

Allen's Housing Goal Seems Sure; Panel Pushes Zone 'Package Plan'

By ALEX COFFIN

Mayor Ivan Allen Jr.'s five-year low-cost housing goals appear sure of being met, the mayor's Housing Resources Committee heard Thursday.

And the committee voted unanimously at its second annual meeting to push again the so-called "package plan," which means zoning for low-cost housing throughout all sections of the city simultaneously.

Two aldermanic committees asked the City Planning department to study the matter last August, but indirectly seemed to hope the matter would be forgotten. Planning department director Collier Gladin Thursday reported no substantial progress had been made on the matter since August.

Col. Malcolm Jones, staff man for the HRC, said 3,217 units have been completed, 6,378 are under construction and 7,337 are in the planning stage—a total of 16,932 since November, 1966.

Allen at that time had set a goal of 16,800 replacement units by 1971.

Jones said that some of the 7,337 in planning stages may fall by the wayside, but 6,215 units being considered will more than compensate for any losses.

Jones said that the program is 4,100 behind in the public housing category, but 4,068 in the

slightly more costly 221(d) (3) housing.

Although Jones' report was the most optimistic news by far relating to the goals, attorney Archer D. Smith III issued a pessimistic warning.

"We're deluding ourselves," he said, "if we take these figures and quit working . . . We've got to be realistic and get behind the package zoning plan."

Earlier in the meeting, Ald. George Cotsakis took exception

to remarks made at this week's annual Chamber of Commerce meeting that the city's building codes are antiquated.

Cotsakis, chairman of the Building Committee, asked that the HRC and the chamber show him specifically where changes would help the low-cost housing program without jeopardizing health and safety. If such changes are shown, Cotsakis said, "I assure you you'll get 100 per cent cooperation."