

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1967

## City Moves to Avert Summer Unrest

By SETH S. KING

Acting early to keep the city's summer a "cool" one, Mayor Lindsay yesterday appointed a Summer Task Force of top city officials to coordinate recreation and community-development programs in depressed neighborhoods.

The 22-member group, which includes nine Negroes and one Puerto Rican, will supervise activities that range from the placement of play streets and fire-hydrant sprays to the spending of antipoverty funds and the arrangement of walking tours by Mayor Lindsay through ghettos.

In a statement announcing the appointment of the group, Mr. Lindsay noted that the city had gotten through the summer of 1966 without any major racial disturbances. Summers are particularly touchy because slum dwellers escaping from their stifling apartments gather in the streets, where even a small incident might lead to violence.

The generally peaceful summer of 1966 was due in part, the Mayor said, to the "extraordinary efforts" of scores of city officials and private volunteers.

"From this experience we learned many lessons," the Mayor went on. "Most important, we learned that coordination of the work of key agencies—the police, fire, education, antipoverty, and the Mayor's office—was needed at the highest level. This is the job the task force will do."

One of the first efforts of the task force will be to develop a citywide network of adults and youngsters who are regarded as the leaders in their communities.

The task force will be responsible for the spending of all funds that become available for community projects.

"We want to be sure that we are getting the maximum value for each dollar spent and that these funds are going into the areas where there is the greatest need," Mr. Lindsay said.

Another assignment of the task force will be to attract Federal funds to support the program. Last year, New York City received nearly \$12-million for the Federal Government, through the Office of Economic Opportunity, for summer activities.

But the prospects for another such allocation do not appear bright at the moment, the Mayor said. It was hoped that a well-developed plan, prepared beforehand, might influence Congress to appropriate money to support it.

Finally, the task force will coordinate appeals to foundations and business groups for money to pay for summer programs.

Mr. Lindsay recalled the privately financed Rheingold Summer Concert Festival, which attracted large audiences at jazz, folk music, and rock 'n' roll performances in Central Park last year. He also cited a sports festival for youths sponsored by Old London Foods at Prospect Park and Randalls Island.

Last summer the city's antipoverty program reached into the communities for the participation of "indigenous groups" in organizing day camps, vocational-training courses, and trips to the country for slum children who had never been out of their own neighborhoods.

These efforts were considered successful. But former Parks Commissioner Thomas P. F. Hoving said afterward that what was needed was a coordinating group, "headed by one strong man," to steer these diverse efforts and utilize all city agencies that could contribute to them.

Mr. Lindsay said that Mrs. Thelma Johnson, an official in the Human Resources Administration, would head a summer antipoverty program. Mrs. Johnson will also serve as a

member of the task force, because, Mr. Lindsay said, "experience has shown that even greater control of a summer activities is needed."

The chairman of the coordinating task force will be Barry H. Gottehrer, an assistant to the Mayor. Mr. Gottehrer, who is 32 years old, has served on the Antipoverty Operations Board and the Special Summer 1966 Subcommittee.

A former reporter, Mr. Gottehrer was a trouble shooter for the Mayor in city neighborhoods this winter.

The Summer Task Force is scheduled to hold weekly meetings until the hot weather starts. After that it will meet as often as is necessary. Its first meeting will be held Wednesday afternoon at City Hall.

The members of the task force represent nine city departments and agencies.

The Mayor named Cyril D. Tyson of the Human Resources Administration as vice chairman.

Others appointed to the task force were:

Thomas A. Van Sant of the Board of Education.

James W. Smith, assistant to the Mayor for Community Relations.

Robert O. Lowery, Fire Commissioner.

Robert Shrank, Mrs. Johnson and Frank Espada of the Human Resources Administration.

Walter E. Washington, chairman of the Housing Authority.

William H. Booth, chairman of the Human Rights Commission.

Sidney Davidoff, assistant to the Mayor for Neighborhood Programs.

Robert M. Blum, assistant to the Mayor for Neighborhood Little City Halls.

Peter Aschkenasy, deputy executive director, Department of Parks.

John Foley, executive director, Police Athletic League.

David L. Garth, special consultant to the Mayor.

Lillian Lampkin, executive director of the Youth Board.

Representing the Police Department will be:

Sanford D. Garelik, chief inspector, Franklin A. Thomas, deputy commissioner for legal matters, and Lloyd G. Sealy, assistant chief inspector.

A member from the Council Against Poverty and two members from other city agencies will be named later.