

## Local groups to offer Clinton administration ideas on development

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Six Toledo neighborhood activists are scheduled to join at least 35 counterparts from around the country tomorrow in Little Rock to chat about urban issues with folks who might formulate policy in the Clinton administration.

"My understanding is that President-elect [Bill] Clinton is having a roundtable discussion about neighborhood revitalization and national policy on neighborhood initiatives," said Paul Tecpanecatl, Toledo's housing commissioner, who was not invited.

The president-elect is not expected to attend, either; instead, he is scheduled to meet with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari in Texas.

The transition officials at the roundtable will be those with responsibilities in the area of urban policy.

The hope, according to a Clinton

# Neighborhood activists set for meeting in Little Rock

aide who asked not to be identified, is that a more intimate atmosphere with fewer high-profile officials grabbing the spotlight will allow for a freer flow of discussion.

The Clinton aide said at least 40 neighborhood activists from around the country have been invited.

The six Toledo activists who will attend were either unavailable yesterday or would not comment.

In fact, two attendees — Pamela Martin Turner, director of Brown-Dorr-Collingwood Revitalization Corp., and Mary Clare Rietz, director of Neighborhoods in Partnership — answered, "What trip to Little Rock?" when asked about it.

"I don't know anything about it," Ms. Rietz said, then added, "I'll have to get back to you on that."

She didn't.

But five other people confirmed that Ms. Rietz and Ms. Turner are to attend the meeting, along with former Toledo councilman Peter Ujvagi, University of Toledo urban affairs expert David Beckwith, and urban historian Ted Ligibel. A member of Mr. Clinton's transition team said Imre Bertalan, pastor of Calvin United Church of Christ, also was invited.

Mr. Beckwith, who was unavailable for comment, chaired a brainstorming session yesterday morning

at UT's Driscoll Center in which other neighborhood activists were asked to toss in their two cents.

Don Monroe, director of River East Economic Revitalization Corp., attended yesterday's meeting and said the subject of discussion was "what suggestions we can make to the transition team that are in the best interests of community development corporations."

Martin Jarrett, director of the Toledo chapter of Local Initiatives Support Corp., said: "I understand it's a roundtable on neighborhoods. I don't know much about the substance of what it's going to cover."

He said the presence of so many

people from Toledo heartens him.

"I'm really glad to see Toledo represented in such large numbers," Mr. Jarrett said. "It's good for the city, and it's good for the participants."

Mr. Tecpanecatl said the Toledo contingent plans to discuss what the administration can do in its first 100 days, its first year, and its first term.

Speaking of a first term might sound a bit premature, but Mr. Monroe said he believes the transition team's goal at the meeting is "to make sure that recommendations they make to Clinton will get him re-elected."

The Clinton transition team has organized 10 such meetings on a variety of issues to help shape policies and build support for the incoming administration. The most high-profile was last month's economic summit.

Mr. Clinton attended the economic

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## Activists

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ic summit, which was broadcast nationally on television and radio. He hasn't attended most of the other roundtable discussions.

Bruce Reed, who was issues adviser to the Clinton campaign, explained shortly after the election that a goal of the transition would be to involve activists around the country so they would feel connected with the administration and support its projects.