children were already a year behind in school. They would like to work with them at home in academic work.

The budget for next year includes the total summer activities program which in the past was under two separate contracts. He wished to announce that the new director of Bethlehem Center will be starting his new duties on December 4th and he has expressed to Mr. Horne that he is looking forward to working with the City Council in any way he can. Mr. Horne added that the Center was requesting \$198,000.

(A more detailed report was filed with the Clerk.)

Ms. Ruby Gray - Girl Scouts.

Ms. Gray stated that the Community Development component of the Hornets' Nest Girl Scout Council seeks to provide Scouting opportunities to a segment of the population which has not been actively involved in the mainstream of the Girl Scouting program.

Since the inception of the Community Development Project, Girl Scouting has been flourishing in the target areas. Girls are actively involved in all aspects of scouting - participation in an array of cultural, civic, ecological, social, outdoor and character building activities. Community Development girls have participated in every facet of their community's life (flag ceremonies for naturalization programs, various community service projects, home improvement projects, camping trips, inter-group activities to develop individual skills, etc.)

Ms. Gray stated that this project fills a critical need for these youth. It meets a girl where she is, encourages her to use what talents she has, in order to prepare her for what she can become. Each activity in Community Development Scouting teaches the girl to develop her own abilities, to use facts and concepts as tools for building a better community. Adults involved in Community Development Scouting feel a source of pride, gratification, and challenge to have been a part of the molding of a girl's character.

The proposed budget of \$20,862 will assist in providing Scouting opportunities in the target areas to all girls between 6-17 years of age. The Community Development component addresses itself to a pressing need which exists in all communities, but most importantly in the target areas.

Scouting works.

Ms. Melba vonSprecken - Hot Lunch Program.

Ms. von Sprecken first wished to thank those who supported the hot meals program for the last few years. She felt they had come a long way from having catered meals to having on-site meals. At this time they are on-site everywhere except at Moore's Sanctuary on Morris Field Drive. They hope that by December, without giving a definite date, all of the sites will have on-site preparation. At this time around 600 people are being reached per day, and of these an average of 525 persons are fed per day.

They are still doing a lot of the supporting services with other county and area agencies. One of the greatest highlights which occurred last month was a trip to the mountains - they all got to go up on the bus and have lunch and view the colors. She wished those present could have heard the comments the participants made after the trip.

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During the month of October 10,200 meals were served to the senior citizens. She referred to the paper distributed to those present listing the program's goals and operating needs. In response to a question from Mayor Harris, Ms. von Sprecken replied that there was no mention of Barringer in the description of goals.

In response to a question from Councilmember Carroll, she replied that Cherry is not being considered for one of the sites, but that it is combined with Grier Heights. Mr. Carroll hoped that the possibility might be considered in the future, but Ms. von Sprecken reminded the Council that their funding had been reduced and two sites had already been removed. The program was now asking that a number of part time workers might be made full time to help with the growth of on-site preparation and also the transport of prepared meals from one site to another. The current budget is \$325,000; the next year's budget may have to be \$350,000 to allow for that.

Mr. Art Lynch - Mecklenburg Youth Council.

Mr. Lynch stated that he was making the presentation for Michael A. Rainey, Chairman of the Board, who at the present time was assisting with the assessment of taxes for the County.

Since July of 1978, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council has operated an "Academic-Career Development Program" under contractual agreement with the City of Charlotte and the Community Development Department.

To date, this program has served over 600 target area residents with services ranging from tutorial assistance to career exploration and job placement. The primary goals of the services have been to provide opportunities for learning and development for junior and senior high school aged youth, which will aid these youth in their current academic studies and in the later years of their lives.

Mr. Lynch said that during financial year 1980 CMYC proposes to provide services and assistance to over 800 target area youth and their families in the areas of academic, career and personal development. The scope of services is designed to enhance the learning and living opportunities of these youth and other community residents. Specifically, by improving academic skills they can assure that the youth remain in school and not become drop-outs, and further by incorporating career exploration for interests and fields they can ensure that the youth of today can begin to build foundations of self-discipline, reality to and appreciation of the "world of work". These steps will provide the youth with experiences needed for survival in society, and will alleviate the potential burden to the community if these youth were to become wards of the welfare system or unemployed due to a lack of job skills and experience.

To implement this project, the Youth Council is requesting approximately \$65,000 to operate a 12 month program from July 2, 1979 through June 30, 1980.

He hoped that the Council would find merit for funding the proposed activities and services, so greatly needed by target area and other disadvantaged community youth.

Mr. Charles Cox - Johnson C. Smith University.

Mr. Cox stated that he was a wearer of many hats. Someone had already spoken to the Council about the summer sports program and he was sure they were familiar with it; there was a lot of TV coverage last year on the news. They served 450 lunches in the Charlotte area. More than 335 of those fed were Community Development area youth; 200 of those were contacted through the CD program, 200 came from the West Boulevard area, and 100 more came from several other areas combined, and he knew of 14 who came from the Southside area.

The purpose of the program is to make available to the Community Development youth important experiences which they are unable to obtain through their own means. The program is concerned with providing supervised sports training

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and competition, opportunity to acquire valuable skills and health knowledge, the improvement of physical fitness and knowledge of career and educational opportunities. The two major goals are to expand opportunities for Community Development youth to benefit from sports skills instruction, engage in sports competition and improve their physical fitness, and secondly, to help CD youth acquire good health practices, to help them become better citizens and to acquaint them with career and educational opportunities by utilizing community resources and the personnel and facilities of Johnson C. Smith University.

The age group served is 10-18 years. The program was run for five weeks last year and they anticipate doing the same next summer. At present, they have 12 sessions spread out over the total school year, in which they meet one third of their total enrollment - that is, 150 of the 450. Approximately one half of that group comes from the CD area. A variety of planned, organized and coordinated activities were provided with each participant receiving 10 hours weekly of enrichment. An Advisory Committee consisting of parents, business people, professionals and residents provided guidance to the program operators. While parents, Councilmembers and any community resident or government official received an open invitation to the program, the parents received two additional, specific invitations to the program where there were planned activities that involved the parents. During those visits the parents saw the type of instruction that their children were receiving; they were urged to encourage their children to participate in these activities and to get their children to attend regularly.

Mr. Cox added that the students took meaningful field trips and that each participant received a physical examination the results of which were reported to neighborhood centers, parents and doctors.

At present they were asking the Council to help them continue the program by funding \$30,000 for next year. Finally, he wanted to thank Charlotte very much - they received a very high rating among 139 colleges across the country with similar programs.

(A more detailed report was filed with the Clerk.)

Ms. Betty Wiggins - Wilmore Area

Ms. Wiggins stated that the Wilmore Neighborhood Organization asked its Councilmember, Mr. Leeper, about getting human service programs in its community, and it was on his recommendation that she was speaking here today. They are interested in making the senior citizens of their community eligible for a hot lunch program. They have no place in Wilmore to house a program, but ask that some transportation be made available so it would be possible for the senior citizens to participate in programs nearby, not only hot lunch but anything which might make it easier for them to get out of isolated home situations. They are not sure what is available or how to go about making a precise assessment of needs, but know the need is there. They are asking for attention in this matter, and are willing to meet with whoever can help them on this.

They are also interested in an after school enrichment program for their children. They believed one was being planned through the Bethlehem Center, but do not see it happening and it seems that the problem is location.

They would like to know what part they can play in making these programs a reality for their neighborhood, and they are asking for the City's help.

Dr. J. D. Allen - Open House Counseling Service

Dr. Allen Stated that drug abuse is still a major debilitating factor in the Community Development target areas. The primary age group is 16 to 30 and that's going down; the median age is about 22 and has dropped almost a full year in the past few years. The relationship between drug abuse and crime has been firmly established. Many of the people in the target areas do not surface for treatment readily.

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He stated that Open House is proposing a three-man outreach program only in the target areas to try to identify and refer drug abusers to treatment. They expect the cost to be somewhere between \$30,000 and \$35,000. It is a new proposal - they are not one of the older programs; they cannot cite a history of four or five years. They need the Council's help; he referred to the list of Board Members of Open House which had been distributed to the Councilmembers. They think the target areas are places of much activity, including a lot of drug activity which is a major problem. It seems to be very pervasive and influences a great deal of the other things that go on in those target areas. Open House would like to get in there and do some work in terms of identifying and referring drug abusers to treatment. They know they're there; epidemiological studies indicate that that's where large numbers are. They do get significant numbers into their program, but not anywhere near the numbers they think are there. Dr. Allen solicited the Council's help.

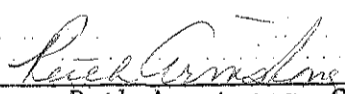
CLOSING REMARKS BY MAYOR.

Mayor Harris stated he has tried to keep a tally of the costs and at this point they have just passed the amount we had this year in allocations. He stated that each of the agencies are performing very good services for the community. That Ms. Lucas made the point that the human services really benefit the taxpayers instead of costing them.

He stated we are in a situation now where there is sort of a double-edged sword - we have increasing costs and decreasing revenue to be allocated. He is sure it is going to be a tougher job each year for Mr. Sawyer and his staff to take these requests into consideration and to try to squeeze as much out of every dollar as they can get. That the figure this year is \$1,487,000, which is down \$400,000 from last year, and it will be dropping another \$300,000 next year. This is an indication of the need for alternate funding in the future, which will have to be looked at as far as these programs are concerned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Mayor advised Council that neither he nor Mayor pro tem Chafin would attend the Thursday night hearings and requested that a chairman be named. By unanimous consent Councilmember Gantt was designated to preside at that time, following which the meeting adjourned.



Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk