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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

DOMESTIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

President Ford today announced the creation of a Domestic Council Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization to examine urban problems and make recommendations to halt urban decline. 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 problems besetting many of our cities and the neighborhoods from which the cities draw their vitality and stability. He is particularly concerned about such problems as:

1. The deterioration of housing, streets, and public services in older urban areas.
2. The loss of job-producing industries.
3. The increasing costs of public services.
4. The increasing migration to the suburbs.
5. The stagnation of the urban tax base.
6. The uncertain status of municipal financial markets.

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.

The President also views this Committee as 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.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL 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:

1. Conducting a comprehensive review of all major Federal programs which have an impact on the cities and their neighborhoods;
2. Seeking the perspectives of local officials and neighborhood groups on Federal programs which affect them;
3. Analyzing the patterns of public and private disinvestment in urban areas;
4. 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 DOMESTIC COUNCIL 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

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