



John Doar

Doar Resigns as Head of Branch Of Bedford-Stuyvesant Concern

By CHARLAYNE HUNTER

John Doar, who for the last six years has headed the technical-assistance arm of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, has resigned from that position, effective today.

A former president of the Board of Education and a long-time associate and friend of the late Robert F. Kennedy, the Brooklyn corporation's founder, Mr. Doar said: "I just concluded that it was time to leave." He said he had no plans.

Both Mr. Doar and Franklin A. Thomas, director of Corporation, one of the largest community-development projects in the country, stressed that the resignation was not because of to any internal friction.

Frequently referred to as "an animal with two heads," the Restoration Corporation is headed by Mr. Thomas and the Development and Services Corporation is headed by Mr. Doar.

Former Kennedy Aide

The groups have two separate boards, and critics of the organizational structure have charged that Mr. Doar's side, which is all white, was telling Mr. Thomas's side, which with one exception is all black, what to do. But both men have denied that, as well as members of their boards.

"You just reach a time when you don't think you're making the most of your time and energies," said Mr. Doar, who is 52 years old and who served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under Mr. Kennedy when he was Attorney General.

The role of Mr. Doar's organization has been to attract business support for the Restoration Corporation's numerous development projects, as well as provide technical expertise

in areas where the corporation's staff was inexperienced.

Mr. Doar's role has been praised by members of both boards, particularly in such projects as the \$6-million commercial center currently under way and in major renovation efforts including the recent restoration of the Sheffield Farms Building, in which the offices of the Restoration corporation are now located.

Some months ago, Mr. Doar indicated that as the Restoration Corporation's staff gained more experience and expertise, the role of his organization, which had already diminished, would eventually be phased out.

Merger Envisioned

Both he and Mr. Thomas said this week that a merger of the two staffs was planned for "sometime early next year." The future of the Development and Services board, however, is somewhat uncertain, although Mr. Schmidt stressed that the board's commitment would be to "continue to help in every way we can."

Albert Vann, a member of the Restoration Corporation board, and associate director of special programs at Long Island University, said he did not think the organization would be affected by Mr. Doar's departure "because he's helped to make it firm enough not to be."

"It's very difficult for a white person to work within the black community," Mr. Vann said, "and if not work under, at least share in a leadership role. He [Mr. Doar] managed to do it, and I think we're all better for it."

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