

**CITIZENS' VIEWS OF NEEDS IN  
THE MODEL CITIES AREA**

**PORTLAND MODEL CITIES REPORT NUMBER 1  
PLANNING REPORT NUMBER 1**

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## INTRODUCTION

The ideas on these pages were presented by residents of the Model Neighborhood at pre-planning meetings held in March, 1968.

In this report the stated needs are grouped into seven broad classifications which correspond to the Model Cities Working Committees:

Employment and Economic Development

Education, Culture and Recreation

Health, Social and Legal Services

Public Safety

Citizen Participation

Housing - Choice, Supply, Relocation and Quality

Physical Environment and Transportation

It is hoped that these lists will be expanded in the weeks ahead while providing a citizen-oriented starting point for the planning process.

1.a. Employment

Barber college

Trade school

Beauty college

JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS IN SPECIFIC FIELDS (plus facilities for same)

Training centers for unskilled workers - for the youth - Clearing house for information.

People must learn to work with their hands.

Work release program needs to be amplified

Pressure on Unions - Closed to many Model Cities residents

The need for expanded employment opportunities was voiced but some concern was also raised. Does this mean industrial expansion into the area? Does new jobs actually mean new jobs for residents or for someone else? Does not the institution of on going programs of any sort also mean more employment without actual new industry locating in the area?

We need to be parochial in the employment and use of area residents and firms for area work.

We need to encourage Negro residents to go on to college and return to the area as teachers to improve the self image and create attainable examples to shoot for.

Job Training "Take kids off streets, put money in their pockets."

New concept of job training - apprenticeship on the job training apart from formal school and unions.

There is a need for more jobs for people in the area as underemployment and unemployment remain a serious problem.

A quota of apprentices should be incorporated as a part of all work problems in the Model Cities area.

It was felt that there should be an incentive program for Negro Administrators and professionals in the school system.

Vocational training:

Establishment of a vocational training center (possibly on the site of presently standing sub-standard buildings).

People really need the Model Cities jobs.

Job placement training facilities and high school vocational training for drop-outs.

1.b. Economic Development

Auto dealer franchise.

Office buildings or vocational center to replace dilapidated empty structures.

More dealer franchises in the area.

An office building complex for small businesses and little entrepreneurs from the area.

Neighborhood business;

Construction of a complex of office buildings.

Super-Market service center.

## 2.a. Education

Education on how to keep up yards and homes.

Education on costs of streets, on clean-up and on how to get things done.

Need super school

Schools need more rooms.

Need Junior High School for total area.

Better school system

Physical education below 5th grade.

There is concern expressed regarding the number of students being bussed from Highland school.

Is Highland school too large for a grammar school?

Ideas are needed to counteract the problem created by Negro college dropouts.

Neighborhood schools: Improvement in the quality of classroom education; field trips to visit out of area businesses.

Better utilization of schools in Model Cities area.

An active PTA needed.

Irvington school needs: Room for expansion; at least one adjacent city block; more and larger classrooms.

More and better teachers; teachers trained for the situation they teach in.  
"That school needs at least one tree!"

The area needs a diagnostic learning -- study clinic where students not only can have their problems diagnosed but where corrective and rehabilitative measures can be initiated.

There is a belief that there is over crowding in Irvington School.

There is a need for more pre-school facilities and programs.

Adult education classes should be programmed in the schools in evenings.

Some sort of drop-out program is needed in connection with the schools, e.g. Jefferson High is still the focus for teenagers even after they have dropped out of school. That is where they hang around. Can't some program be developed to give them a constructive relationship.

The problem of segregated schools and the quality of education needs much more investigation and remedy.

Need for character education in the schools.

More education opportunities.

2.a.  
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Money for remedial reading - retarded children

Community College - Skill Center

Improve the standard of education at Boise and surrounding schools.

Appoint school administrators from qualified people in the area.

Community College, utilizing coliseum as parking lot for community college cars. Some method of making parking lots attractive.

## 2b Culture

We need more and better located libraries.

Branch of O.M.S.I. in area.

Creative landscape architect on Irving Park.

Childrens' zoo in the area. Resident children would care for them.

OMSI Branch, also childrens' zoo where children could participate in caring for the animals, an experience children (city) lack.

## 2.c. Recreation

Youth programs and recreation

Every two blocks -

Place for young people to play basketball

Social experience for those without a car spread throughout the neighborhood.

Space - more and better utilization of what we have. All weather purpose recreation space.

The need was expressed for a community facility on school property. This facility could be used by the school during the day and on evenings, weekends and holidays by the community, etc..

There is a need for improved youth programs and an expanded Woodlawn school park.

Vest Pocket Portable Parks - Tot lots - Visible Program

Under-utilization of school buildings and churches.

Teen and drop in center - dances

The status of the now vacant bowling alley on Mississippi Avenue was questioned. It could perhaps be turned into some sort of factory or group of small industries to provide jobs for area residents. The thought was also expressed that there is need for better recreation facilities, this was the original purpose of the building, it could perhaps be converted for another recreation use.

Why not covered play areas in parks for better utilization during our long rainy months.

Parks need better supervision.

A community party room for children -- like the one at the zoo.

A center for the older citizens where facilities and resources geared to their peculiar needs are available.

A teen center so that this group will have a place to go.

Can Model Cities help to underwrite the N. Branch YMCA to make their pool available for a reasonable fee?

Several small parks throughout area; large parks are fine but let's have more small ones people can walk to.

Concern was expressed concerning the utilization of park space, especially in terms of inadequate facilities and usefulness on rainy days.

More neighborhood recreational centers are needed.

More Negroes should take place participating in the park program as workers, supervisors and planners.

## 2.c. Recreation

The Knott Street swimming pool should be finished as soon as possible.

There is a feeling that the park in the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Project was progressing unnecessarily slowly.

There is a need for small local parks for small children; located close to their homes. These parks need not be larger than one or two residential building lots. These parks should have programs and guides provided, possibly, by mothers working with VISTA workers and park personnel.

There is a need for indoor facilities particularly meeting rooms.

Covered park

Better utilization of present park space.

Albina Improvement Association Park too small.

Youth Center

School open more hours.

Irvington needs a youth center

Schools need to be open for gym recreation.

It was stated that Irvington Park is not necessarily a safe place either during the day or night.

There is a need for a more adequate park program.

Would it be possible for the school or city to purchase the block adjoining Woodlawn school (West of 11th and North of Oneonta) and develop it as a park?

Can the Red Shied Boys Club be upgraded?

Open block for parks from the ages of 12 down --  
Grade school with grass  
Vacant lots--play equipment

### 3.a. Health

Rat removal.

Faster ambulance service.

Branch of county hospital and/or general clinic set-up -- some type of dental care clinic...possibly these could be incorporated in social service centers.

Unanimous desire for health clinic services in the Woodlawn area was expressed. It was felt that residents of the Woodlawn area have to travel long distances for health services and they have to wait a long time upon arrival.

Suggestion was made regarding the possibility of some kind of subsidy for private clinics, doctors, etc. in the Woodlawn area. They could handle welfare recipients and those in financial need, etc., while at the same time minimizing the trend toward socialized medical facilities and programs.

A comprehensive medical center in the community.

Small dental clinic for indigent families.

School for the teaching of general and dental hygiene.

### 3b Social

An improved and larger childcare center or centers is needed.

There is a need for a guidance, recreation, parents and children day center, a place that would assist parents and children with their emotional problems.

There was a concern over the loneliness of the elderly and for the unspoken but apparent real feelings of fear experienced by many residents in the Model Cities area.

Day care school for emotional children.

Family Relations Program.

Centers for the elderly within an 8 block walking distance. More of them and smaller.

Halfway school for behavior problem children.

There is a need for more family orientated and social services.

Human Service needs as well as beauty for our community.

Welfare clients more money allowed for garbage removal.

Make Social Service centers throughout Model Cities area, small enough for people in each area to know one another - place for elderly to go for recreation, meetings, etc.

A "Halfway House" for problem children.

### 3.c. Legal

No needs expressed to date, however, as planning progresses it is expected that needs relating to legal services will be indentified.

#### 4.a. Public Safety

There is a need for more police to be working in the area.

Something needs to be done about purse snatchers.

Police not concerned.

Policeman walking beat.

Control prostitutes on streets.

Police-Community Relations office needed in area.

A police job core center where high school drop-outs could be trained and educated was recommended.

There was concern that there were too many uniformed police in the area.

More information is needed about police services.

East precincts are favored over those of North precincts.

A local police precinct and fire department were recommended.

A sub-station for police in area.

Open prostitution on streets.

Better ambulance and hospital care.

There was a feeling that improved police and fire service in the Woodlawn area was needed; possibly, a fire station, local police station or a shared facility.

Police don't enforce laws on N. E. side.

Several people commented that leash laws were not being enforced and that roaming dogs were a real or potential hazard to people of all ages. It was alleged that the Humane Society would not pick up the dogs even upon a complaint by property owners.

Finally, there was a comment pertaining to the excellent fire service now available and a doubt that better fire service could be acquired even if a local station were constructed.

Better response on part of police to residents complaints of vandalism.

### 5. a. Citizen Participation

Neighborhood Fair - Block off street - Have a super block party

Get some young people on Model Cities committees.

The group wanted information about the working structures of Model Cities Program and the interrelations of Board-Committee-Staff-Residents.

We need a work-study program to provide both work training and community involvement for young people -- and perhaps some not so young.

It was noted, in the area of citizens' participation, that there was a lack of youth groups in particular and other citizens' activity groups in general.

It was noted that citizens don't understand citizens' participation.

An offering of a reward by Model Cities, for the theme "My ideas on Model Cities" was also suggested. Further suggested was that English departments might be interested in sponsoring themes along this line.

An anti-litter campaign is needed.

Unity - Need to work together

Get together on block to block basis - possibly block leaders

Will there be orientation and training for local people?

Get all involved by getting them working.

Let everyone get a chance to speak.

Use business places as outlets to get information to people.

Model Cities Fair -- Sort of a super block party to give a sense of community spirit and involvement to residents.

## 5. a. Citizen Participation

### Blocks:

Block by block communication needed; to bring pride in district; from neighborhood groups to discover what needs to be done.

### Know-Hows:

There is a need to draw together individuals with know-how who are already working within the Model City area.

Educate citizens about their responsibilities for maintaining their community.

Need printed material on Model Cities.

Large percent of people don't go to meetings - need to be reached at home.

Many people want to live here, but planning should be for whole city.

Need people to go door to door to give information (Board member, Dishman assured the group that there would be paid people to go door to door and explain the program)

One individual hoped that the day would come when the youth would take pride in this area.

Greater availability of information about Model Cities.

6.a. Housing Choice

It is expected that needs relating to housing choice will be identified as the planning program progresses.

6.b. Housing Supply

Some low income housing projects are probably needed.

There is a need to have sub-standard housing removed and new housing put in, but not all of the new housing should be multiple residential.

Low cost housing located in the neighborhood: Revival of the Daisy Williams Housing Project.

6.c. Housing Relocation

Displaced people not to be put in substandard neighborhoods.

Concern about displaced people.

What happens to people who are displaced?

#### 6.d. Housing Quality

Prizes were suggested for the best kept and most improved homes.

Money for home improvement:

Government loans at 3% interest made available for homeowners.

Low interest rate loans to improve housing.

Absentee landlords should have to abide by code enforcement laws.

Basic housing maintenance needs to be kept-up; buildings should be brought to standards.

Low interest loans need to be made available to fix up the houses.

There are many dirty, badly kept dwellings in the area. Particular mention was made of the Alberta Apartments but it was agreed that this was more wide-spread than this one example. Absentee ownership was largely (but not entirely) blamed.

There was considerable discussion of the need for bringing much of the area's housing up to standard, to remove derelict buildings, and to construct new housing on vacant land so created.

Better housing (improvements of present structures plus new housing for displaced persons, set standard or code for buildings, etc.)

### 7.a. Physical Environment

A citizens stated that he resented the junky condition of the area that he lived in.

Old buildings subject to condemnation need to be condemned in a more timely fashion.

Concern was expressed for the adequacy of open space in the Model Cities area.

Deserted cars need to be towed away.

Garbage pile up.

Tear down empty, condemned buildings.

Half paved streets -- morale problem.

Beautiful neighborhood.

Street lights within the blocks bordering Albina:

Street cleaning could be improved.

Use of land under freeways bordering Albina:

Planting of trees; bicycle paths; etc.

There is a need for code enforcement to affect absentee and resident land owners.

A neighborhood clean up campaign would go a long ways toward changing the image of the area.

There's a need for improved street lighting in the Model Cities area.

Underground wiring in the Model Cities area should be considered.

There are many vacant and derelict houses in the area that should be removed or renovated

Removal or repair of unsafe and unsound structures.

System to take away polluted air -- we have storm drains to carry off rain water, sewers to carry off waste, why not something to remove polluted air?

The derelic business buildings on Mississippi and Williams Avenues need removal and replacement.

## 7.b. Transportation

Better and cheaper transportation was demanded.

An unlimited Sunday transfer privilege was recommended.

It is believed that there is too much traffic on the Neighborhood streets.

Transit system to jobs, such as Rivergate.

Physical improvement of streets and area.

It was suggested that humps in the streets be located around school and parks to slow down traffic.

The half paved streets in Woodlawn need to be improved according to at least one resident.

There should be more off street parking in residential areas to minimize the number of cars that need to park in residential streets.

Residents thought that the possibility of a street pattern that would minimize the number of through streets adjacent to schools should be considered.

Traffic control so children can walk and play in safety, prevent through traffic; use of traffic diverters.

Monorail - Free - people would use.

Better mass transit system -- make it free so it will be more desirable than using one's car.

Traffic diverters around school area.

Emphasis on Traffic Control - prime concern should be people live in neighborhoods like ours. Route traffic away from children's play and residential areas. One possibility is a system of traffic diverters. Also chafter marks on street to slow traffic.

8.a. Unclassified

Much of the meeting was devoted to an exchange of fears, mostly directed at urban renewal. If the bulldozer comes, what happens to the people? Will their homes be taken without enough payment to permit them to reestablish themselves as independently as before? Adequate payment for replacement was almost as much a concern as forced dispossession itself.

One member voiced the opinion that the major contribution of Model Cities should be physical change, physical improvement. These are things that will be here after the social programs have ended. Others strongly disagreed and considerable discussion resulted.

Concern was expressed for the Negro male under-achiever.

Make better use of businesses in community for distribution of information.

There was doubt expressed that the War on Poverty was really accomplishing its intended objectives.

It was felt by more than one person that the city was not properly responsive to area residents requests for city service.

Garbage removal by the city

Bowling alley could be used for many things.

Garbage service free or cooperative

There is definitely a fear that the Model Cities demonstration project is a guise for urban renewal of the Albina area.

People primarily want:

1. To remain in the area
2. To improve their neighborhood and to maintain its residential character.

Model Cities - Is it urban renewal?

There is a need for a demographic study of the area.

Individuals expressed concern over the need for free garbage service to be provided either by the city or possibly by non-profit businesses.

Clean way of life.

City Hall does not respond to citizens' complaints.

Trust - Mutual trust and faith amongst participants.

Suggest problems as perceived by blocks are different.

Make aim specific as how things are to be done.

Chairman will need help on how to run meetings.

8.a. Unclassified

Great concern was expressed about Urban Renewal. A general fear of dis-  
possession without the ability to acquire adequate alternate housing at the  
same price was voiced. Urban Renewal was equated directly with the bull-  
dozer. There was wide expression of need for better housing but no suggestion  
as to how it can be achieved.

There was an expression of frustration in dealing with City Hall. How  
can we get straight information about regulations, codes, etc.?

There is a need for someone to help citizens get the city services that are  
rightfully theirs, to find the avenues through the red tape and the familiar  
bureaucratic run-around. (ombudsman?)

Some interest was voiced regarding compulsory collection of garbage by the  
city if necessary. One resident suggested that underground garbage cans be  
made a requirement for the entire Model Cities area.

Legislative committee to lobby on behalf of changing legislation on city  
and state level.