

Sum-Mec Neighborhood Service Center
Report on Community Improvement Program

November 22, 1966

In April, 1966, several groups in Sum-Mec area organized neighborhood clean-up groups in scattered sections of the target area. When the Mayor declared war on slums in May and initiated the Community Improvement Program, it seemed a natural for organization of the total community around it so as to involve residents in the CIP and form a kind of partnership between citizens and the City, not to mention the benefits to be derived from a concentration of city services in the community. To have such a concentration of services in an area where these had been at such a minimum was indeed salutary.

The Citizens Neighborhood Advisory Council and the Technical Neighborhood Advisory Committee joined forces in setting up a plan for the entire area. Committees of the CNAC were assigned responsibilities as liaison between the community and various city services to work along with the neighborhood units through block captains. It was hoped that through this kind of approach it would be possible to maintain continuing interest and efforts toward community improvement even beyond the Mayor's campaign.

Many areas have shown decided improvements in their "housekeeping." Most encouraging were clean-up efforts in some of the worst "pockets" in the area, emergence of some potential new leadership at the "grass roots" level.

EOA gave full cooperation, and, in the latter stages, even provided some tools for residents to use on a loan basis from the Center.

While there was neither maximum participation nor one hundred per cent improvement, results have been a good beginning in this direction.

The attached record of tangible accomplishments were result of these combined efforts. The City not only responded promptly to citizens requests whenever possible, but they also made improvements without waiting for specific requests. As encouraging as this record is, the interest generated, participation initiated, and successes experienced are achievements that are even more significant.