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"He Thinks Of An Entirely White City"... Clifford Wilson

# Co-Author Of Plan To "Kill" North Side, Preserve South Side, Named Director

BY MARTHA RABER

John G. Roach, an original proponent of the so-called "Team Four Plan," has resigned as Alderman from the Twenty-Eighth Ward to become the first director of the Community Development Agency. Roach was appointed by Mayor John H. Poelker and sworn in as director of the agency on Monday. He fills a position open since 1974 when the agency was created. The agency is a combination of the former city Plan, Municipal Business Development and Beautification commissions.

Known as one of the "Young Turk" faction on the Board, Roach, along with Alderman Richard A. Gerhardt of the 14th Ward, proposed an early version of what is now known as the "Team Four Plan" in the fall of 1973. The Bills, numbered 19 and 20 provided for the preservation of 74,000 buildings in South St. Louis which is predominantly white, and the demolition of 70,100 in North St. Louis, which is predominantly black.

Since that time, the plan to cut off services to the city's north side and allow that section to die was turned over to the Team Four consulting firm. More recently, the plan has been published and opposition to it has mounted.

Roach is well known for having considerable experience in development and housing affairs. As a member of the aldermanic Housing Committee he led a move to stabilize the West End of St. Louis in which he lives. However, the Bills he supported in 1973 called the north side "an insignificant residential area not worthy of special maintenance effort." Clifford Wilson of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Team Four and a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee says that he fears Roach will carry on the same effort to abandon North St. Louis in his new office.

"He's thinking of an entirely middle class, entirely white city. His real objective is to bring middle class whites back into the city. The poor people are not being considered," Wilson said. Speaking for the Committee, Wilson said that Roach's appointment is strongly opposed. "He just wants to get 150,000 poor, black people out of the city so that the residential areas can be slated for demolition and reconstruction at prices the poor can't afford for housing."

Wilson announced that the Committee will fight the "Team Four Plan" all the way. Meetings are being held every Sunday, he said, at 2633 Marcus, to discuss what can be done about the plan.

Roach, a democrat, has been on the Board of Aldermen for almost five years. He is a lawyer and has been associated with firms prominent in political and developmental matters. Roach will receive $25,000 as director of the agency. Mayor Poelker is attempting to arrange a supplementary income by getting Roach a teaching or consulting position at Washington University.

Compiled By The Coalition of Black
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