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Special thanks to the
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation

Workshop for Citizens of Excluded Communities

Carthage, NC ♦ March 10, 2007



Hosted by

Southern Moore Alliance of Excluded Communities:

Voices for Justice, Inc.,
Jackson Hamlet Community Action, Inc.,
Midway Community Association, Inc., and
Waynor Road in Action

In Partnership with
UNC Center for Civil Rights

Workshop Program

Registration, 9:30-10 a.m.

I. Welcome, 10-10:15 a.m.

Carol Henry, Jackson Hamlet Community Action

II. The Problem and Effects of Exclusion, 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Speakers:

- Oneal Russ, Jackson Hamlet Community Association
- Allan Parnell, Cedar Grove Institute for Sustainable Communities
- Hilton Dunlap, Voices for Justice
- Maurice Holland, Midway Community Association

This session introduces the phenomenon of municipal underbounding. Speakers will present maps of excluded communities produced by Allan Parnell at the Cedar Groves Institute for Sustainable Communities. Residents of these communities will talk about how the exclusion has impacted their communities and their lives, explaining how the situations of excluded communities are partly attributable to land use laws and the growth patterns of predominantly white municipalities. Speakers will introduce the concepts of extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), and annexation, and help participants make a connection between their daily life and these forces.

III. Organizing for Water, Sewer, & Infrastructure, 11:30-12:30 p.m.

Speakers:

- Ernestine & Thomas Tyson, Jackson Hamlet Community Action
- Maurice Holland, Midway Community Association
- Bob Taylor, North Carolina Rural Communities Assistance Project
- Christina Davis-McCoy, Blue Springs-Hoke County CDC

Here, participants will hear and discuss examples of communities that have successfully used activism as a way to bring necessary services to their area. Speakers will talk about different strategies and resources they used. Trainers will introduce the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), funding available to excluded communities or their bordering municipalities for infrastructure improvements, and strategies for prioritizing a community's needs.

IV. Lunch & Keynote Speaker, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

“Community Empowerment—Why Inclusion Matters”

Anita Earls, Director of Advocacy, UNC Center for Civil Rights

Anita Earls has been working with North Carolina communities on voting rights and annexation issues since the late 1980s. Coming together to address municipal underbounding, public services and local land use planning from the point of view of minority neighborhoods has benefits for families and communities that can extend for generations. Understanding how and why minority communities are left out in the first place reveals some of the powerful forces shaping racial inequality today. Like many current civil rights issues, the exclusion of unincorporated areas is rooted in racial inequality and segregation. Over time, the economic costs of redressing the problem have provided a rationale for the status quo, and a way to frighten residents from attempting to change. As such, the problem evades antidiscrimination laws. What was once an expressly racial regime becomes a matter of simple “race-neutral” municipal financing. Anita Earls graduated from Yale Law School and has been working on racial justice litigation and policy issues for nearly twenty years.

V. Annexation or Incorporation? 1:45-2:45 p.m.

Speakers:

- Milton Dowdy, Needmore Improvement Association
- Cheryl Degraffenried, Needmore Improvement Association
- Horace O’Neal, Aberdeen Community Club

Changing a community’s governance structure can be a necessary part of any strategy to get services. Both annexation and incorporation allow you to have a voice in determining how your land is used and controlled. Annexation involves becoming a part of the city that currently exercises ETJ powers over the excluded community. Incorporation involves the excluded community creating its own governing body. Both strategies have benefits and obstacles. Speakers will include representatives from previously excluded communities that have fought for and gained annexation.

VI. Brainstorming & Strategy Session, 3-4 p.m.

All participants will have the opportunity to talk about strategies they can pursue together. For the first part of the hour, participants can raise any question that may not have been answered during the early part of the day. The workshop speakers will then try to collectively answer those questions. By the end of the day, participants will have a better idea of how to work within their own communities, and with other communities, to improve their situations.