

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A PRELIMINARY HOUSING CONFERENCE TO MOBILIZE the inner city community to meet the housing crisis that Negroes in Detroit face today and the immediate threat that the proposed Model City project offers to the stability of the Negro community unless there is bonafide participation by neighborhood residents.

The organizations and residents of the inner city community must come together or there is a real danger that the so-called Metropolitan Detroit Citizens Development Authority, recently set up by Mayor Cavanagh, Walter Reuther, Detroit Edison Co. chairman Walker Cisler, and Detroit Bank & Trust Co. chairman Raymond T. Perring, will be assumed to speak for the citizens and organizations of the inner city.

We hold that only the people and community groups of the area have a right to make the decisions about what is to be removed, what is to be conserved, and how all this should be done.

THIS PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE YOUR POSITION KNOWN and to demand that you be among those authorized to speak for the residents of the inner city.

TIME : MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1967, 8 p.m.  
PLACE : CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
7625 Linwood at Hugarth  
SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS INNER CITY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (ICO)  
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE)  
GROUP ON ADVANCED LEADERSHIP (GOAL)  
DETROIT SNCC  
WEST SIDE MOTHERS (ADC)  
COOPERATING ORGANIZATION WEST CENTRAL ORGANIZATION (WCO)

PARTICIPATING CONSULTANT KENNETH SIMMONS, CITY DESIGNER  
Mr. Simmons has been Consultant on Housing Programs for the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), Western Region; Program Coordinator of Housing & Community Development of the San Francisco Economic Opportunity Council; Co-Director of the San Francisco Freedom House Project.

The enclosed statement summarizes the position of the sponsoring organizations. If you or your organization want to subscribe to this statement, come prepared to do so at the Conference. Follow-up action will also be outlined at the Conference, and we hope that you and your organization will wish to participate in this action.

Please use the enclosed form for advanced registration. The Registration Fee of \$1.00 will be used for the expenses of the Conference, including postage, publicity, etc.

## STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED MODEL CITY OR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Urban Renewal in Detroit and other major cities has been a method of Negro Removal and for bringing middle-class whites back into the inner city in order to dilute the growing political power of the predominantly black inner city population. Lafayette Park on the lower east side of Detroit is a living model or demonstration of this political gerrymandering.

The Model City Project, as outlined (however tentatively) by Detroit Mayor Cavanagh, is part and parcel of this same pattern. It does not reflect the pressing need of the inner city population for decent housing. It reflects instead an over-riding concern for a new tax base and a continuing collusion with the same financial and real estate interests whose absentee ownership and exploitation of the inner city population are chiefly responsible for the present blighted conditions of the Negro ghetto.

The people now living in the inner city have acquired not only an economic but a social and political equity in the areas where they reside. While middle-class whites were pursuing their racist flight to the suburbs, we have been struggling against almost overwhelming odds to build a social and political community. We have worked and sacrificed to buy and improve our homes. We have built and paid for churches, organized block clubs and other community organizations. We have struggled to establish our local-owned businesses and have finally succeeded in electing two Negro Congressmen, a member of the Detroit Common Council, and, most recently, three Negroes to the Records Court bench. We have a right to protect this equity and a duty to preserve and develop this community for ourselves and our posterity.

In the light of all previous experience, the declarations by the Mayor and other spokesmen for the power structure about "social renewal" and the vague promises of "more low-cost housing" offer no guarantee of such low-cost housing. Instead they are a threat of ever-greater displacement, dislocation and disorientation of the present inner city community.

We therefore demand that before any federal funds are appropriated to the City of Detroit either for preliminary study, or for planning, or for execution of any Model City Project or Projects:

1. A Community Housing Planning and Review Board be set up composed of inner city residents and representatives of inner city community organizations to participate in and supervise the drawing up of any plans.

2. No federal funds be allocated for any Model City or Urban Renewal project unless the plans for such project include plans for low-cost public and private housing on Model City or Urban Renewal lands that will accommodate at least 75% of the present residents in any particular project area.

INNER CITY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, Rev. Albert B. Cleage Jr., Chairman  
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE), Clyde Cleveland, Chairman  
GROUP ON ADVANCED LEADERSHIP (GOAL), Richard B. Henry, Chairman  
DETROIT STUDENT NON-VIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE, Dorothy Dewberry, Ch.  
WEST SIDE MOTHERS (ADC), Mrs. Idella Yarbrough, Chairman

Detroit, Michigan  
January 5, 1967