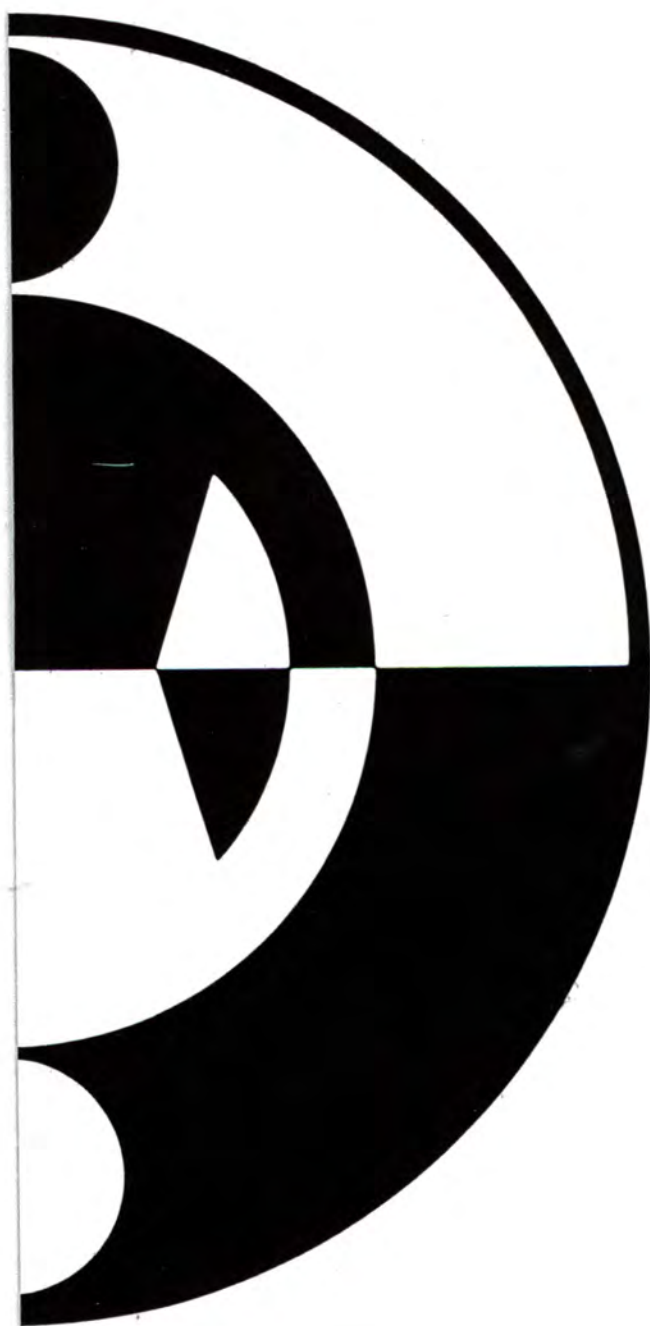


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New Detroit



New Detroit, Inc.

Sonia Plata
Program Associate, Race Relations

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Detroit, Michigan 48226-4234

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Detroit Coalition for Responsible Immigration Policy

Detroit Coalition for Responsible Immigration Policy

March 18, 1996

ACCESS
(Arab Community
Center for
Economic and
Social Services)

Association of
Chinese
Americans

Chaldean
Federation of
America

Jewish
Community
Council of
Metropolitan
Detroit

La Sed
(Latin Americans
for Social and
Economic
Development)

New Detroit, Inc.

The Detroit Coalition for Responsible Immigration Policy is an ad hoc group of diverse ethnic groups that have come together to support our national heritage of welcoming new immigrants to our county. Though isolationist forces would use the issue of immigration as a convenient political scapegoat and to drive a wedge between us, rarely has an issue so unified Americans of such divergent backgrounds.

We are proud of our immigrant heritage and the rich cultural diversity which strengthens our nation and brings strong family values to our society.

We are proud of the generous American spirit and high moral standards which have opened our doors to refugees and victims of oppression since the beginning of our democratic venture.

Recognizing that legal immigrants are an economic asset to our country, providing a net benefit of nearly \$30 billion in assets and taxes each year, and dedicated to maintaining a fair and generous immigration policy, our coalition has taken the following positions:

- We support separating the issues of legal and illegal immigration, rather than treating the issues as if they were the same, as within the bill being debated by the U.S. House of Representatives tomorrow.

- We oppose attempts to reduce the flow of refugees and legal immigrants or restrict the permissible categories for family reunification cases.
- We support maintenance of current benefits for legal immigrants, who have followed the rules, are obligated to pay taxes and collectively contribute more to the economy than they receive.

America's responsible immigration policy is something to cherish, protect and celebrate. Let us be true to the noble ideals etched in our Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore."

Joining me today are other leaders of the **Detroit Coalition for Responsible Immigration Policy**:

Ismael Ahmed, President, ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services)

Dr. Marisa Chuang Ming, President, Association of Chinese Americans

Rosemary Antone, Vice President, Chaldean Federation of America

Gloria Rocha, Board Member, La Sed (Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development)

Charlie J. Williams, President, New Detroit, Inc.

William J. Beckham, Jr. President-Elect, New Detroit, Inc.

We are very pleased that Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano has also decided to speak out on this issue. Following some brief remarks by Sheriff Ficano, we would be pleased to answer your questions.



**New
Detroit**

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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
BY NEW DETROIT, INC.**

WHEREAS, New Detroit, Inc., the nation's first urban coalition, was established consistent with the principles of equal opportunity for all people; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 1995, the Board of Trustees of New Detroit, Inc. reaffirmed its November 1988 position in support of Affirmative Action; and

WHEREAS, Affirmative Action programs continue to be under attack by a growing number of individuals and groups all over the country; and

WHEREAS, racism and sexism continue to play a critical role in determining who gets into the corporate hierarchy and who receives educational and business opportunities; and

WHEREAS, New Detroit, Inc. recognizes that the country has benefited from the principles of Affirmative Action, both socially and economically, because of public and private programs which have taken race and sex into account in hiring and promotion decisions; and

WHEREAS, New Detroit, Inc. must remain committed to the equality of educational and employment opportunities, recognizing that these are crucial to the development of positive self-esteem, a stable family environment, and good citizenship. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, that New Detroit, Inc. continues to support the principles of Affirmative Action through lawful consideration of race, ethnicity, and gender under programs that are flexible, realistic and fair; and **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that New Detroit, Inc. form a broad based coalition of appropriate groups and individuals to support and promote Affirmative Action programs; and **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that New Detroit, Inc. take a leadership role in providing the necessary advocacy to support Affirmative Action; and **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that New Detroit offer its support and assistance to civil and human rights organizations, locally and nationally, by hosting a conference in 1996 for the purpose of formulating an advocacy strategy to support and enhance Affirmative Action; and **BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, that the New Detroit Board of Trustees authorizes the Chairman and the President to convey the positions contained in this resolution to civil and human rights organizations, to the community-at-large and to appropriate government officials at the local, state and national levels.

Approved by the Board of Trustees of New Detroit, Inc. on March 7, 1996.

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Spotlight

Published by New Detroit, Inc.

Vol. II

Multicultural News and Opinion

Feb. 1996

Leaving My Comfort Zone II

In the first issue of *Spotlight*, I surmised that efforts to build bridges across cultural and ethnic



New Detroit President
Charlie J. Williams

dividing lines force us to leave our comfort zones. I recognize, in part by my own experience,

that this can be an awkward journey. It is difficult to be confident when you venture outside your own knowledge base.

A few weeks ago I was called upon by WWJ radio to take a giant step outside my comfort zone. I was invited to be part of their business breakfast panel (public speaking is not my favorite thing to do) and to provide my predictions on the state of race relations for '96 (a task even Dionne Warwick's physic friends would find difficult). I took the leap and was surprised by the warm reception I received.

More and more, I find indications that people, all people, recognize the need to get along better. It is hard to

... see *Comfort* on page 6

Confronting Bias in a Changing Population



Chaldean community leader Jane Shallal discusses population forecasts with SEMCOG's John Amberger. Photo: Hugh Grannum

Metro Detroit grows more diverse every day.

By 2020, the percentage of European whites in the population will have diminished, and the percentage of blacks, Asians, Native Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Arabs and Chaldeans will have increased significantly.

That was one of the chief messages presented by a panel of experts to the New Detroit Board of Trustees at its January meeting.

Overall, the seven-county region served by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments will grow by 13 percent, according to SEMCOG's analysis of U.S. Census data and other sources.

The population growth marks a turning point, said John Amberger, SEMCOG's executive director. "Between 1980 and 1990, we lost people. It will change some things in the region in a very big way."

Among the changes will be an 18-percent growth in jobs, plus a population that continues to spread outward from Detroit, taking with it most of the new jobs. As elsewhere, the population will age, meaning more households with no children.

The decades-long trend of population loss in the City of Detroit also will continue, though SEMCOG says the trend will moderate.

... see *Future* on page 2

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Spotlight

Published by New Detroit, Inc.

Vol. I

News and Opinion on Race and Ethnicity

Nov. 1995

Leaving My Comfort Zone

Since my arrival at New Detroit, Inc., in January 1994, I have made an effort to encourage diversity.

It is uncomfortable



**New Detroit President
Charlie J. Williams**

sometimes. Like everyone, I am most at ease with those who share my life

experience. And, like most people, I have been led to believe that people who share my beliefs, more often than not, look like me.

Having left my comfort zone, I find that old wisdom is not completely true. I have had more opportunities to cross ethnic bridges. I find that among Hispanics, Middle Easterners, Native Americans, Asians and Americans of European descent, there are many who share my visions.

There are many in each group who realize that southeast Michigan cannot be two things at once. It cannot be the most segregated region in the nation and at the same time reach its full potential for growth and prosperity.

... see **Comfort** on page 4

New Detroit Enters a New Era



This photo of a Dearborn woman and her grandchild is part of an exhibit on local Arab-Americans opening Nov. 10 at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Photo: Millard Berry.

The nation's largest and oldest urban coalition is refocusing its mission.

In a significant change of direction, New Detroit plans to become a forum for all of the metropolitan area's ethnic and racial groups.

Since its founding after the 1967 civil disturbance, New Detroit has been largely known for

its work in improving relations between whites and African Americans. But noting that southeast Michigan is diverse in its population but segregated in its neighborhoods, New Detroit President Charlie Williams said the agency sees a pressing need to unify people regardless of skin color, ancestry

... see **New** on page 4

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NEW DETROIT, INC. ANNUAL REPORT



1994 - 1995

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New Detroit

Now

Fall 1992

Vol. XXIII, No. 2

Vision and Commitment 1967 - 1992

Twenty five years ago, beginning on July 23 and continuing for five days, Detroit experienced the most violent and destructive civil disturbance in the nation's history. Sparked by a relatively minor incident, tempers flared and violence erupted.

It was not a race riot, such as Detroit had suffered in 1943. Rather, it was anger directed at those institutions perceived to be part of "the oppressive establishment."

As reflective of broader community attitudes, the almost all white police force was the source for the most serious citizen grievances. Few institutions, however, were spared criticism that ranged from charges of indifference to those of discrimination and outright oppression.

While the fires still burned and the central city was shrouded in black smoke, Michigan Governor George Romney and Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh called upon business executive Joseph L. Hudson, Jr. to form a leadership committee to identify and address the root causes of the disturbance. At a public meeting on July 27, Mr. Hudson announced the formation and membership of a "New Detroit Committee." He called for loaned executives from public and private institutions to staff the Committee, which held its first meeting on August 1, 1967.

From the outset, New Detroit represented a then-unique response to community crisis and resolution.

continued on page 4

Twenty-Five Years Page 2



First urban coalition opened channels of communication

Partnership Plan Page 5



IBM joins New Detroit business mentoring program

Senior Citizens Day Page 7



25th anniversary event honors long-time Detroiters

Youth Nonviolence Training Page 9



Unique outreach program seeks to spread Kingian principles

WCCC Progress Report Page 10



Report card rates school effort "good"

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HISTORY OF THE MEXICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

VIEWING GUIDE

For more than a century — since the time of the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848 — Mexican Americans have struggled to achieve equality and full rights as citizens of the United States. During the 1960s and 1970s, many Mexican Americans took stock of their lives and began a nationwide movement to claim their civil rights and assert their cultural identity. They took a name that had been used disparagingly against them for years — Chicano — and fashioned it into a term of pride, affirmation, and struggle. In four one-hour programs, this landmark public

television series examines why the Mexican-American experience is distinct from other immigrant experiences and explores the cultural and political conflicts that have marked the relationships between Mexican-American and Anglo-American institutions in the United States. *Chicano!* focuses on four themes — land, labor, educational reform, and political empowerment — documenting pivotal events that took place in the important ten-year period between 1965 and 1975 that was the focus of the Mexican-American civil rights movement.



Chicano! will be broadcast on PBS in two, two-hour blocks on Friday, April 12 and Friday, April 19, 1996 at 9 pm (check local listings). Educators may tape the programs off the air and use them for one year.

Chicano! is produced by the National Latino Communications Center and Galán Productions, Inc., in association with KCET-Los Angeles. Major funding is provided by the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and the CPB/PBS Challenge Fund.

The National Latino Communications Center (NLCC) is a non-profit media arts and production organization located in Los Angeles whose mission is to provide national quality programming that illuminates the diversity of national Latino ideals through expressions of its arts, cultures, and histories. It was established in 1974 by a group of 10 public television broadcasters as the Latino Consortium. It was incorporated as an independent non-profit entity in 1990. Over the past 21 years, the NLCC has packaged and distributed more than 600 hours of Latino-themed programs to PBS stations.

Among the organizations that have endorsed *Chicano!* are the American Association of School Administrators, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, MANA — A National Latina Organization, the National Association for Bilingual Education, the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies, the National Council of La Raza, the National Education Association, and the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

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New Detroit Program Highlights

8

February 1996

New Detroit Program Highlights

February 1996

*An update of recent and ongoing New Detroit
programs and projects*



James E. Wilkes, Chairman
Charlie J. Williams, President



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 1996

CONTACT: John Huls, 313-496-2027
Alicia Renee Farris, 313-496-2046



STUDENTS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF SUMMER JOBS

Spurred by fears of a summer with no job opportunities, hundreds of Detroit high school students attended a rally today at Cass Tech High School to protest current federal budget proposals. Overlooked amid the recent swirl of budget proposals and counter-proposals in Washington is the fact that no funds have been designated for crucial summer youth employment programs in the nation's cities this coming summer.

"This is unconscionable," said Charlie J. Williams, president of New Detroit, Inc., sponsor of the rally. "Youth unemployment will escalate to dramatic proportions if action isn't taken to restore these programs.

"And there is more at stake here than just providing jobs," Williams continued. "These young people gain responsibility, self-discipline and self-esteem as well as valuable work experience and vocational skills."

Primarily at issue in Detroit is the elimination of funding for the City's Summer Youth Employment Training Program (SYETP) which has impacted an estimated 300,000 youth since 1983. Working in conjunction with SYETP, New Detroit initiatives such as the Urban Youth Project, the Summer Youth Assistance Program, and the

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Youth Nonviolence Training Program and Academy have found hundreds of jobs for young people every summer since 1982.

Robert Thornton, coordinator of summer youth programs for New Detroit, underlined the need for continued, and even increased, funding for summer youth jobs:

"In 1995, SYETP had 65,000 applications for just 5,000 slots."

Co-sponsoring the rally with New Detroit were Operation Get Down, the Detroit Public Schools, the Detroit Urban League, LA SED, the NAACP, Latino Family Services, and YWCA-Detroit. For more information, contact New Detroit, Inc.:

Bernard Parker, chairman, Youth and Young Adults Committee, 313-224-0882.

Robert Thornton, Community Development, 313-496-2041.

Alicia Renee Farris, manager of Youth and Young Adults, 313-496-2046.

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'SILENCE THE VIOLENCE'

The "Silence the Violence" program, a three-pronged initiative to address firearms violence in Detroit, was presented by President Charlie J. Williams and approved by the New Detroit Board of Trustees during its January 1994 meeting.

The first component was a community mobilization effort focusing primarily on young people. In cooperation with the City of Detroit—and based on a successful anti-Devil's Night program developed during Mr. Williams' tenure as a city official—New Detroit sponsored an essay, poster and oratorical contest in May 1994 that attracted 3,557 students.

The second component was development of a blueprint to reduce the city's alarming number of federally licensed gun dealers, most of whom operate as "kitchen table" dealers from their homes. The Wayne County Sheriff's Department, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Detroit Police Department have been working together to reduce the number of these dealers. The result of this historic collaboration of leaders is that the

number of licensed firearms dealers in the City of Detroit has been reduced from 537 to 144 as of January 1996: a 73 percent drop. And the numbers continue to go down as city officials use Detroit's zoning ordinance to help close down "kitchen table" gun dealers.

The third and perhaps most challenging component has been the Second Chance Bank. New Detroit, Inc. has garnered contributions to the Bank from businesses, colleges, individuals, and nonprofit organizations. The Second Chance Bank differs from traditional gun swaps. Rather than exchanging cash for guns, gun traders are able to exchange their guns for opportunities. These range from substance abuse help and college courses to job training and computers.

The Second Chance Bank has been hailed as "innovative" by the Washington-based group Handgun Control, Inc., saying it adds a new dimension to typical gun exchanges.

The first gun exchange was held in January 1995 at UAW Local 174 in Detroit. Media coverage and public reaction was very favorable. In only two days, the Bank received more than 220 guns, with gun traders largely depleting the bank's supply of free college classes and other opportunities.

The second gun exchange was held for one day only—December 2, 1995—at the same location, and accepted handguns only. The nine-hour event netted 171 guns. Williams attributed the large turnout to the approximately 40 computers that were offered for exchange.



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NEW DETROIT, INC.



***Public Relations Guide
for Community Organizations***

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