

**The original documents are located in Box 38, folder “Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee - Meeting with the President, June 29, 1976” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ON  
COMMITTEE ON REVITALIZATION  
Tuesday, June 29, 1976  
Cabinet Room  
2:00 p.m.

City vs Suburban

Housing - Back and  
Fed Housing <sup>credit</sup> - Policies  
generally help suburbs  
more than cities  
low income housing helps  
keep poor in cities -  
Suburban don't want low-income  
housing

Highways - Do help  
suburbs; - less  
moving, consequently  
few mass transit

Welfare - Tend concentrate  
poor in cities -  
Best welfare soc  
in cities

~~1/1/77~~



6/29/76

~~P~~ P - What can we do?

When do we want to go?

How?

---

Carla - Program - team -

Common to focus on  
urban conditions -

First  
step

~~Step~~  
1)

~~Step~~

info gathering

a) How each program  
affects neighborhood

~~2)~~

b) Nobody doing it now

c) public & private investment

d) statutory action to  
give P order  
on urban development

c)





P. JRC is do a good job -  
but here trying to identify  
particular area of concentration

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Def  
New Y program  
statute  
evaluation

---

Coleman - " Presidential

Council " with the D.C.

one most imp problem in  
young cities.

UMTA.

---

P - No - to Proxmire - Gorn

Got a lot of urban people

of the rep track -  
Dumb effect of each



Have talent in D.C.

can do w/o Presidential  
in private -

will not in getting job done

Convinced - in almost every  
community - have new K  
downtown -

They have a start - but  
have to spend out

Chute - fine - new Building -  
downtown - greater  
by help from Fed  
Govt.

Now take the 2d step

---

Let's - one objection is to  
value the value of  
program



Conder - President title  
better

using financially.

also need express  
concern of the

opportunity  
enforce women  
By July 19

Witch Kobler

for President's Council

President: Don't apologize for ant of program  
2) " " for ant of \$  
3) comes each of you at least -  
+ translate ant of program  
into jobs - - - eg. VMTA



This Adam - ~~Maybe~~ conducts  
150(?) program - &  
into + jobs

---

Coleman - can't write off cities  
doing too much

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Per longer view -

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Presidential Commission  
higher } not people too and  
other.

---

got programs -  
people why to go -

---

not yet new program

make them work  
more coordination



PCUDNR

work at DLT work  
at work

organizing

get something to be piece of

Batz: look for places to

Overalide to

look hard for place to put

P, major objective in January -

1) not promi dollars

2) work at ~~work~~ successful

3) Announcement - P

with w<sup>3</sup> weeks





PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE  
MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

JUNE 29, 1976





TODAY WE ARE HOLDING THE FIRST MEETING OF A  
NEWLY ESTABLISHED PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION.

I AM GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE NATIONWIDE PROBLEM  
OF URBAN DECAY AND NEIGHBORHOOD DECLINE.



THEREFORE, I HAVE ESTABLISHED THIS COMMITTEE, UNDER THE  
LEADERSHIP OF SECRETARY CARLA HILLS, TO DEVELOP POLICIES  
TO OVERCOME THOSE FORCES WHICH ARE THREATENING THE VIABILITY  
OF OUR CITIES AND THE NEIGHBORHOODS WHICH DO SO MUCH TO  
GIVE OUR CITIES THEIR VITALITY AND STABILITY.



OUR SOCIETY IS ONE OF CONSTANT CHANGE AND MOVEMENT.

THIS FACT HAS BOTH ITS POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS.

THE AREAS MOST LIKELY TO SUFFER FROM TECHNOLOGICAL, DEMOGRAPHIC

AND SOCIAL CHANGE ARE OUR OLDER CITIES.



IN RECENT YEARS, RAPID CHANGES IN COMMUNICATIONS,  
MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY, TRANSPORTATION, AND SOCIAL  
EXPECTATIONS HAVE COMBINED TO CAUSE MIGRATION FROM OLDER  
CITIES TO THE SUBURBS AND TO EXPANDING AREAS IN THE SOUTH  
AND WEST.



THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE PRODUCED SEVERE STRAINS  
ON OLDER CITIES, FORCING CITY GOVERNMENTS TO COPE WITH  
THE POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING PRESSURES OF A STAGNANT OR  
DECLINING ECONOMIC BASE COUPLED WITH A GROWING NEED FOR  
SERVICES WHICH ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE EXPENSIVE.





ONE OF AMERICA'S OLDEST, PROUDEST, AND STRONGEST

TRADITIONS -- THE URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD -- IS BEING SEVERELY

THREATENED BY THESE FORCES. IN MANY WAYS, THE CITY IS

ITS NEIGHBORHOODS. THE CITY DRAWS ITS STRENGTH FROM THE

STABILITY AND COHESION THAT FAMILIES HAVE ESTABLISHED AND

NURTURED IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.





IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT AS OUR OLDER CITIES DECLINE, SO ALSO  
DO THE NEIGHBORHOODS IN THOSE CITIES.

FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS IS NOT A SIMPLE  
MATTER. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ALWAYS SUCCEEDED  
IN ITS WELL-INTENTIONED EFFORTS TO AID THE CITIES.

ONE MAJOR PROBLEM IS THE COMPLEX AND OVERLAPPING FEDERAL  
RULES WHICH OFTEN ACCOMPANY FEDERAL PROGRAMS.



IT IS MY PHILOSOPHY THAT DECISION-MAKING

RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD REMAIN AS CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE MOST ACCOUNTABLE TO LOCAL

CITIZENS AND CAN BEST REFLECT THEIR CONCERNS.



THEREFORE, I HAVE STRONGLY ADVOCATED GENERAL REVENUE SHARING  
AND HAVE PROPOSED A SERIES OF OTHER GRANT CONSOLIDATION  
PROPOSALS INTENDED TO MINIMIZE THE STRINGS ON FEDERAL AID  
AND TO MAXIMIZE LOCAL CONTROL OVER HOW THE FUNDS ARE SPENT.



I INTEND TO PURSUE THIS COURSE VIGOROUSLY,  
BUT IT CLEARLY IS NOT ENOUGH -- BY ITSELF -- TO SOLVE OUR  
URBAN PROBLEMS. THEREFORE, I AM CHARGING THIS  
COMMITTEE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARRYING OUT A  
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF URBAN PROBLEMS AND OF THOSE FEDERAL  
PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE CITIES.



IT IS CHARGED WITH MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHAT SHOULD  
BE DONE, AND, IN PARTICULAR, WHAT THE FEDERAL ROLE SHOULD  
BE, TO COUNTER THE FORCES LEADING TO URBAN DECLINE.

OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS A VERY BIG ASSIGNMENT.

BUT I HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF SECRETARY HILLS,  
THE OTHER CABINET MEMBERS, AND THE AGENCY HEADS WHO WILL  
SHARE IN THIS ENDEAVOR.





I KNOW YOU WILL DO A GOOD JOB, I WILL SUPPORT YOU IN

ANY WAY I CAN, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE SUCCESSFUL

COMPLETION OF YOUR EFFORTS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT





THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BILL BAROODY

DICK CHENEY

~~JIM~~ CANNON

MYRON KUROPAS

LYNN MAY

RON NESSEN

FROM:

DAVE GERGEN

SUBJECT:

Neighborhood Revitalization

Whatever the outcome of the President's meeting at 2 p.m. I thought there was a general staff consensus this morning that he should not give a mandate for a sweeping review of all Federal policies affecting urban areas. Instead, the feeling seemed to be -- and it is one that I share -- that if he moves forward publicly today, his remarks should focus solely on neighborhood revitalization.

At the request of Lynn May and Myron Kuropas, I have hurriedly prepared a draft of remarks that he could use for that purpose. Please see attached.

REMARKS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE:

Some eight weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting in the Rose Garden with representatives of many ethnic organizations that have been holding periodic gatherings here at the White House.

In my remarks that day, I asked those leaders if they would tell us what they think needs to be done to bring new life and vitality to our urban neighborhoods.

Their number one recommendation, passed along to me by Bill Baroody of my staff, was that we needed to set up some sort of task force within the Government to review all major Federal programs that have an impact upon our urban neighborhoods.

Today I am pleased to announce that I am appointing a blue-ribbon Cabinet task force to carry out exactly that mission. The chairman will be Secretary Carla Hills and the members will include Cabinet officers, several agency heads, and others.

I have just completed my first meeting with the group and I have directed them to focus their attention on ways that we can make all of our Federal programs best serve the interests of the many millions of Americans who live in urban neighborhoods.

I am proud of many of the programs we already have on the books, and as you know, I am pushing hard for the re-enactment of programs such as general revenue sharing.

Yet I also recognize that the Federal Government needs to do far more to encourage a greater sense of community, a sense of belonging within our huge, massive metropolitan areas.

It is especially important that during our Bicentennial we seek to enhance the values of family, of community, and of cultural diversity that have been the strength and richness of America for so many years.

The task force that I am appointing today will perform a great service for the country if it can advance us toward these goals.

Thank you,

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 29, 1976

MEETING WITH THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Tuesday, June 29, 1976

2:00 p.m.

The Cabinet Room

From: Jim Cannon

I. PURPOSE

To preside at the first meeting of the Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

The Committee results from a convergence of two sets of recommendations regarding the problems and needs of our cities and neighborhoods. Your key Domestic policy advisors have pointed out the need for greater cooperation and coordination among Federal agencies administering programs which have an impact on cities and their neighborhoods. The increasing substitution of revenue sharing and of block grant programs for categorical programs offers urban centers the opportunity to formulate an overall strategy for their use of Federal resources. Also, the major recommendation of a May 5 meeting sponsored by the White House Office of Public Liaison and the National Center on Urban Ethnic Affairs was that the President establish a committee to study urban problems as they are perceived on the neighborhood level (Tab A).

On June 19, you approved the establishment of a Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization (Tab B).

B. Participants:

See Tab C.

Staff: Jim Cannon, William Baroody.

C. Press Plan:

You indicated earlier this morning that you would determine at the end of the meeting what plan would be followed with the press.

III. TALKING POINTS

See attached speech at Tab D.

## Participants

Secretary Carla Hills (Chairman)

Jerry Thomas, Under Secretary, Department of Treasury, for  
Secretary Simon

Ben Holman, Director, Community Relations Service,  
Department of Justice for the Attorney General

Secretary Earl Butz

Richard Darman, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department  
of Commerce, for Secretary Richardson

Michael Moskow, Under Secretary, Department of Labor, for  
Secretary Usery

Marjorie Lynch, Under Secretary, Department of Health,  
Education and Welfare for Secretary Mathews

Secretary William T. Coleman, Jr.

Mitchell P. Kobelinski, Administrator, Small Business  
Administration

Willard H. Meinecke, Assistant Director, Administration and  
Finance, ACTION for Director Balzano

Samuel Martinez, Director, Community Services Administration

Jim Cannon, Director, Domestic Council

Bill Baroody, Director, White House Office of Public Liaison

By invitation:

Chairman Arthur Burns and Governor Philip Jackson, Jr.,  
Federal Reserve System

Chairman Garth Marston, Federal Home Loan Bank Board



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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1976

JMC:

These are all the press releases  
on the Urban Development and Neigh-  
borhood Revitalization Committee.

cameron

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JUNE 30, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
THE SECRETARY OF LABOR  
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
AND WELFARE  
THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT  
AND BUDGET  
THE DIRECTOR, SMALL BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION  
THE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION  
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DOMESTIC COUNCIL  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR  
PUBLIC LIAISON  
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN  
BANK BOARD

SUBJECT: President's Committee on Urban Development  
and Neighborhood Revitalization

I am today establishing a Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization to examine urban problems and to make recommendations to improve current Federal programs in order to revitalize urban and neighborhood areas. The Committee will study the problems both from a broad Federal policy perspective and from the perspective of those who live in urban neighborhoods. Specifically, the Committee will be responsible for:

1. Conducting a comprehensive review of all major Federal programs which have an impact on the cities and their neighborhoods and reporting results to the President;
2. Seeking the perspectives of local officials and neighborhood groups on Federal programs which affect them;

more

3. Developing recommendations to the President and the Congress for changes in Federal policies and programs affecting cities and their neighborhoods in order to place maximum decision-making responsibility at the local level, to remove legal and administrative obstacles to exercise this authority, and to provide for better coordination and delivery of Federal programs.

The Committee will be chaired by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and include the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Secretary of Transportation, the Director of Office of Management and Budget, the Director of the Small Business Administration, the Director of Community Services Administration, the Executive Director of the Domestic Council, the Assistant to the President for Public Liaison; and, by invitation, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

GERALD R. FORD

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## Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

## STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The cities of this nation and the neighborhoods which are their backbone today face increasingly difficult problems of decay and decline.

Our society is one of constant change and movement. This fact has both its positive and negative effects. The areas most likely to suffer from technological, demographic, and social change are our older cities.

In recent years, rapid changes in communications, manufacturing, technology, transportation, and social expectation have combined to cause migration from older cities to the suburbs and to expanding areas in the South and West.

These developments have produced severe strains on older cities, forcing city governments to cope with the potentially devastating pressures of a stagnant or declining economic base coupled with a growing need for services which are becoming more and more expensive. For some time my Administration has been examining these problems, and I have proposed major program consolidations in health, education, and social services.

Some eight weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with representatives of many ethnic organizations that have been holding periodic gatherings here at the White House.

In my remarks that day, I asked those leaders if they would tell us what they think needs to be done to bring new life and vitality to our urban neighborhood.

Their number one recommendation was that we should set up a task force within the Government to review all major Federal programs that have an impact upon urban and neighborhood life.

Today I am pleased to announce that I am appointing a Cabinet-level task force to carry out that mission. This new Presidential Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization will be chaired by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Carla Hills.

Yesterday afternoon I met with Secretary Hills and other members of the committee and asked them to begin an immediate review of current Federal programs which have an impact upon cities and their neighborhoods.

They are to seek the perspectives of local officials and neighborhood groups on Federal programs which affect them and to develop recommendations for improvements in Federal policies and programs.

In setting up this committee, my premise is that many Federal programs now on the books are worthwhile and should be continued, especially those which encourage local initiative

more

and local leadership. It is particularly urgent that the Congress act soon to re-enact the General Revenue Sharing Program.

At the same time, it is clear that the Federal Government must find better ways to coordinate its many programs, that some programs should be consolidated and that still other programs should be phased out altogether. The commitment to serving our cities and urban neighborhoods need not require massive new funding programs; a great deal of Federal money is currently being spent. What is clearly required is that we make better use of resources that are already available.

In my discussions with ethnic leaders, I have also been impressed that the Federal Government can do more to encourage a greater sense of community, a sense of belonging within our urban centers. In this Bicentennial year, it is especially important that we seek to enhance the values of family, of community and of cultural diversity that have been the strength and richness of America for many years.

The Presidential Committee I have appointed will perform a great service for the country by helping to revitalize urban and neighborhood life in America.

# # # #

JUNE 30, 1976

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

## FACT SHEET

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

The President today announced the creation of his Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization to examine urban problems and to make recommendations to improve current Federal programs in order to revitalize urban and neighborhood areas. The Committee will be chaired by Carla A. Hills, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and include 8 Cabinet members, 3 agency heads, 2 independent regulatory agencies (by invitation), and members of the White House staff.

BACKGROUND

The President has long been concerned about the difficulties besetting many of our cities and the neighborhoods from which the cities draw their vitality and stability. He is particularly concerned that Federal efforts are not adequately dealing with the problems of the cities despite the many Federal programs which are intended to meet urban needs and despite the substantial amount of Federal funds channeled to the nation's cities. He is convinced that by better using the resources currently available the Federal Government can be a more effective partner with State and local governments in resolving urban problems.

The President is creating this Committee to analyze these problems and to develop proposals for greater cooperation and coordination among the Federal agencies administering programs which have an impact on cities and their neighborhoods.

This Committee will also be a response to the recommendations of a recent Conference on Ethnicity and Neighborhood Revitalization held at the White House. That group recommended that the President establish a committee to study urban problems as they are perceived on the neighborhood level.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

The Committee is comprised of the heads of the Federal agencies which have primary responsibility for programs affecting the cities, including their neighborhoods and surrounding communities. The Committee will study the problems both from a broad Federal policy perspective and from the perspective of those who live in urban neighborhoods. Specifically, the Committee will be responsible for:

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1. Conducting a comprehensive review of all major Federal programs which have an impact on the cities and their neighborhoods and reporting results to the President;
2. Seeking the perspectives of local officials and neighborhood groups on Federal programs which affect them;
3. Developing recommendations to the President and the Congress for changes in Federal policies and programs affecting cities and their neighborhoods in order to place maximum decision-making responsibility at the local level, to remove legal and administrative obstacles to exercise this authority, and to provide for better coordination and delivery of Federal programs.

#### MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Chairman)  
 The Secretary of the Treasury  
 The Attorney General  
 The Secretary of Agriculture  
 The Secretary of Commerce  
 The Secretary of Labor  
 The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare  
 The Secretary of Transportation  
 Director, Office of Management and Budget  
 Administrator, Small Business Administration  
 Director, Community Services Administration  
 Executive Director, Domestic Council  
 Director, White House Office of Public Liaison

By invitation:

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System  
 Federal Home Loan Bank Board

# # # #

JUNE 30, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
THE SECRETARY OF LABOR  
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GERALD R. FORD

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JUNE 30, 1976

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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# # # #



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1976

✓ file  
VP

The Vice President --

The attached fact sheet describes the establishment today of a Presidential Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization,

°to mobilize Federal resources more effectively in dealing with urban and neighborhood problems;

Carla Hills is to chair this committee. Its thrust seems to be primarily towards neighborhoods, with an appeal to ethnically conscious citizens. Its establishment is timed to coincide with the Mayors' Conference this week in Milwaukee.

Jim Cannon reports that this new committee would not conflict with the Domestic Council Committee on New York City which you and he are contemplating and about which he is going to telephone you this afternoon or first thing tomorrow.

*Dick*  
Dick Allison

✓  
bcc: Jim Cannon





## Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

## FACT SHEET

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

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By invitation:

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System  
 Federal Home Loan Bank Board

# # # #

