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Housing — Community Development

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

May 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CANNON

FROM: LYNN MAY Lynn

SUBJECT: Proposed New York Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center

I have forwarded the attached proposal to appropriate personnel in HUD for review and comment.

Attachment

Lynn - Can you give me your best judgment about whether there is any possibility of this meeting HUD's standards?

Jim

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CITIZENS
COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY, INC.
345 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022/(212) 593-9620

Chairman, Osborn Elliott
Executive Director, Dennis Allee

April 23, 1976

Dear Jim:

It was great to see you the other day in Washington, and I much appreciate your interest in our Citizens Committee for New York City, Inc. I hope that we can get together either here or there on May 7th or some other day soon.

In the meantime, here is some material on the Committee's latest proposal for a Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center. As I mentioned to you, our main focus is to help New Yorkers help each other and their city through these difficult times, and we are absolutely convinced that there is a huge reservoir of talent and energy that can be tapped for this cause. In fact, we have already generated more than 5,000 inquiries from volunteers who want to help the city, and are willing to work in various service areas for free.

But we think that the real strength lies in New York's neighborhoods and its 10,000 block associations, which is what the enclosed proposal addresses itself to. As Dennis Allee's memo notes, he has already been in touch with some Federal agencies, seeking assistance. We've just been advised by the Federal Regional Council that, while it thinks the proposal has considerable merit, it has no funds at the regional level to support it. Can the Domestic Council find funds in Washington for experimental or demonstration purposes?

Anything you can do to advance this project would of course be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks and all the best,

Mr. James A. Cannon,
Executive Director,
Domestic Council,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

Ag - P41

REGION II
FEDERAL REGIONAL COUNCIL

26 FEDERAL PLAZA
SUITE 3541
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007
(212) 264-8068

April 21, 1976

Mr. Dennis H. Allee
Executive Director
Citizens Committee for New York City,
Incorporated
345 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear ~~Mr. Allee:~~ Dennis

We have received the two preliminary proposals you submitted to the Federal Regional Council for possible demonstration project funding.

The proposals have been circulated to our membership for review and comment. Although the proposals appear to be of considerable merit we have received negative funding responses from the FRC agencies. One agency, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare is responding to your office directly.

We are sorry that we cannot offer funding assistance to implement these projects.

Sincerely,

Bill

S. William Green
Chairman, Federal Regional Council

CHAIRMAN:

S. WILLIAM GREEN
Regional Administrator
Department of Housing
and Urban Development

MEMBERS:

ROGER BABB
Regional Representative
Department of Interior

BERNICE L. BERNSTEIN
Regional Director
Department of Health
Education and Welfare

STEPHEN D. BLUM
Regional Director
Department of Labor

BAYARD S. FORSTER
Secretarial Representative
Department of Transportation

GERALD M. HANSLER
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
and FRC Vice-Chairman

ALFRED KLEINFELD
Regional Administrator
Federal Energy Administration

MICHAEL J. A. LONERGAN
Regional Representative
Department of Agriculture

MICHAEL A. McMANUS
Secretarial Representative
Department of Commerce

JULES TESLER
Regional Administrator
Law Enforcement
Assistance Administration

WILLIAM A. WHITE
Acting Regional Director
Community Services Administration

ESTELLE GUZIK
Staff Director
212-264-0723

March 12, 1976

Hon. S. William Green
Regional Administrator
Region II
Department of Housing and Urban
Development
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10007

Dear Bill:

I enclose two preliminary proposals prepared by the Citizens Committee for New York City, Inc. entitled:

(1) Assistance to New York City's Community Boards in Carrying Out Their Service Monitoring and Citizen Information Duties under the New City Charter; and

(2) Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center.

The Citizens Committee would appreciate it very much if you would submit the proposals to the Regional Council for their consideration as possible demonstration or experimental projects. The first proposal, relating to the City's Community Boards, has been developed in conjunction with Victor Marrero, Chairman of the City Planning Commission. The second proposal relates to the overall program being developed by the Citizens Committee to involve New Yorkers in self-help projects in their communities.

I also enclose a brief description of the Citizens Committee and a copy of the detailed program announced jointly by the Committee and the City Administration on February 24, 1976 to involve citizens in volunteer and community service projects to help the City during the fiscal crisis.

Best regards,

Dennis H. Allee
Executive Director

CITIZENS
COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY, INC.
345 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022/(212) 593-9620

Chairman, Osborn Elliott
Executive Director, Dennis Allee

TO: Oz Elliott April 19,1976

FROM: Dennis Allee

Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center

I enclose a copy of the revised proposal for a self-help assistance center to encourage and assist service-related projects in New York City based on the voluntary action of citizens at the neighborho7d level.

The proposal reflects the minimum professional support required to effectively sustain a major self-help effort in a city the size of New York. In fact, based on our experience to date, a one million dollar budget for a two year effort to involve tens of thousands of New Yorkers in community self-help programs would be more realistic. The planning, organization, support and dissemination of information about self-help activities in service areas devastated by budget cuts--parks, senior citizens, health, housing and neighborhood preservation, education and security -- is an enormous task, one which requires a solid base of professional expertise to succeed.

In March I submitted a preliminary prospectus for the neighborhood self-help assistance center to William Green, Regional Administrator of HUD with the request that it be considered for possible endorsement by the Federal Regional Council for Region II. Copies were also sent to Bernice Bernstein of HEW; Andy White of CSA and Dominic Massaro of ACTION.* In doing so, it was my hope that the Federal Regional Council would help to secure multi-agency support of the center from experimental or demonstration funds available in Washington. In other words, the proposal is ideally suited for modest support from several federal agencies because it calls for self-help specialists in a variety of different service areas. To date, I have heard nothing from the Regional Council.

It is my judgment that if we could obtain federal support for a two year pilot project at the scale contemplated--and supplement this with foundation funding, we would be able to lay the groundwork for major and important self-help initiatives in New York City to ease the impact of cutbacks in municipal services over the next five years.

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* Senators Javits and Buckley also received copies.

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Certainly, federal funding of a catalytic program to promote self-help in New York would be a sound investment from an economic standpoint. Another inevitable benefit of the center would be the encouragement of badly needed citizen forums to make city agencies more accountable for their expenditures and performance at the local level.

files

March 15, 1976

Hon. James L. Buckley
17 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Buckley:

I enclose two preliminary proposals of the Citizens Committee for which federal assistance is sought as demonstration or experimental projects.

The first requests $800,000 for a two year project to help New York City's Community Boards assume their new service planning, service monitoring and citizen information programs under the new City Charter.

The second requests $600,000 for a two year project to provide the Citizens Committee with community self-help specialists in seven service areas and five borough coordinators to organize self-help groups and programs.

Both proposals were delivered to Bill Green on Friday, March 12, with a request that they be submitted for review to the Federal Regional Council.

Any guidance you can provide as to possible sources of support in Washington would be greatly appreciated by the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis H. Allee
Executive Director

Enclosures

files

March 15, 1976

Hon. Jacob K. Javits
321 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Javits:

I enclose two preliminary proposals of the Citizens Committee for which federal assistance is sought as demmnstration or experimental projects.

The first requests $800,000 for a two year project to help New York City's Community Boards assume their new service planning, service monitoring and citizen information programs under the new City Charter.

The second requests $600,000 for a two year project to provide the Citizens Committee with community self-help specialists in seven service areas and five borough coordinators to organize self-help groups and programs.

Both proposals were delivered to Bill Green on Friday, March 12, with a request that they be submitted for review to the Federal Regional Council.

Any guidance you can provide as to possible sources of support in Washington would be greatly appreciated by the Committee.

With warm regards,

enclosures

Dennis H. Allee
Executive Director

CITIZENS
COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY, INC.
345 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022/(212) 593-9620

Chairman, Osborn Elliott
Executive Director, Dennis Allee

Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center

This proposal seeks support for a Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center to be sponsored by the Citizens Committee for New York City, Inc. The center's purpose will be to involve the residents and instituions of New York City in programs of self-help* in their communities during the fiscal crisis to ease the impact of cutbacks in municipal services. Funding at an annual level of $385,000 is requested for the following:

(1) Seven service specialists equipped to assist local groups in the planning, organization and implementation of self-help projects. These specialists will be assigned to the following service areas:

- security and safety
- sanitation and the environment
- senior citizens
- housing and neighborhood preservation
- parks and beautification
- youth and recreation
- health, education and consumer affairs

(2) Five borough coordinators to organize local self-help groups

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*"Self-help," for purposes of this proposal, means programs of voluntary action, related to basic services, that citizens can undertake in their neighborhoods.

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and projects; to develop educational programs and hold workshops for community groups; to mobilize volunteers and enlist the cooperation of City agencies for self-help activities; and to help identify local resources in support of projects;

(3) Support specialists for community self-help programs, including communications and resource identification experts and block association organizers;

(4) Special projects supportive of community self-help, including informational pamphlets on self-help projects in specific areas, a directory of projects and where to obtain assistance, and special conferences, workshops and other events to promote and publicize neighborhood self-help.

Description of Citizens Committee

The Citizens Committee for New York City, Inc. was formed during the fall of 1975 to channel the energies and talents of concerned New Yorkers into constructive programs of assistance to the City during the fiscal crisis. The Committee is a non-profit corporation with a non-partisan charter membership of 300 persons drawn from all segments of the New York City community.*

The involvement of New Yorkers from all five boroughs in self-help activities to preserve and develop their own neighborhoods -- in the face of devastating cuts in municipal services -- is a major program objective defined by the Citizens Committee.

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*The Committee is in the process of being expanded to approximately 500 members. A brief description is enclosed as Attachment A.

Specifically, the Committee seeks to encourage the formation of new self-help groups at the neighborhood level and to enlist them in service related, self-help projects. It views its role as that of a catalyst: to inform and educate New Yorkers about the potential for community self-help to fill service gaps and to assist local groups in planning specific self-help programs. The Committee itself will not operate direct service programs.

Operating with a small paid staff and volunteers, the Committee has begun to develop informational projects in furtherance of its community self-help objectives, including:

- "Lend A Hand" literature on block associations and self-help sanitation projects;
- Resource directory of exemplary self-help projects and how to organize them;
- Block association fair and conference for 2,500 groups to be held on May 14, 1976;
- Community self-help conference for high school students to be held on May 20, 1976;
- An ongoing communications campaign to highlight successful neighborhood self-help groups and projects;
- Special projects to encourage block associations, schools, churches, senior citizens, youth groups, businesses and civic groups to undertake self-help projects;
- Special self-help programs with City departments, including a "Lend a Hand for a Cleaner New York" campaign with the Sanitation Department, announced on April 12, 1976;

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- A community self-help fund (privately funded) to assist and publicize outstanding self-help projects in various service categories.

These and other projects, in planning or underway, have a central theme: to generate information about the concept of self-help in order to involve citizens -- in vastly increased numbers -- in voluntary programs to help maintain the quality of life in City neighborhoods.

Need for Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center

In addition to informational projects, the Citizens Committee believes that, to have a significant impact, it must be able to provide local neighborhoods with specialized assistance in the planning and formation of self-help groups and service projects. To do this, it needs to develop expertise in service areas with potential for citizen involvement.

New York City is in for hard times during the next five to ten years. For fiscal year 1975 - 1976 a reduction in the City's budget of $200 million is being carried out under the financial plan approved by the State Emergency Financial Control Board, and important municipal services have already been adversely affected. Budget cuts of $379 million are projected for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976, and $442 million in cuts are called for in fiscal year 1977 - 1978. These reductions will have severe consequences for the quality and quantity of many vital services, and huge service gaps are expected.

Faced with this prospect, the citizens of New York City -- in affluent and poor neighborhoods -- will either have to devise alternative ways to provide services or do without them. Realization of this fact was manifested by the City Administration on February 24, 1976, when Mayor Beame and the Citizens Committee announced a three-pronged plan* to involve the people of New York in programs to help the City provide services that can no longer be supported at current levels because of fiscal austerities imposed by the three-year financial plan, to wit

- programs using part-time volunteers in City departments to supplement and support the work of civil servants;
- service related programs of community self-help undertaken by citizens in their own neighborhoods; and
- mobilization of the financial and human resources of the City's business community, churches, schools and other institutions in support of self-help programs to sustain selected services decimated by budget cuts.

The first prong of the overall program -- recruitment of volunteers for City cepartments -- is underway and over 1,000 volunteers have already been recruited to work in City funded service programs through a sustained communications campaign spearheaded by the Citizens Committee.

Modest financial support to enable the Citizens Committee to assist local self-help groups organize volunteer projects in their neighborhoods would be a sound investment at this critical juncture for the City.

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*A copy of the plan is annexed as Attachment B.

Currently, no other city-wide organization is addressing the fundamental issue of community self-help based on the voluntary action of citizens as partial relief for the City's deep-seated fiscal problems. Some groups, such as the Committee in the Public Interest, have concerned themselves with the City's image. Others, such as the Community Council's Task Force on the New York City Crisis, seek to articulate service priorities in the face of a prolonged period of diminishing resources; and still other groups, such as the Mayor's Voluntary Action Center, are coordinating with the Citizens Committee to expand the City's centralized volunteer programs. But no city-wide group, aside from the Citizens Committee, is grappling with the following:

1. How to infuse part-time volunteers into programs of City departments at the community level that have been crippled by budget cuts; and how to sensitize City bureaucracies and civil servants to the local use of volunteers in supportive roles on a vastly expanded scale;
2. How to mobilize block associations and other neighborhood groups to undertake service related, self-help projects; and how to provide them with incentives to sustain projects over a period of time;
3. How to recruit volunteers locally for community self-help projects;
4. How to develop an information network to publicize outstanding self-help projects as models for others to follow; and how to enlist successful self-help groups to educate and assist others;

5. How to marshall private resources of corporations and foundations in support of the modest needs of local groups in carrying out self-help projects;

6. How to enlist the active backing and support of the City's unique and varied local interest groups (block associations, churches, civic groups, merchants, fraternal associations, etc.) for community self-help programs; and

7. How to raise public consciousness about the long range value and potential of community self-help for the City's morale, sense of "community" and image.

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) is beginning to develop a role in the area of self-help through its thirty-four field offices, but its ability to serve as the catalyst for a major thrust in this area is severely limited by lack of resources, an overburdened staff, limited managerial capacity, and other assignments (such as administering the City's youth services component recently shifted to ONS). The Citizens Committee, through its proposed Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center, hopes to fill this void.

Specific Features of Center

The Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center is the cornerstone of the Committee's efforts to mobilize New Yorkers to help themselves in their own neighborhoods. Some specific features of the Center include:

A. Service Specialists

The Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center will be comprised of a small, professional cadre of service specialists equipped

to assist local groups in developing self-help programs in a number of important service areas. These specialists will support the Committee's five borough coordinators.

Currently, the Committee has staff members doubling in parks and sanitation, and lesser degrees of staff and volunteer specialization for cultural institutions, economic development, housing, criminal justice, schools and select social services.

This self-help expertise needs to be expanded in the following areas:*

(1) Security and Safety. This is perceived by many as the City's number one problem and there is widespread public interest in citizens' programs for neighborhood security and safety. Many programs are already sponsored by the Police Department (there are 203 civilian radio patrols, 5,300 auxiliary police, and 21,000 block watchers) and entire communities -- the Rockaways and central Harlem, for two examples -- are mobilizing to combat crime locally through self-help programs. Because of the great potential for more programs,** special expertise is needed to plan self-help security programs with local groups; to provide them with "how to" educational material and information; to work out cooperative relationships with the Police Department and other law enforcement agencies; and to locate private resources to buttress self-help efforts.

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*Only brief summaries of the service area and need for expertise are provided. The kinds of specific self-help projects for which assistance is needed are listed in Attachment C.

**The Citizens Committee believes, for example, that the civilian car patrol program could be trebled in one year with proper planning and the availability of civilian band radios.

In related criminal justice areas, expertise is needed in the development of self-help programs supportive of rehabilitated individuals as well as assistance to the families of incarcerated persons and to community based prevention programs for juveniles.

The Citizens Committee currently has no one assigned to this area except for resource identification and such time as the executive director has been able to devote to it.

(2) Sanitation and the Environment. The Sanitation Department has been hit hard by budget cuts, and the new Commissioner, Anthony Vaccarello, has already announced expansion of the civilian sanitation patrols that identify and monitor violations of the sanitation laws.

In April, the Department launched with the Citizens Committee a "Lend a Hand for a Cleaner New York" campaign to involve citizens in clean-up and environmental projects in their neighborhoods. In addition to revitalization of the civilian patrols, projects include the creation of a citizen sweep corps (2,500 street brooms are being distributed), distribution of litter baskets to block associations, special sanitation projects involving merchants and the local sanitation councils, and a mobile education van. In addition, area cleanups in all five boroughs are scheduled for May.

The Citizens Committee assumed major responsibility for planning this comprehensive program in conjunction with the Sanitation Department.

The Citizens Committee has one person working in this area, but she also is involved with parks and senior citizens.

(3) Senior Citizens. For no other service does there exist a greater need for citizen self-help programs at the neighborhood level. Over one million senior citizens reside in the City, and hundreds of thousands of them are poor and neglected.

The Citizens Committee, working with churches, schools and City funded agencies, would like to energize local neighborhood groups to work with the elderly on their blocks in a variety of ways, including:

- escort service
- visits and calls to the homebound
- recreation and education programs
- food delivery programs
- mini-senior centers

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The Committee is in the process of developing a surplus food program for neighborhood senior centers in conjunction with a leading supermarket chain. In addition, the Committee has begun to plan a Senior Citizens Neighborhood Corps to involve seniors in community self-help projects throughout the City.

The Citizens Committee needs a senior citizen specialist to implement self-help projects and to mobilize the vast reservoir of potential voluntary assistance to senior citizens at the neighborhood level. Initial planning for the senior citizens neighborhood corps is being handled by the executive director. At least one full-time specialist is required if the

Committee is to be an effective catalyst in this area.

(4) Housing and Neighborhood Preservation. Self-help housing maintenance and repair programs of all kinds have great potential in many sections of the City. Local residents who wish to undertake self-help programs of modest home repair or exterior repair or renovation of buildings in their neighborhoods require information and technical assistance. Self-help tenant programs need help with questions of landlord/tenant relations, the administrative requirements of public agencies relating to permits and approvals, and the organization of such programs as Adopt-a-Building.

Volunteer skills and donated materials are needed to maintain and preserve neighborhood facilities. This includes the filling of pot holes, repairing benches and sidewalks, sealing vacant buildings, and painting public facilities.

The Citizens Committee has no one assigned to this important area.

(5) Parks and Beautification. This service has been devastated by budget cuts. Martin Lang, the new head of Parks and Recreation, has strongly endorsed the concept of citizen self-help, and recently designated a Deputy Commissioner to develop volunteer programs with community groups in collaboration with the department. Established community groups are being sought to "adopt" local parks and street trees throughout the City. Other projects will vary from park to park but include such activities as gardening, cleanups, grading and

maintenance, tree care, and programming of special events. Still other beautification projects include caring for vest pocket parks and street malls, community gardens, playlots, and the painting of public facilities such as hydrants, tree guards, walls and buildings.

To organize self-help programs on a scale to meet the demand, the Parks Department needs planning assistance as do community groups that have expressed interest in adopt-a-park activities. The Citizens Committee has offered the department and other groups, such as the Parks Council, its help in organizing these efforts, but needs a full-time specialist to fulfill this commitment.

(6) Youth and Recreation. Municipal service cuts have been especially harsh on youth programs. Yet, with careful planning and help with equipment needs, self-help programs could minimize service gaps in this vital area. Among the local program possibilities are:

- after school recreation centers
- athletic programs and teams
- operation of playlots or other recreational facilities
- arts and crafts centers
- beautification and parks maintenance programs
- environmental cleanup programs
- service monitoring projects (e.g., food stamp program)
- neighborhood youth workers to work with youth gangs
- drug abuse education and counseling

- remedial reading and tutoring
- trips (after school and weekends)
- music (choirs, marching bands)
- street olympics

The absence of good programming has been a major defect in the City's youth programs. The Center's youth and recreation expert would concentrate on "model" programs -- built on volunteer or private resources -- that have potential for application in neighborhoods throughout the City. At present, the Committee has no one assigned full time to this activity.

(7) Health, Education and Consumer Affairs. In the health field, the Center's specialist would encourage and help to sustain many potentially valuable self-help efforts, including:

- volunteer ambulance services
- pest control projects
- health fairs and other prevention projects
- neighborhood referral programs
- free health tests
- eye test clinics

The Center would also develop volunteer programs to assist the Department of Health's local programs, including:

- enlistment of volunteers to serve as clinic assistants in district health centers, child health stations and school health programs operated by the Department of Health;
- enlistment of volunteer to provide direct patient assistance which does not require professional training, such as

recording the weight and height of patients prior to their examination by a physician;

- patient interviewing and screening;
- assistance to the Public Health nurses in patient follow-up;
- community outreach to families for preventive health care.

The Citizens Committee has no one assigned full time to this area and could use one specialist.

In the area of education the Center would concentrate on developing neighborhood tutoring and remedial programs for children as well as volunteer adult education programs to replace those eliminated by the budget cuts. With respect to the latter, discussions are underway with several church groups.

The Board of Education and the Citizens Committee are exploring ways to increase the involvement of high school students in community self-help programs. A specialist is needed to provide ongoing support for this activity which is now being handled by the executive director.

Consumer affairs is another area with potential for neighborhood self-help -- and there is great need because of acute manpower losses suffered by the Department of Consumer Affairs. A specialist would assist the department to develop consumer training programs for block associations and other local groups and plan various kinds of consumer spotter and monitoring programs in local neighborhoods.

B. Borough Self-Help Coordinators

Block and neighborhood associations, civic and merchant groups, churches, and fraternal groups from all over the City have sought information and assistance from the Citizens Committee during the five months of its existence. The Committee's small cadre of paid staff and volunteers has received numerous requests for speakers on voluntary action, informational materials on self-help, aid in starting block associations and technical assistance on how to organize self-help projects in a variety of service areas.

Staff of the Citizens Committee has begun to develop outreach through informal workshops to enlist leaders of active block associations and other local groups as spokesmen on self-help programs in their communities. However, the Committee cannot adequately service requests for assistance from local communities without a full-time presence in each of the five boroughs. Some Committee members have helped to provide this self-help outreach in areas such as the South Bronx, Bedford Stuyvesant, the Rockaways, Staten Island, Jamaica and Mid-Queens, but these individuals all have other responsibilities. What the Committee needs, in addition, is the capacity to provide information, organizational help and planning assistance to local self-help groups on an ongoing basis within each borough.

Five full-time borough coordinators will serve as the cornerstone of the Citizens Committee's outreach programs. Located in the boroughs, they will be responsible for identifying and linking up with self-help groups at the neighborhood level and for training volunteers to service local self-help programs. Their specific

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duties will include:

- organization of new self-help groups
- planning of self-help projects with local groups, the Office of Neighborhood Services, the Community Boards and City departments
- recruitment of volunteers for local self-help projects
- enlistment of public and private agency support for self-help projects
- holding of self-help workshops for local groups
- identification of resources in support of self-help projects

The borough coordinators will be able to call on the Committee's service specialists (see above) and other personnel in communications and resource identification for back up assistance on specific projects. They will also organize borough advisory groups, comprised of Committee members and representatives of self-help programs, to help with overall planning and to serve as a forum for the exchange of self-help information.

Four times a year each borough coordinator will prepare a written report on borough self-help activities for the Citizens Committee's board of directors and executive director.

C. Support Specialists

Communications: An essential ingredient of the Citizens Committee's overall program is to publicize self-help activities and to develop an overall communications program to facilitate the exchange of information about self-help.

A sustained media program to stimulate community self-help activities will have many positive advantages:

(1) At the most fundamental level, it can help to change basic attitudes of New Yorkers about the desirability and need for self-help based on voluntary action in the face of crippling budget cuts.

(2) It can highlight "models" of community self-help programs for other to emulate.

(3) It can provide reward and recognition to local groups whose efforts otherwise would not be known outside their immediate neighborhoods.

(4) It can serve as a tool to enlist citizens and local groups in self-help projects and to stimulate new projects.

The Citizens Committee has devoted considerable time trying to get the message out to New Yorkers about the contributions that volunteer programs can make to ease the City's fiscal plight. Several full-page advertisements have been run in the daily papers; volunteer public service spots have been placed in numerous local T.V. and radio outlets; national and local media have been fed stories about "help the City" efforts, and representatives of radio and T.V. stations, city-wide and local papers have been encouraged to develop special projects and features to promote volunteerism in City agencies.

Beginning in May, the Committee will shift its communications efforts to "community self-help" with particular emphasis on stories and spot advertisements in local community newspapers and the highlighting of successful self-help projects in the city-wide media.

To be able to coordinate this comprehensive communications program, the Committee needs support for one communications specialist.

Resource Identification: Numerous community self-help projects based on voluntary action require small infusions of funds for equipment and other special needs. For many groups -- especially from neighborhoods where residents are of modest means -- the inability to finance small project needs has been a serious impediment to the expansion of self-help efforts. This is true, for example, of the Police Department's successful civilian band radio program.

The Citizens Committee is not in business to locate resources for individual self-help programs, but it will try to marshall private support for bulk equipment needs of select self-help projects that have potential for widespread application, such as:

- civilian band radios
- self-help sanitation equipment (power sweepers, brooms, litter baskets)
- building materials, paint and tools for neighborhood preservation projects
- trees, tools, shrubs for parks and beautification projects
- books, athletic and educational equipment for youth and senior citizen programs

In addition, the Committee would like to be able to help self-help groups by identifying specialized volunteer talent to assist them in planning and implementing projects -- such as lawyers, auditors, planners, fund raisers, public relations experts, etc.

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The Committee has one person devoted full time to resource identification and is in the process of putting together a resource identification committee from among its members. Funds are needed for the specialist's salary and for additional assistance because of a rapidly expanding list of projects and the enormous amount of work required for this function.

Block Association Organizers: The crux of the Citizens Committee's program is support for and encouragement of self-help groups at the neighborhood level. As the foundation for such an effort, the Committee intends to focus on revitalizing the City's block association movement. There are thousands of block and neighborhood associations in the City (and over 35,000 blocks) with potential for involvement in self-help service projects. Specific programs planned include:

- a major city-wide block association fair and conference to be held on May 15 at which over 2,500 organizations will be represented;
- educational pamphlets and directories on block associations and self-help projects;
- a speakers bureau comprised of block association leaders to advise local groups on the formation of block associations and on self-help opportunities and assistance available to them;
- a technical assistance unit to help block associations plan self-help projects;
- special projects involving block associations on a city-wide basis (e.g., distribution of litter baskets to block associations as part of the Lend A Hand for a Cleaner New

York campaign);

Work on the above projects, and others, is currently being handled by the Committee's one block association expert, but the volume of work requires at least three full-time specialists. This is especially true for the task of organizing and administering volunteers to man the speakers bureau and technical assistance unit.

Funding support for two block association organizers is essential.

D. Special Projects

In order to provide maximum visibility and support to community self-help activities throughout the City, the Citizens Committee has planned several special projects. These include:

(1) A half-hour film in conjunction with First National City featuring outstanding examples of community self-help for widespread dissemination throughout the City.

(2) A Community Self-Help Fund* to assist and provide recognition to outstanding self-help projects through small grants made at periodic intervals during the year (see Attachment D).

(3) A series of "Lend A Hand" self-help pamphlets** for block associations, sanitation, senior citizens, security, education, health, parks and beautification, housing, neighborhood preservation and consumer affairs.

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*About $50,000 has already been pledged for the Fund by several foundations.

**Pamphlets in the first two areas are in production and 25,000 copies of the block association pamphlet will be ready for distribution in mid-May.

(4) A directory of 75 to 100 self-help projects, including a brief description, basic steps to implement projects and where to obtain assistance and information.

(5) Conferences and workshops, including the city-wide conference for block associations to be held on May 15 and a self-help conference for high schools to be held in conjunction with the Board of Education on May 20. In addition, the Committee would like to arrange a series of self-help workshops throughout the City and additional conferences in the areas of security and senior citizens.

(6) A communications program to raise public consciousness about community self-help, including advertisements in newspapers, public service spots for T.V. and radio, a self-help bulletin board in local neighborhood papers, and special programs to highlight and publicize outstanding self-help programs.

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Budget

(One Year)

	Item		Amount
1.	Director Neighborhood Self-Help Assistance Center		$ 25,000
2.	Seven service specialists ($16,000 each)		112,000
3.	Five borough coordinators ($14,000 each)		70,000
4.	Support specialists for communications ($15,000), resource identification ($15,000), and block associations (2 - $13,000 each)		56,000
5.	Clerical staff for items 1-4 (8 secretaries at $9,000 each)		72,000
6.	Special Projects		50,000
	a. "How to" pamphlets and project directory	($20,000)	
	b. Conferences & workshops	($10,000)	
	c. Communications program	($20,000)	
	TOTAL COSTS:		$385,000

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON

SUBJECT: Response to Mayor Cianci
Providence, Rhode Island

Mayor Vincent Cianci wrote to you on May 10, expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the White House meeting on "Ethnicity and Neighborhood Revitalization."

Attached at Tab A is a draft reply for your signature.

GERALD R. FORD

Executive Chamber, City of Providence, Rhode Island

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.
MAYOR

May 10, 1976

Steve McConahey

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Ford:

I was delighted to participate with you, the honorable members of the Cabinet, and the various representatives from different parts of the country at the White House meeting last week on "Ethnicity and Neighborhood Revitalization." Your commitment "to strengthen the ties of community and neighborhood within our society," is deeply appreciated by those of us who have begun our individual work in our communities, and by your appointment of Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr. and Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, you give visible support of the high priority in which you view this program. The skills and empathy of these two fine men were in evidence by the manner in which they conducted the special meeting, and by their clear presentation of the policies of your administration in regard to neighborhood revitalization.

The consensus of those present was to urge you to consider the establishment of a Presidential Task Force, Commission, or Council to promote a national neighborhood policy to revitalize the neighborhoods in our urban centers. By such action and continuing discussion on matters of ethnicity and neighborhood revitalization, the work of your administration in the rejuvenation of our cities will move forward into the 1980's with a firm direction. In this manner, furthermore, we can begin to help individual communities help themselves toward a brighter future. I look forward to continuing discussions with you and your staff in the days ahead.

Warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

Vincent A. Cianci

VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
Mayor of Providence

VAC

cc: Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr.
Dr. Myron B. Kuropas

EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE

May 24, 1976

Dear Mayor Cianci:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the White House meeting on "Ethnicity and Neighborhood Revitalization."

I very much appreciated your participation and am pleased to hear that you viewed the meeting as a positive step toward resolving the many issues faced by the neighborhoods of our large urban areas.

Sincerely,

Honorable Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.
Mayor of Providence
Providence, Rhode Island

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RETURN IT WITH THE FILE COPIES TO ORIGINATING OFFICE

Housing

ETHNIC PURITY - NEW JERSEY

Q: Could you elaborate on your views, as first expressed in the Rose Garden news conference with the American Society of Newspaper Editors, on what role the Federal and State governments should play in opening up suburbs or racially restricted areas of cities to member of minority groups and specifically to blacks.

A: I stated at that time that I supported existing Federal housing laws. The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the first law that I signed when I took office, provides for greater participation by State and local governments in the use of Federal funds for housing and urban needs.

The law also provides, however, that communities which apply for Federal Community Development Block Grants must provide a housing assistance plan for low-income people residing in the community or expected to reside, which complies with civil rights legislation and provides adequate citizen participation.

Another part of the law, Section 8, provides direct cash assistance for lower-income families to meet their housing needs. This provision avoids the massive housing projects that characterized former Federal public housing programs, which antagonized many suburban communities.

Taken together, the various provisions of the 1974 Act provide a sensible and flexible guideline for the interaction of Federal, State and local governments in the matter of low-income housing.

FLM
6/2/76

CD

THE WHITE HOUSE

INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CANNON

FROM: LYNN MAY Lynn

SUBJECT: Possible Denial of Boston's Community Development Block Grants

Attached is correspondence from the HUD Regional Office concerning possible disapproval of Boston's Second Year Block Grant Entitlement application. In light of the busing situation, I felt you should be aware of this development.

I will monitor closely HUD's negotiations with Boston in this matter and keep you advised.

Attachment
cc: Jim Cavanaugh
Art Quern
Steve McConahey
Dick Parsons

On what grounds?
Can you translate ~~for~~ from the officialese?
Thanks Jim

HUD-96 (7-72) PREVIOUS EDITION MAY BE USED

Memorandum

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

TO : David O. Meeker, Jr., Assistant Secretary for CPD, C

DATE: 10 JUN 1976

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.1G:CM

FROM : William H. Hernandez, Jr., Boston Area Office, 1.1S

SUBJECT: Recommendation of Disapproval of City of Boston's Second Year Entitlement Application
Program No. B-76-MC-25-002

This memorandum will advise you that the Boston Area Office has completed the review of Boston's Application for Second Year Block Grant Entitlement funding and has determined that the Application should be disapproved unless the applicant makes certain additions to its statement of needs and objectives and develops activities appropriate to meet these needs and objectives. The City has failed to comply with 24CFR570.303(a) which requires the applicant to "take into consideration and summarize" special needs which are found to exist for members of an identifiable segment of the total group of lower-income persons in the City. Noncompliance with Section 303(a) is a basis for disapproval of the application under Section 104(c)(3) of Title I and Section 306(b)(2)(iii) of the Regulations. Specifically, the special needs not identified by the applicant are the need for programs to increase access by minorities to predominately white neighborhoods and to services and facilities located therein and for services to protect those minority persons living or seeking to live in such neighborhoods against violence and harassment.

Notwithstanding this issue, the application is otherwise approvable. At the request of Mr. Maynard, we will not pursue this issue with Boston until the Central Office has had an opportunity to concur in the precise text of such communication. We are forwarding herewith a copy of the application and all technical reviews.

Area Office Director

Enclosures

Memorandum

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

TO : John Morgan, Chief Program ning and Support Branch, 1.1CPS

DATE: June 8, 1976

IN REPLY REFER TO: 1.1E

FROM : James R. Turner, Jr., Equal Opportunity Division, 1.1E

SUBJECT: Year 2 CDBG Entitlement Application Review Boston, Mass.-Grant No.B-76-MC-25-0002

This Division has carefully reviewed the subject application, and at this time cannot recommend that it be approved for reasons as follows:

1. Negative findings resulting from the Annual In-House Review (transmitted on May 12, 1976)

2. Inconsistency with the provisions of Section 570.306(b)(2) of the CDBG regulations, insofar as Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity staff has determined that on the basis of significant facts and data generally available and pertaining to community housing needs and objectives, the applicant's description of such needs and objectives is plainly inconsistent with such facts and data.

3. HAP data is incomplete.

With respect to the second reason, section 570.303(a) gives us the authority to take into account, in our review of entitlement applications whether the applicant has, in identifying its needs, taken into consideration and summarized any special needs found to exist in any identifiable segment of the total group of lower-income persons in the community. This section also states that the plans should be written in a manner to encompass the needs, strategy, and ... to provide community development facilities and public improvements, including the provision of supporting ... social and similar services where necessary and appropriate. Our authority to recommend such action has in fact been further clarified by a memorandum signed jointly by Assistant Secretaries Blair and Meeker (re:FH & EO Review of Entitlement Applications, May 6, 1976).

The FH & EO Division has determined that substantial evidence, including significant facts and data exist that indicates a failure on the part of the applicant to comply with section 570.303(a). Specifically, in the presentation of its "Statement of Needs", the applicant elaborates in item A on the many factors that have brought on instability in and exerted negative influences on Boston's neighborhoods. We agree that these factors and the needs associated with them are elements which effect lower-income residents of the City. However, the applicant has neglected to cite several important factors which significantly impact upon Blacks and Hispanics as identifiable segments of the total group of lower-income persons in the community, and consider their special needs found to exist because of the existence of these factors.

The factors (or obstacles to the pursuit of their Civil Rights under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Executive Order 11063 and Section 109 of Title I-H&CD Act of 1974) we are referring to are:

1. The existence of racially segregated housing patterns in the City of Boston.

2. The absence of applicant initiated provisions for equal opportunities in housing and freedom of choice for all individuals, and

3. The inability of the applicant to assure, as stated in Section 109, that ... no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, or sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or part under this title.

In light of the reality of those factors, it is this Division's opinion that a critical need of the City is to provide social and similar programs to remove these obstacles to a "genuinely open community."

Pursuant to Section 507.306(b)(1), evidence, including significant facts and data substantiating the above findings are as follows:

1. Data from the 1970 Census reflects that eight (8) of the fifteen (15) Planning Districts (referred to as neighborhoods by Boston residents) are 4% or less minority. These Districts are: East Boston, Charlestown, South Boston, North End, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, and Dorchester.

2. Minority population of the inner-city neighborhoods of South End, Jamaica Plain-Parker Hill, Washington Park, and Mattapan-Franklin ranges from 28% to 67%.

3. Racial occupancy of Federally-assisted Public Housing and FHA subsidized multifamily housing located in the aforementioned twelve neighborhoods generally reflects the racial composition of the neighborhoods.

4. There is a court case which is pending against the Boston Housing Authority (Armando Perez et als. vs Boston Housing Authority). In this civil action suit, the Housing Court of the City of Boston has made a finding of fact that:

   "... occupancy by race in B.H.A.'s Federal and State-aided family developments reinforces in many cases and exacerbates in some cases racial segregation in Boston's neighborhoods...that B.H.A.'s leased housing in

terms of its location and occupancy by race not only exacerbates racial segregation in Boston but also impacts certain neighborhoods.

The Court's final opinion is that the facts found indicate that occupancy by race in B.H.A.'s developments and leased housing reinforces and exacerbates segregated housing patterns in Boston's neighborhoods.

5. The Equal Opportunity officer of the B.H.A. has compiled documentation pertaining to cases involving harrassment of and violence committed against tenants of Public housing in the following neighborhoods:

   A. Charlestown - Two families were transferred from Project No.Mass 2-1 due to racially motivated harrassment, and the actual beating of one tenant.

   B. East Boston - due to violence related to the School Desegragation Court Order, seven minority families were transferred from Project No.Mass 2-52 and 12 families from Mass 2-8.

   C. South Boston - eight minority families have moved from Mass 2-23 due to harrassment and physical attacks on small children.

6. The Morgan vs. Hennigan Suit, 379 F.Supp. 410(1974), the Boston School Desegregation Case brought by parents of Black children who attend Boston Public Schools wherein the Court held that, "...the school authorities had knowingly carried out a systematic program of segregation affecting all of the City's students, teachers, and school facilities and had intentionally brought about or maintained a dual school system;..." illustrates that this is a serious problem that is fostered by racially segregated neighborhoods.

7. There are numerous accounts of racially motivated physical attacks against minority citizens who have crossed the racial boundaries of South Boston, East Boston and Charlestown, before and since the promulgation of the school desegragation plan.

8. The BHA has stated to the Court that it has neither the funds nor the resources to provide protection for tenants and therefore has to rely upon the Boston Police Force to provide such services.

In our review of the description and location of short and long term, and current year activities programmed by the applicant, it is evident that the City of Boston plans to continue to fund activities in locations where minorities may be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under such activities, due to the existence of the aforementioned obstacles to an open community as substantiated by the above facts and data. The activities in question that will be carried out substantially in the most

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critical and racially hostile areas of South Boston, East Boston and Charlestown are: the Housing Improvement Program, Public Housing Improvements, Code Enforcement, Reuse of Vacant Land, and the Neighborhood Business District and Neighborhood Capital Improvement Programs in their entirety.

In summation, based on the substance of this correspondence, it is the opinion of the FH & EO Division that the City of Boston's entitlement application not be approved until such time as the City officially recognizes the special critical need of minorities which is to provide social and similar programs to remove the aforementioned obstacles to a "genuinely open community", and develops activities and presents goals and timetables to implement these activities to foster open housing in all of Bostons neighborhoods and to protect the rights of all citizens under Title VI, Title VIII, Executive Order 11063 and Section 109. Grant assistance for these types of activities are eligible under Section 570.200(a)(8) of the regulations.

Housing Assistance Plan - The following deficiencies were noted in our review of the HAP, and must therefore be corrected prior to the final approval of the application:

1. The applicant must record the data for Orientals on page 2 of form HUD-7015.9.

2. The applicant makes reference to the regulations of the Existing HAP Program in relation to the Section 8 Additional Assistance Program, in an explanation of the selection of general locations for proposed lower-income housing (form HUD-7015.11)." To our knowledge, the regulations set forth in the Section 8 Existing Housing Program do not apply to this program. This reference should therefore be removed from the form.

3. Census tracts 815,817, and 1101, identified as general locations for new construction, are all areas of minority concentration. The tracts 614, 907,1008,1201,1303, 1401, and 1403, which are in predominately white areas, on face value seem to be comparable opportunities. However these areas cannot be viewed as such by this division considering the data and facts presented in the review of the CD Plan. The evidence reflects that it is doubtful that opportunities for minorities do actually exist in these areas. In order for this Division to concur with the selection of these sites, we must be assured that the applicant programs activities in the CD Plan to remove the obstacles to a "genuinely open community".

James R. Turner, Jr.
Director

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THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CANNON

FROM: LYNN MAY Lynn May

SUBJECT: Urban Development/Neighborhood Revitalization

The Domestic Council Staff has been working with HUD to develop new approaches to urban policy questions. Secretary Hills touched on this when we met with her on the busing issue.

Bill Baroody's staff on the other hand, has been carrying on a series of conferences with ethnic and minority leaders on the question of neighborhood revitalization. Two weeks ago, Baroody submitted a decision memo to the President (Tab A) calling for the establishment of a Domestic Council Committee on Neighborhood Revitalization which was staffed by Jim Connor. Although OMB and the Domestic Council expressed reservations about such an entity, the President decided some visible action on the issue was necessary and asked the Domestic Council to develop it.

Secretary Hills developed an alternative proposal to Baroody's memo (Tab B) which Jim Connor has subsequently staffed. I have prepared a recommendation on it to the President for your signature (Tab C) that I believe will satisfy almost everyone's interest in this matter - the President for an interagency group to look at neighborhood policy, Carla Hills for the leadership role in the issue (which programmatically should be hers), and OMB which opposes the formation of a National Commission as proposed in legislation by Senators Proxmire and Garn. (Apparently, Secretary Hills supports the legislation in deference to Senator Proxmire.)

Essentially, my formulation is to combine our urban policy initiative with the proposed neighborhood revitalization proposal in one Domestic Council Committee that can review the issues comprehensively.

cc: Jim Cavanaugh
Art Quern
Steve McConahey
Allan Moore
Pat Delaney

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM J. BARODY, JR.

SUBJECT: Preserving the Neighborhood: An Issue for 1976

On May 5, you addressed a group of ethnic leaders in the Rose Garden. The leaders were attending an all-day meeting in the White House to discuss neighborhood revitalization. During your remarks, you requested that I inform you of any and all recommendations. This memorandum responds to that request and raises some related issues.

BACKGROUND

For a large number of Americans, especially ethnic Americans, the neighborhood is at the heart of American life. It is in the neighborhood that those institutions which ethnic Americans worked so hard to establish -- the ethnic church, the fraternal lodge, the credit union and the school -- are located. More importantly, it is in the neighborhood that the remaining vitality of our cities is centered.

Neighborhood leaders -- ethnic, black and Hispanic American alike -- feel that no one in the Federal government cares about their special needs. Few government programs have been specifically directed at neighborhood revitalization. Some government programs have actually contributed to neighborhood decline.

Addressing neighborhood problems is very much in keeping with the Ford philosophy of returning the decision-making power to the people. We don't necessarily need more programs. We do need better coordination of programs which already exist and the elimination of programs which interfere with local neighborhood control.

We have now conducted a number of White House conferences on ethnicity. There has been a common thread running throughout them -- concern expressed by the ethnic American participants over preservation of their neighborhoods. They have formally recommended that you establish a commission to study this issue. I strongly urge that we now make their recommendation a reality, and thereby demonstrate our concern for and understanding of their problems.

It is my belief, based on the merits, that simultaneously with the announcement of Attorney General Levi's decision on busing you also announce the formation of either an interdepartmental task force or a Domestic Council Cabinet Committee on "neighborhoods and neighborhood revitalization." Such an announcement could help mollify civil rights supporters nervous about our busing position while at the same time pleasing our ethnic American constituency.

You should know that Senator Proxmire is expected to hold hearings on a bill to create a Commission on Urban Neighborhood Revitalization within the next week or so. (See Tab A.) Mayor Vincent Cianci (R-Providence, R.I.) is supporting this effort, as is Msgr. Geno Baroni, President of the Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs. Msgr. Baroni co-sponsored the White House Conference on Neighborhood Revitalization which you addressed in the Rose Garden. Action by you on this issue would preempt Senator Proxmire and any other Democrats.

You should also be aware that a conference is scheduled for June 13, sponsored by the National People's Action Committee. They are expecting to attract 2000 representatives to that conference and, according to the Nicholas von Hoffman article (Tab B), a major focus of that conference will be on red lining.

The next White House Conference on Ethnicity will be on June 1, and if our announcement isn't tied to the busing decision, it could be announced then. In any event, it would clearly be desirable to make the announcement before the Proxmire bill is introduced and the People's conference held on June 13.

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Attached at Tab C is some follow-up publicity from our recent ethnic meetings.

ACTION

I seek concurrences on the following:

	Agree	Disagree
1. Announcement of a Domestic Council Committee on neighborhood revitalization,	_____	_____
or alternatively, announcement of an interdepartmental Executive Branch task force on neighborhood revitalization.	_____	_____
2. The above should be announced on		
(a) a date pegged to the announcement of Attorney General Levi's busing decision,	_____	_____
(b) several days before the National People's Action Committee meeting on June 13, or	_____	_____
(c) during the June 1 White House Conference on Ethnicity.	_____	_____

THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.. 20410

8/16/76

Lyman ~~[illegible]~~
Ms are
Covanaugh.
today.
Jim

June 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

FROM: Carla A. Hills

SUBJECT: Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization

On June 11, Senators Garn and Proxmire introduced S.3554 which would establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods,[1/] to investigate "...the factors contributing to the decline of city neighborhoods and the factors necessary to neighborhood survival and revitalization." The Commission will recommend modifications in Federal, state, and local laws, policies, and programs to facilitate neighborhood preservation and revitalization.

This proposal is consistent with stated Administration policy to assist communities to conserve existing urban assets and to deal with neighborhood decline.

I recommend that the Administration support S.3554[2/] and in addition establish immediately a seven member Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development: (1) to review in a comprehensive manner all Federal programs which have an impact on neighborhood development and stabilization; (2) to serve as an Executive Branch liaison with the National Commission on Neighborhoods after it is appointed; and (3) to assess the Federal role in urban development.

1/ The 20 member Commission is to be composed of 2 members of the Senate and 2 members of the House plus 16 members to be appointed by the President, including at least 5 elected officers of recognized neighborhood organizations engaged in development and revitalization programs, at least 5 elected or appointed officials of local governments involved in preservation programs and the remaining with demonstrated experience in neighborhood revitalization activities.

2/ We can expect the issue to be raised by Senators Proxmire and Garn at the oversight hearings to be held by the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs scheduled for Wednesday, June 23.

This recommendation envisions that HUD, pursuant to its statutory authority "to exercise leadership . . . in coordinating Federal activities affecting . . . urban development"[3/] would chair an Executive Branch Committee composed of the Secretaries of Health, Education and Welfare, Transportation, Treasury, Commerce, Labor and the Attorney General.

DISCUSSION

1. The proposed National Commission would provide a broadly based forum for analyzing the problems of an economic cross-section of neighborhoods.

2. Because the proposed National Commission does not have Executive Branch membership, the Administration has an opportunity to make a constructive contribution by appointing a Domestic Council Committee to work as a liaison group. Such a liaison Committee also could enhance the potential for successful implementation of the Commission's recommendations, avoiding a problem which has plagued similar Commissions in the past.

3. The statutory mandate for formation of the proposed National Commission is preferable to the proposal pending within the White House to establish a twelve member Domestic Council Committee on Neighborhood Revitalization, which suffers from:

3/ Section 3(a) of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965.

(a) An all-Federal composition when the analysis requires local input.

(b) Omission of Treasury (tax policy), Labor (jobs).

(c) An unwieldly membership resulting from the inclusion of several agency directors, which inevitably will generate pressures to include other directors, further aggravating the size problem.

4. The recommendation contained herein to establish a seven member Domestic Council Committee would augment and improve the proposed National Commission by

(a) Building on, but not preempting the bipartisan congressional effort;

(b) Providing for coordinated activity by the seven Federal Departments which already have responsibilities that impact neighborhoods;

(c) Providing necessary Executive Branch input, liaison and coordination; and

(d) Expediting the work of the proposed National Commission by developing immediately a comprehensive review of all Federal programs impacting neighborhoods, which will be indispensable to the Commission's duties, as defined in the proposed statute.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON

SUBJECT: Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization

Carla Hills' counter-proposal to Bill Baroody's suggested Domestic Council Committee on Neighborhood Revitalization contains many improvements over the original. It would:

1. Support current legislation advocated by Senators Proxmire and Garn to establish a National Commission on Neighborhoods.

2. Establish a Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development to:

   a. review Federal programs which have a impact on neighborhood development,

   b. serve as an Executive Branch liaison with the National Commission on Neighborhoods, and

   c. assess the Federal role in urban development.

I concur in Secretary Hills' recommendation for a seven member Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization, chaired by her, because it would:

1. Address the neighborhood revitalization issue, of great concern to ethnic and minority groups, as part of the larger questions of urban growth and fiscal solvency, which are of vital interest to State and local governments.

2. Assert Presidential leadership in a complex set of questions that must be dealt with comprehensively.

3. Provide an institutional framework for the coordination of Federal resources to deal with these issues.

I do not concur with the Secretary's recommendation for active support of legislation establishing a National Commission on Neighborhoods because of long start-up time and general unpredictability of such Commissions. If the legislation is passed I would not recommend veto, but I see no reason to advocate it. I think that the Secretary's concern for public input into the study of city and neighborhood problems could be obtained by well-thought-out hearings and public meetings conducted by the Domestic Council Committee. These meetings would establish your Administration's leadership in this area more effectively than support for a National Commission.

cc: McConahey
May

file

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
GOVERNOR

September 9, 1976

Honorable Carla Hills
Secretary
Department of Housing and
Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20410

Dear Secretary Hills:

The proposed regulations for the Fiscal Year 1977 Community Development Discretionary Block Grant include revisions to last year's procedure that could eliminate states from the review process and, in fact, raise serious concerns as to HUD's commitment to citizen involvement in administering the program.

Changes in the timing of A-95 review of pre-applications makes it virtually impossible for reviewing agents to provide comments to the selection process. The State of Missouri undertook an extensive review of proposed projects in Fiscal Year 1976 and the results were included in the selection process. Under the proposed regulations, the cutoff date for pre-application will be November 30 and, according to the regional office, final applications are to be invited by December 24. In a competitive funding situation it is imperative that A-95 review be conducted at the pre-application stage. The elimination of reviews at this stage is clearly a violation of the intent of the A-95 process.

Strict interpretation of the last section dealing with selection criteria could preclude states from making a meaningful contribution to the selection process. I cannot believe that HUD wants to eliminate local concerns from the decision making process.

09/30

The State of Missouri is prepared to work with HUD in making the FY '77 program a success. To accomplish this, it is imperative these issues be promptly resolved.

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

prw

cc: James Cannon, Domestic Council
James Lynn, Office of Management and Budget
Rules Docket Clerk, HUD
Elmer Smith

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY

FROM: JIM CANNON

SUBJECT: Little Italy

You indicated that the President might want to discuss with the Italian American Society the New York City Planning Commission's proposed new zoning rules for Little Italy in Manhattan, particularly whether Federal involvement would be appropriate.

The only major Federal programs applicable to assist the re-zoning of Little Italy would be an apportionment of New York City's community development block grants and/or an apportionment of rehabilitation loans for housing or commercial purposes under HUD's 312 program. Both would be contingent upon application to the Mayor of New York for a share of New York City's block grant and rehabilitation funds.

Preliminary inquiries indicate that both Little Italy and Chinatown are part of separate larger community planning districts and, therefore, eligible for block grant and rehabilitation funds. New York City's community development block grants will rise from $102 million to $152 million in FY 77. Rehabilitation loans will likely remain at the $2 million level for FY 77.

In summary, Federal funds would be appropriate to assist the re-zoning and rehabilitation of Little Italy, but their use would depend upon approval by the Mayor of New York, who must make this decision in the face of other priorities for use of Federal funds.

CLEARANCE SHEET

DATE: 9/15/76

JMC ACTION
Required by: 9/15/76

STAFF RESPONSIBILITY Lynn May

SUBJECT: Federal involvement re Little Italy in New York

RECEIVED FROM: Jim Cannon DATE RECEIVED: 9/9/76

STAFF COMMENTS:

QUERN/MOORE RECOMMENDATION:

_____ APPROVE

_____ REVIEW & COMMENT

_____ DISCUSS

CANNON ACTION: DATE: 9/15

Material Has Been:

✓ Signed and forwarded JMC memo to Cheney

_____ Changed and signed

_____ Returned per conversation

_____ Noted

JIM CANNON

Comment: OK

u:
090602

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON

FROM: DICK CHENEY

Jim, attached is an article from the New York Times on the preservation of Little Italy in New York.

The President has asked that I pass it to you with the request that you look at it to see what, if any, Federal involvement would be appropriate.

We may want to discuss it on September 16 when he meets with the Italian-American Society.

Attachment

The New York Times/William E. Sauro

Little Italy. New proposals would seek to improve physical ambiance of both Little Italy and Chinatown.

iefs

Preservation of Little Italy Urged

By GLENN FOWLER

New zoning rules intended to "preserve and enhance the special character" of Little Italy were proposed yesterday by the New York City Planning Commission.

The proposal, two years in the making, stems from a joint effort by the commission and a neighborhood group, the Little Italy Restoration Association, to bring about a "resorgimento"—a resurgence—of a historic section of Manhattan that has lately suffered from urban decay and a decline of its ethnic population.

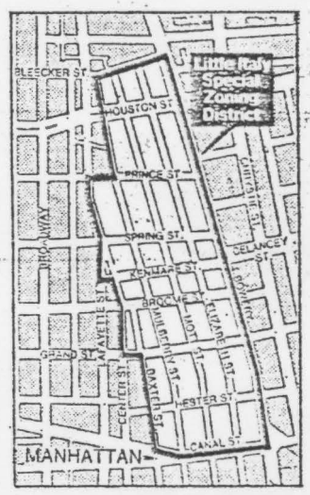
The new regulations would seek to strengthen the existing fabric of the 31-block area on the Lower East Side by encouraging more small restaurants, shops and other convenience facilities on the narrow streets and also in interior courtyards.

Landscaped open space for residents would also be reserved, and sidewalk and park improvements would be facilitated. To maintain the present intimate scale of Little Italy, new buildings would be limited to seven stories or 75 feet in height.

"To many New Yorkers, Little Italy is a home-away-from home," Victor Marrero, chairman of the Planning Commission, said in announcing the new proposal. "Sitting as i does amid other neighborhoods with special flavor—Chinatown, So-Ho, Orchard Street and Greenwich Village—it is a magnetic regional asset and one of the city's most vital places."

Under new procedures for lend-use review mandated by the revised City Charter adopted by the voters last November, the commission yesterday referred the new zoning regulations to Community Board 2, which must hold a public hearing within 60 days and submit its recommendations to the commission, which in turn will holda hearing later in the fall.

The special zoning district, bounded by Canal Street on the south, the Bowery on the east, Bleecker Street on the north and Mulberry, Center and Baxter Streets on the west, has 15,000 residents, with a small number of immigrants from Italy arriving each year.



The New York Times/Sept. 3, 1976

In recent years Chinese restaurants and shops have moved into the southern portion of Little Italy, as the more rapid influx of immigrants from the Orient has strained the capacity of Chinatown to overflowing.

Some Ethnic Tension

This has led to a certain amount of friction between the two ethnic groups, which the Department of City Planning has tried to reduce by devising careful plans to improve the physical ambience of both Little Italy and Chinatown.

The new zoning rules are the second concrete result of the "risorgiments" 1974 study that recommended a number of improvements, including new housing, a new elementary school, the refurbishing of DeSalvio Park at Mulberry and Spring Streets and the acquisition of the abandoned Police Headquarters building on Centre Street for an Italian-American cultural center.

The first result was the weekend closing of Mulberry Street to motor traffic on weekends during the last two summers, the first step in a program of "pedonalizzazione," or pedestrianization, aimed at promoting the easy-going character of street life found in Italian cities.

Not all 31 blocks of Little Italy would be kept in small scale. The area's indutrial corridors, on the Bowery and on Canal and Kenmare Streets, would be retained becuase industrial uses are considered essential to the economic health of Little Italy.

Also, near the north end of the district, vacant lots along Houston Street are envisioned as potential sites for new housing with some retail development.

But on Mulberry Street South of Broome and on Grand and Hester Streets, ground-floor space would be restricted to restaurants and specialty shops. As part of any new construction or rehabilitation effort, sidewalk improvements would be required.

The regulations would extend to such details as the size and positioning of store signs, which, for example, would not be permitted to obscure windows, cornices or columns of building fronts. Blank street walls would have to be punctured with windows or door openings, or covered with artwork or greenery.

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cc: Lynn May
File

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON

FROM: DICK CHENEY

Jim, attached is an article from the New York Times on the preservation of Little Italy in New York.

The President has asked that I pass it to you with the request that you look at it to see what, if any, Federal involvement would be appropriate.

We may want to discuss it on September 16 when he meets with the Italian-American Society.

Attachment

090602

The New York Times/William E.

The corner of Hester and Mulberry Streets in Little Italy. New proposals would seek to improve physical ambiance of both Little Italy and Chinat

Metropolitan Briefs

Preservation of Little Italy Urge

Italy would be kept in sm

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The New York Times/William E.

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Preservation of Little Italy Urge

By GLENN FOWLER

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