

Wayman Palmer

Planning Council Head Was Ex-City Official

Wayman D. Palmer, 57, executive director of the Toledo Economic Planning Council who oversaw millions of dollars in improvement projects during nearly 10 years as head of the city's community development department, died Saturday in the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.



Wayman Palmer

Mr. Palmer also had served briefly in 1980 as director of the office of self-help development and technical assistance of the National Consumer Co-operative Bank in Washington, D.C. He resigned that post when former President Carter lost his bid for reelection to President Reagan.

Named community development director in 1973, Mr. Palmer spearheaded programs that brought hundreds of units of new housing for families and senior citizens, aided the struggle of neighborhoods fighting poverty and decay, brought some commercial revitalization in East Toledo and a renaissance for downtown, including the SeaGate complex.

The development department was a consolidation of the urban renewal, housing, inspection, planning activities and the federal model cities programs here, many of which had been bogged down by neighborhood politics and infighting.

In 1981, Mr. Palmer reported that Toledo had received more than \$29 million in Federal Urban Development Action Grants which supported \$185 million in private investment. The development programs here primarily in the central business district — had created or retained some 6,400 jobs, Mr. Palmer said at that time.

Mr. Palmer resigned the city post in 1982 when he was named executive director of the economic planning council.

He also served as executive director for six years for the Economic Opportunity Planning Association of Greater Toledo, Inc., and was a member of the board of the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority.

In 1966, Mr. Palmer headed the Work Experience Program for Youth and in 1971, he was elected president of the National Community Action Agency Directors Association.

Mr. Palmer, who resided on Bancroft Street, attended Howard and Ohio State universities and received a master's degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Toledo.

From 1950 until 1952, he taught general science and mathematics in Columbia, S.C. He also taught in the Toledo public schools from 1952 to 1966.

He was an army veteran of World War II.

A member of the American Personnel and Guidance Association, Mr. Palmer also served as past president and past treasurer of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He also was a trustee of the Warren AME Church.

In 1978, he was awarded the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Government's Chairman Emeritus Award and in 1979 he received the David Bennett Award from the Metropolitan Toledo chapter of the American Society of Public Administrators.

Surviving are his sons, Kamal Najib and Royce Harris; daughter, Mrs. Jaclyn Palmer-Roach; sisters, Mrs. Eloise Campbell, Mrs. Frances McCullum, Mrs. Edith Wright and Mrs. Bonita Dunlap, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Palmer.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Warren AME Church. The body will be in the Dale Mortuary after 1 p.m. Wednesday, followed by a wake service at 7.

The family requests that any tributes be in the form of contributions to the church's building fund.