

Letter to the editor, published by the Newark Star-Ledger, November 11, 2002.

Don't exempt the suburbs

Judge Alfred Wolin is right to insist that our society take responsibility for the concentrations of poverty that have produced the gang leaders he must sentence to prison. But I was disappointed that your lead Nov. 2 article singled out Newark's leaders for criticism.

Newark sits in the midst of an urban region with scores of pleasant and comfortable communities whose political leaders are working overtime to make sure that few low-income workers can find a place to live in their towns. Everyone knows that this is the reason why poverty is concentrated in our older cities, where some cheaper housing is still to be found. But why criticize the leaders of these pleasant communities, and the readers of your newspaper who vote for them, when you can instead put all the blame on Newark's leaders? Shame on you.

Glenn Shafer, Newark