

REPORT TO MAYOR IVAN ALLEN JR.

CONCERNING NEEDS AND ESTIMATED COSTS  
OF IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON CIVIL DISORDER

SUBMITTED BY

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Services Council

I. In order to assess the feasibility of implementing the recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Civil Disorder, the Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council will first indicate the extent and intensity of youth problems as related to civil disorder.

Observing the report of the National Advisory Committee, the Youth Council immediately noticed the extent of youth participation in Civil Disorder. For example, the Committee reports that the typical rioter in the summer of 1967 was a Negro, unmarried male between the ages 15 and 24. In Detroit, 61.3% of the self reported rioters were between the ages 15 and 24 and 86.3% were between 15 and 35. The arrest data indicated that 52.5% of the arrestees were between 15 and 24, and 80.8 percent were between 15 and 35. In short, the typical rioter was a teenager or young adult, a life long resident of the city in which he rioted, a high school drop-out.

In Atlanta preliminary data revealed that riot participants were between the ages 9 and 35. The overwhelming majority of those arrested in Atlanta's riot of 1967 were less than 30 years old. These data reveal that riots are by and large initiated, prolonged, and participated in by youth and young adults. These data also bear witness to the lack of interest, energy, and resources needed to deal with youth problems and needs realistically and honestly.

In Atlanta, the need for more concentrated and realistic allocation of personnel and resources to deal with youth problems increases ever year. For example 57% of Fulton County's Juvenile Delinquents were residents of Atlanta's poverty areas in 1964. In 1965 43% of all people arrested for major crimes in Atlanta were below 17 years of age. The delinquency rate has increased 114% faster than the general population. The recidivist rate for Fulton County Youth offenders is 40%. The general restlessness of inner city Atlanta Youth has increased to a dangerous level. In addition there are 3,000 school drop-outs in Atlanta. In 1965, 40% of the youth tested by the Fulton County Juvenile Court were 5 years or more below their proper grade level. Another 40% were three or more years behind.

These statistics merely reflect some of the problems facing Atlanta's youth. Other problems are:

1. high illegitimacy rates.
2. increasing delinquency in affluent areas.
3. increasing belligerent postures by minority youth, particularly in civil rights activities.
4. rebellion on college campuses.
5. youth anti-draft and anti-war activities.

Concomitant and correlated to youth participation in civil disorders and riots is their participation in normal delinquent activities, individually and collectively.

Considering the broad range of needs and problems facing Atlanta's youth the

Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council specifically recommend the following courses of actions aimed at reducing tensions and the possibility of civil disorders in slums and blighted areas for the summer 1968.

1. That the city of Atlanta emphasize and provide more recreational programs and facilities in Slum areas for teenagers and young adults. If this is not geographically feasible, then the city should subsidize and/or provide transportation to areas where such programs and facilities are available. This recreational provision should be totally devoted to late afternoon, evening and night activities as well as evening activities.
2. That the city sponsor an outreach Street Workers Program where outreach workers may go into potentially trouble areas and work for periods of time with detached and unreached individual youth helping them become involved in meaningful employment, recreation and education. This program will be coordinated by the Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council and will be operated on a contractual basis with other operating agencies to supervise street workers.
3. That several youth from the Youth Congress be appointed to the Mayor's Civil Disorder Advisory Committee.
4. That a workshop be conducted by the Atlanta Children and Youth Service Council, the Police Department, Social Agencies, Civil Rights Groups, and Youth Organizations around a theme of "Police-Youth Relationships" in which all divisions of the police department will participate. The Community Relations Services, U.S. Department of Justice will assist in sponsoring such a program.
5. That all city departments channel all youth requests, grievances, complaints, etc. to the Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council which is the agency established to deal with these matters.
6. That the work of the Crime Prevention Bureau and Juvenile units of the Police Department be more closely related to the Youth Council in the planning and implementing of their programs.
7. That the switchboard in City Hall be open daily from 5:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. with persons available to receive complaints and grievances and furnish names and telephone numbers of persons to call during emergency or crisis periods.
8. That the Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council and the Community Relations Commission be provided

funds to hire community organizers, for youth and adults in racially transitional areas such as West End, Bellwood, Grant Park, Capitol Homes and Kirkwood.

9. That the police department make available, upon request and without cost to the requesting agency, manpower to supervise certain potentially volatile activities such as dances, especially in areas where agencies are operating interracial dances.
10. That the police department increase the number of integrated patrols that operate in certain areas.
11. That the Mayor, or his designee, call a weekly staff meeting of all department and agency heads. All other appropriate public agencies should be invited to participate in such meetings.
12. That there be established in the office of the Director of Governmental Liaison the necessary machinery for getting weekly telephonic reporting of complaints, rumors, and incidents from all public and quasi-public agencies in the Atlanta area.
13. That the Board of Education examine the pupil-pupil and teacher-pupil relationships in schools where the degree of desegregation is significant. The Board should ascertain and deal with rumored increases in racial conflicts at such schools.
14. That the Mayor establishes a small interracial committee composed of key businessmen, one solid type Negro youth, one grass roots type Negro youth, who he can call on to actually advise citizens, police, and others in times of civil disorder and tensions. This committee would be representative of the Mayor's office and have rights and responsibilities to make inquiries of any city official in dealing with problems of this nature.
15. That the Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council be given more funds to facilitate maximum effectiveness by the Council and to enable the Council to be of more use to private and public agencies in carrying out their programs.

The above recommendations are minimal when compared with Atlanta's needs. However, the Council emphasizes the necessity for their implementation if Atlanta is to reduce tensions and possible Civil for the summer of 1968.

II. Referring to the recommendations contained in chapter 10 of the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder, the Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council feels that the advantages of their implementation far outweigh possible disadvantages. Opinions concerning

both advantages and disadvantages are as follows:

A. Establishment of Neighborhood Task Forces offers the advantages of:

1. providing more effective citizen-governmental communication.
2. providing a means through which community problems may be acted upon and resolved quickly and effectively.
3. projecting the ideal that government is genuinely interested in ghetto problems.
4. restructuring governmental functions to meet city needs.

The mayor of the City of Atlanta has taken the necessary action to implement the above recommendation. It is desired that such actions pay particular attention to youth problems. To overlook youth would constitute a serious disadvantage.

B. Establishment of Effective Grievance Response Mechanisms offers the advantages of:

1. providing citizens with meaningful avenues for resolving grievances.
2. reducing frustrations associated with unresolved grievances.
3. providing ghetto youth with some means of being recognized as citizens.
4. providing possible employment for ghetto youth.

The disadvantages associated with this recommendation depend entirely upon improper implementation which will cause:

1. Improper responses to grievances.
2. Improper disposition of grievances.
3. Overlooking or ignoring youth grievances.

C. Extended Legal Services to the Poor offers the advantages of:

1. providing ghetto citizens with legal means for resolving difficulties.
2. reducing the probability of the (application of) partial justice.
3. reducing hostilities and mutual disrespect between police and ghetto residents.
4. facilitating the grievance response mechanism.
5. discouraging the usurpation of the rights of ghetto residents especially by private business and individuals.

Some of the disadvantages of implementing this suggestion are:

1. inadequate legal personnel available for the required task.
2. distrust of residents of legal advisors.
3. legal services do not, in themselves, solve basic problems.
4. legal services usually are not available or considered important for youth.

D. Assistance for mayors and city councils offers the advantages of:

1. providing mayors and city councils with needed assistance from state and federal government as well as other source.
2. creating of new governmental bodies to deal with urban problems particularly youth problems.

Some disadvantages which may grow out of this recommendation are:

1. an increased centralization of services.
2. unwillingness of state government to provide services for city problems.

E. Hearings on Ghetto Problems and Enactment of Appropriate Local Legislation offers the advantages of:

1. removing legal barriers to solving ghetto problems.
2. providing government with valid and reliable knowledge concerning ghetto problems.
3. indicating to ghetto residents the degree of concern that city government has for ghetto problems.

The disadvantage associated with this recommendation are few in proportion to Atlanta's needs. They are:

1. non-enforcement of legislation pertaining to ghetto problems.
2. unconcern of legislators with ghetto problems.

F. Expanded Employment by City Government of Ghetto Residents offer the advantages of:

1. employment of unemployed ghetto youth.
2. city government taking the initiative and setting an example to other agencies regarding employment of ghetto youth.
3. adding substances to the ideal that city government serves all Atlantans.

The disadvantages of implementing this recommendation are:

1. unwillingness to alter present city personnel and merit system policies.
2. likelihood of hiring ghetto residents in the same traditional least desirable jobs only.

G. Establishment of Neighborhood City Hall offers the advantages of:

1. decentralization of government to meet to meet particular community needs.
2. assisting in the encouragement of favorable attitudes by residents towards government.

The disadvantages of this suggestion are:

1. determining the jurisdiction and degree of responsibility which would enable Neighborhood City Hall to adequately function.
2. the probability of limited personnel and funds to carry out this function not being provided.

H. Development of Multi-Services Centers offer the advantages of:

1. providing complete and comprehensive services to ghetto residents.
2. providing more resources to existing agencies.

I. Improved Political Representation offers the advantages of:

1. assuring that the interests and needs of ghetto residents are represented.
2. facilitating a reallocation of community resources on a more equitable basis.

The disadvantages of this suggestion are:

1. ghetto residents are usually politically apathetic.
2. the resistance to restructuring of political bodies by powerful special interest groups and persons.

J. More Effective Community Participation offers the advantages of:

1. reducing community apathy.
2. providing ghetto residents with opportunities to help solve community problems.
3. reducing the seemingly arbitrariness of some governmental decisions.

The probable disadvantages of implementing this recommendation are:

1. the lack of meaningful community organization.
2. communication between ghetto residents and city government is not encouraging at present.

III. The Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council is charged with the responsibility for coordinating all services aimed at helping youth in metropolitan Atlanta. The recommendations of the Advisory Commission, if implemented, will affect directly the Council's operation. This is due to the very obvious fact that the recommendations of the Advisory Commission address themselves to urban problems which in effect are youth problems.

If implemented, the recommendations will provide the Council with staff and other resources to broaden the scope of its services as related. Therefore, the recommendations of the Advisory committee are relevant to the Council's responsibility only if they emphasize youth.

IV. Brief outlines of the steps involved in implementing each recommendation affecting the Council as follows:

Establishment of Neighborhood Task Forces

- I. Organization of Neighborhood Youth Groups.
  - A. Social Groups
  - B. Civic Groups
- II. Incorporating youth groups into the Atlanta Youth Congress.
  - A. Delegations
  - B. Affiliates
- III. Providing youth groups with opportunities to communicate directly with government.
  - A. Serving on boards
  - B. Having government-youth problem solving sessions.
- IV. Providing meeting or assembly places
  - A. Classrooms
  - B. Churches

Establishment of Grievance - Response Mechanism

- I. Organize grievance committees through Youth Congress.
  - A. Accept grievances
  - B. Prevent grievances
- II. Organize Youth Delegate Grievance Board to refer or disposition grievances to proper channels.
- III. Establish a grievance follow-up group



1. Investigate grievances
2. Investigate action taken in response to grievances.

Extended Legal Services to the Poor

I. Providing Legal advice to Youth.

A. Establishment of Youth Review Board

1. Lawyer
2. Juvenile Judge
3. Psychiatrist
4. Social Worker

B. Action and review on every youth involved with the law.

1. Legal advice to youth
2. Psychiatric evaluation
3. immediate case work with youth and his family.

Assistance for Mayor and City Councils

- A. Establishment of Youth Review Board
- B. Financial Assistance to City Government

1. Governor's Office
2. State Crime Committee

Expanded Employment by City Government of Ghetto Youth

I. Revision of Merit System standards.

A. Removal of qualification barriers

1. educational barriers
2. arrest records
3. irrelevant tests

B. Active and aggressive recruitment of ghetto youth.

II. Utilization of Job Development Techniques.

BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR ONE YEAR

<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Administration	3 positions	\$ 36,000
Neighborhood Organization	35 positions	200,000
Program	50 positions	290,000
Consultation		5,000

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Total Personnel \$531,000

<u>TRAVEL</u>		
Bus Travel for Participants		10,000
Staff Travel		8,000

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Total Travel \$18,000

<u>SPACE COSTS AND RENTALS</u>		
Office Rental		4,000
Utilities		2,000

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Total Space \$6,000

<u>SUPPLIES</u>		
Postage		1,000
Consummable Supplies (paper, pencils, ink, etc.)		3,000

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Total Supplies \$4,000

<u>EQUIPMENT</u>		
Office machine		5,000
Office Furnishing		3,000

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Total Equipment \$8,000

<u>OTHER COST</u>		
Telephone		1,300
Miscellaneous		800

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Total Other Costs \$2,100

Total Budget \$538,000

The estimated budget as outlined above is the minimum amount requested to meet Atlanta's growing and crucial needs.

Atlanta, like this Nation, does have a real chance to thwart civil disorder by taking away the platform. i.e. poor education, poor recreation, poor health, poor housing, poor social services, poor and no jobs. It's choices with youth, who have led and participated in the riots of this Nation are limited. Sound social planning and program implementation might be the answer.