

Clarence Coleman
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\$1.2 Million Projects Okayed By Model Cities Directors

By ALEX COFFIN

The Model Cities Executive Board approved some \$1.2 million in projects Tuesday, but held up on two contracts with Model Neighborhood Inc. after Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. sharply criticized its president.

The board agreed to hear again from MNI, of which Edward Moody is president, chairman of the board and director, before acting on two projects totaling \$35,000 which are designed to assist ghetto businesses.

"I'm obviously opposed to Mr. Moody," Allen said. "He is not qualified . . . based on his association with the city . . . his past record and his failure to follow through."

WORKED WITH CITY

Allen noted that Moody had been with city agencies twice before—the City Parks department and Model Cities program itself.

The board sharply divided on the question of funding MNI, which has started a small garment factory in Summerhill and plans a shopping center in Mechanicsville.

C. Miles Smith defended Moody's project, while Deacon Lewis Peters and others opposed it. Clarence Coleman

noted that Moody's name was the only one to come up as the executive board's special review committee screened project applications. The review panel approved the funding.

The board voted to expand the review committee to include all executive board members and hear from Moody's group again.

EOA CONTRACTS

Among the contracts approved were four totaling \$255,000 with Economic Opportunity Atlanta. One of the programs, Project Expand, at \$140,000 would set up EOA centers in Grant Park and Adair Park—against the protests of Joe Whitley, the board's representative from Grant Park.

Whitley said additional services are needed, but argued that a majority of Grant Park residents don't want EOA to move in to provide them.

Peters charged Whitley with speaking only for white residents. Mrs. Matte Ansley suggested that Grant Park residents ought to "face up" to the fact that poverty exists in their area and accept SOA's help, as have other neighborhoods in the Model Cities territory.

JOB HELP

The board referred to the city attorney's office a resolution

proposed by a special committee headed by Coleman to give Model Cities residents first crack at jobs connected with the various projects.

Alderman Everett Millican, a board member, said the resolution went too far by requiring contract agencies to give preferential treatment to area residents. But when Millican tried to substitute his own resolution, the board would not go along and sent Coleman's proposal for a ruling on its legality.

Millican had argued he had talked with the city attorney's office, which had said his version was preferable.