

MASTEN
& UNIVER
DISTRICT

Comprehensive Profile
of the
7th Erie County Legislative District

Maureen Bridget Grierson
Project Director



Center for Applied Public Affairs Studies
Office of Public Service and Urban Affairs
University at Buffalo

July 1995

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THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Center for Applied Public Affairs Studies, through its Public Policy Studio Course, conducted research on the 7th Erie County Legislative District. The purpose of the project was to gather information on the area, develop a comprehensive database, and prepare a comprehensive socio-economic profile of the area. The objective of this profile is to provide a demographic and statistical backdrop necessary to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that can be used to guide planning and development activities in the District.

A variety of information was gathered and analyzed for this profile. These data include published reports from the U.S. Census Bureau, Central Police Services, the Erie County Tax Assessor's Office, Dunn and Bradstreet Business Directory, plus City of Buffalo records on building permits, vacant lots, zoning and land use ordinances, as well as residential patterns of University at Buffalo faculty, staff and students. Inventories were compiled on churches, social organizations, schools, businesses and agencies in the area and field work was conducted that concentrated on housing, neighborhood and commercial strip conditions.

The 7th Erie County Legislative District is located in the northeastern edge of the City of Buffalo, mostly on the eastern side of Main Street. It is bordered by East Delavan, East Ferry, and East Utica to the south, Kenmore Avenue and the City line to the north, Main Street, Linwood Avenue and Oxford Avenue to the west, and Eggert Road, the City line and Courtland Avenue to the east. The District includes portions of two Buffalo Council districts, Masten and University, and three New York State Assembly districts, 141, 142 and 144. The District is home to many major

institutions, such as the University at Buffalo, Canisius College, Veteran's Hospital, and American Axle.

Major Findings

District 7 has gone through many changes over the past 20 years and is still in a state of transformation. The following are key findings that guided the policy recommendations in this profile:

1. Population

- A. The population has decreased by almost 20,000 residents since 1970.
- B. There has been a shift in the composition of the population with an increase in African Americans and non-traditional families. There has been a rise in the number of single-male and single-female families and an increase in non-family households.
- C. There is a substantial number of youths under age 17 in the District, contributing to the relatively low median age (29 years old) compared to other parts of Buffalo and Erie County.
- D. The educational attainment of residents in the District is higher than citywide attainment levels. More than 70 percent of the population have high school degrees or higher, which is greater than the citywide educational attainment level.

2. Economy

Work

- A. Labor force participation in the District (57 percent) mirrored citywide levels.
- B. The unemployment rate was almost 13 percent, but reached 20 percent in census tracts 32.01, 44.02 and 40.01.
- C. When the number of unemployed persons is combined with those not participating in the