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Reply to:
Mexican-American Leadership Program
Ethnic Affairs Office
Legal Services

December 21, 1972

STATEMENT ON BALANCED COMMUNITY POLICY

My name is Susan Jarrard and I am representing the Padre Hidalgo Center which serves in excess of 200,000 Spanish Speaking Citizens in the San Diego Catholic Diocese. It is our position to urge the City Council to adopt a strong balanced community policy such as the one outlined in A Decent Home for Every San Diegan and reintroduced by the BCC in its communication to the City Council on November 21, 1972.

It is also our position to seriously question the advisability of accepting the City Planning Commission's report entitled "Proposed Policy - Fostering of Balanced Communities" and dated September 20, 1972.

Specifically, we question the total validity of the above-mentioned report, and the policy recommended therein, for the following reasons:

1. It takes into consideration the use of generally subsized housing in order to achieve economically balanced communities. There is no mention made of alternative, workable methods such as low and moderate cost housing. There is an urgent need to meet the housing requirements of middle and lower-middle income class families as well as low income or welfare-level families.

2. The report deals only with outlying suburban areas. The concerns should be extended to inner-city, and older established sections of the metropolitan area. Many Spanish speaking persons of low and middle income levels live in the inner city and older sections of the City of San Diego.

3. The Commission's Report makes no mention of the need to stress ways and means of seeking to establish a greater degree of racial and ethnic balance rather than simply economic balance.

It is hoped that the Council will give our recommendation and concerns serious consideration since it is directly related to our Center's efforts to improve the overall standard of living and quality of life for the large Spanish Speaking population residing in San Diego.

Thank you!

CURE Statement on Balanced Community before the Council on December 21, 1972.

CURE supports the Balanced Community Coalition policy for fostering of balanced community development. We oppose the policy approved by the Planning Commission for the following reasons.

First, the Commission approved policy will apply only to "newly developing peripheral areas" and "city sponsored or approved redevelopment projects." Using data from A Decent Home for Every San Diegan it can be seen that the Commission approved policy would apply to less than one third of the housing needed between 1970 and 1975.

Second, the Commission policy addresses itself almost exclusively to the cost of new housing and to the need for subsidies or other help in financing. A Decent Home for Every San Diegan points out that the problem is also a problem of racial discrimination. It says, "Unfortunately, there are some minority group households with incomes sufficient to purchase or rent housing in predominantly middle class areas who are unable to do so because of discriminatory actions."

It adds that "Although some amelioration of conditions can be achieved by compensatory social, educational, and economic programs within the ghetto areas, the most genuine

solution would seem to lie in effectuating open housing policies to create ethnically and economically balanced communities in every part of the City."

CURE believes that the balanced community policy must apply to all areas of the city and must recognize the discriminatory actions that still exist despite the laws of the land. This social and legal problem must be dealt with as well as the economic problem. In fact, it seems obvious to us that the economic problem is only another consequence of the basic social problem of discrimination.

Members of various minority groups have given you their reasons for opposing the Commission approved policy. Some might assume that we are opposing the Commission policy and supporting the Coalition policy in order to "help" the minorities to move out of their communities and into the majority community. If that were so it would smack heavily of paternalism.

On the contrary, our position is one of self interest. This country paid dearly for its long tolerance of slavery. We are now paying in many ways for the discriminatory policies that followed slavery. The tension that results from these attitudes is dividing us and draining us. The time and energy that has been spent on this policy being discussed

today is an immediate example of a cost that could have been avoided, if a more enlightened and effective policy had been enacted even a few years ago.

It is in our own self interest for another reason. It is our carefully considered opinion that what is being asked for in the Coalition policy is just. To fail to respond to such a call for fairness is to violate our own integrity. What could be of more self interest than to act in such a way as to maintain our fairness and integrity.

In summary, we oppose the Commission approved policy because it limits the area to which it will apply and addresses the problem of a balanced community as if it were almost solely an economic problem. We support the Coalition policy because it will apply to all areas of the city. It recognizes discrimination as a factor in the problem. Finally we support the Coalition policy because it is in our own self interest.