

On-The-Street Interview

What's Going To Happen To Model Cities?



BERTHA PEMBERTON of 707½ Fairview Street — "They're not doing any good, but I don't want it to end before they build some houses that are fit to live in. I don't need new streets, I need a decent house. I'd like to get to build me a house, or rent me a good one before this Model Cities program ends."



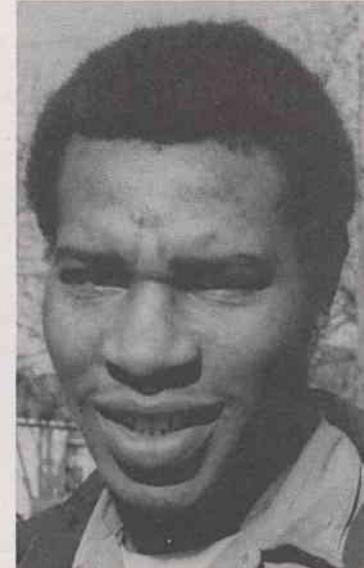
ROBERT ROSS of 843 Willow Place — "I'd sure like to see Model Cities build this place up some before I perish. Down here (in the vicinity of Ross' business on Loflin Street in the Southside) they've been taking away all the people, so I don't have any customers. Model Cities has been doing a fine job over in the east side, but over here, they've been doing nothing. Still, it takes time. . . ."



JAMES LEAK of 316 Brentwood Street — "Model Cities is doing some good so far. But I'd like to see people get a decent place to stay. I'd support them if I thought it was going to end."



RAY ARMSTRONG of 303 Cedar Street — "I want Model Cities to start building up this town so it'll start looking like a town. They sure enough started on the wrong side of town, if you ask me. Model Cities is a nice thing to have, in my opinion, but they need to build some houses."



EDDIE WILLIAMS of 412-A Meredith Street — "I'd like to see them improve these homes, and have more play areas for kids. If Model Cities was in trouble, I'd try to help support them."

All interviews and pictures made in Model Neighborhood.

Chairman Hughes: Planning For Fourth Year Model Cities Helps Undertaken By Task Forces

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make the best contribution. . . .
"I like the Model Cities organizational set up very much. It gives people a chance to clear the air, if nothing else, and find out what's going on at the grass roots level.

"But there are very complicated mechanics in solving the kinds of problems we're dealing with here. Depending on a person's background, he may not have any idea what is even involved before a solution's found," he went on.

THEORY OF CP

"The theoretical idea of citizen participation is magnificent," says Hughes, who doesn't discount the value in having virtually everyone who shows an interest in a problem area sit on a task force. "Even if one can't contribute because he isn't knowledgeable, the mere fact that he's sitting there shows he's interested in becoming knowledgeable."

"If a person can just gain an understanding about the difficulties faced in dealing with these things, that's good, too. By listening, he learns, and that's good."

"We couldn't expect many citizens to be knowledgeable. We're all learning together."

Hughes called Model Cities "a magnificent avenue for tapping federal tax dollars," but attributes the lack of wide-spread citizen support of it to frustration and a feeling that "my-participation-doesn't-matter."

While he feels that his own particular group has shown only moderate strength in the past, Lloyd Hughes is sticking with it. His community involvement dates back 40 years, he says, so he's not giving up now — in spite of the odds.

Looking to the Fourth Action Year, which should begin August 1, task forces have stepped up their activities to prepare and approve the projects which will be included in the Fourth Year Action Plan.

All projects funded by the Model City Commission must first be endorsed by a task force, made up of citizens from all over the community. Many of the members of the six planning task forces are Model Neighborhood residents, while others are from other sections of the city, representing a variety of interests and backgrounds.

After projects are brought before the task force, Model Cities staff persons work with the members in researching the projects and possible funding sources. The task force itself must approve the final draft of the proposal before it goes to the Executive Committee of the Commission.

After a project passes the Executive Committee, it is brought before the Commission as a body for approval. Only then can it be sent to City Council, who must adopt it as part

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of the Model Cities package to be sent on to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Model Cities' parent agency.

The Model City Commission is aiming for an early April submission of the Fourth Year Plan to City Council.

While few new projects are expected to be funded, many of the ongoing projects from previous Action Years are expected to be retained.

**What is Model Cities doing?
Find out for yourself!
Ask a Model City Commissioner.**

Health Clinic and Youth Services Featured Next 2 Weeks In Trailer

Activities for the Model Cities Mobile Information Unit, located at the corner of S. Elm and Vail Streets, have been stepped up with the promise of various agencies to bring presentations about their projects on a regular basis.

Aljuana Curry of the Citizen Participation staff is coordinating the Mobile Unit's program. Milton Stallings is CP director.

During the week of February 5-9, Marion Bass will be present each afternoon to give information about the Consolidated Health Project. This Model Cities project, of which Ms. Bass is director, includes the Demonstration Health Clinic on Elizabeth Street.

Ms. Bass will also be available for any questions about her project which Model Neighborhood residents might have.

The following week, February 12-16, the Youth Services Bureau will be featured in the trailer. Director Edgar Timberlake will be on hand every afternoon to lead discussion sessions about YSB for interested Model Neighborhood young people.

Ms. Curry is arranging for staff persons from different projects to be on hand in the trailer each week. Information about all Model Cities activities is also available at all times from the CP staff.

The unit is open daily from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

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Editor Emily Hedrick