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LAW OFFICES
JONES, BIRD & HOWELL
FOURTH FLOOR HAAS-HOWELL BUILDING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

May 28, 1969

ROBERT P. JONES
1879-1956
RALPH WILLIAMS
1903-1960

TELEPHONE 522-2508
AREA CODE 404

Honorable Ivan Allen
Mayor, City of Atlanta
68 Mitchell Street, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: Volunteers Unlimited

Dear Mayor Allen:

This is to bring you up to date on the present status of our project to recruit, train and place individual and group volunteers in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Volunteers Unlimited is the name given to the project which is now being sponsored by the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, EOA, the Junior League of Atlanta, the Community Chest, and the Community Council.

I enclose a copy of a letter from me to Secretary Romney, together with a copy of the Memorandum enclosed with my letter. The Letter and Memorandum are self-explanatory. I attended a meeting in Washington last Thursday and Friday, May 22 and 23, of executive directors and presidents of councils in cities having a population of one million or over. It was well attended. About twenty-five cities were represented.

At the meeting with Secretary Romney and Mr. Max Fisher, our group first obtained assurance that the Voluntary Action Program as envisioned by the National Administration is not intended to be a substitute for federal or state funds or programs - but is intended to be a supplement to these programs. We emphasized the fact that the nature of the problems in the cities is such that more federal and state money is required - not less.

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At the Friday meeting it was pretty obvious that Secretary Romney would like to have gotten into a discussion of the Model City Program. As I am sure you know, the Nixon Administration plans to spread the "Model City" money over areas in the city beyond the boundaries of the neighborhoods now designated. We didn't get into a lengthy discussion but he did mention one thing which would be of interest to you and the people involved in the program in Atlanta. He said that preference in Model City Programs would be given to cities making maximum use of voluntary agencies and volunteers in the total community. It may be helpful to you and those involved in the Model City Program to point out that we have a project for the recruitment and placing of volunteers which is jointly sponsored by strong organizations and has the support of your office.

We had a number of outstanding applicants for the job of Executive Director of Volunteers Unlimited. We finally selected Mr. Jack T. Mallory, Jr., who is twenty-eight years old and has had considerable experience with the YMCA and community organization. His employment is effective June 1. The Massell Companies are permitting us to use, without charge, a building on Gordon Street about one-half block from Ashby. This is a building formerly used by the Bank of Georgia. It is directly across the street from a branch of the Atlanta Library and a branch of the Atlanta Federal Savings and Loan Association. We think it is an ideal location and facility.

During the next two months most of our time will be devoted to the organization of committees which will be responsible for recruiting, training and placing volunteers. One large committee will begin working with agencies in the accumulation of job descriptions for volunteers. We still need some help in a number of areas. We have to do some painting and remodeling of the building. We have to provide office equipment and supplies for our Headquarters. We do not have at this time sufficient funds

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to employ two neighborhood aides which we need in connection with the project. If you or Dan Sweat know of any large corporations which would loan us a young executive for a couple of months, this would be most helpful.

We are basically funded for the first year. The next year we are going to have to take care of on the basis of our performance during the first year. However, we are determined to make this project a success. We are most encouraged by the enthusiastic support of the Junior League. As you know, these gals are real movers.

We appreciated very much your letter of support and it has been helpful to us. We'll keep you posted. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Yours very truly,



Eugene T. Branch

ETB:js
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Dan Sweat w/Encls.