

CITY OF DETROIT  
MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY RENEWAL

August 14, 1967

TO: Mr. Richard Strichartz  
FROM: Harold J. Bellamy  
SUBJECT: Social Profile of the 12th Street Area

The social data, which is presented below, for the 12th Street area does not fully reflect the nature of the area or the factors that have contributed to its present composition. Three important factors that should be considered are:

(1) The renewal of Detroit's Skid Row area, previous to the enactment of legislative and social controls concerned with the relocation of both individuals and businesses, has greatly affected the 12th Street area. There has been a steady relocation into the area of those displaced by renewal activity. This type of indigent population usually results in an area characterized by unemployment, sub-standard housing, high density of both people and dwelling units, high mobility, welfare and high crime rates.

(2) The influx of people moving into the 12th Street area where a housing shortage already exists, has caused an apparent over-

crowding of dwelling units. This is further complicated by the fact that the area is also situated in a section of the city where open space and recreational space is almost non-existent.

(3) Police records indicate that there has been a sharp increase in crime and vice in the 12th Street area over the past few years. This is evidenced by extremely high night crime rates and prostitution violations.

Before presenting the social data for the 12th Street area one should keep in mind the population makeup for the City of Detroit. The table below indicates the total population and racial breakdown for the City of Detroit.

POPULATION DATA - CITY OF DETROIT

Total City	1940	1950	1960	1966*
Total	1,623,452	1,849,568	1,670,144	1,640,000
White	1,472,662	1,545,847	1,182,970	1,074,000
Non-White	150,790	303,721	487,174	574,000
%	9.3%	16.4%	29.2%	35.0%

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\* estimated

Based on a study conducted by Greenleigh Associates for the Mayor's Committee for Community Renewal, we have derived a statistical profile of Detroit's 12th Street area. Several precautions should be taken in analyzing this data. First, the study was conducted in 1964 and all indications are that this area has been experiencing severe difficulties during the intervening years. Second, these data are extrapolations and therefore, are not as accurate as if an actual survey of the 12th Street area were conducted. Third, the basis of the Greenleigh Survey was such that it is related only to those families living in substandard housing. It is conceivable that these same social ills also exist in housing that is in better condition.

In addition, the conditions described are extremely conservative because the blight surveys for this area did not indicate a poor rating. This was largely due to the fact that multiple structures were difficult to rate and therefore these areas do not rate poorly.

## EMPLOYMENT

In the Detroit Metropolitan Area the rate of unemployment for the past year has averaged 4.5%.

For the inner city Negro the rate of unemployment is 11.7% as opposed to 5.7% for the white labor force in the same area of the city.

Negro youth unemployment in the inner city is much higher, amounting to 18.8% as compared 12.0% for inner city whites.

SOCIAL WELFARE CASE LOAD JULY 1967

Source: Wayne County Department of Social Services

	<u>Wayne County</u>	<u>Detroit*</u>
Old Age	12,800	10,240
ADC**	19,005	15,204
Aid to Blind	670	536
Aid to Disabled	7,398	5,918
General Assistance	4,699	3,259

\* Based on Wayne County Department of Social Services  
Estimate of Detroit's case load at 80% of total county case load.

\*\* Includes ADC, ADCU, AFDC

Comment: Case load has varied very little from previous year figures.

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CRIME

The crime rate for the 12th Street area is 1½ times as high as the City rate.

The Youth Bureau contacts occur at a rate 60% higher than the total City.

WELFARE

The Welfare Registration Bureau's clearances are the best general indicator of welfare activity for the City. In the 12th Street area these registrations occur at a rate 80% higher than the total City.

HEALTH

The incidence of V.D. is over three times the City average.

The activity of the Visiting Nurse is more than double the City average.

Apathy of neighborhood residents toward health violations is noticeable by a minimal complaint rate to the Health Department 1/10th the City average.

SCHOOL

The children of the 12th Street area are truant from school at a rate almost double the city average.

School dropouts of the 12th Street area occur at a rate 65% higher than the City average.

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