

Photo: CALVIN FERGUSON

Pearl Robinson, a crime prevention coordinator for the city housing authority and Belvedere Homes resident, says most of the drug-related trouble in public housing is caused by outsiders.

### Drug Crackdown In The Projects

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ritory to cover: Charlotte has 5,500 public housing units and over 16,000 residents.

Suspicious activity was at a minimum, which came as something of a surprise.

"It's not too bad today," Hayes said. "It's really improved in the last month."

The authority will continue to

work with residents to get drugs out of the projects. It will take time, Hayes said, but progress is being made.

"I think we've got a long way to go. The message is being reaffirmed that you can't go into the community and do the things you did 10 years ago...The climate is not very favorable to drugs."

### Court Rules For White Male Appeals

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consent decrees in 1981 approving the agreement.

At the time, the city's 453 firefighters included 42 blacks. None of the department's 140 lieutenants, captains or battalion chiefs were black.

Seven white firefighters then challenged the promotion plan, saying less-qualified blacks were being promoted ahead of them.

A federal judge ruled that the white firefighters were bound by the court consent decree and dismissed their suit.

But the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in late 1987 reinstated the suit, sparking an appeal to the Supreme Court by

the city and county officials and those who filed the 1974 suit.

In a similar case last year, the justices split 4-4 in upholding a New York City affirmative action plan for promoting more blacks and Hispanics in the city.

Kennedy, the court's newest member, did not participate in that case.

The former Reagan administration sided with the white Birmingham firefighters even though the Justice Department had joined in the 1974 suit on the side of those alleging bias against minorities. The government's position was staked out prior to the Bush administration taking office.

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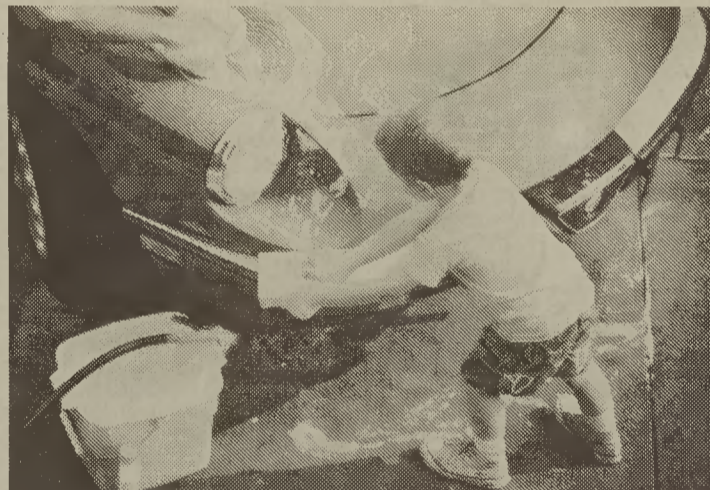
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