

# **TOWN MEETING: MISSISSIPPI 200**

A R E P O R T T O T H E S T A T E  
TOWN MEETINGS IN THE CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
DECEMBER 4, 1978

TOWN MEETINGS IN  
THE CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
October through December, 1978

JAN 50

TOWN	DATE HELD	LOCAL CONTACTS	
STAR	October 16	Joe Byrd Box 101	Dora Jean Mangum P.O. Box 100
BEL AIR, Jackson	October 24	Mr./Mrs. Garrett Gray 2063 Queenroad Ave.	Mildred Williams 2714 Milo
HARRISVILLE	October 24	Sarah Lee Ball Box 217	Eddie Ivey Box 248
EDWARDS	October 28	Charlie Richardson Mayor, Box 55	Lillian Marshall P.O. Box 61
LEARNED	October 30	W. K. Rigger Mayor	Harold Richie Learned
BENTONIA	November 2	Mayor S. Parker P.O. Box 337	Mrs. Hildebrand Neighborhood Center
PELAHATCHIE	November 2	Lyla Tanner Mayor Pro Tempore	Pat Courtney Box 93
WOODHAVEN-WOODLEA	November 2	Ann Cook 6028 Westwind Road	J.W. Underwood 6049 Woodlea
MIDWAY	November 3	Elizabeth Grant Rt. 1, Box 79, Vaughan	Willie Clifton Rt. 2, Box 172, Benton
MT. OLIVE/ WESTVIEW	November 4	Gertrude Grenada Rt. 2, Box 160, Bolton	Earnestine Jones Rt. 2, Box 170, Bolton
OIL CITY	November 5	Rev. & Mrs. S. N. Handy Rt. 2, Box 116, Bentonia	Willie Mae Jordon P.O. Box 296, Bentonia
ST. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL, Jackson	November 6	Robert Lockett Principal	Thomas Morrison Student
FANNIN	November 6	Mr/Mrs. John Adams Rt. 3, Box 441, Brandon	Menia Dykes Rt. 3, Box 302, Brandon
EDEN	November 14	Irene Street Rt. 2, Yazoo City	Katie Dew Rt. 2, Yazoo City
PINES, Jackson	November 15	Thomas Hughes 344 Lake of Pines Dr	Leola Moore 141 Needle Cove Dr.
MIDTOWN, Jackson	November 16	Hickman Johnson Farish St. Baptist Ch.	Charles H. Tillman Rowan Jr. High
CROSSROADS	November 18	Mr/Mrs Emmett Turner Rt. 1, Utica	Ruth Wilson Governor's Office
VAUGHAN/ LINWOOD	November 19	Thomas Harris Vaughan	Karisti Mills Linwood
LANGFORD COMMUNITY	December 5		
GLOBAL WOMEN'S FORUM	December 5		

TOWN MEETING: MISSISSIPPI 200, a program executed by Town Meeting: Mississippi, Ltd. and sponsored by The Governor's Office of Citizen Participation, is designed to allow 200 Mississippi communities the opportunity to hold a Town Meeting during the period of November 1978 through June 1979. This effort will be accomplished by the holding of 20 Town Meetings in 20 communities in each of the 10 planning and development districts. This report is on the completion of this effort in the first of the ten planning and development districts.

TOWN MEETING: MISSISSIPPI 200 began in the Central Planning and Development District in October, 1978. Two teams of volunteers contacted 53 communities in the seven county area of the Central PDD during October and November. Of these 53 communities 12 were urban neighborhoods of Jackson, 23 were incorporated towns and cities, and 18 were unincorporated communities. The contacts in each of these communities were made with people who had assumed leadership roles in their town; mayors were contacted early in each of the incorporated communities and school principals and other civic leaders were contacted in unincorporated communities and neighborhoods.

Twenty Town Meetings, including one special Town Meeting for youth and a statewide Women's Town Meeting, occurred as a result of this effort. A Town Meeting Assembly was also held in Jackson on November 11th. The average attendance for all these events was 34 participants, with an attendance range from 10 to 120. Excluding the special Town Meetings, the attendance averaged 11% of the adult population of the participating local communities. Most of these events were held in schools or community centers. In reflection, the average attendance for the 20 events was lower than expected, especially for the events set up before November when sponsorship by The Governor's Office of Citizen Participation became official. This was due, in part, to the absence of an advance mailing to the communities that would have alerted them to the program and involved more citizens in the local set up work. Such a mailing has been done for the remaining planning and development districts. A list of each Town Meeting with two contact people from each event is on the previous page of this report, and letters from several Town Meeting participants are attached.

Town  
Meeting:  
Mississippi

20 Events  
In The  
Central PDD

Town  
Meeting  
Participation

The  
Report

The following report contains a chart of the challenges and proposals identified at the Town Meetings along with an interpretative statement. Also attached is a list of adjustments in program implementation that will be made in the future. A report such as this will be written after the 20 Town Meetings have happened in each planning and development district.

PRESENT CHALLENGES

LOCAL ECONOMY		CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT		COMMUNITY CARE	
ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC WELL-BEING  (11)	Researching Available Resources (4)	CREATING INTER-COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION  (13)	Maintaining Open Dialogue (6)	IMPROVING COMMUNITY SERVICES  (8)	Launching Improvement Projects (4)
	Funding Needed Services (5)		Strengthening City/County Relations (3)		Providing Elders Care (2)
	Recruiting New Industry (2)		Welcoming New Residents (4)		Establishing Beautification Programs (2)
UPGRADING HOUSING QUALITY  (8)	Financing Housing Improvements (2)	INCREASING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  (21)	Developing Public Awareness (16)	DEVELOPING COMMUNITY RECREATION  (9)	Organizing Local Initiative (4)
	Improving Existing Properties (4)		Creating Effective Organizations (2)		Promoting Family Involvement (1)
	Acquiring Available Property (2)		Nurturing Emerging Leadership (3)		Creating Youth Activities (4)

PRACTICAL PROPOSALS

LOCAL ECONOMY		CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT		COMMUNITY CARE	
BROADEN ECONOMIC BASE  (5)	Attract New Industry (3)	PROMOTE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  (27)	Organize Community Promotion (14)	SUSTAIN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  (9)	Create Recreational Structures (5)
	Develop Revitalization Plan (1)		Schedule Community Get-together (3)		Involve Total Family (2)
	Contact Available Resources (1)		Hold Community Celebrations (6)		Organize Supportive Clubs (2)
ACQUIRE NEEDED SERVICES  (19)	Hold Research Meetings (11)	PROMOTE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  (27)	Community Clean-up Days (4)	SUPPORT COMMUNITY STRUCTURES  (12)	Attend Board Meetings (5)
	Involve Needed Expertise (4)				Hold Regular Town Meetings (5)
	Establish New Services (4)				Promote Existing Projects (2)

The  
Challenges

Sixty-six separate challenges were identified in the Town Meetings held in the Central PDD. The most obvious concern of many citizens in these communities was economic well-being. However, as the participants had a chance to look more closely at the entire situation their town was facing, they most frequently identified the major underlying challenge to be involving all residents in the creation of the community's future. Most communities, from the unincorporated villages of Yazoo County to the large neighborhoods of Jackson, spoke strongly of a sense of alienation and confusion over the changes that have occurred everywhere in the last 20 years. All talked about a loss of a "sense of community" and of a feeling that no one cared "like they used to". Almost every community saw the key to any effective action relative to economic decay or inadequate services to be one of increasing the frequency and effectiveness of citizen involvement in the total community life. Integral in this, as the residents talked about it, was improving inter-community communications, such as the dialogue and cooperation between the white and black residents, and improving the community's relations with the larger political unit, i.e. the county or city. Beyond this primary concern with citizen involvement four other major challenge arenas were identified: improving the local business situation, upgrading housing conditions, launching beautification and improvement projects, and strengthening community recreation.

The  
Proposals

With the challenge statements before them, the participants then proceeded to respond with suggestions of possible actions local citizens could implement themselves. Commonly, participants are somewhat perplexed and overwhelmed by the question, "What could we do ourselves to deal effectively with these challenges?" By giving each participant a chance to struggle with such a question residents develop a new sensitivity for the community's total situation and realize their own individual potential as part of their community's future. Local citizens are often most creative when responding to the challenge of developing community involvement. In the Central PDD everything from turkey shoots to community picnics were planned. Clean-up campaigns were stressed. Promoting the local community, presenting a positive story of that community's gifts and potentials, was proposed in almost

every community. Other major arenas of proposals dealt with youth and recreation, and supporting town officials and structures. The most difficult challenge arenas, economic well-being and acquiring needed services, were places where future research, planning, and involvement of outside expertise were proposed.

The  
Reflections

After the evening Town Meeting, an evening of hard work with a mixture of singing and talking with neighbors, the citizens left more aware of the real situation in their community and with a new readiness to be a part of the positive action that the future requires. At the closing of each event the participants were asked to reflect on the meeting and plans they had made. Comments indicated that the Town Meeting allowed for a sense of individual worth and belonging to surface and replace the mood of being lost in an indifferent community. Residents talked about a new faith in their community and in the democratic process. Often people commented that they were delighted to see others who care, like they care, about the community and its future.

Program  
Implementation  
Learnings

The Town Meeting program in the Central PDD revealed several areas of weakness in the program's implementation. Several adjustments have been made regarding future implementation. The areas and the adjustments are listed below.

1. County and State Officials' Involvement

In several instances Town Meetings happened in the Central PDD without prior notification of county or state officials, such as County Supervisors or Legislators. During all subsequent Town Meeting: Mississippi activity these officials will be notified prior to the local Town Meetings.

2. Federal and State Agency Involvement

Few agency representatives participated in the Central PDD Town Meetings or in the Town Meeting Assembly. In the future agency personnel will be involved in the set up of local Town Meetings and will be participating in each Town Meeting Assembly, where agencies will respond to specific questions communities raise following their Town Meetings.

3. District Town Meeting Assembly Attendance

The Central PDD Town Meeting Assembly (held November 11th) was not well attended, and this was due primarily to the lateness of the decision regarding date and time of the Assembly. In the future the Assembly date and location will be chosen at the beginning of the Town Meeting effort in a particular PDD, an invitation will be printed, and a representative group from each Town Meeting community will be encouraged to attend.

4. Large Town/City Town Meetings

Most of the Town Meetings in the Central PDD were held in small communities, both incorporated and unincorporated. Several of the larger communities were simply "too busy" to hold the Town Meeting without weeks of planning. In the future advance contact will be made with the mayors and other leaders of larger communities in order that a Town Meeting date be set well in advance.



LETTERS FROM TOWN MEETING PARTICIPANTS.

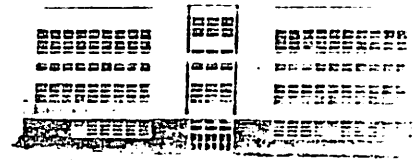
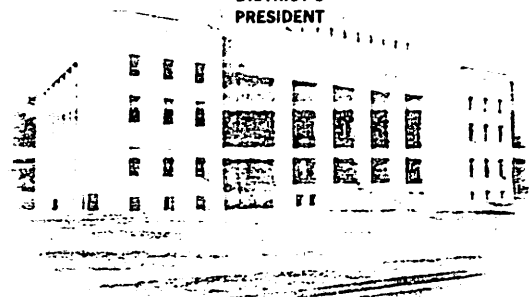
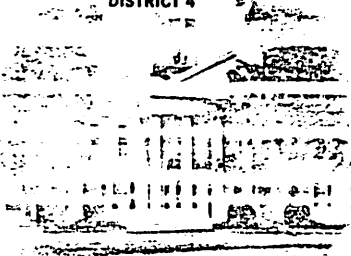
12-6-78 GOVS

MALCOLM N. WARREN  
DISTRICT 2

HERBERT BERRYHILL  
DISTRICT 5  
PRESIDENT

WALTER DENNIS  
DISTRICT 1  
VICE PRESIDENT  
PAL R. JONES  
DISTRICT 3

ROGER STEWART  
DISTRICT 4



1880

1930

1988

PETE MCGEE  
CLERK

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HINDS COUNTY  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

December 4, 1978

Mrs. Ruth Wilson  
Director of Volunteer Services  
Post Office Box 139  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

After attending one of your Town Meetings, I was extremely impressed with the work you and your staff are accomplishing with the Citizens of our various Communities.

I am deeply appreciative of your untiring efforts and I would like to offer my congratulations on this endeavor and continued success.

Please don't hesitate to call on me if I can be of any service to you, you have my full support.

Respectfully,

*Herbert Berryhill*  
Herbert Berryhill  
President

HB:bd

# WOODHAVEN/WOODLEA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 12206  
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

## Officers:

Ann Cook, President  
Wydette Hawkins, VP  
Jeanenne Riecken, Treas.  
Betty Jones, Secretary

## Directors:

Dick Hall  
J. J. Sampson, Jr.  
Lewis Haycox

December 4, 1978

Mr. Jeff Roper and Ms. Eloise Patton  
Governor's Office of Volunteers  
P. O. Box 139  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Mr. Roper and Ms. Patton:

The Woodhaven/Woodlea Homeowners Association would like to express its appreciation and gratitude to both of you for the "Town Meeting" you conducted at our November 2, 1978 monthly Homeowners meeting.

During the month since that time, I have had numerous very favorable comments from those who attended and several calls from ones who didn't, expressing sorrow at missing what they had heard was such a fantastic experience from their friends and neighbors who were there.

Specifically, the praise concentrated primarily on the professional manner in which the meeting was conducted, the rapidity with which the program moved, the somnth manner by which all digression was circumvented, the apparent high intellectual level of the volunteers, and the great amount of productivity the volunteers were able to elicit from those attending in such a short period of time.

Looking to the future, several residents observed that this type of program is far better than the so-called "Welfare" programs, as a person is encouraged to look within himself to his own resources and talents and develop them for his own benefit and the benefit of his community.

Under the welfare system, a person is encouraged to be unproductive and to depend upon "handouts" which cannot last forever, as the American taxpayer simply cannot and will not continue to subsidize this cancerous growth.

Under the "Town Meeting" program, each individual is encouraged to develop his potential to its maximum and to develop a sense of pride in individual, as well as community accomplishments. We feel this program gives strong guidelines in showing a person "how" to discover and develop his latent talents and "what" to do with them once they have been developed.

Our community views the "Town Meeting" program as the most workable answer to welfare, at least for those physically and mentally capable of becoming productive, contributing citizens.

We hope you will be able to conduct many more meetings throughout the nation such as the one you provided for us in November, and we also hope to have you back in a few months to evaluate the programs "Town Meeting" set into motion in our community.

God bless you and your humanitarian efforts.

Sincerely,

Ann Cook, Pres.

JWU/ps

*J. W. Underwood*  
Cordially yours,  
J. W. Underwood

I just wanted to take this opportunity to tell you again what a great job I think you and your associate did in leading our Woodhaven/Woodlea town meeting earlier this month. I just don't know how you accomplished so much in such a short period of time. You challenged us to appraise our community and to set forth in writing our community's strong points, needs and goals - - - all within three hours. This appears to me to be a valuable service. Best wishes to you as you continue the program.

Dear Mr. Roper:

Mr. Jeff Roper  
Governor's Office of  
Volunteer Services  
c/o Ruth Wilson  
P.O. Box 139  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

November 30, 1978

J. W. Underwood  
President

# State of Mississippi

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

C. E. HOLLADAY, SUPERINTENDENT



DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION

RALPH BREWER, DIRECTOR

P. O. BOX 771

JACKSON, MS. 39205

November 30, 1978

Mr. Jeff Roper  
% Governor's Office for Volunteer Services  
P. O. Box 139  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Mr. Roper:

I am just getting around to writing to let you know how very much we enjoyed the Bel Air Town meeting that you folk convened at Grove Park.

It was my first time in such a meeting but it was an eye opener. The information, participants input, organizational and participant involving techniques were a pleasant, productive and learningful experience.

Favorable comments and a desire for continuation of the town meeting idea was expressed by each participant.


You did an excellent job of stimulating us. Thanks.

Sincerely yours,

*Mildred M. Williams*

Mildred M. Williams, Supervisor  
Early Childhood Education

MMW/jc 8138



Mid-Town  
Neighborhood  
Development  
Group

P.O. Box 22962  
Jackson, MS 39205  
(601) 355-0897

November 28, 1978

Ruth Wilson  
Governor's Office of Volunteers  
Box 139  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

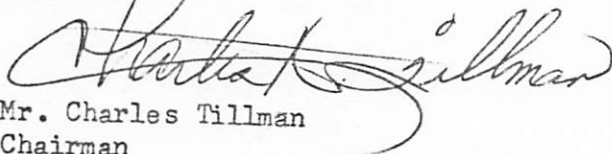
Dear Mrs. Wilson,

We appreciate the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Roper in helping to put together the first Town Meeting of Mid-Town.

The people of Mid-Town enjoyed the meeting and felt it was a great way for everyone present to participate in defining the neighborhood's problems.

Through the problems outlined in the town meeting many felt this will aid Mid-Town in its efforts of community awareness and improvement.

Sincerely



Mr. Charles Tillman  
Chairman

Mid-Town Neighborhood Development Group

## Women Discuss Their Roles

A Global Women's Forum sponsored by the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services was attended yesterday in the Governor's mansion by 130 women from across the state.

The day-long forum, developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, brought together women from education, community services, research, crisis intervention and other professions to assess their roles and priorities in solving worldwide problems.

"There are many new avenues opening up to women," said Mrs. Ruth Wilson, volunteer services director, as she opened the forum from a podium in the mansion. "As a black woman, I couldn't have stood here five years ago. I don't think this would have been a reality in Mississippi. The reason being not that I am black, but that I am a woman."

Mrs. Lynn Mathews, a cultural affairs staff member from Chicago, got the forum started by asking the women what problems concerned them. They stood, one by one, advocating reforms in a variety of areas: illiteracy in Mississippi, women's legal rights, repeal of sales tax on food, problems of the elderly, and narrowing the state's economic and educational gaps.

They discussed dreams of equal pay, safe streets and communities, acknowledgement of racism and of women becoming more involved in administrative decision making.

And it was agreed that women



Mrs. Lynn Mathews (left) of the Institute of Cultural Affairs' Chicago office, and Kay Lush of Houston, Texas, led a Global Women's Forum yesterday in the Governor's mansion.

now have a role in seeing that these dreams are brought to light, in helping to solve the problems that confront today's society — problems that can not be isolated, but exist on a global level.

By labeling problems under general economic, political, and cultural categories and then grouping related troubles under the general areas of human rights, resource management, cultural development and value systems, the women were able to get into groups and determine what they saw as the underlying causes.

Armed with what they saw as the causes to global troubles, they came up with ideas for solutions that they could help to implement on a local level

through the PTA, their professional positions, or social service activities.

For example, under the broad area of value systems, the underlying difficulty seemed to participants to be a breakdown of moral and spiritual values. Teen pregnancy was thought to be one manifestation of this breakdown, and education in the areas of parenting and marriage one of the solutions.

The women left the forum with ideas of the social, economic and political problems facing their world, their state, and their community.

And they also left with the knowledge that women are now in positions to do something about these problems.

COMPLETE LISTING OF CHALLENGES AND PROPOSALS--

TOWN MEETINGS IN THE CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



## THE CHALLENGES

In the arena of ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, the challenges facing communities are:

- incorporating a community to fund a sewer system (Star)
- increasing tax base from business & industry (D'Lo)
- careful use of water and creating an adequate water system (Learned)
- developing jobs and housing to attract the young (Pelahatchie)
- organizing leadership to research available needed services (Harrisville)
- developing revenue and more communication between town and elected officials (Edwards)
- developing economic resources (D'Lo)
- developing leadership to deal with lost revenue sharing money (Canton)
- funding the fire department and raising money from the community (Star)
- finding resources for capital investment and overcoming apathy among city officials (Midtown, Jackson)
- developing awareness about possible resources (Midtown)

In the arena of UPGRADING HOUSING QUALITY, the challenges facing communities are:

- unavailable land as it has been tied up in longtime family estates (Benton)
- recruiting new businesses and industry to the community and finding available land (Bentonia)
- funding housing improvements (Bentonia)
- improving property, housing, roads for companies to locate (Canton)
- developing owner's concern for housing improvements (Midway)
- establishing a property tax and homestead exemption (Puckett)
- educating people how to care for their homes (Pines, Jackson)
- educating home buyers and establishing a check system to insure quality building (Vaughan/Linwood, Yazoo County)

In the arena of CREATING INTER-COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS, the challenges facing communities are:

- creating a sense of participation in all citizens while electing a mayor who will participate in the community on all levels (Pelahatchie)
- building a closer relationship between parents and school officials (Harrisville)
- equalizing the population of the wards (Canton)
- building cooperation between elected officials and the townspeople in particular to complete the industrial park (Pelahatchie)
- allowing communication between residents and officials as to the wants and needs of the community (Bentonia)
- creating a community organization and participation in board meetings and other town meetings that will enable the board to work closely with each other and the town (Edwards)
- creating awareness on the part of county officials of the needs of the community (Star)
- breaking through the consciousness of city hall and making them aware that we know our problems and need changes (Midtown, Jackson)
- creating effective dialogue with the city through a strong local organization (Midtown, Jackson)
- getting more minorities in office (Vaughan/Linwood, Yazoo County)
- creating cooperation so planning can happen (Eden)
- having effective meetings (Pines, Jackson)

In the arena of INCREASING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, the challenges facing communities are:

- involving the community in attending meetings and volunteering (Woodhaven-Woodlea, Jackson)
- building concern and communication (Harrisville)

- creating public interest (Puckett)
- accepting duties as citizens (Woodhaven-Woodlea, Jackson)
- starting community involvement (Harrisville)
- creating togetherness (Bel Air, Jackson)
- developing communication (Learned)
- building a growing identity where even newcomers feel as though they know the community when they arrive (Pelahatchie)
- developing interest and pride in the people (Edwards)
- allowing people to feel needed and to realize their importance (Mt. Olive/  
Westview, Hinds Co.)
- establishing a dialogue between blacks and whites (Vaughan/Linwood, Yazoo Co.)
- getting blacks together (Vaughan/Linwood, Yazoo Co.)
- innovating new ideas for future growth (Crossroads Community, Hinds Co.)
- getting people together (Crossroads, Hinds Co.)
- forming a group to see the real needs (Crossroads, Hinds Co.)

In the arena of IMPROVING COMMUNITY SERVICES, the challenges facing communities are:

- awakening people to the need for a library and other activities (Edwards)
- finding leaders for community projects, such as choir directors & piano players (Midway, Yazoo Co.)
- building community support for a town doctor and health services (Bentonla)
- organizing incentive to invite other medical services into the community (Edwards)
- creating interest in the beauty of the town and building cooperation (Pelahatchie)
- providing programs for the elderly (Midtown, Jackson)
- developing elders' services (Crossroads, Hinds Co.)
- developing a structured community participatory organization (Crossroads, Hinds Co.)
- building strong community pressure regarding beautification of homes (Pines, Jackson)
- making the community aware of the need for a survey (Crossroads, Jackson)
- allowing the community to work together (Eden)
- organizing for safety protection (Eden)

In the arena of DEVELOPING COMMUNITY RECREATION, the challenges facing communities are:

- creating a family oriented community (Learned)
- developing local revenue and leadership to organize youth activities (Edwards)
- organizing recreation (Mt. Olive/Westview, Hinds Co.)
- involving the community to support youth recreation and in providing the necessary facility (Star)
- organizing to build a playground on available land (Midway, Yazoo Co.)
- understanding the total scope of education (Puckett)
- creating a responsibility for the future of our children (Mt. Olive/Westview Hinds Co.)
- having people be aware of what they could do for their community (Benton)
- understanding the importance of youth activities (Crossroads, Hinds Co.)
- finding activities for the young, as they have nothing to do (Crossroads)

## THE PROPOSALS

In order to BROADEN THE ECONOMIC BASE, the proposals are:

- To stimulate and develop interest in the community's development, propose to attract more businesses (D'Lo)
- To deal with the budget and recruit funds, propose to contact available resources for revenue (Mt. Olive/Westview, Hinds Co.)
- To increase the tax base, propose to attract a small industry (D'Lo)
- To get resources for investment, propose to devise a comprehensive plan for revitalization of the community (Midtown, Jackson)

In order to ACQUIRE NEEDED SERVICES, the proposals are:

- To provide programs for the elderly, propose to conduct a survey of need (Midtown, Jackson)
- To establish effective dialogue, propose to get involved to meet needs (Midtown, Jackson)
- To introduce the community to itself, propose to create a community phone book (Pines, Jackson)
- To make sure that housing investments are not wasted, propose to have buyer lending sessions (Vaughan/Linwood, Yazoo Co.)
- To form a recreation center, propose to have a senior citizens day (Crossroads, Hinds Co.)
- To provide a sewer system, propose to involve a study of the community (Star)
- To provide a building for a doctor, propose to get a building (Bentonia)
- To have a community sewer, propose to have a community meeting (Star)
- To have local law enforcement, propose to find a qualified person (Star)
- To benefit the town educationally and culturally, propose to open a temporary library (Edwards)
- To improve living conditions, propose to seek matching funds to complete projects (Edwards)
- To gather information for the needs of the people, propose to form necessary groups (Bentonia)
- To provide recreational facilities, propose to build a fishing pond (Benton)
- To deal with inadequate housing, propose that we get information from FHA concerning proper housing (Midway, Yazoo Co.)
- To find strengths and weaknesses of our community, propose to do a community assessment and survey to find our skills and determine our industrial potential (Anding/Oil City, Yazoo Co)
- To improve the water system, propose to acquire an expert (Learned)
- To upgrade recreational facilities, propose a tennis court complex (Learned)
- To attract more and better jobs through the election process, propose to get people involved (Canton)
- To have medical help when needed, propose to have a medical resources meeting (Crossroads, Hinds Co.)
- To have better roads and available transportation, propose to have a road committee meeting (Crossroads, Hinds Co.)
- To form a day care center, propose to do a community survey (Crossroads, Hinds CO)

In order to PROMOTE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, the proposals are:

- To prepare a community resource inventory to help plan the future, propose to organize a community center (Crossroads, Hinds Co.)
- To have a better community, propose to have a yard of the week contest (Eden)
- To stimulate interest, propose a volunteer clean-up (D'Lo)
- To bring the community together, propose a community mixer (Bel Air, Jackson)
- To unify the community, propose to form a community club (Bentonia)

THE PROPOSALS pg. 2

- To promote fuller community action, propose to form a committee which will establish a block captain system (Woodhaven-Woodlea, Jackson)
- To promote the community, propose to inform neighbors of our valuable community (Woodhaven-Woodlea)
- To engage people to participate in community involvement, propose to have personal contact (Woodhaven-Woodlea, Jackson)
- To get more interest in the community, propose to have a complete and thorough advertisement of the community through radio, etc. (Star)
- To improve the physical appearance of the town, propose to set a clean-up month with a reward system (Edwards)
- To provide better communication, propose to meet together more often (Fannin, Rankin Co.)
- To make Fannin a better place to live, propose to create an interest among the citizens of the community (Fannin, Rankin Co.)
- To improve the community, propose to have an organizational meeting (Harrisville)
- To unite and build together, propose to work together (Bentonina)
- To get more people involved, propose to organize a communications network (Harrisville)
- To get people together to be informed and involved, propose to have a community day (Bentonina)
- To stimulate interest in community activities, propose to continue traditional activities and add new ones (Learned)
- To create interest and communications, propose to hold a Turkey Shoot, a cake auction, Gospel sings, special basketball games and promote a July picnic (Puckett)
- To promote civic pride, propose to generate concern and interest (Pelahatchie)
- To involve men, propose to have a community calender with specific jobs for men to do dealing with recreation (Mt. Olive/Westview, Hinds Co.)
- To get the community motivated to correct problems, propose to get the word out through the media (Puckett)
- To be better informed and working as a community, propose to have a paint-up, fix-up campaign (Pelahatchie)
- To have everyone feel they can be a part of the community, propose to have a community picnic (Mt. Olive/Westview, Hinds Co.)
- To get effective organization, propose to share ideas (Vaughan/Linwood)
- To dialogue to insure growth, propose to contine community meetings (Eden)
- To strengthen the community, propose to organize a mixed spiritual singing group (Vaughan/Linwood)
- To strengthen the community, propose to contact other people and groups (Crossroads)

In order to SUSTAIN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, the proposals are:

- To give constructive recreational programs, propose to start a girl scout club (Crossroads, Hinds Co.)
- To have supervised activities for the children, propose an ole-time get-together (Harrisville)
- To interest children in singing, propose to organize a junior choir (Midway, Yazoo Co.)
- To get people involved, propose to start a teenage activities program (Harrisville)
- To keep children at home and to get the total community involved, propose to form a committee to build a recreation plan for the community (Anding/Oil City, Yazoo Co)
- To have responsible youth, propose a big/brother, big/sister club (Mt. Olive/Westview)

- To control discipline and activities, propose a mother/father club (Mt. Olive/  
Westview, Hinds Co.)
- To provide outdoor activity for children, propose to build a playground (Midway,  
Yazoo Co.)
- To educate and train parents, propose to hold parent workshops (Fannin)
- To finance a youth center, propose to have a fund raising fair (Vaughan/Linwood)

In order to SUPPORT COMMUNITY STRUCTURES, the proposals are:

- To unify and stabilize the community, propose to build-up support in the exist-  
ing community association (Pines, Jackson)
- To pay bills for community activities, propose to create a special community  
receipt book (Pines, Jackson)
- To demonstrate interest and understanding of town priorities, propose to  
encourage attendance at board meetings (Edwards)
- To create better leadership, propose to use the election process (Canton)
- To create better understanding among the residents, propose to inform people  
of issues (Bentonla)
- To create equal representation in the wards, propose to work through the courts  
(Canton)
- To begin the action of correcting the existing problems and any problems that  
might arise, propose quarterly town meetings (Puckett)
- To inform the people of what is going on, propose to promote existing and  
future projects of the city (Pelahatchie)
- To have ordinances against apartments being built, propose the board pass such  
an ordinance (Learned)
- To enable improvement projects, propose to approach the board committee (Eden)

TOWN MEETING: MISSISSIPPI

TOWN MEETING: MISSISSIPPI is offered, for the period of November 1978 through June 1979, under the sponsorship of The Governor's Office of Citizen Participation of the State of Mississippi. Town Meeting was developed by The Institute of Cultural Affairs, a not-for-profit research, demonstration, and training group concerned with the human factor in world development. The ICA staff and consultants in 47 American cities work with local groups to coordinate program development and provide resources, training and follow-up services upon request.

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