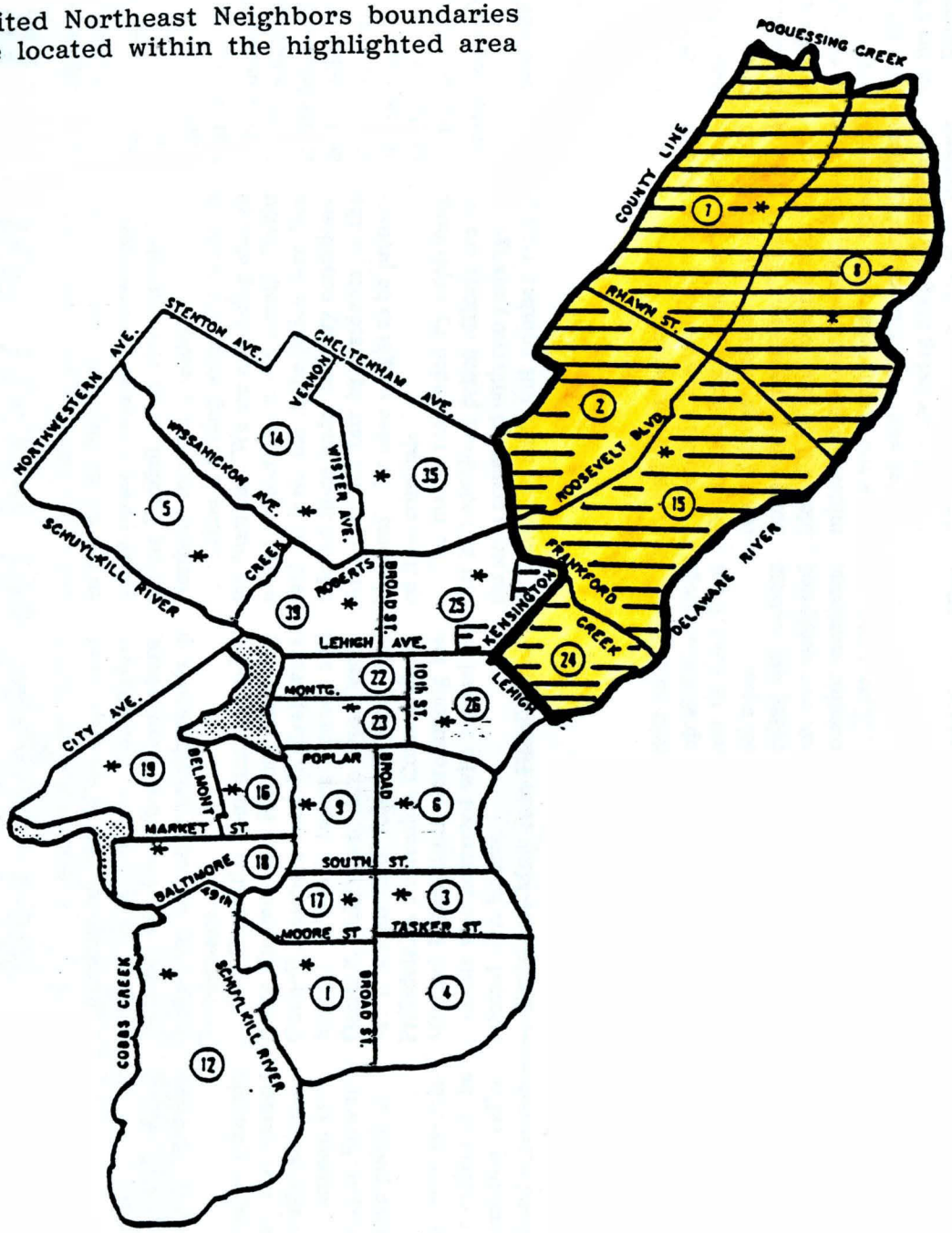
APPENDICES

Philadelphia Police District Boundaries

United Northeast Neighbors boundaries are located within the highlighted area



Crime is the hot topic at local town meeting

By JEANETTE M. ZAWACKIS
Staff Writer

Crime in the Northeast was on the minds of residents and the mayor during a town meeting in the lower Northeast last week.

During a Feb. 16 meeting at Pilsudski Fraternal Association Hall, at E. Ontario and Belgrade streets, nearly 300 residents, including several Northeast civic leaders, challenged Mayor Edward Rendell's ability to improve police protection in the Northeast.

On behalf of Northeast civic associations, Glenn Devitt, the president of the Wissinoming Civic Association, called the meeting with Rendell and other public officials to discuss crime and vandalism, plus the shortage of adequate recreational facilities in Kensington, Wissinoming, Frankford, Holmesburg, Bridesburg, and other neighborhoods in the Northeast.

City Controller Jonathan A. Saidel, Police Commissioner Richard Neal, City Council members Joan L. Krajewski, Brian J. O'Neill, James Kenney and Daniel P. McElhatton; state Reps. Dennis M. O'Brien and John Taylor; and Philadelphia Recreation Commissioner Michael DiBeradinis were among the panelists who interacted with a panel of selected civic leaders.

Devitt and Mary Jane Hazell, president of the Somerton Civic Association, co-chaired the three-hour town meeting, which opened lines of communication among Rendell, other city officials and Northeast community leaders.

"Crime is getting worse and worse in the Northeast. We are not seeing enough police protection on the street," Devitt said. "It is not fair to the police, who face a lot of stress under ordinary conditions. And it is not fair to residents in the Northeast. We have a right to be protected from criminals."

The mayor responded by explaining that 250 additional police officers are on the street compared with two years ago.

"And we have put another eighty police officers on foot patrols in Center City," Rendell said. "These are officers that are called to testify at hearings in City Hall. They are assigned to foot beats while waiting to testify. We are doing our best. We have to live within a budget and have to make difficult choices."

The additional 250 officers, according to Rendell, are the result of changes within the police department. Clerical duties that were typically handled by police officers are now assigned to civilian employees.

Rendell also said his administration is considering alternative funding sources,

See MEETING on Page 16

Meeting

Continued from Page 5

such as a state lottery ticket surcharge, that would be dedicated to raising money to hire additional police. Rendell had espoused that concept during his mayoral campaign in 1991.

In an interview after the meeting, Devitt argued that there were cost-effective ways to trim the budget so the savings could be used to hire additional police officers.

"I would be glad to sit down with the mayor and point out where budget cuts could be made," Devitt said. "I was tempted to bring this up at the meeting, but was trying my best to keep from straying from the original topic."

Two committees, dealing with matters of justice and recreation, and composed of Northeast civic association members, are being formed to facilitate communication between the mayor and city officials, Devitt said.

"I want each committee to be comprised of ten residents and experts," Devitt said. They will meet on a regular basis. I expect the committees to meet with the mayor and report back to the Northeast resident in three months. The committee will probably be formed by the end of next week."

Rendell, meanwhile, commended Devitt for taking a giant step toward narrowing the gap between city officials and community members. "That's a good idea. I'll be glad to meet with the committee and go over statistics, then I can show you exactly what we're up against," Rendell said. "You can see exactly where the police are being assigned, that we are doing the best we can with limited funds."

Rendell admitted there are 1,100 fewer city police officers than there were in 1982. "It would cost the city about forty-five million dollars a year to replace these officers. We just don't have the money," he insisted.

Hazell, meanwhile, criticized the mayor for not utilizing the police officers to the best of their abilities, particularly in the Northeast.

"We should have preliminary hearings at each police district," she said. "That way the officers waiting to testify could be patroling the Northeast, instead of Center City."

Rendell responded: "We should eliminate preliminary hearings altogether. Don't you think I want to see more police on the street?"

The mayor offered some hope when

See MEETING on Page 17

Meeting

Continued from Page 16

he suggested that President Bill Clinton's initiative to bolster urban police departments could be the shot in the arm Philadelphia has been waiting for.

Krajewski was skeptical.

"Mr. Mayor, what do you say to a victim on the street? Do you say, 'Wait until President Clinton's bill goes through?' " the councilwoman asked.

"What do you say to the victim of a beating? 'Oh, well, the system is failing?' We've got to enforce the law on the books. People must feel free to walk the streets at night. Or to mail a letter — if the mailbox is there — in the early morning hours."

Devitt noted that a majority of crime begins with graffiti and vandalism, and escalates to car thefts, burglaries and other offenses.

"We need to put an end to graffiti and vandalism," Devitt said.

"We have to make parents account for their child's actions. Recreation centers also have to pitch in and find ways to keep their facilities safe from graffiti once the lights are shut off." he said.

According to a survey Devitt conducted, he claimed 70 percent of the Northeast's playgrounds and schoolyards were used as sites for underage drinking, and 20 percent of the same sites were littered with crack vials.Devitt also claimed that heroin use was apparent at 10 percent of the facilities, where discarded drug paraphernalia were found.

"Recreation sites must take some responsibility and put an end to this crime by keeping their lights on after the center closes or other safety measures to deter kids from hanging out," Devitt said.

"And on the other side of the coin, we must provide adequate recreation centers to our children so that they have a place to go after school or on school holidays. I always say, 'Stay in sports. Keep them out of courts.' "

DANIEL T. HENRY

Wissinoming Civic Association president Glenn Devitt is outspoken in behalf of those in his community who want to preserve a quality way of life.

Spearheading awareness in the community

By David Foster and Don Brennan
For the News Gleaner

■ **Summary:** The president of the Wissinoming Civic Association discusses his goal to make his neighborhood safe for its many families.

Despite its deep blue collar roots and strong family ties, the image of Wissinoming has been smudged by a nagging problem: teenagers out of control, and the crime and vandalism they create.

But like the neighboring communities of Frankford and Mayfair, Wissinoming has an influential civic organization on its side.

Though active in the group for only part of its history, Glenn Devitt has become synonymous with the Wissinoming Civic Association. Outspoken and blunt, Devitt, who last year became its president for the second time, has dedicated himself to fighting the elements scratching at the community's base.

That, Devitt believes, means forcing parents to accept responsibility for the actions of their kids.

It also means linking with other organizations dedicated to similar goals.

News Gleaner: What motivated you to join the civic group?

Glenn Devitt: During the Wilson Goode administration everything seemed to fall apart. Trash wasn't being picked up. There was no money to replace stop signs. There was a sense we had to get involved. It was our civic duty to clean up the dirt and trash. We had to.

NG: Why has the Wissinoming/Tacony area gained a reputation for crime, specifically teenagers hanging on corners?

GD: I see children as young 10, 11, and 12-years-old drinking, puffing, and smoking dope. When it was only alcohol they would reach bottom by 35. We're looking at drugs compounded by drinking. They are burning out between 17 and 21. They're suffering irreparable damage. Complex thoughts and decisions can't be made.

People have been hanging out at Benner and Torresdale for over 30 years. The level of crime wasn't as great.

NG: What has Wissinoming Civic done to counter the problem?

GD: We've brought it to conscious level. It's the only way to deal with it. Some people say we are tarnishing the community's image or creating situations that are not really there. They want us to be quiet about it, hoping it will go away. It won't happen.

Many of these same people are the parents of those causing the problems. It's their children we're trying to save.

We're seeing a number of dysfunctional families throughout the area. We have many single-parent households where the mom or the dad are trying to get along with three or four children. They are working two and three jobs, leaving an older brother or sister in charge.

NG: You've been described as being frustrated with police response time. Why?

GD: It may have been ignorance on my part in not understanding the process, but when an officer doesn't show for 45 minutes you have a tendency to voice your frustration with that person, even though it's not really their fault. Right now we are statistically plotting crime and response time. We're looking into the root causes of it. Themayor and police commissioner have been very receptive.

NG: What do you consider your biggest success?

GD: That we raised to a conscious level the concerns over crime, drug abuse, and are now pursuing responsible solutions. We've formed a justice committee, a graffiti program, and a rather sophisticated town watch operation. There's a PAL center coming into Wissinoming in about a month.

See **Conversation** on page 3

Lynn Rotoli's MAYFAIR MOMENTS Remembers A Giant of a man named Joe Kelly
-Page 15

A conversation with Devitt

(Continued from page 1)

NG: What remains the biggest obstacle in achieving your goals?

GD: Apathy. It's not just a Wissinoming phenomenon. We put signs up about the civic and town watch, have moved the meetings around, and put 1,000 newsletters out a month. Everyone who's come to us and requested help has been assisted. But someone will call and say, "I have a pothole in front of my house. Fix it." We will assist, but (each individual) must take ownership of that problem or concern. I will not allow anyone to dump their problems on me or this organization.

NG: Recently, you joined with the Mayfair Civic Association to sponsor a political debate. Is this the start of something new?

GD: Oh, sure. I like many of the things they are doing. I am a firm believer in not reinventing the wheel. I'm always looking to learn new things.

May 25, 1994

Philadelphia Daily News Date: Approximately 11/94

More Letters

911 system's failures are not new; only the awareness is new

The ineptness of 911 and the lack of police presence are finally getting strong media coverage.

Our mayor is passing the buck to our police commissioner. But he has known since he campaigned on the platform of 1,000 additional police personnel. I am certain our commissioner's plans to make the department the best it could be did not include fewer personnel. Little if any blame is his. Civilians answering 911 calls are doing so with arrogance, just as many city agencies have dealt with all of us.

Hiring retired police personnel, trained and experienced public servants, is an excellent idea to fill these positions. Too mature or disabled to perform as street officers, these men and women have what is rarely recognized — insight into the degree of urgency, knowledge of the city and what is required to satisfy the calls for help.

The sadness of the tragedy in Northeast Philadelphia has been and is replayed every day. Families are altered forever. *Every* tragedy caused by lack of police or a non-astute 911 operator is as important as the Fox Chase ineptness.

Be accountable, Mr. Mayor; readjust your priorities. The basic responsibility of any government is to protect its people. Ignore it, and you may end up as many incumbents did in the last election.

ROBERT J. BRADLEY
Philadelphia

The fate of that young man from Fox Chase was predicted almost one year ago. That is when the Northeast Justice Committee began researching our criminal justice system, identifying the problems and suggesting responsible solutions.

Many elements contribute to the breakdown in this justice system, not the least of which is an overtaxed 911 emergency service whose call takers and dispatchers lack the adequate training needed to identify a potential "crisis" situation.

This justice system is costing us approximately $1.1 billion a year. So why are we losing the war on crime and substance abuse? It probably has taken Edward Polec's death to shake Northeast residents from the social disease of apathy.

The Northeast Justice Committee, through the Philadelphia Prevention Partnership, has begun to forge a partnership between community and business leaders, various agencies and our elected officials to identify the risk factors responsible for the decline in our social values.

Change has always begun with the hu-

We invite all Philadelphia residents to join us in this partnership and bring about the changes needed to reverse this decline.

GLENN W. DEVITT, Chairman
Northeast Justice Committee
Philadelphia

Blacks and poor people have been complaining about our 911 system to no avail. Rappers have even made songs about how 911 is a joke. No one ever listened.

I feel for the kid who needed 911, but we've needed them for years. Where was the outcry then? It shouldn't matter whether you live in city or suburb; a service should be provided equally.

KEVIN POMPEY
Philadelphia

TOMORROW: *More letters on 911.*

NE to take another shot at umbrella civic group

By Sheri Brenner
Times Staff Writer

A familiar lament of Northeast residents is that their concerns are not heard in City Hall.

Now, a new umbrella civic organization promises to give them a voice.

Community activist Glenn Devitt started the group, which is tentatively named United Northeast. It will be composed of a number of area organizations.

"We want to see if the Northeast wanted to get together," Devitt said. "Are there common goals that we can work together on?"

At a second meeting to discuss the group — held last month at Graduate Health System Parkview Hospital — the communities of Somerton, Port Richmond, Ashton Square, Fox Chase, Tacony, Mayfair, Harrowgate, Frankford and Rhawnhurst were represented.

"Power is in numbers. It's the only thing politicians can understand and respect," Devitt said.

SECOND TIME AROUND

If you think that you've heard this idea before, you have.

United Civic Associations of the Northeast (UCAN), which was based on the same principle of creating a strong group out of many, lasted for a few years before finally disintegrating in 1994.

There may have been some mistakes made, acknowledged Devitt, who was vice-president of UCAN — but there were also lessons learned.

"This will not just be civic groups. We will open it up to other organizations as well," he said. "One of the problems we had with UCAN was that when you just limit yourself to civic associations, you're cutting out a tremendous part of the Northeast."

Devitt said that athletic associations, home and school associations, and town watches will be among the groups welcomed.

But, whoever joins must be willing to make a commitment. Another weakness of UCAN was that too few of the members ended up doing too much of the work, Devitt maintained

And things eventually fell apart from the top down. "The problem was, the leadership fell apart," said Lorraine Brill, president of the Upper Northwood Community Council.

"One of the issues that really deteriorated UCAN is that we started playing around behind political fields," Devitt contended.

The president of the group, Charlie Cooper, briefly ran for state senate in 1994, before dropping out of the race, which expedited the group's demise, according to Devitt.

Nancy Garvin, vice president of the Mayfair Civic Association, said she would prefer to have no officers appointed this time around. "I think we should just keep it civic groups sitting down and discussing problems," said Garvin, who was also involved in UCAN.

Devitt said figuring out leadership positions remains a low priority at this point.

He said that the idea for a united group in the Northeast was resurrected because the interest never died.

"We need something to replace (UCAN)," Brill said. "We'll see if this is it."

"Between the civic associations and the town watches, we'll get a lot done," predicted Lois Lamb, the acting president of Rhawn Gardens Civic Association/Town Watch.

CRIME FIGHTERS

Devitt said the group's primary focus in the beginning will be on public safety.

"If we don't bring it to a conscious level, we're not going to deal with it," he said.

Devitt, who was a member of the Northeast Justice Committee, which examined crime trends and police coverage in the area, said that 85 percent of crime is drug-related.

"We find crack in Parkwood and Bustleton. Wissinoming has every drug you can think of," he said. "We're in denial up here."

Potential members of the new group see the need to focus on one topic at a time.

"If we go off on too many tangents, nothing will be accomplished," Brill said.

She believes that public safety is a good issue to start with.

"It's absolutely a good idea ," Brill said. "There's safety in numbers."

"The idea of this is that although we're all different groups, one problem we all have is public safety," added Garvin.

Lamb, meanwhile, said that her group is already involved in a cooperative effort to reduce crime.

"Town watches are meeting at the 8th Police District. The police are trying to network them, so that if someone in our neighborhood is in trouble and a criminal tries to escape, they can call over to the next neighborhood," she explained.

Lamb said that crime is not a hypothetical issue in the Northeast.

"We've had cars stolen here," she said. "The problems in Wissinoming and Frankford will be here in the Far Northeast."

Lamb is confident that the new group will get off the ground.

"I think Glenn is the one to organize the Northeast," she said, citing Devitt's experience as a member of the Northeast Justice Committee. "I think he's the one that can really get the people together."

Devitt said that the Northeast is overdue for some attention.

"We have an area of the city where 480,000 people live," he noted. "One-third of the city lives up here, and you have no representative from council-at-large that lives here."

"I think if we all come together and are heard as one voice of the Northeast, I think we would get more of a reaction," Garvin maintained.

She cited gas and water-rate hikes as an example.

"We need to be represented when an issue like that comes up," Garvin said. ••

April 25, 1995

Neighborhoods

Groups unite in Northeast

Public safety in numbers?

by **Kevin Haney**
Daily News Staff Writer

As Northeast community leaders see it, there's public safety in numbers.

Representatives from 26 Northeast community groups are banding together in what is called — for now, at least — the United Northeast Organization.

Glenn Devitt, acting chairman of the fledgling group, called the effort an outgrowth of an advisory panel of civic representatives who spent a year working with city officials on law enforcement problems in the Northeast.

Devitt, a member of that panel and president of the Wissinoming Civic Association, said the panel, the Northeast Justice Committee, had given Mayor Rendell and Police Commissioner Richard Neal recommendations for improving crime-fighting in their communities.

Some of the suggestions have been embraced by Rendell after the controversy late last year surrounding the conduct of 911 emergency call-takers in the Eddie Polec murder case. But Devitt said Rendell and other city officials had acted on very few recommendations since the 38-page report was finished in November.

The committee met twice with Rendell and has worked with other city officials since March 1994, but, Devitt said, "I don't think we're the priority we once were."

Deputy Managing Director Frances Egan, who has been the committee's city liaison, disagreed. "The mayor still feels the work of the Northeast Justice Committee is important," she said, and the mayor plans to meet with the group again. "He just very simply hasn't been able to fit it in yet," she explained.

Devitt said the federation will educate people about shortcomings in Police Department operations and urge groups to lobby city officials for action.

Devitt said he hoped the group's efforts would add to the municipal election debate this year in over 30 Northeast neighborhoods.

The group's initial task is to tell Northeast citizens about problems found by the Justice Committee. They include the shortage of police officers in patrol platoons, the lack of police cars and other equipment, police morale problems, the use of on-duty police officers in private shopping malls and the need for more improvements in the 911 emergency response system.

After two exploratory meetings in the last month, the 26 community groups from Port Richmond to Somerton signed on, and an eight-member steering committee was appointed to brainstorm and nurture the partnership.

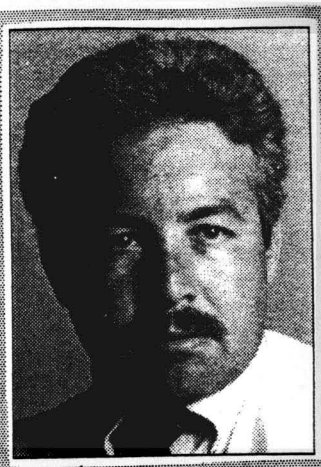
By combining forces, the volunteer community leaders expect to draw on each others' expertise and gain more clout in getting grants and government services, Devitt said: "Power is in numbers ... We can share information. None of us have gone to Community Leadership 101."

For years, there have been loose ties among Northeast civic groups. Strengthening those ties was tried once before, about five years ago, with the United Civic Associations of the Northeast.

Devitt, a part of that effort, said it collapsed from lack of organization and spending too much time trying to work with groups outside the Northeast: "We didn't really have a strong foundation."

This time, the groups will focus on law enforcement and "things that impact throughout the Northeast, regardless of neighborhood," he said.

But the United Northeast Organization, or whatever name it ultimately settles on, has no intention of becoming some sort of super-civic group. "When you look at the neighborhoods, we're very diverse. What's needed in Somerton is different from what's needed in Port Richmond," Devitt noted, "The overall concensus is leave it as loose as possible." ■



"I don't think we're the priority we once were."

— Glenn Devitt, Group's acting chairman

UNITED NORTHEAST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 9, 1995

(HOSTED BY: GRADUATE HOSPITAL, PARKVIEW DIVISION)

I. Goals and Objectives of the meeting

II. Guest Speaker

III. City Council Activity

IV. Brochure

V. Whispers and Rumors

VI. Questions & Comments

VII. Review assignments

VIII. Community meetings & Action updates

IX. Adjournment

NOTES:_____

Phila. City Paper
Oct 27, 1995

Northeast group intent on reform

The Guest Opinion (Nov. 14) about Mayor Rendell's commitment to fighting crime was the personal viewpoint of Vincent J. Ziemba and not of the Northeast Justice Committee.

The committee has been meeting with the mayor and police commissioner for 18 months. A 70-page report on police availability and visibility was submitted to the administration a year ago. Responsible solutions were proposed in addressing crime. Even though the committee is cautiously optimistic, many of the proposals have not yet come to fruition.

The committee intends to engage City Council in the process of addressing and resolving crime. We are committed to changing the failed criminal justice system in Philadelphia.

GLENN W. DEVITT, Chairman
Northeast Justice Committee

PGW service 'stinks'

Philadelphia Gas Works gives very poor service.

Someone was at my house Oct. 30 and said the pipe that goes into the chimney was clogged. It was replaced on Nov. 2, but that wasn't the problem. I got my chimney cleaned, which cost me $65, but that's not the problem. The problem is, I need a limited control box replaced. I waited all day Sunday, and nobody arrived.

The service stinks.

WILLA MAE COLEMAN
Philadelphia

'Unfare' to riders

SEPTA General Manager Louis J. Gambaccini (article, Oct. 27) warned "drastic" setbacks in federal funding could force SEPTA to increase fares or cut services.

SEPTA is trying to take advantage of riders. Every time they run into a financial problem, they take money from us.

We don't have cars and we rely on SEPTA to take us where we have to go. They should not charge us another cent until their service gets better.

DANA PONE
Philadelphia

November 1, 1995

United Northeast aims for safety

By Sheri Brenner
Times Staff Writer

Community activist Glenn Devitt has asked city politicians to help the citizens of Northeast Philadelphia feel safer. He's met with them. He's given them ideas.

He's seen few results.

So, Devitt decided no more Mr. Nice Guy.

Leading a posse of about 100 members of the United Northeast civic group, he took his frustrations straight to City Council on Oct 26.

The date marked a year since local civic leaders — including Devitt — submitted a report on public safety to Mayor Rendell.

"A year has gone by with much additional discussion, but with little action," Devitt said in his address to City Council. "Crime has continually increased while our homes, neighborhoods and businesses have continually been victimized by a failing city justice system."

As he spoke, United Northeast members waved signs that read, "Our Community Needs Help" and "Crime is Up, Police Service is Down ... What's Wrong with This Picture?"

Formed several months ago, United Northeast is an umbrella group that represents issues concerning civic organizations from Kensington to Somerton. The group came together as an outgrowth of the Northeast Justice Committee, which submitted a report to Rendell last year on the area's public safety problems.

SAFETY IS THE PRIORITY

United Northeast has continued the platform of public safety.

Devitt contends that the Northeast has not received the additional police the area was promised, and said that local district officers are often detailed to other areas of the city.

"The Northeast has become the land of opportunity for the criminal element," he said. "It's a section of the city where graffiti, car theft and larceny are completely out of control. It's where underage drinking, substance abuse and youth violence are increasing at an alarming rate."

He said that the problems are being experienced citywide, and the Northeast is driving the fight to correct them.

Devitt said he is just about ready to follow former Northeast residents who left the city because the market value of his own house dropped $15,000 and he is afraid to let his children — ages 16, 13 and 11— out in their Wissinoming neighborhood.

The civic leader, who spoke after the council session adjourned, did not have competition from any other major issues on Thursday.

Council business included a resolution honoring a 15-year-old Sunday school teacher and one recognizing October as National Family Sexuality Education Month.

DEMANDING ATTENTION

Most of the 17 council members were in council chambers when Devitt delivered his speech, including Council President John Street, who was

Please see **CIVIC** / *Page* **64**

CIVIC

➤ *Continued from Page 1*

singled out in it.

"Council President Street is also obligated to support our concerns in the Northeast and citywide. When you accepted the position as city council president, you accepted the responsibility to work with all Philadelphians," Devitt said. "We have requested your support and assistance for the last eighteen months and you have never made any attempts to work with the community leaders in the Northeast."

Street admonished the community leader to stick to the comments he came to deliver about public safety.

Devitt did not leave without making four suggestions on how City Council can help improve the situation.

He told them to schedule walking tours of the communities to experience the problems for themselves, hold hearings to determine if information used to make the budget is valid, question the status of 911 investigatory reports and develop an overall strategy for public safety.

At the end of his speech, Devitt received a standing ovation from his members, but no public comments from council members.

He said he believes the United Northeast group has a lot to offer city officials, if only they would listen.

"The part I always have trouble with is, why aren't they buying into this?" he said.

Devitt said that one of the recommendations of the Northeast Justice Committee report that was not adopted called for establishing part-time crossing guard positions, to save the city money on benefits while providing more coverage.

Before the council session, Devitt said that civic organizations have done their part by getting involved, and he is tired of excuses from politicians.

"Every time we've talked to City Council, they say, 'All we do is legislate and appropriate. We don't tell the mayor how to spend money,'" Devitt said. "That's bull——."

City Councilwoman Joan Krajewski (D-6th dist.) said that the group should be expressing their concerns.

"They're only asking for their just due," she said after Devitt's speech. "I'm glad to see them here."

But the councilwoman said that some of the authority lies elsewhere.

"It comes from the state on down. Congress has to change the laws," she said.

JOHN WELSH / TIMES PHOTO

Glenn Devitt meets Ilene Greene, of Bustleton-Bowler-Somerton Town Watch

CIVIC SOLDIERS

Devitt has the backing of the members in groups that make up United Northeast.

Most said their neighborhoods were feeling short on police.

"We ain't got enough police to make our neighborhood safe," said Frank Wiegel of Harrowgate Town Watch. "If we could just get rid of the prostitutes and the drug dealers, it would be a lot better."

Regina Farrell believes that it shouldn't be people like herself — a mother of four — who have to clean out drug houses in Harrowgate.

But she said she has been left no other choice.

"There are those of us who want to make sure people stay in the city not because they have to but because they want to," Farrell said.

Farrell, the president of Concerned Citizens of Harrowgate, said that City Council should realize that groups like hers have an impact on voters.

"Government ought to be by, of, and for the people. We have to educate the people," she said. "You'll see people sitting in these seats who support us and work for us."

Some had hopes that the day would make a difference.

"We're trying to bring more awareness to City Council of the needs of the Northeast as far as providing police visibility and police availability," said Seamus McCaffery, who worked on the Northeast Justice Committee report.

"I think it's obvious we're not getting services in the Northeast," said Ilene Greene, of the Bustleton-Bowler-Somerton Town Watch. "If the Northeast sticks together as a force, maybe we'll get something done."

Lorraine Brill, of the Upper Northwood Community Council, said that last week's visit to council was only the beginning.

"There are responsive councilpeople. We have to keep on top of them," she said. "Hopefully they will schedule hearings, and we have to come back during budget hearings."

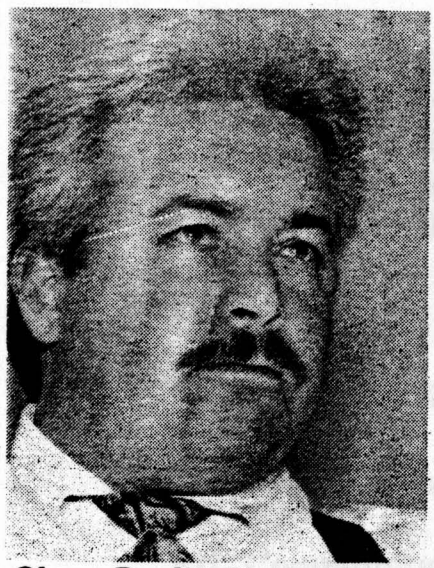
Other groups lending support included Police Spouses and Concerned Citizens Behind the Badge, Latinos Internacionales CB Club, Port Richmond on Patrol and the Tacony, Wissinoming, Rhawn Gardens and Somerton civic associations. ••

November 8, 1995

After Polec, what's changed?

By Julie D. Bartha
For the News Gleaner

On Saturday, it will be exactly one year since, 16-year-old Eddie Polec of Fox Chase was beaten to death by a gang of suburban teens outside of St. Cecilia's Church, where Polec once served as an altar boy.



Glenn Devitt: Discussion, yes; action, no.

Some say his death could have been prevented, if only Philadelphia's 911 system had been working.

The fallout from Polec murder is earned Philadelphia unwanted national attention as network news bureaus and tabloid programs focused on the inadequate and sometimes rude response of the city's 911 operators. City officials and neighborhood activists vowed to not let Polec's murder be in vain, promising to revamp the 911 system.

Now, one year later, one Northeast community activist says very little has been done to correct the overburdened 911 system.

Glenn Devitt of United Northeast Neighbors acknowledged that improvements have been made—911 operators now behave more professionally and the city is upgrading the system's technology—but said in an interview Monday that city officials are not addressing the root of the problem.

"If you don't have the officers out there, you could have the most beautiful, sophisticated system and it still wouldn't work," Devitt said. "We've got a system that's still failing."

Devitt said the Northeast Justic Committee submitted a report three weeks before Polec's murder, which detailed the inadequacies of Philadelphia's public safety system—including 911.

"We knew we were having problems then. It just wasn't working. Then, bingo. Three weeks later we get whacked in the side with the Eddie Polec situation," Devitt said.

As part of the city's efforts to improve the emergency response system, Devitt was one of 30 people named to Philadelphia's 911 committee. Despite recommendations to hire more police officers and alter how officers respond to calls, Devitt said those fundamental changes have not yet been made.

Specifically, his group recommended a differential response program, which would dispatch officers only to priority, life-threatening calls. For example, an auto theft would automatically be turned over to a detective, instead of having a patrol officer dispatched to the scene.

Devitt said the public needs to be educated about how to contact police in a non-life-threatening situation.

"We use 911 for every thing," Devitt said. "It's clogging the system."

Devitt said the response time is so slow for some calls that 25 percent are documented as "unfounded" by the city. Devitt said the term "unfounded" includes crank calls and calls from victims who have given up on police response.

For example, if someone is robbed while walking down the street, and that person calls the police, an officer may not be dispatched to the scene for several hours. By that point, many victims give up and go home, Devitt said.

Another problem caused by the poor response time is that complainants will call 911 and make a situation sound worse than it really is, in hopes of getting a quicker response out of police.

"This is ludicrous. This is not working. They're missing the point. They're not looking at what makes people do that," Devitt said of city officials.

Too, Devitt said, city officials are not the only ones to blame. He said the community must get more involved if crime is to be fought successfully.

"It's not only their fault; it's ours," he said.

UNITED NORTHEAST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

November 13, 1995

HOSTED BY: GRADUATE HOSPITAL, PARKVIEW DIVISION

Refreshment supplied by NE PPP Fund

I. Introductions

II. Present Status

* **City Council, John Street letter, Newspaper Articles**
* **Feedback**

III. Time of Action

* **Strategy - Northeast Plan of Action**
  Public Safety - Communication - Developing NE Leaders (Community School & Resource Center) - Developing NE Communities

IV. Prioritizing and Chairperson Commitment

V. Questions & Comments

VI. Review Chairperson's assignments & Next Meeting Date

VII. Community Meetings & Action Updates

VIII. Adjournment

NOTES:_____

Next Meeting Date: 12/4/95

Assignment:_____

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

Hosted by Parkview Hospital

AGENDA

January 22, 1996

I. Introductions

* ***Goal of tonight's meeting***

II. Organizational structure

* ***Board Development***
* ***By-laws***
* ***Nonprofit status***
* ***Committees needed***

III. Northeast Justice Committee

* ***Status***
* ***Working with City Council***
  - ***City Council budget hearings***
  - ***Council legislation (Crossing Guard issue)***

IV. Northeast Community Leadership Training Program

* ***Types of training program needed*** — Horace

V. United Northeast Neighbors Retreat

* ***When, Where, What*** — Kelly

VI. Questions and Community Information — meeting w/ Mrs. Bridge.

* ***Rally for Mass Transit, on Tuesday, January 30, at the Capital Rotunda in Harrisburg***

YMCA Closed 9/84 Stan Cohen

Phonix Hotel

Ed Melvin - Caffette

Request put in waiting for Community Service work

686-7757

VII. Adjournment

Notes: Decide night in month for meeting

aka — 3rd Monday? 2/19/96

at next meeting we will give out forms — establish a data base for membership

we could mail

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

Hosted by Parkview Hospital

AGENDA

March 11, 1996

I. Introductions: Glenn W. Devitt

* ***Goal of tonight's meeting***
* ***Rules of Order***

II. Public Safety Budget Ad-hoc Committee:

Mr. Jim McCafferty, Chairperson

* ***Opening remarks***
* ***Guest Speaker: David L. Cohen, Mayor Rendell's Chief of Staff***

Mr. Cohen's presentation will be on how the state's funding cutbacks will impact Public Safety in Philadelphia.

* ***Questions and comments***

A line will be formed to ask Mr. Cohen questions, except for the chairperson, recording secretary and the committee chairperson.

III. United Northeast Neighbors Retreat

* ***When, What Time and Where***
* ***Topics of Interest***

IV. Northeast Community Leadership Training Program

* ***Types of training program needed (final request)***

VI. Questions and Community Information

VII. Adjournment

Notes:_____

_____

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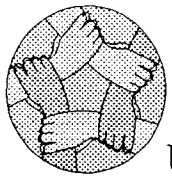


UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS
PUBLIC SAFETY IS OUR CONCERN !

65 + Organizations as members are represented
Each organization has between 100 & 150 members
all from the Northeast area of the city

DATE:

To All Northeast Senators and Representatives:

The United Northeast Neighbors Organization was disappointed that you were unable to attend our scheduled meeting at the Parkview Hospital Thursday March 21, 1996. We did try to schedule this meeting at your convenience.

Please be advised that we will reschedule this meeting in the very near future and we hope you will make every effort to attend.

Our invitation was sent to discuss OUR concerns with you regarding the impact of the proposed State and Federal budget cuts on our city and it's communities. We DO NOT wish to discuss the school board and it's money allocation.

City council members were gracious enough to attend a similar meeting and we feel an informational session with our Northeast legislators is in order.

WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE YOUR ATTENDANCE

Sincerely,

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

NORTHE

NEWS

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA'S PREMIER COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

United division?

➤Money matters and welfare reform were the hot topics at a gathering of an umbrella group of civic associations last week, but few politicians showed up. Some think the group is too political.

By Sheri Brenner
Times Staff Writer

Members of the United Northeast Neighbors civic group say they aren't getting the attention they deserve from their state legislators.

Of all the Northeast state senators and representatives invited to a March 21 meeting on the budget, only state Sen. Christine M. Tartaglione (D-2nd dist.) sent an aide.

Was it a conflict in scheduling or an intentional snub?

Two local state representatives contend that they avoided the meeting because they believed it was meant to be a set-up, not a dialogue.

"I'm not guessing. I know that most of what happened at that meeting was politically motivated," said state Rep. John Taylor (R-177nd dist.), who would not say where he got his information.

State Rep. Chris Wogan (R-176th dist.), said he was warned away by members of the Burholme Civic Association.

"I didn't see any reason to go," he said. "I wasn't asked by any of my groups to go, and one group advised me not to go."

Wogan went to a meeting of 63rd Ward Republicans instead.

Al Taubenberger, vice president of Burholme Civic and executive director of the Greater Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, said he was concerned about the objectivity of the United Northeast group.

"It was single-issue oriented," said Taubenberger, who attended a February meeting during which group leaders said they would discuss how the state budget would impact schools. "There are a number of Democratic operatives that have that gavel."

Please see **UNITED** / *Page* **16**

WHATCHA L

Deep in the heart of th
forest is actually a clas

Taylor

By Tom Waring
Times Staff Writer

An amendment offered l
177th dist.) that would save
the working poor easily pass
Monday night.

Taylor's amendment rela
opponents said would elin
260,000 Pennsylvanians.

The amendment passed o
legislator from Northeast Phi
amendment was John Perzel
majority leader.

UNITED

➤ *Continued from Page 1*

He said he passed his concerns onto Wogan.

"I just didn't like the tone of it. It looked to me like the old set-up," Taubenberger said.

Another legislator, state Sen. Allyson Schwartz (D-4th dist.), said she did not hear any speculation that politicians would be attacked. She was not at the meeting because she was running her own meeting the same night.

Glenn W. Devitt, chairman of the umbrella group formed to address public safety, said he had heard the rumors that politicians feared Thursday night would be a political bashing, but he insisted that nothing could be further from the truth.

"I've spent ten years in community service. I never suggested that was my intention," Devitt said. "You don't invite people to a meeting and beat them up."

The chairman added that political affiliation is not a consideration at the meetings.

Mike Hartey, treasurer of the Burholme Town Watch, said a question he raised at the February meeting was met with disapproval.

"They discussed additional spending for the Board of Education. I said I didn't see it as a civic or a Town Watch issue," he said. "That seemed to get an awful lot of nerves jangled. I was treated as a hostile person there."

Devitt said he didn't like the way the question was presented.

"It's not that everyone has to argue. We can discuss these issues," he said. "But the manner and way we discuss it — I am going to control that."

Taubenberger agreed that the group is attempting to get too politically involved.

"I think they are going beyond what a civic group should be doing," he said. "Civic groups deal with trash collection and zoning issues. But to get into the budget details of the Board of Education ... I don't see it as their place."

Devitt responded by saying that United Northeast is not a civic group.

TIMES FILE PHOTO

State Reps. John Taylor (left) and John Perzel.

"This is a combination of all different kinds of groups," he said. "The issue is public safety."

The group can also serve as a networking and educational tool for up-and-coming community leaders, he said.

Taubenberger said that he believes some members of the group are in it for "their own political gain," and added that the Northeast has seen that happen before.

Wogan also drew comparisons between the United Northeast group and United Civic Associations of the Northeast (UCAN), an umbrella organization that failed two years ago due to a lack of leadership and organization.

After the group's demise, its president, Charlie Cooper, briefly — and unsuccessfully — pursued the Democratic nomination for state Senate in the 2nd District.

"I participated in a charade six years ago called UCAN," said Wogan. "I'm not interested in participating in something that looks like it's proceeding along the same lines.

The legislator described the group as "unfocused" for pursuing matters such as crime with state instead of city legislators.

United Northeast met with members of City Council to discuss its public safety agenda in January.

"It speaks for itself that Democrats and Republicans didn't go to the meeting," Wogan said.

Devitt said his only immediate goal is getting his master's degree, not running for office.

He said that his group is not UCAN all over again.

"I think it's a snap judgment," he said. "We probably deal with some of the same issues."

Devitt said the older group was done in by taking on many issues from different areas of the city.

City Controller Jonathan Saidel, who attended last week's meeting, said politicians should have been there or at least sent an aide.

There are critical economic problems that need to be addressed, he said.

"I think Philadelphia is at its crossroads. It's very easy for all of us to backslide into the abyss," he said.

Aside from addressing the absence of legislators, speakers at the meeting turned to proposed cuts in the state budget and the welfare-reform bill.

By a wide margin Monday night, the state House of Representatives approved an amendment that would restore medical benefits to about 260,000 Pennsylvanians.

"The time has come for the people of the Northeast and this city and this state to question where our hard-earned federal dollars are going," Devitt said.

Among the areas of the budget discussed were cuts in SEPTA funding, economic development, Community College of Philadelphia and a lack of funding increase for education.

Devitt proposed that the legislators table the budget and welfare bill until they had met with their constituencies.

"My God, we need welfare reform, but let's not penalize and victimize the wrong people," he said.

Wogan criticized the meeting's social and political agenda.

"The problem was they said they were going to put the focus on crime issues. Then they said they were going to focus on social spending. What does that have to do with

Please see **UNITED** / *Page* **72**

UNITED

➤ *Continued from Page 16*

crime?" he asked.

After complaining about the effect of the welfare cuts at Thursday night's meeting, the group decided to try to do something about it.

About 50 members of the United Northeast group went to the Mayfair office of state Rep. John Perzel on Friday, demanding a meeting with the House majority leader.

Perzel (R-172nd dist.) was in Harrisburg, but that did not keep group members and sympathizers from expressing themselves.

Bill Devlin, of the Philadelphia Family Policy Council, said he was fasting to show solidarity for the people affected by welfare cuts.

"I believe our representatives are sacrificing the innocent," he said. "This is the reverse Robin Hood. They are stealing from the poor to give to the rich."

Irene White, president of the Northeast chapter of the National Organization for Women, said that people want action.

"You're starting to see people become angry because they are being ignored by their representatives, and the chaos that they are doing with all these budget cuts," she said.

A mental-health care worker at the protest said his patients would be adversely affected if the legislation passes.

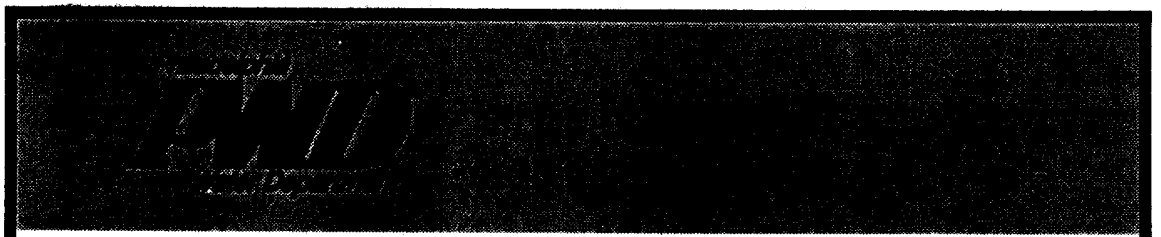
"I'm worried about where they're going to go for their treatment," said Larry Gallagher. "I'm also concerned for my job."

Lance Haver, educational director of the Consumer Education and Protective Association, acted as the group's spokesman, asking how many hospital beds would be lost as a result of the welfare-reform bill.

Steve Drachler, press secretary for Perzel, responded that "was not necessarily true."

In a telephone interview, Drachler said that the House majority leader has received a large volume of letters on both sides of the welfare-reform issue.

The protesters said that if they did not receive a satisfactory response from Perzel, they would target him at election time. Perzel and his Democratic opponent, Michelle McMenamin, are unopposed in their parties' April 23 primaries and will face off in the November general election. ••



Maybe you've seen news stories

about drinking water and a parasite called Cryptosporidium. And maybe you wondered whether you should be concerned.

In fact, water is one of the least likely sources of crypto infection. There's nothing to worry about if you're in generally good health.

If you have a suppressed immune system—from HIV infection or chemotherapy, for example— ask your doctor about ways to reduce your risk.

Get the facts

DEPRESSION

Evaluation • Medication

If you have:

- Feelings of sadness or hopelessness
- A decrease in motivation
- Increased irritability
- Changes in sleep or appetite
- Prior history of nervous energy

You may be suffering from manic depression.

Friends Hospital, in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health, offers free treatment with a new investigational drug to help those who suffer from depression or manic depression.

FRIENDS HOSPITAL
4641 Roosevelt Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19124

For more information, contact
Elizabeth Brown, Ed., M.
Research Coordinator
215•831•4668

April 10, 1996

Neighborhood group stood up by politicians

➤State Sen. Christine Tartaglione is the only politician to send a representative to attend a meeting of the United Northeast Neighbors. Others warned to stay away. Somerton Civic Association cries foul.

By Sheri Brenner
Times Staff Writer

Members of the Somerton Civic Association think that United Northeast Neighbors has gotten a raw deal from both legislators and the *Northeast Times*.

The umbrella civic organization is composed of about 65 area groups, including the Somerton Civic Association.

At a March 21 meeting of United Northeast Neighbors, the group was stood up by state legislators, all of whom were invited. Only state Sen. Christine Tartaglione (D-2nd dist.) sent an aide.

"The general consensus at that meeting was that our legislators didn't care about what we had to say," David Josephs, secretary of the Somerton Civic Association, said at his group's meeting on April 2.

Mary Jane Hazell, Somerton Civic Association's president, said that legislators were warned to avoid the meeting.

"Two people who showed up at one United Northeast Neighbors meeting spread a rumor through the Northeast, 'Don't go to that meeting or you'll get beat up,'" she said, referring to beliefs that legislators would be criticized at the session.

Hazell said people had the wrong idea of the meeting's purpose.

RUMORS HURT ATTENDANCE

"Everyone thought it was strictly (about) the school district," she said. "It was about the safety factor in Northeast Philadelphia.

"If there are new mandated programs from the state or federal government, it could mean one of the safety factors is cut to pay for mandated programs," she added.

Several aspects of the state budget, along with proposed welfare cuts, were discussed at the March 21 meeting. Hazell said citizens should be aware that budget cuts could lead to tax increases.

"As much as people say they are tired of paying for people (on welfare), they have to realize someone's going to pay for it," she said.

Hazell would rather see a statewide increase of the sales tax than a rise in property-tax assessments.

"One more increase, and I will sell my house," she said.

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NEIGHBORHOOD

➤ *Continued from Page 22*

The state budget was composed with consideration of possible cuts in funding from the federal government, Hazell noted. "We can't pass this on the assumption that we are going to lose six-hundred-million dollars because we don't know what we are going to lose," she said.

Jack Chriswell, treasurer of the Somerton group, claimed that a March 27 *Northeast Times* article painted an "erroneous picture of the United Northeast Neighbors" and the March 21 meeting.

"The article discussed at length what two people had to say who didn't have clue one of what the meeting with the state representatives was about," he said.

Chriswell also was upset about comments in the article by state Rep. Chris Wogan (R-176th dist.).

"Wogan said we were getting out of bounds. He asked what cuts in medical assistance and schools have to do with public safety," he said. "Maybe it's too complicated for him. If the city has to find funds for other programs, then public safety is going to suffer."

MANY GROUPS REPRESENTED

In the March 27 article, Glenn Devitt, chairman of United Northeast Neighbors, maintained that his group is unique because it encompasses many groups, and reiterated that "the issue is public safety."

Chriswell gave a summary of the group's path until now.

"United Northeast Neighbors started up a year ago in February to address public safety in the Northeast," he said.

The group actually was an outgrowth of the Northeast Justice Committee, a panel of community leaders who had meetings with Mayor Ed Rendell about the public safety issue.

"They had numerous meetings with the mayor and City Council," Chriswell said. "When nothing happened, they started going after the people in council."

United Northeast Neighbors demonstrated in City Council chambers as Devitt gave a speech last September.

Much of the controversy focused on requests for more police.

Chriswell said that when they realized that council would be affected by state funding cuts, "we decided then that perhaps we should meet with state legislators and ask them not to vote for the cuts."

Hazell took exception to Wogan's suggestion in the article that the group has a political agenda.

"The innuendo was made that the leader of this group was political, that he had some

Please see **NEIGHBORHOOD** / *Page* **36**

NEIGHBORHOOD

➤ *Continued from Page 35*

agenda, that he was running for office," she said. "For fifteen years, Glenn Devitt has been the strongest community activist that you have."

Devitt said in the article that he is focusing on getting his master's degree and is not running for office.

In other business:

•Spain's plans to move its headquarters from Tomlinson Road and Jamison Avenue to Northeast Avenue, next to Comcast. The Philadelphia Industrial Development Corp. is handling the project.

"We are going to ask PIDC to use only the east side of Northeast Avenue for the traffic coming in and out," Hazell said.

But first vice president Dolores Barbieri still had her concerns. "I can't understand why they are putting this here instead of on the east side of the (Roosevelt) Boulevard in the industrial park," she said. "This is going to be a nightmare. It's going to be truck city."

The Somerton officers will ask the parties involved in the project to speak at the next meeting.

•The city's Zoning Board of Adjustment has accepted an agreement between the Somerton Civic Association and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

The civic group recently agreed to a scaled-down version of a senior-citizen home planned by the federation. The project plans were reduced from a 99-unit complex with 33 parking spots to 63 units with 20 spaces.

•Hazell said that the Somerton group is continuing to fight a plan to build an office building at 10160 Bustleton Ave., near George Washington High School.

"We were very well-received by the Zoning Board of Adjustment," she said.

•The group is pursuing complaints of illegal dumping on Damar Drive.

•Contributions of $100 each were approved for the Bustleton-Bowler-Somerton Town Watch and the Northeast Alliance Against Graffiti.

•Hazell expressed her solidarity with the Enfield Civic Association, which is fighting for more prison guards at the city's Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility on State Road. Inmate uprisings at the facility in recent months have resulted in injuries to guards.

"If the guards aren't safe, then we're not safe on the outside," Hazell said.

•Plans are moving ahead for the Bustleton-Somerton Memorial Day Parade. Faulkner Oldsmobile has contributed $2,000 to the cause.

•The next meeting of the Somerton Civic Association will be Tuesday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m., at Arthur's Caterers, Bustleton Avenue and Byberry Road. ••

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

Hosted by Parkview Hospital

AGENDA

April 15, 1996

I. Introductions: Glenn W. Devitt
* *Goal of tonight's meeting*

II. UNN's Mission and Objective
* *Why & What we are about*
* *UNN's relationship with PPP*
* *Questions and comments*

III. United Northeast Neighbors Retreat
"April 28, 10AM to 6PM - Doubletree Club Hotel"
Sit down breakfast & Buffet Dinner
Issues and Topics to be addressed

A. *Approval of By-laws*
B. *Election of Officers*
C. *Community Assessment*
D. *Organizational Strategic Planning*

* *Questions and comments*

IV. Northeast Community Leadership Training Program
* *Initial training program - Grant Writing*
- Fund Raising

(Possibility) Does a free market systems impact Public Safety
* *Other topics of interest*

VI. Membership Applications
* *Questions or Comments*

VII. Questions and Community Information

VII. Summarize & Adjournment

*Notes:*_____

_____

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_____

_____

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April 17, 1996

Civic leader is narrow minded

I take issue with recent remarks from Burholme Civic Association vice president Al Taubenberger concerning what civic associations should be about.

He has a very narrow-minded focus if all his association does is worry about trash and zoning. What about conducting programs for the youth in that area, and combating graffiti (or do they not have that blight yet in Burholme?).

Most civic leaders I know are involved in many other areas in their communities. They are concerned about everyone and everything in the community. However, I agree with City Controller Jonathan Saidel's comments that this city is at a crossroads. It is time that we, as Northeast residents, become involved and understand how our elected officials are spending our tax dollars.

As for staff writer Sheri Brenner, I am truly disappointed. Sheri spent time with our association when we went before City Council, and she wrote a beautiful article about us and what we are trying to accomplish. This article, unfortunately, paints a very ugly picture of the United Northeast Neighbors.

DEBBIE KEE
President, Wissinoming Civic Association and member, United Northeast Neighbors

Join in the forum — write a letter to us

The Northeast Times welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be 300 words or less. All are subject to editing and **must** include a daytime phone number for verification. Mail to: Letters to the Editor, Northeast Times, Smylie Times Building, Suite 501, 8001 Roosevelt Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19152. Fax to: (215) 355-4857. e-mail to: ProMedPub@aol.com

Poison comes from Bridesburg

The poisonous venom spewing out of the mouths of residents in Bridesburg because a nice black family moved into a home on their street tells us a lot about those neighbors.

They trust no one and cannot adjust to another nationality, nor changes of any kind.

I lived near Oxford Circle for 40 years, and there were only a few Polish neighbors — most fresh from Bridesburg — when I moved in. I was subjected to the most hurtful, crude people I have ever encountered, much like the woman who asked the recent newcomer to Bridesburg, "No disrespect to you, but why did you move here?"

This is the residents' way of expressing themselves. No class, just plain crude.

ANNA HINES
Mayfair

Get tough on criminals

Your March 27 editorial on the sentencing of the criminals in the Eddie Polec murder was most appropriate for today's criminals, who believe they can get away with atrocities of crime and killings.

PROMedia Publishing Co.
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UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

COME JOIN US FOR A DAY OF PRODUCTIVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

DATE: **APRIL 28TH, 1996**

TIME: **10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM**
Breakfast and Dinner Served

PLACE: **Doubletree Club Hotel**
9461 Roosevelt Blvd.
Phila. PA

One member per organization is invited as a guest. If you would like to have others attend, the cost will be $30.00 per person. Breakfast & Dinner included in price.

Tentative Agenda:

- **Finalizing Bylaws**
- **Election of Officers**
- **Assessing a Community**
- **Strategic Planning**

+ +

______________________________ ______________________________
Organization

______________________________ ______________________________
Name Address

Telephone Number________________

Will Attend ______________ Will not attend ______________ Additional members ______________

Other topics you would like to see dicussed:

____

____

____

Please return by 4/15/96
Mail to: United Northeast Neighbors P.O. Box 17630 Phila. Pa 19135 Fax To: 215-245-1649

RETREAT GOAL:

To establish the formal structure of the organization and to focus, discuss and plot the organizational strategy for the up and coming year to address Public Safety.

RETREAT OBJECTIVES:

- **Finalize and approve UNN By-Laws.**
- **Elect officers for UNN Board**
- **Present and discuss strategies that UNN will pursue next year**

United Northeast Neighbors is hosting it's first retreat on Sunday, April 28th, 1996. It will be held at the Double-Tree Club Hotel, 9461 Roosevelt Blvd. (half a block south of Grant Ave.) The retreat will begin at 10:00 AM, with breakfast being served. Our intentions will be to work through the retreat's goals and objectives and complete the day with buffet dinner. Dinner will be ending around 6:00 PM.

A representative from each member organization is cordially invited to attend, free of charge. If any other organization's members would like to attend, there will be a charge of $30.00 per person. Unfortunately this is necessary due to the limited amount of money remaining in our account. If there are organization's members that wish to attend and participate, but have a financial hardship, please contact Kay McGuire, 288 6468 to see if we can make a financial arrangement so that individual can attend. We will also be accepting donations from organizations to defray the cost of this retreat.

If you believe in the concept of an United Northeast Neighbors. then it is important that a representative is in attendance and participates in the process during the retreat. Only through collective process and action can we accomplish the goal of UNN, enhance, maintain and preserve the Public safety of Northeast Philadelphia.

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

RETREAT

Held in the Doubletree Club Hotel, Pennsylvania Ballroom

April 28, 1996

AGENDA

10: 00 AM Greetings
Breakfast will be served
Complete UNN membership application

11:00 AM Introductions
Goals and objectives of today's retreat
Role of the membership

11:15 AM Bylaws
Review bylaws and discuss any final concerns
Approve Bylaws

12:00 PM Election of Officers
Identify nominates
Hold election

12:30 PM Break

12:45 PM Elements of Community assessment
Why do an assessment
Where to find the information

1: 00 PM UNN Strategic Planning
SWOT Analysis
Planning for the next year

3:00 PM Break

3:15 PM UNN Strategic Planning (continued)
Planning for the next year

5:00 PM Dinner
Buffet style dinner
Opportunity to socialize and network

6:00 PM Closing Remarks

Retreat Goal: To establish the formal structure of the organization and to focus, discuss and plot the organizational strategy for the up and coming year to address Public Safety.

Retreat Objectives:
* Finalize and approve UNN By-laws
* Elect officers for UNN Board
* Present and discuss strategies that UNN will pursue next year

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UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS, INC.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1 -The name of this organization is United Northeast Neighbors, Inc. (UNN), an alliance of civic and social welfare organizations in Northeast Philadelphia.
Section 2 - United Northeast Neighbors is a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political, non-religious and non-racial organization.

ARTICLE II. GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES

UNN'S boundaries shall be Northeast Philadelphia, the generally named part of Philadelphia County which will consist of the following zip codes, 19111, 19114, 19115, 19116, 19120, 19124, 19125, 19134, 19135, 19136, 19137, 19149, 19152, 19154.

ARTICLE III. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

UNN's purpose is to form an alliance of all Northeast organizations to take united action to promote and enhance public safety in the Northeast Philadelphia community.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Any Northeast Philadelphia organization who subscribes to UNN's purpose shall be eligible to become a member of UNN upon payment of dues, with all rights, privileges and responsibilities thereof.

ARTICLE V. FINANCE

Section 1.
The fiscal year shall be July 1 to June 30.
Section 2.
Dues and specifics relating thereto shall be paid by each member organization.
Section 3.
The treasurer with the finance and budget committee shall prepare a proposed line-item budget for the fiscal year. After having been published to every member, the budget shall be approved by a majority of the members of the Executive Board present and voting at meeting preceding the commencement of the fiscal year. Review and revision of the budget may occur at any regular or special meeting of the Board by a majority vote of of those present and voting, with subsequent notification to the membership. an internal audit committee will be appointed by the President to review the books on an annual basis consisting of three different member organizations.

Article VI. OFFICERS.

The officers may delegate such duties as may be necessary to allow time to implement the performance of their office but they may not delegate their responsibility. The officers shall be responsible at all times to the Executive Board and to the members.

Section 1.
The officers shall be a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer.
Section 2.
Officers are elected for two year terms and can be elected for two consecutive terms, exception is the office of treasurer which shall not be subject to rules of limitation of office. If there are no qualified candidates who desire to run for offices, other than the treasurer the incumbent officers may run for office exceeding the two term limitation.
Section 3. Duties of Officers.
President- Carries out the decisions of the board and the membership, presides at meetings of the membership and the board, acts as spokesperson in dealings with the media, is an ex-officio member of all committees, provides for the smooth transition of all new leadership.
Vice Presidents - Assist the President in all duties as requested and presides at meetings in the absence of the president, has other responsibilities as set forth in the Opr. Rules.
Recording Secretary- Takes minutes at all meetings, types and duplicates the agenda for each meeting. Records exact wording of any motions passed, and names of persons delegated to take any particular responsibility. Keeps a permanent file of minutes. Presents the minutes of each meeting for approval at the following meeting. Reviews past minutes and brings uncompleted decisions for action to the attention of the membership and board.
Corresponding Secretary- Types, secures proper signatures for and mails any official letters or communications.
Treasurer-Collects dues for new members and renewals, maintains a list of current paid members, maintains bank accounts and handles financial matters, keeps complete records of income and expenditures, reports to the board and membership at each meeting, prepares annual budget as specified in Article V Section 3.

Article VII. EXECUTIVE BOARD

The executive Board shall be composed of the officers, President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

Article VIII MEETINGS

Section 1- Annual meetings shall be held in June.
Section 2- Regular meetings 3rd Monday of each month except July, August and December. Special meetings shall be at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Article IX COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees will include Public Relations
Finance and Budget
Legislation
Membership
Education

Section 2. Ad Hoc committes shall include a Nominating Committee and Audit Committee and any other special committees as appointed by the President and approved by the executive board.

ARTICLE X. GRIEVANCES

Grievance procedures shall be determined by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XI. OPERATING RULES

There shall be a set of operating rules which must detail the items referred to in these bylaws and may contain any other operating rules the organization wishes. Voting must provide a method of amending the rules to give the membership written notice of an intended change and require a 2/3 vote with one vote per organization.

ARTICLE XII. VACANCIES

Section 1. President

In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the First Vice President shall immediately assume the office and duties of President. The Second Vice President shall assume the office and duties of First Vice President.

Section 2. Other Officers

In the event of a vacancy in any other office, the Board shall appoint any member of UNN who meets the criteria for elective office in UNN. Officers so appointed shall take office within thrity days of the appointment.

ARTICLE XIII. RECALL AND REMOVAL.

Section 1. Recall of Officers or Board Member

Any voting member/officer may propose the removal of a member provided that a proposal in writing stating the reason for this removal is submitted to the Executive Board via the Recording Secretary.

Section 2. Upon receipt of such written proposal, the Executive Board shall conduct a due process hearing in special Executive session on the issue of removal.

Section 3. Written notice shall be sent to the person whose removal has been proposed prior to this hearing. Any general member or officer may give testimony/evidence at the hearing.

Section 4.At the end of the evidence presentation , a majority vote of the Executive Board will be necessary for/against removal.

Section 5. Should the Executive Board vote for removal, the individual is entitled to a hearing before the general membership at the next regular scheduled meeting. Testimony can be given. General membership may reverse the Executive Board decision.

Section 6. Any member may withdraw from U.N.N. by submission of a letter of resignation.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of voting members at a meeting, provided that written notice be given 15 days in advance of vote.

ARTICLE XV. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Except as herein provided, all proceedings of UNN shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

ARTICLE XVI. DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Method

The corporation may be dissolved as follows: A petition for dissolution signed by ten percent of the voting members shall be submitted to the Executive Board and a postal ballot to dissolve shall be sent to all members and shall require a 2/3 vote of those valid return ballots to uphold the petition to dissolve.

Section 2. Disposition of Assets

Upon dissolution of the organization, the Board shall, after paying or making provisions for payment of all liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets in a manner appropriate to that purpose or to such organization or organizations as shall at the time qualify as devoted to the purpose of UNN.

APPROVED BY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MAY 20, 1996

COMMITTEES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Public Relations
- Press / Media Coverage
- Possible Press Conferences
- Monthly articles in community newspapers
- Targeting an issue
  - (Ongoing issue)
- At formal monthly meeting - decide who will write article if newspapers permit
- Prove accuracy of all data - research
- Possible Public Service announcements
- Talk Radio shows
- Community TV shows

Education
- Leadership Training
- Education of Apathetic Community
- Community School - Horace
- Drug Awareness Programs
- Billboards
- Police Ride-alongs (Town Watch)
- Youth Conferences
- Principals - PTA's - target groups of youth
- Essays - prizes for Youth conferences

Membership
- Recruit
  - Identify recruitment needs
  - Ethnic groups
  - Neighborhoods
  - Retain Involvement
  - Identify members' needs (re; public safety)
  - Dues

Legislative
- Tracks, identifies, monitors and reports back on legislation regarding public safety issues. Bring up at general meetings.
- Recommend solutions
- Lobbying vs. educating.

Budget and Finance
- To set up spending budget for organization.
- Organization will have to do Fund Raising.
- Estimate possible expenses - postage, paper, printing,etc.-- this will be essential for grant writing.

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

Hosted by Parkview Hospital

AGENDA

May 20, 1996

I. Introductions: Glenn W. Devitt
A. Goal of tonight's meeting

II. UNN's Retreat, April 28

A. Issues and Topics addressed
1. Approval of By-laws
a. Final clarification
b. Committees identified

2. Election of Officers

3. Community Assessment
a. SWOT Analysis

4. Organizational Strategic Planning
a. Articles of Incorportation & 501 - (C) - 3

B. Questions and comments

III. Northeast Community Leadership Training Program

A. Initial training program ***- Grant Writing, May 14th. & 16th.***
- Fund Raising, May 20th.

B. Other Interest

IV. Membership Applications

A. Completed or updated

V. Questions and Community Information

VI. Summarize & Adjournment

Notes:_____

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

June 12, 1996

I. Introductions: Glenn

- ***A. Last months minutes - Debra***
  - ***1. Reviewed & approved***

II. Financial report

- ***A. Funding Status - Jack***
  - ***1. Report for Monday's final FY meeting***
- ***B. Articles of Inc. & 501 (c) 3 Status***
- ***C. Fund raising committee***
- ***D. Additional funding from (PPP)***
  - ***1. C/C investigation***
    - ***a. Internal concerns***

III. Northeast Community Leadership Training Program

- ***A. Negotiation training, rescheduled***
- ***B. Future training programs***

IV. Membership Applications

- ***A. Completed or updated***

V. Questions and Community Information

VII. Summarize & Adjournment

Notes & Responsibilities:_____

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 12, 1996

Present: Glenn Devitt - President
Ilene Green - 1st Vice President
Florence Marino - 2nd Vice President
Jack Chriswell - Treasurer
Marlene Josephs - Corresponding Secretary
Debbie Kee - Recording Secretary

Minutes were reviewed from last months meeting. Ilene Green made a motion to accept, Jack Chriswell seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Financial Status of UNN:

Approximately $828.00 left in treasury. $500.00 was disbursed to Sue Karant from Karant Associates for the Community School programs on Grant Writing and Fund Raising.

Ilene mentioned that Rhawnhurst Town Watch prepared a financial report for their general meetings. Kay Mc Guire will prepare this statement for our general meeting on 6-17-96.

The Articles of Incorporation papers have been returned due to some missing documentation. These were given to Deb and she will give them to Kay. We must have our incorporation before applying for 501 C 3 status. It was mentioned that Congressman Bob Borski expedited the 501 C 3 status application for Stan Cohen and Phoenix Horizons in about 1 month. We may contact him to help us.

Glenn met with Angel Medina from the Partnership. There is approximately $80,000 left to be dispersed. UNN will get $10,000.

Open Discussions:

We talked about Loyalty to the UNN organization. There are members who have and will surely continue to try to destroy this group. We must stand fast and not permit this to happen. Ugly rumors will surely surface but we must be strong and ignore them. It was rumored that City Controller Jonathan Saidel was investigating the Partnership. We all encouraged Glenn to speak to Mr. Saidel, which he did in fact do. There is no current on-going investigation into the Partnership.

We discussed the need for a Fund Raising Committee. Marlene feels that this should probably develope on an as needed basis. An alternate title would be Ways and Means Committee. All agreed.

The criteria for organizational members was discussed. It was felt that an organization must have structure to be a member of UNN. We will re-create the Individual Membership Applications. Organizational Membership Applications will still be used but only by the one person who will be the official representative of that group in UNN with their alternate who will be able to vote. All other members will submit individual applications.

Committees:

Ilene Green and Marlene Josephs have signed on as additional members of the Budget/Finance Committee.

Community School:

Grant Writing and Fund Raising classes were well received. There have been requests to repeat these classes, and we may do so in the future.

Glenn spoke about Negotiation Training - this teaches the process to a win-win solution for problem solving. He will teach this in the future.

It was mentioned that perhaps we should have our member organizations pay a fee for these classes. Some of our groups are poor.

Please give some thought to future classes that may be beneficial for our member organizations. It has been mentioned that Membership Development would be a good class to have with a particular emphasis on encouraging involvement by other ethnic groups in UNN.

Monday, 6-17 will be our last General Meeting for the year - none in July and August.

We need to develop data for possible news articles advertising UNN. What is the future direction of UNN?

SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - 9-11-96
AT THE RESIDENCE OF MARLENE JOSEPHS
441 TOMLINSON ROAD APARTMENT B 7 7:30PM

SEE YOU THEN; HAPPY SUMMER

Remember: Major fund raising season - September through November.

It is important to form the Budget/Finance Committee, so that budget data can be in place if we choose to write grants.

We will probably also need a Fund Raising Committee.

Though there will be no General Membership meetings in July and August, committees can certainly meet. Then in September get membership approval on decisions.

Note; IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT TIME SCHEDULES.

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

Hosted by Parkview Hospital

AGENDA

June 17, 1996

I. Introductions: Glenn W. Devitt
- ***A. Goal of tonight's meeting***

II. Reading of last month's Minutes - Debbie
- ***A. Addendum and approval of the minutes***

III. Annual Financial Report
- ***A. Articles of Incorporation***
- ***B. 501 - (C) - 3***

IV. An issue of Integrity
- ***A. PPP***

V. Process & structure of the organization
- ***A. Committee Development***
- ***B. Future Training programs & Guest Speakers***
- ***C. Strategic Planning (6 to 12 months)***
- ***D. Membership Application***

VI. Questions, Comments & Community Information

VII. Summarize & Adjournment
- ***A. Next General Meeting - September 16, 1996 at 7:30 PM***

Notes:_____

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS
Board Meeting
AGENDA
September 11, 1996

I. Introductions: Goal of tonight's board meeting

- minutes

II. Organizational Status

*** Financially**

*** Corporate**

*** Committees**

*** Questions, comments & concerns**

	Next	Next
Th	9/26	10/29
TH	10/10	11/5
Tu	10/15	11/12
TH	10/17	

Set Deadline
Community Organization Accounting
Free to Membership
Minimum will be ten 9/18 registration - return of upon completion of Class

III. Northeast Community Leadership Training Program

*** Types of training program needed (Fall program)**

IV. Questions and Community Information

V. Adjournment

Notes: Black Bag / Calculator / Hi-Lite / Pen / Key Ring

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS INC.

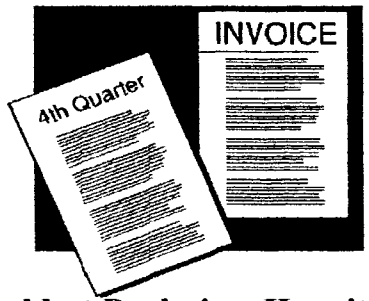
LEADERSHIP TRAINING

PRESENTS

Community Organizational Accounting

FOUR NIGHT COURSE

Thursday, September 26
Thursday, October 10
Tuesday, October 15
Thursday, October 17



Negotiating Techniques

THREE NIGHT COURSE

Tuesday, October 29
Tuesday, November 12
Tuesday, November 19

Each class will be held at Parkview Hospital, Medical Office Building from 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

There will be a **ten dollars ($10) registration fee required** *for each person per course. This money will be returned to each participant once they complete the course.*

Registration will initially be limited to UNN members. Classes will not exceed more than twenty (20) people per class. To register for either course or additional information ***call*** **288-6468** and leave your name, phone number, time to call and which class you wish to register for.

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

Hosted by Parkview Hospital

AGENDA

September 16, 1996

I. Introductions: Glenn W. Devitt

II. Reading of last month's Minutes - Debbie

A. Addendum and approval of the minutes

III. Annual Financial Report - Jack

A. Articles of Incorporation

B. 501 - (C) - 3

C. Grant from PPP

IV. Guest speaker: Councilman - at - Large, David Cohen

A. Item Pricing Bills

V. Status of Organization

A. UNN Committees: (A priority of organize)

1. Public Relation

2. Membership

3. Legislative

4. Budget & Finance

5. Education (see training leaflet)

6. Tag program

B. Ileen Green's resignation

C. Staying Focus

VI. Questions, Comments & Community Information

VII. Summarize & Adjournment

A. Next General Meeting - _____, 1996 at 7:30 PM

Notes:_____

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FINANCIAL REPORT
UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS, INC.
SEPTEMBER 30, 1996

Grant Received 3/6/95	4913.30

Expenses

New Gleaner Ad	575.00
Northeast Times	409.60
Star News	199.68
Office Expense	115.50
Parkview Hosp.Meeting Exp.	130.00
Double Tree Hotel Retreat	210l.00
Facilitator	500.00
Postage	74.00
Equipment	89.00
Incorporation Fee	100.00
	4293.78
7/24/96 Transfer UNN Acct	100.00
9/30/96 Transfer UNN Acct	519.52
	4913.30

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

October 9th, 1996

I. Introductions: Glenn

- ***A. Last months minutes - Debra***
  - ***1. Reviewed & approved***

II. Financial report

- ***A. Funding Status - Jack***
- ***B. Articles of Inc. & 501 (c) 3 Status***

III. Issues of Discussion

- ***A. Status of committees***
- ***B. Date of General Meeting***
  - ***1. communication of meeting (ie. written vs. telephone)***
- ***C. Membership Applications***
  - ***1. Completed or updated***

IV. Northeast Community Leadership Training Program

- ***A. Community Development Accounting***
- ***B. Negotiation training***

V. Questions and Community Information

VII. Summarize & Adjournment

Notes & Responsibilities:_____

FAX Memorandum

To: Frank Rizzo Jr., Councilman-at-Large **From: Glenn W. Devitt, President of United Northeast Neighbors Inc.** **Subj: Invitation to speak** **Date: October 11, 1996**	**Copy to: File**

I wish to take this opportunity to invited you to our next general meeting. It will be held on Monday, October 28, 1996 in the conference rooms at Allegheny University Hospital, Parkview Division. Our meeting begins approximately at 7:30PM with about fifteen minutes of business formalities. The executive board though you may like to speak about public safety and the concerns about Philadelphia's emergency communication system. Your perspectives and viewpoints are always insightful.

Please let me know if this date is acceptable to your schedule. I know you will do everything possible to be in attendance. Your staff can reach me during the day at 580-3491 or in the evenings at 288-8763. I look forward in seeing you on the twenty-eight.

Sincerely and committed,

Glenn W. Devitt

UNITED NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

Hosted by Parkview Hospital

AGENDA

October 28, 1996

I. Introductions: Glenn W. Devitt

II. Reading of last month's Minutes - Debbie

A. Addendum and approval of the minutes

III. Monthly Financial Report - Jack

A. Articles of Incorporation

IV. Status of Organization

A. Present membership of UNN

B. UNN Committees:

1. ***Public Relation***
2. ***Membership***
3. ***Legislative***
4. ***Budget & Finance***
5. ***Education***
6. ***Tag program***
   - **** Graffiti Bill***

C. Staying focus on the mission of UNN

V. Guest speaker: Councilman - at - Large, Frank Rizzo

A. Status of Public Safety

VI. Questions, Comments & Community Information

VII. Summarize & Adjournment

A. Next General Meeting - _____, 1996 at 7:30 PM

Notes:_____

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