



40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of  
UNIVERSITY CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
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# CORE Warns It Will Fight Plans For University City Science School

Author: Unknown

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William Mathis, head of the local chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, said today CORE will fight the school board's plans for a science high school in the University City area.

CORE, he said, will support residents of the 7.6 acres bound by 36<sup>th</sup>, 37<sup>th</sup> and Filbert sts. and Lancaster av. who oppose board plans to condemn any part of their land.

He assailed a Redevelopment Authority proposal that 2.2 acres of the land be set aside for residential development and the rest turned over to the school board.

## **'White Power Structure'**

"This is just an effort of the white power structure to move poor people – especially black ones – around as they wish," Mathis said.

"They're trying to move people out of that whole area to set up town houses and restaurants for the faculty of Drexel Institute of Technology and the University of Pennsylvania."

The Redevelopment Authority, he charged, has been responsible for "a great deal of subterfuge and misinformation about the plans.

"For months they made no effort to be of assistance to the people out there. This new proposal is asinine and an insult," he said.

## **Cites 1963 Agreement**

Mathis said CORE believes the city should live up to an agreement it made three years ago turning the 7.6 acres over to the residents for rehabilitation.

No suitable rehabilitation plan has been developed, however.

Meanwhile, the proposed \$100 million University City Science Center and other projects in the area have been delayed for over two years – most recently by threats that approval of the plans for the area could lead to rioting.

Mathis said his group does not oppose the science center, but wants it located on the 26 acres along Market st. from 34<sup>th</sup> to 40<sup>th</sup> for which it was planned.

### **'Vicious Effort'**

But, he charged, backers of the science center are “making a vicious effort to wrench away land from all residents of the area so they can expand later.”

Mathis has been working quietly with the residents for several months.

He said he does not want to disclose CORE's plans to protest school board acquisition of the site.

But, he said, “the logical targets” of CORE action will be Gustave G. Amsterdam, Redevelopment Authority chairman, and Francis N. Lammer, its executive director.

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