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FOR RELEASE: February 24, 1965
After 10:00 A.M.

A unique community action program, supported by Federal funds under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, that will eventually focus attention on the needs of all of Newark's poor, was launched officially today at City Hall.

Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio, joined by Dean C. Willard Heckel, president of the United Community Corporation, the organization created to coordinate and direct Newark's anti-poverty drive, and Cyril D. Tyson, United Community Corporation executive director, announced that the program is getting underway with the setting up of three Area Boards.

The Area Boards, it was explained, are the volunteer groups comprising residents of one particular section of the City. The activities of each board, aimed at improving such things as poor housing, raising educational standards, and economic levels, will be coordinated and guided by a professional staff.

The United Community Corporation was limited to three boards to start with, Mr. Tyson explained, since the budget approved by the Federal government did not provide funds required for a wider undertaking at this time.

"However, we plan to extend the Area Boards to nine areas of the City, hoping to involve the otherwise powerless and voiceless of Newark," he added.

In announcing the program Mayor Addonizio pledged "support and assistance of this administration at every level."

He said this is a process to which "I fully subscribe" since, as he observed, "the poor have not had a full voice" preventing any significant

change in their lives.

Mr. Tyson outlined the three areas as follows:

AREA 1 - North: Orange St., Clifton Avenue, Bloomfield Avenue,
Clay Street
East: Ogden Street
South: West Market St., 12th Avenue
West: City Line

AREA 2 - North: West Market St., 12th Avenue
East: McCarter Highway
South: Avon Avenue, Clinton Avenue, South Street
West: City Line

AREA 3 - North: Avon Avenue, Clinton Avenue, South Street
East: East Peddie St., Poinier St., Elizabeth Avenue,
McCarter Highway
South: Renner Avenue, Bragaw Avenue
West: City Line

While professional guidance would be available, Mr. Tyson said he was anxious for the real grass roots population to become involved in this process that could remove them from the net of poverty. The main thing is to let people know there is a way for them to take care of their problems and counteract the widespread feeling that they have no power to effect change in their lives.

There will be regular open meetings of the Area Board, as well as meetings of sub-committees, created to function as planning and research forms of the board on housing, education and employment, among others.

Area Boards will undertake activities necessary for the improvement of conditions in the area. Furthermore, Mr. Tyson explained, the Area Boards will be involved in determining the kinds and extent of special services in the area. These special services might include pre-school centers and after-school remedial centers, or adult training programs that would be set up by public or private agencies in cooperation with the United Community Corporation.

The first of the Area Board meetings will be held tonight, at Fald Neighborhood House, 71 Boyd Street, Newark, at 7:30 P.M. This is for area number two. Area Board number one will meet Thursday, February 25, at 7:30 P.M., at Baxter Terrace Homes, 202 Orange Street, Newark. On Friday, February 26, at 7:30 P.M., Area Board number three will meet at The Leaguers, 750 Clinton Avenue, Newark.

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