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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 21, 1995

MEMORANDUM TO: MARCIA HALE
ALEXIS HERMAN
KITTY HIGGINS
DOUG SOSNICK
LORRAINE VOLES
LORRIE MCHUGH

FROM: SHERYLL CASHIN
Staff Director, Community Empowerment Board

SUBJECT: Community Empowerment Board Newsletter

Attached you will find the first issue of the Community Empowerment Board (CEB) News, compiled by our CEB staff to highlight the activities and success stories of the 105 urban and rural areas designated as Empowerment Zones (EZs) or Enterprise Communities (ECs) by the President last December. We intend to publish this newsletter on a regular basis.

As you can see, a variety of exciting projects are underway in EZ/EC communities. In addition, executive branch agencies are devoting an impressive number of resources to this initiative and working hard to provide EZs and ECs with a one-stop Federal response to their needs.

We are sending this newsletter to all EZs and ECs and are encouraging them to distribute it throughout their communities so that residents and other partners in this effort can learn about other communities' activities. Please feel free to share the newsletter with any individuals or organizations you feel might be interested in this information.

If you or your staff have any questions about EZ/EC activities or about our efforts to promote the EZ/EC initiative, please feel free to call me on x65369.

cc:
Jack Quinn
Carol Rasco
Laura Tyson

Print 6/28/95
Sherryll Cashin
Good work!
R. R. R.
JUN 26 1995

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT BOARD NEWS

providing the latest information on the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community program

■ June 1995 ■

"[There] needs to be a new partnership between Washington and the communities and the individuals of this country, and there needs to be a way of doing business in which we try to create the conditions in which people can seize opportunities for themselves"

President Clinton, January 17, 1994

Announcement of the EZ/EC Application Process

A MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE

Hundred-million-dollar private sector investments. Business expansions. One-stop federal coordination. Unprecedented community partnerships. Great progress has already been made in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities across the country, as we embark on a challenging 10-year reinvestment process.

In August 1993, President Clinton signed the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) initiative into law. Shortly thereafter, he asked me to serve as the chair of the Community Empowerment Board, or CEB, a government-wide entity that is supporting the implementation of the EZ/EC program.

The EZ/EC initiative targets \$2.5 billion in federal tax incentives and \$1.3 billion in flexible grant assistance to distressed urban and rural areas. It is designed to revitalize economies that have been abandoned by private industry, create jobs for residents of inner cities and impoverished rural areas, and help communities rebuild themselves from the inside out. Last year, over 500 communities across America responded to this challenge in an application process that forged new partnerships among community residents, business people, state and local government, and non-profit institutions. In December 1994, the Administration announced EZ/EC designations for 105 of these communities in 42 states.

Right now, community leaders are working hard to deliver on promises to their communities by developing performance benchmarks and governance structures that truly reflect the needs of local EZ and EC residents. And local partners -- in government, in business, in the foundation community -- are fulfilling their commitments of financial and technical resources in order to turn these EZs' and ECs' strategic plans into successful realities.

At the federal level, we also are working diligently to establish a whole new way of doing business. To demonstrate our commitment, the CEB agencies have been directed to cut through bureaucratic red tape, streamline processing of EZ/EC program requests, target technical assistance, and implement signature demonstrations in specific cities and rural areas. Changing the way we do business has been a challenge. However, we recognize that a successful local initiative requires a supportive and responsive federal government, and we intend to provide just that.

As we move forward in implementing the EZ/EC program, I anticipate many more challenges -- and great successes -- ahead. I am heartened by this successful beginning, and I look forward to working in true partnership with America's communities to revitalize and restore opportunity for our great cities and rural heartlands.

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DETROIT EZ LANDS \$750 MILLION AUTO PLANT -- Chrysler Investment One of Many Private-Sector Commitments

The Chrysler Corporation accepted the "EZ challenge" this spring, when it announced that it will invest \$750 million in a new engine plant to be built in Detroit's EZ. The plant will be located inside an existing assembly facility and is expected to employ up to 1,000 workers. President Clinton and Vice President Gore congratulated Mayor Dennis Archer and Chrysler Chairman Robert Eaton for bringing about this substantial commitment of private sector investment in the Detroit EZ. Speaking via telephone during the Chrysler announcement, the President and Vice President emphasized the importance of private sector investment in rebuilding Empowerment Zone communities.

Chrysler is not alone in its commitment to the Detroit Empowerment Zone. The Detroit business and banking communities have pledged to invest more than \$2 billion in the Zone area, and several private-sector organizations have already made this promise a reality. Another automaker, General Motors, plans to spend about \$200 million to expand and improve its Detroit-Hamtramack assembly plant, capitalizing on EZ tax incentives such as the \$3,000 income tax credit for hiring Zone residents.

Smaller businesses have also begun to invest in Detroit's EZ. Bill Laimbeer and Vinnie Johnson, teammates on the World Champion Detroit Pistons basketball team, announced that their company, Pistons Packaging, would build a factory in the Detroit EZ and employ up to 125 people to make corrugated boxes. And the trade conglomerate O-J Group announced the creation of a large-scale transportation center in southwest Detroit.

Detroit's early success with its economic redevelopment efforts have not gone unnoticed. As the *Los Angeles Times* observed earlier this year, "In Detroit, there is a palpable sense of optimism for the first time since Jimmy Carter was President. To hear some talk, the nation's auto capital is on the move again and will become a model city early in the 21st Century."

SOUTHERN ECs SHARE IDEAS, STRATEGIES AT FORUM SPONSORED BY FOUNDATIONS

Throughout this year, a number of southern Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (ECs) have been participating in an unprecedented regional coalition known as the Southern Enterprise Communities (SEC) Forum. In February, these ECs came together for the first time in Jackson, Mississippi to share success stories and find solutions to common challenges. Jackson was one of the participating communities as were ECs from New Orleans, LA; Monroe, LA; Pulaski County, AR; Macon Ridge, LA; Northeast Louisiana Delta, LA; Eastern Arkansas; Mississippi County, AR; North Delta, MS; and the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone, MS. Since then, three ECs from two more states -- Tennessee and Missouri -- have been invited to join the group.

The Foundation for the Mid-South and the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta helped organize the SEC Forum. These not-for-profit foundations assist community-based organizations in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi in their efforts to improve social and economic conditions in the region. As a result, they see a clear connection between their mission and the goals of the EZ/EC program.

Although the seven Southern Enterprise Communities have diverse needs, SEC representatives have found that there is great benefit to collaboration. Mid-South President George Penick noted that communities particularly have benefitted from sharing first-hand knowledge of others' experiences in grant-writing and administration.

SEC representatives have pledged to continue meeting on a quarterly basis, and a second forum was held in Monroe, Louisiana in May. Carol Rasco, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, attended the meeting and commented that she found the group "excited about releasing the potential within their communities for genuine development of their citizens' capacities."

The CEB commends the Mid-South Foundation and the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta for facilitating collaboration among ECs. We encourage other organizations to sponsor similar regional conferences.

****COMMUNITY FOCUS****

PHILADELPHIA/CAMDEN EZ NEIGHBORHOODS KEEP RESIDENTS INVOLVED

Community-Wide Elections, Resident Organizers Among Strategies

Last year, communities across the nation forged unprecedented local partnerships during the EZ/EC application process. Resident involvement was a key component to winning applications, and in the six months since designation, EZs and ECs have worked to maintain this level of community participation throughout the implementation process to ensure that the EZ/EC program remains a truly "bottom-up" initiative.

Neighborhoods in the Philadelphia-Camden bi-state Empowerment Zone exemplify communities that have risen to this challenge. Using innovative strategies to incorporate a diverse cross-section of community members into the formal governance structure of its Zone, EZ neighborhoods in Philadelphia-Camden have capitalized on the expertise and energy of community residents.

A NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED STRATEGY

Philadelphia-Camden's bi-state Zone is made up of four neighborhoods, and while a regional EZ board will oversee the process, it was decided that funds would be allocated separately to each neighborhood based on population. As each neighborhood would be responsible for allocating EZ resources, leveraging additional commitments, and determining priority projects, it was clear that a community-driven governance structure was essential to the success of this process.

In January of this year, ballots were sent to every residence in Philadelphia's Zone neighborhoods to encourage residents to nominate themselves as candidates for the permanent EZ governing board.

"DEMOCRACY IN ACTION"

As Philadelphia's Executive Director of Community Service Donna Cooper described, democracy was in action as candidates campaigned throughout their neighborhoods -- passing out flyers and making announcements on loudspeakers in their efforts to win community support for their candidacy. Residents also had the opportunity to

Continued on Page Seven

RURAL COMMUNITIES RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM USDA; BEGIN EZ/EC PROJECTS

Rural EZs and ECs are developing industrial parks, building bridges, establishing low-interest loan funds, and implementing a variety of other revitalization projects thanks to significant additional funding earmarked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for EZ/EC communities. USDA has set aside nearly \$72 million across a large number of the agency's rural development grant programs -- about \$58 million of these funds have been distributed already and rural communities are moving forward on many exciting EZ/EC projects as a result.

* Five rural EZ/EC communities -- in **Michigan, Mississippi, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Kentucky** -- have received \$3.3 million in grants to establish revolving loan funds for small businesses, saving existing jobs and creating hundreds of new ones.

* A hardwood veneer mill is being built in **Mississippi's North Delta EC** using nearly \$2 million in USDA grants. This mill is an important part of the EC's economic revitalization strategy, as it will provide nearly 100 jobs to area residents.

* Nearly \$1.5 million in economic development funds will allow EC leaders in **Scott County, Tennessee** to develop an industrial park which could create nearly 400 jobs. **Fayette County, Tennessee** also is creating over 200 jobs through EC-related construction activity.

* **San Luis, Arizona's** rural EC is using nearly half a million dollars in USDA grant money to construct a bridge connecting the town's business center to residential areas. The EC estimates that 50-75 jobs will be saved by this project.

* **Pennsylvania's Lock Haven EC** is using \$75,000 in USDA funding to purchase computers for a technology job training center. This grant has leveraged over \$150,000 in additional funding commitments from 18 local businesses and non-profit organizations.

FEDERAL AGENCIES RESPOND TO EZ/EC NEEDS

Grants and Targeted Programs Enhance Communities' Projects

EZ/EC block grant funds and tax incentives are not the only resources communities can use in rebuilding and revitalizing their zone areas. CEB member agencies already have granted supplemental funding and program preferences to a number of EZs and ECs. In addition, Federal agencies are working closely with communities in implementing "signature initiatives" that will match Federal programs with each EZ's and EC's implementation goals. For example:

***Rural EZs and ECs** are benefitting from significant additional funding -- about \$72 million has been earmarked to date -- as a result of the Department of Agriculture's priority grant programs for EZ/EC communities. (See a related article on Page Three.)

***The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** has targeted a significant portion of its economic development grant money to EZ/EC communities. The grants will assist these areas in implementing housing, economic, and community development activities that were outlined in their strategic plans.

***The Small Business Administration** has pledged to open "One-Stop Capital Shops" in interested Empowerment Zones and Enhanced Enterprise Communities, providing small businesses with comprehensive financial and business technical assistance in one convenient location within the EZ/EC.

***At the Environmental Protection Agency**, all EZ and EC designees and applicants receive automatic priority for the agency's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Pilot grant awards. These grants will assist communities in revitalizing abandoned contaminated properties, to eliminate potential health risks and restore economic vitality to areas where these properties exist. EPA has been on the ground providing technical assistance to EZ/EC communities nationwide who are applying for Brownfields funds.

***At least two EZ/EC communities** will be among the five areas awarded federal youth crime prevention funds by the Department of Justice's Safe Futures Program. DOJ staff also have been helping many communities in the important task of integrating EZ crime prevention strategies with existing federal programs, allowing EZs and ECs to maximize their resources in this area.

***The Department of Education** is allocating all of its FY 1995 "21st Century Learning Center" grants to EZ communities. The application period has just opened for this funding, which can be used for a wide variety of school reform activities in the Zones.

***At the Corporation for National Service**, all EZs and ECs receive priority preference for Americorps*USA funding. The Corporation also will provide two VISTA leaders -- experienced community service organizers -- in a number of EZs and ECs.

***The Office of National Drug Control Policy** has established new "mini-HIDTA" -- or High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area -- grants that are targeted to EZ areas in which there is a high level of drug trafficking activity. This funding will give \$1 million each to three EZ communities -- money that can be used to strengthen and expand prevention and enforcement programs.

These are only a few examples of the many targeted assistance opportunities that CEB agencies have made available to EZs and ECs. For more information on CEB agency resources, interested communities can obtain the EZ/EC Task Force's "Guidebook to Federal Programs." Copies can be requested by contacting the Task Force at (202) 619-0314.

KENTUCKY HIGHLANDS RURAL EZ IS FIRST TO SIGN MOA -- Now Moving Forward With Implementation

The Kentucky Highlands Rural Empowerment Zone passed an important EZ/EC milestone last month when it became the first community to complete its performance benchmarking process. Kentucky Governor Brereton Jones joined community leaders, business people, state and local elected officials, and federal representatives on May 3 to sign a Memorandum of Agreement, or MOA, with the Department of Agriculture.

Kentucky Highlands, like other EZ/EC communities, worked intensively throughout the spring to develop performance benchmarks, an exercise designed to transform the broad revitalization strategies of the Zone's winning strategic plan into a workplan of specific community development projects in the first two years.

The MOA document, co-signed by federal and state officials as well as the Zone's local leadership, formalized the establishment of the performance benchmarks and signified the continuing partnership between the federal government and the EZ/ECs.

With the benchmarks completed and MOA signed, Kentucky Highlands has begun to use its \$40 million EZ grant to turn its ideas into action. One of the first of the Zone's major community revitalization projects is a chicken processing plant that aims to create 1,000 jobs in the heart of this economically distressed area. To lessen the area's dependence on tobacco farming, another major initiative will provide subsidies and other resources to farmers to encourage growth of alternative crops.

All rural and urban EZ/EC communities currently are developing similar performance measurement and accountability standards. EZ/EC officials are optimistic that the remarkable partnerships and concrete program goals that have emerged from this intensive work of the past six months will provide a solid foundation for the ten years of the EZ/EC program.

LOS ANGELES BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH THE NATION'S LARGEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BANK

\$660 Million in Public and Private Investments for L.A.'s Distressed Communities

Hundreds of community residents gathered together in South Central Los Angeles on May 10 to celebrate the creation of the Los Angeles Community Development Bank (LACDB). The LACDB is no ordinary commercial bank. Modeled on the experiences of banks like the South Shore Bank of Chicago, the LACDB is designed to provide funds for local businesses and community based-organizations in an effort to stimulate job creation and business growth in Los Angeles' poorest communities.

The LACDB is the result of extraordinary cooperation between the Federal government and the private sector. The Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded Los Angeles a total of \$450 million in Economic Development Initiative funds and Section 108 loan guarantees. Bank of America, First Interstate Bank, Union Bank, and Wells Fargo Bank have also committed a total of \$210 million to the LACDB. When these contributions are fully leveraged, it is estimated that the LACDB will invest over \$1 billion to stimulate job creation and business growth.

Vice President Al Gore joined Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan in announcing this remarkable partnership. The LACDB is "not just a grant of money," said the Vice President. "It is a extremely, carefully designed program -- designed by the community, put together by leaders within the community, who have long experience in figuring out how to get capital in the hands of entrepreneurs and small-business owners and people who can create jobs."

Mayor Riordan praised these inner-city revitalization efforts, saying, "The keystone to empowerment is jobs, quality jobs for all residents. That is what the Community Development Bank is all about."

WHERE ARE THE COMMUNITIES?



EMPOWERMENT ZONE (EZ)

Georgia: Atlanta
 Illinois: Chicago
 Kentucky: Kentucky Highlands*
 Maryland: Baltimore
 Michigan: Detroit
 Mississippi: Mid Delta*
 New York: Harlem, Bronx
 Pennsylvania/New Jersey: Philadelphia, Camden
 Texas: Rio Grande Valley*

SUPPLEMENTAL EMPOWERMENT ZONE (SEZ)

California: Los Angeles
 Ohio: Cleveland

ENHANCED ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY (EEC)

California: Oakland
 Massachusetts: Boston
 Missouri/Kansas: Kansas City, Kansas City
 Texas: Houston

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY (EC)

Alabama: Birmingham
 Alabama: Chambers County*
 Alabama: Greene, Sumter Counties*
 Arizona: Phoenix
 Arizona: Arizona Border*
 Arkansas: East Central*
 Arkansas: Mississippi County*
 Arkansas: Pulaski County
 California: Imperial County*
 California: L.A., Huntington Park
 California: San Diego
 California: San Francisco, Bayview, Hunter's Point
 California: Watsonville*
 Colorado: Denver

Connecticut: Bridgeport
 Connecticut: New Haven
 Delaware: Wilmington
 District of Columbia: Washington
 Florida: Jackson County*
 Florida: Tampa
 Florida: Miami, Dade County
 Georgia: Albany
 Georgia: Central Savannah*
 Georgia: Crisp, Dooley Counties*
 Illinois: East St. Louis
 Illinois: Springfield
 Indiana: Indianapolis
 Iowa: Des Moines
 Kentucky: Louisville
 Louisiana: Northeast Delta*
 Louisiana: Macon Ridge*
 Louisiana: New Orleans
 Louisiana: Ouachita Parish
 Massachusetts: Lowell
 Massachusetts: Springfield
 Michigan: Five Cap*
 Michigan: Flint
 Michigan: Muskegon
 Minnesota: Minneapolis
 Minnesota: St. Paul
 Mississippi: Jackson
 Mississippi: North Delta*
 Missouri: East Prairie*
 Missouri: St. Louis
 Nebraska: Omaha
 Nevada: Clarke County, Las Vegas
 New Hampshire: Manchester
 New Jersey: Newark
 New Mexico: Albuquerque
 New Mexico: Moro, Rio Arriba, Taos Counties*
 New York: Albany, Schenectady, Troy
 New York: Buffalo
 New York: Newburgh, Kingston
 New York: Rochester

North Carolina: Charlotte
 North Carolina: Halifax, Edgecombe, Wilson Counties*
 North Carolina: Robeson County*
 Ohio: Akron
 Ohio: Columbus
 Ohio: Greater Portsmouth*
 Oklahoma: Choctaw, McCurtain Counties*
 Oklahoma: Oklahoma City
 Oregon: Josephine*
 Oregon: Portland
 Pennsylvania: Harrisburg
 Pennsylvania: Lock Haven*
 Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh
 Rhode Island: Providence
 South Dakota: Beadle, Spink Counties*
 South Carolina: Charleston
 South Carolina: Williamsburg County*
 Tennessee: Fayette, Haywood Counties*
 Tennessee: Memphis
 Tennessee: Nashville
 Tennessee/Kentucky: Scott, McCreary Counties*
 Texas: Dallas
 Texas: El Paso
 Texas: San Antonio
 Texas: Waco
 Utah: Ogden
 Vermont: Burlington
 Virginia: Accomac*
 Virginia: Norfolk
 Washington: Lower Yakima*
 Washington: Seattle
 Washington: Tacoma
 West Virginia: West Central*
 West Virginia: Huntington
 West Virginia: McDowell*
 Wisconsin: Milwaukee
 * denotes rural designee

Urban ECs Reinvent Government Through One-Stop Centers

Three Enterprise Communities have embarked on their ambitious plans to consolidate service and business opportunities in centralized locations. The ECs in **Louisville, Minneapolis and Rochester** have developed centers that reflect each EC's interest in integrating social services, environmental services, or business opportunities.

The grand opening of the Neighborhood Place in **Louisville** took place on Friday, May 19. This integrated human services center will link health programs, educational services, family financial assistance, and job training and placement at a centralized location. Sylvia Johnson, director of the center, said "the staff at Neighborhood Place hope to be able to identify family services beyond 'quick fix' needs." In order to make the 30,000 residents of the area "full partners" in the effort, Johnson explained that the center will be overseen and staffed by community residents.

The **Minneapolis** EC has received considerable attention for its plans for an ambitious eco-industrial park complex. Designed by local residents, the Green Institute will include a business incubator and an urban environmental education center, as well as other services for community residents.

The Green Institute is located in the Philllips neighborhood, the site of a 12-year struggle with the city by the neighborhood residents who defeated plans to build a large county garbage transfer station. The concept for the Green Institute sprang from residents' interest in redirecting community energy from "preventing something bad to creating something good," said Sam Grant, the chair for the institute's incubator. Grant expects that the Green Institute will create at least 200 jobs in the neighborhood.

The **Rochester, NY** EC is serving the business development needs of its neighborhoods by co-locating a small business support center with a job training center for community residents. The EC's "One Stop Capital Shop" and its "Enterprise Community Employment Center" are already providing EC residents with centralized services.

PHILADELPHIA/CAMDEN

Continued from Page Three

vote for community candidates selected by the EZ's issue committees, who would comprise another portion of the board. On the EZ's election day, 1200 ballots were cast throughout the neighborhoods.

As a result of this electoral process, a majority of each neighborhood's governing body, known as the Community Trust Board, was selected directly by community residents. The balance of the board membership is made up of leaders from all sectors of the community -- church leaders, business people, educators, and others -- who lend expertise and resources to the Zone effort. But it is the residents' enthusiasm that fuels the work of the Community Trust Boards. "I want to show my children ten years from now that the future is different because of my involvement" in the board, said Iris Y. Torres, an elected resident representative from the American Street neighborhood.

Philadelphia also has created a network of Community Service Organizers -- residents or long-term activists in EZ neighborhoods who serve as full-time staff for the EZ program to ensure continuous community involvement. Each organizer works in the immediate EZ community, encouraging additional resident involvement and working closely with the Zone leadership.

Across the river in neighboring Camden, Zone residents also directly elected community leaders to the Camden Empowerment Trust Commission, which oversees the Camden EZ efforts. Camden Commissioner of Development and Redevelopment Debra Polk described the process of creating the Trust Commission (which also includes Camden business people, church leaders, and local government officials) as "smooth," largely because Camden moved quickly to establish the governance structure outlined in its winning application. Polk also noted that bringing together staff from different departments of the Camden city government was an improvement on some past efforts where the departments had often worked in isolation.

Philadelphia-Camden's strategy is only one example of how EZs and ECs nationwide are ensuring substantive community participation in their revitalization efforts. In Baltimore, EZ leaders are holding town hall meetings for hundreds of residents to discuss proposed multi-service "Village Centers" in Zone neighborhoods. In Atlanta, EZ organizers used computerized polling systems to obtain resident input.

WHO IS ON THE CEB?

The Community Empowerment Board, established by President Clinton in September 1993, is chaired by Vice President Gore. The Vice-Chairs are Domestic Policy Council Chair Carol Rasco and National Economic Council Chair Laura Tyson. Nineteen Federal Cabinet departments, agencies, and Executive offices are on the Board.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Agriculture (USDA)
Health and Human Services (HHS)
Commerce (DOC)
Education (DoED)
Energy (DOE)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Interior (DOI)
General Services Administration (GSA)
Justice (DOJ)
Labor (DOL)
Corporation for National Service (CNS)
Small Business Administration (SBA)
Transportation (DOT)
Treasury
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
Council of Economic Advisors (CEA)
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

SEND US NEWS!

The EZ/EC Task Force conducts the day-to-day operations of the EZ/EC initiative. Managed by HUD and USDA, the staff of the task force are senior government executives from many different agencies, who provide at the Federal level a single point of contact for EZ/EC issues. Every EZ and EC has a liaison at the task force; we encourage communities to submit comments or news items for future newsletters to your EZ/EC liaison. The task force's urban team can be reached by calling (202) 619-0314. The rural team can be found on (202) 619-7980.

END NOTES...All over the country, good things are happening in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities...

Groundbreaking was held in May for Cleveland's Bicentennial Village, a cooperatively financed model block in the heart of the city's Enhanced Enterprise Community; in addition, on June 8, Cleveland broke ground for a 93-unit single family housing development...Fort Lauderdale-based lender Waters Mortgage Corp. has agreed to make \$100 million in home loans in the Atlanta Empowerment Zone...Rural EC applicant Denmark, South Carolina has used the partnerships and community involvement created by the application process as a catalyst for new business creation -- since December, five new businesses have been established in this town of 4,000 people...Urban EC applicant Athens, Georgia also is moving ahead on implementing a number of projects from its strategic plan with help from HUD grants and loan guarantees; on June 7, Athens opened a neighborhood health facility in the heart of the EC area...

EZ/EC GOES ON-LINE!

The CEB has established a homepage on the World Wide Web of the Internet to provide direct electronic access to EZ/EC information. The homepage can be accessed at: [HTTP://WWW.EZEC.GOV](http://WWW.EZEC.GOV). The CEB is working to place continually updated EZ/EC information (including this newsletter) into this account. You currently can use the site to access background information about each of the EZ/EC sites and their strategic plans, and the guidebook to federal agencies' programs. Look for more on-line resources soon!

THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT BOARD NEWS

c/o The EZ/EC Task Force
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Washington, DC 20024