

FIFTH CITY: 1976
REPORT AND PROJECTION

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I. TWELVE YEARS OF PROGRESS:

URBAN DEMONSTRATION

The address of the Mayor in December, 1973, to the Decade of Miracles Celebration in Fifth City symbolized a shift from limited experimentation on the Westside of Chicago to demonstration for Chicago, the nation and the world. Fifth City has now been recognized in many circles of our nation as an effective approach to the inner city. Its approach is being tested in other cities and communities across the world. The most recent projects have been in Oombulgurri, Australia and the Marshall Islands in the Trust Territories.

GLOBAL SHOWPIECE

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is considering Fifth City as a representative for our nation to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlement in Vancouver, B. C. in 1976. Such a nomination would lead to the invitation of 150 nations' delegates to visit Chicago and Fifth City on their way to and from Vancouver. This United Nations Conference intends to expose to the world view creative community efforts and signal demonstrations for meeting the needs of future human settlements.

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Fifth City is also being considered as a demonstration community in the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration's Horizons on Display program. This program intends to highlight the accomplishments of local citizens in preparing for our nation's future and expose to the many communities across the country new and creative ventures to solving old issues and problems.

CHICAGO CONTRIBUTION

One of the products of Fifth City's work in the City of Chicago has been its very successful community forums, involving local citizens in discerning their problems and needs and engaging them in creating plans for solving them. The creative methods for the process in planning have been incorporated into a national program for the Bicentennial called TOWN MEETING '76. A proposal for this program to be done in the 76 historic communities of Chicago has been presented to the Office of the Mayor. It is designed to encourage creative responsible local initiative in cooperation with the city's structures.

VISIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

While Fifth City has pursued a comprehensive program of community reformulation which includes many intangibles such as education and responsible citizenship, many visible practical results have emerged. The Fifth City Housing Program, three Preschools, the Community Center, the Shopping Center, and the Health Outpost all stand as signs of what a local community can do with creative planning methods and a constant effort to accomplish its goals.

II. CURRENT PROGRAM ACCELERATION

NEEDED PREPARATION

In order to prepare Fifth City to represent Chicago to our Nation and the world, it is imperative that we accelerate many of our current programs, and implement others which have been planned for the future. Those needing acceleration are the following:

HOUSING REHABILITATION

The Fifth City Housing Program has rehabilitated 7 buildings of 83 units which are now fully occupied. The second package for rehabilitation is 70% complete but the 4 buildings with 58 units have been boarded up for several months now. To facilitate continued work the Fifth City Citizens Redevelopment Corporation has submitted a proposal to Model Cities for \$152,000 to complete this project.

PRESCHOOL EXPANSION

The Preschool facilities presently include 3 buildings which were rehabilitated in 1972. One of those buildings has been designated for an Infant Care Center. In order to maintain the present licensed capacity of 210 needed to serve this area a fourth building adjoining the Fifth Avenue facility has been selected for rehabilitation. The proposal for this has been submitted to ARBA.

COMMUNITY CENTER

The Fifth City Community Center, a two story, 25,000 square foot complex which houses the Young Adult League, the Adult Education Center which is accredited by the Central Y College, the Housing Corporation Offices, the Credit Union, the Gift Shoppe, and the administrative offices of the community. Some rehabilitation and much redecoration is needed to make this an adequate facility for the many program needs there.

CENTRAL PLAZA

At the center of Fifth City where Fifth Avenue, Homan Avenue, and Jackson Blvd. intersect is a triangle which has been designated for the Fifth City Community Plaza. The Community Center, Shopping Center, Health Outpost, and two buildings being rehabilitated all face the plaza. The city has approved the closing of Fifth Avenue between Homan and Jackson for this purpose. Work to complete this needs to be accelerated.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUNDS

Facilities for outdoor recreation in the community continue to be insufficient and inadequate though some progress has been made through community and city efforts. The two playlots at the Fifth City Preschools require new equipment and expansion. Funds for this have been requested in a proposal submitted to ARBA. It is further proposed that 5 additional play yards be created on presently vacant property to help alleviate the street play hazard for children.

III. NEW PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

EFFECTIVE DEMONSTRATION

While current programs are being accelerated, many programs which have been in the planning stages until now, need to be fully implemented during the coming year to further enhance the community's demonstration of effectiveness.

INFANT CARE

The Fifth City Infant Care Center location has been designated for an existing preschool facility at the corner of St. Louis and Van Buren streets, architectural drawings completed and a staff director secured. The care for infants ages 4 to 24 months is severely needed to release more families for employment, community work, and educational opportunities. It will also insure proper social and physical care and education to these values for the parents.

BUSINESS MEN

The Fifth City Businessmen's Service Club has worked successfully in the development of the Shopping Center and improving small businesses in the community for a number of years. A 3 story building on the corner of Trumbull and Fifth Avenue has been given to them along with the contribution of many building supplies by several companies to rehabilitate this building as a business and professional office complex to serve the Fifth City community and its continued economic redevelopment. The additional funds for this venture are included in a proposal to ARBA.

LIGHT INDUSTRY

The continued flow of industries and their monetary assets to the suburbs is one of the causes for decreased employment in the inner-city. Fifth City has proposed the development of a pilot project for light industry redevelopment which would also serve the larger Westside of Chicago. The ground for construction is already secured and owned by the community if this venture could be funded.

COMMUNITY YOUTH

A former two story warehouse on Fifth Avenue has been offered to Fifth City for rehabilitation as a Youth Center. It is adequately constructed to serve as a gymnasium with game rooms, meeting rooms, and youth center offices. Fifth City would be pleased for this to be another Mayor Daley Youth and Recreation Center.

SIDEWALKS & STREETS

The most common modes of travel for residents in Fifth City are walking, and the CTA system. Both sidewalks and streets are in need of repaving which will improve both the appearance of the community and the mobility of its residents. The replacement and/or addition of concrete benches at all CTA stops is also needed.

IV. RECENT CITY OF CHICAGO SERVICES

PAST
SUPPORT

In response to Fifth City requests, the City has provided many visible signs within the community. Among these are: repairing the streets; adding new safety lights to the streets; constructing a new playground on West Congress Parkway; and approving requests to close a section of Fifth Avenue to construct a plaza adjacent to the Shopping Center Mall. Model Cities is considering proposals for the support of the Jets elementary youth program and the housing rehabilitation program. The City of Chicago has provided the funds for employing community residents through the C.E.T.A. Program and the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program which has allowed expanded services within all the programs of Fifth City.

PRESENT
REQUEST

We are now, after twelve years of cooperative efforts at a moment of great possibility for the future. It is in this light that we seek the cooperation of the Office of the Mayor and the offices and departments of the City to fulfill the potential that 1976 holds for our city, the nation and the world. We therefore respectfully request the support of the city, state and federal funds which are essential to accelerate current programs and initiate new ones for the coming year.