

Chris Warren, Cleveland Community Development

The matter before us today reminds me of a time, in the late 1970's when Jimmy Carter declared to a Rose Garden assembly of neighborhood activists, "I'm glad you are here today and I assure you my Administration is committed to rebuilding our neighborhoods. After all, I live in a neighborhood too."

Indeed, the term "neighborhood" has gathered in meanings that transcend the notion of proximate residence within a defined area. It may be that Cleveland neighborhoods were never the "bastions of safety and friendship" we like to romanticize about. Nonetheless, something has been lost in the modern anomic world where we yearn for places to live where values connoted by neighborhood--familiarity, a sense of common purpose, natural enforcement of community

standards--exist.

Neighborhoods have another powerful meaning in Cleveland today. The flight to the suburbs and beyond has not been joined by all--a half million people still live in Cleveland. Despite economic woes, despite polluted environments and despite thinned-out populations, people in the City have found their neighborhood as the rallying point through which to seek redress to common grievance or to contest external controls over property and institutions. The sense of a common turf that overrides individual differences when reinforced by historical social bonds gives legitimacy to the concept of neighborhood in our political culture.

Today, a neighborhood of millionaires does appear ludicrous, largely because neighborhoods have come to be the principle vehicle for articulating redress to the harm done to cities through economic exploitation and failed government policy.

Mr. Carter, you do not live in a neighborhood.