

VIII. HOUSING AND TAX REFORM FOR HOMEOWNERS

1. I WILL IMMEDIATELY SET UP A TASK FORCE IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO EXPEDITE THE NEW HUD PROGRAM TO REHABILITATE AND DEMOLISH THE 7,000 ABANDONED HUD HOUSES IN DETROIT. I WILL ASK KNOWLEDGEABLE BUSINESS AND LABOR HOUSING EXPERTS TO SERVE WITH SENIOR CITY OFFICIALS ON THIS TASK FORCE.

2. I WILL ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF OTHER MAYORS IN MICHIGAN TO SUPPLEMENT MY PREVIOUS EFFORTS IN LANSING TO CHANGE THE CURRENT PROPERTY TAX LAWS TO ALLOW DETROIT AND OTHER CITIES TO:
 - a. REWARD WITH LOWER TAXES THOSE WHO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THEIR PROPERTY INSTEAD OF REWARDING OWNERS THAT LET THEIR PROPERTY DETERIORATE:

 - b. PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VACANT LAND WITH TAX INCENTIVES TO THE OWNERS WHO MAINTAIN THAT LAND OR DEVELOP IT INTO SMALL "PARKS".

 - c. PROVIDE TAX INCENTIVES TO "URBAN HOMESTEADERS"- FAMILIES THAT ACQUIRE AN ABANDONED HOME AND AGREE TO REHABILITATE IT.