THE

FLOWER

BASKET850 S. Woodward . Pontiac 334-2821

## County backs B'ham in its fight with HUD

By MICHAEL MATTISZEWSKI

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The Birmingham housing light has
finally engulfed the Oakland County
Board of Commissioners and the
county executive.
The board last week overwhelmingly
voided to support the city in its showdown with the U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development.
(HUD).

By refusing to force Birmingham to

Housing and Urban Development, Hyper Services of the Control of the Control of Control

Rochester).
Commissioner John McDonald (R-Farmington) was absent.
The only disserting voles belonged to Pontiac commissioners Hubert Prie and Margureite Simpson.
OAKLAND COUNTY collects fed-ral money on behalf of 45 local communities and distributes it according to a federal formula HUD warned the county that by not deleting Birming-

ham from its grant proposal, it was risking losing the entire \$4.3 million. County commissioners not only kept Birmingham in the grant application, they defended the city's housing pro-

they defended the city's housing pro-gram.

The controversy blossomed after Eirmingham voters April 3 turned down a plan to build a senior citizens apartment complex with financing provided by the Michigan Sate Hous-ing Development Authority. To quality for the state funding, however, the city for the state funding, however, the city development of the complex of the beautiful of the complex of the complex formation of the complex formation of the complex of the co

between 50 and 75 housing units follow and moderate-income families.

COMMISSIONERS LAST week praised the city's efforts to provide senior citizens and low-income housing and said the federal government's tactics smacked of "big brotherism."

"The issue is not one of non-compliance," said Commissioner James Lanni (R-Royal Osk), "but whether the federal government can override the will of the people.

"This gets to the point of "1984" with Big Brother looking over everything we do. That's wrong.
"As Birminham goes, so goes the rest of the country," he said.

HUD IS EXPECTED to decide the fate of Oakland Country's block grant application by July 15, County Executive Murphy said.

HUD Cast paprove the country grant as submitted, delete the \$80,000 earmarked for Birmingham, delay the

## Closed cars not for pets

Leaving your pet in a parked car, even for a short period of time. can result in the death of the animal. Recently, the Michigan Humane Society received four dogs that had been placed in the trunk of a car by their owner. All four dogs were suffering from heat prostration. One animal could not be saved and the other three were in critical condition for two days. The owner claimed the animals had been in the trunk for only a half-hour. Temperatures inside of an auto or

auto trunk can reach 120 degrees in half an hour if the outside tempature is in the mid 80s. Don't take a chance with your pet life, never leave him in a closed automobile, the society says. Other hot weather tips for pet owners include having plenty of fresh water available all of the time, exercising with care during extremely hot periods, decreasing food intake slightly and having shade available for dogs outdoors.



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The county executive vowed a face-off in federal district court if HUD holds back the entire grant. Birming-ham officials are considering court action if the city's share is withheld.

BIRMINGHAM OFFICIALS have said throughout the controversy that HUD has not leveled any specific charges. A HUD review of the county's block grant program, however, said that Birmingham, by rejecting the April 3 heliol proposals, was not meeting low-income housing needs.

not meeting low-income housing needs.

The commissioners, though, called Birmingham a "leader" in providing substitized low-income housing.

"The board of commissioners is fully supportive of the very comprehensive commanity development program being carried out by the City of Birmingham," said Page, a former Birmingham mayor who led the fight to gain county support for the city.

Page said the intent of the commisty development program was to "alleviate blight and deterioration in eighborhoods." Birmingham, he said, has done this and provided decentralized low-income housing in the process.

ess.
Page and city officials said Birmin-ham has rehabilitated 25 homes for low-to moderate-income families.

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