

*refer to Dan Sweet*

822 Grant Street, S. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

Mr. Ben Blackburn  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

I would like to register a complaint about our so called "Model Cities" program.

We own our home at the above address and shortly after the "Model Cities" program was announced my husband's company transferred him out of the City of Atlanta. Although it has proven to be quite expensive for him to commute we have waited for two years to see what was going to happen in the area before trying to sell and move nearer his work. During this time we have been advised on numerous occasions by our children's teachers to get them in a less crowded school since they have so many children in the school they attend who either won't, can't or are not encouraged to learn that they do not have the time to give the children who can and try to learn the instructions they need and deserve. The school has become worse and worse and when it became necessary the last three days of the school term to keep policemen on the premises to avoid conflict between the grammar school and high school, we decided it was time to make a move. This, of course, combined with the fact that we need to get closer to my husband's work.

Since all residents of the area had been advised to contact the "Model Cities" office before buying, building or making improvements, my husband went to their office and talked with a Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell told him our house definitely was not scheduled for demolition and it would be perfectly all right to put it up for sale.

We put the house in the hands of a real estate broker and found that nothing happened during the three months of his contract. We now find that because no two people can get the same answers from the "Model Cities" office everyone is afraid to buy because they think they may buy a house and have it torn down within a year or two.

Since the agent's contract has run out, we have been attempting to sell the house on our own . I contacted the Model Cities office to determine if they have any contacts with people interested in property in the area or if they have made any arrangements to purchase property from people in the area who might be transferred out of the city for one reason or another. They referred me to a Mr. Wilkes who told me he is in the re-location and re-habilitation office and they had no such arrangements. I asked if they could not use the property to house people who might be displaced because of demolition and he told me they would not relocate displaced persons in the Model Cities Area since it would not be feasible to do so.

An individual who was interested in the property checked with the City Housing or City Planning Office and(although we had been told our property was definitely not going to be in the clearance area) he was informed not to purchase property in the area because they had plans and were going to do something with the property shortly.

There are, of course, some people who would take the property off our hands if we were willing to give it away, but we can't afford to do this. I do not think we are being unreasonable to expect some arrangements to be made to assist people in our position to dispose of property at a reasonable price. And I do not think we are being unreasonable to ask \$9,500 for property for which we paid \$8,500 five years ago and have made quite a bit more than \$1,000 of improvements since that time.

If there is anything that can be done to assist not only us but others in the area who may be having the same problems, it will be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Lazell Kirkland  
(Clifford E. Kirkland)  
822 Grant Street, S. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia Tel 622-9074

cc: Mr. Herman Talmadge  
cc: Mr. Russell - Senate  
cc: Mayor Ivan Allen  
cc: Mr. Johnny Johnson - Model Cities Office