

ANNUAL REPORT

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

FISCAL YEAR 1971-1972

Middletown,
Connecticut

Purpose

Created by Resolution on May 5, 1969, the Municipal Development Committee was established as a standing committee of the Common Council to "study, evaluate and recommend to the Mayor and Common Council such development programs and priorities as are deemed necessary and desirable to promote the social, cultural, educational, physical, industrial, recreational and commercial improvement of the City of Middletown." After several years of feeling its way, the Committee struck high gear in the past fiscal year as a coordinating body....first, under the chairmanship of V. Amato and then, J. Levin. Current members of the Municipal Development Committee are:

J. Levin, Chairman
D. Russell
A. Marino
N. Daniels
K. Scully

CDAP Agency

One of the more important moves in making the committee more of a coordinating body was its designation in September, 1971, as the Community Development Action Plan Agency, succeeding an agency by the same name which disbanded after the completion of its contractual requirements and the publication of the Community Development Action Plan.

In keeping with Section 8-207 of the General Statutes, the Municipal Development Committee renders an advisory opinion on the consistency of any application to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) with the Community Development Action Plan as approved by both the Common Council and DCA. In this capacity, the Committee reviewed and approved applications for the following: Wadsworth Grove Tax Abatement, CAGM Legal Services, CAGM Versatile CAP, Housing Author-

ity PILOT, CAGM Manpower, CAGM Central Administration, CAGM Neighborhood Services and CAGM TOPS programs.

On December 3, 1971, the Committee received a letter from the Commissioner of DCA approving Middletown's CDAP program. Shortly thereafter, the City received a check for \$4,800. from DCA for having an approved CDAP program and a second check for \$789. from DCA for providing in-kind services in excess of the contractual requirements.

In pursuing the goals, objectives and programs of CDAP, the Municipal Development Committee requested of all City departments a statement relating their proposed budgets for fiscal 1972-1973 to the CDAP report. Thus, careful review by the Committee of the various departments' alignment with the CDAP program was an important factor in budgetary considerations by the Common Council.

Parking

Most of the Committee's energies during the past fiscal year have been directed at improving the parking situation in the central business district. As the coordinating body for a movement which began nearly three years ago, the Committee caused to have prepared a report entitled, "A Program For Parking, Middletown, Connecticut," dated December, 1971, by the City Plan staff. This report, in concert with Special Act No. 82 passed by the 1971 Session of the Connecticut General Assembly, was the basis for a special referendum held on April 13, 1972, officially creating a special parking district in the downtown area. The voters responded positively and agreed in principle to provisions whereby non-residential owners of property would provide one-half the financial support for additional parking in the downtown area.

Much of the responsibility for developing the lists of eligible voters for the first referendum fell to the MDC staff. The Committee, with assistance from the Chamber of Commerce, was directly responsible for promotion of the parking district through the media and through personal letters. A second referendum must still be conducted for the entire city. That referendum will be offered after the Mayor, the Municipal Development Committee, other governing officials and downtown interest groups put the finishing touches to a comprehensive package for improvement to the downtown area.

Open Space

The Municipal Development Committee became deeply involved in matters of Open Space during the past fiscal year. The Committee was present during negotiations concerning the Legacy of Parks program and, together with the Mayor, is currently guiding the MacDonough Project in the North End toward successful completion.

Staff

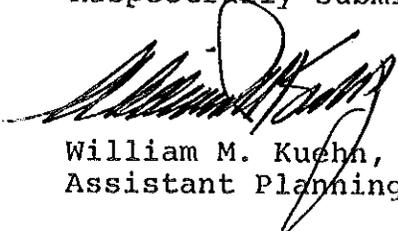
During the past year, staff in the form of a permanent secretary to the Municipal Development Committee was secured and a portion of Room 205 in the Municipal Building was designated for MDC purposes. The Assistant Director of Planning acts as coordinator for the Municipal Development Committee.

Fiscal 1972-1973

As we enter the next fiscal year, the Committee looks with optimism toward spearheading community acceptance of a program which will serve as a catalyst for badly needed investment in the downtown area; toward an increased role in the selection and acquisition of community

open spaces through federal programs; toward assurance that City departments are actively pursuing CDAP objectives and programs; and toward increasing channelization of developmental activities through the Committee as a review procedure prior to action by the Mayor and the Common Council.

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Kuehn, Jr.
Assistant Planning Director

September 19, 1972