

Acknowledgements

I would first like to thank my thesis advisor Associate Professor Michael Jones-Correa of the Department of Government at Harvard University. The door to Prof. Jones-Correa's office was always open whenever I ran into a trouble spot or had a question about my research or writing. He consistently allowed this paper to be my own work, but steered me in the right the direction whenever he thought I needed it.

My involvement with Newark began two summers ago when I moved into an apartment above Café Carol on the corner of James Street and University Avenue. Many organizations and individuals made this opportunity and my many future chances to learn about the city possible.

Foremost, I am thankful that my parents offered only nominal (and parentally responsible) objections to my plans to live in Newark during the summer of 1998. Their support from my first days of college to the capstone of a thesis has been both unquestioning and essential. I also want to thank the Harvard Club of New Jersey for providing the public service fellowship that allowed me to live in the city. While my introduction to Newark came well before I ever envisioned a thesis statement or an outline, the ten weeks I lived and worked there provided the impetus for my deep interest in the city.

During that summer I came to know several influential guides who encouraged me to explore the city and made Newark come alive to me. Ms. Dorothy Knauer of Protestant Community Centers, Inc. (PCCI) not only convinced me to come to Newark, but also introduced me to several rewarding service programs. In addition, Ms. Knauer and the PCCI office graciously provided a rest spot for me during the several weeks I spent conducting interviews last year. PCCI director Mr. Julius Blanton provided my introduction to Newark's many and historic neighborhoods and the sources of community activism that reside within them. I also want to thank Ms. Ada Brooks and the children of St. James AME Tower who made that summer so worthwhile and memorable.

The burden of writing this thesis was lessened substantially by the support and humor of my roommates; Jonathon Lim, David Michaels, and Damian Long who carefully reviewed chapters, politely pointed out glaring mistakes, and always expanded my vocabulary. I also want to express my appreciation for my girlfriend Karen Kiang who stuck with me during the long months of writing and re-writing even when I retreated to long days with my computer.

Finally I want to thank the many individuals from all sectors of Newark who are committed to making the many exciting possibilities of this city into positive and solid realities.

Jason R. Stevenson
May 30, 2000