



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20410

Model Cities

AUG 27 1969

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR MODEL CITIES AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mayor of Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Allen:

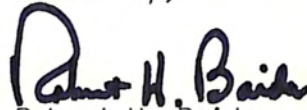
As you know, this Administration believes that ultimate responsibility for the Model Cities program rests with local elected government. With the program activity increasing, nationwide and in individual cities, attention will increasingly be directed to proposed projects and their conduct.

In this connection, I would like to call your attention to the enclosed news article from the Washington Post of August 3, 1969. It deals with a federally funded project at the local level which, on its face, held out considerable promise. Unfortunately, as the report indicates, that promise was not fulfilled. Incomplete review at the planning stage, and insufficient monitoring during the execution phase of the project, undoubtedly contributed to this result.

Without crippling innovation and initiative, we must all work to avoid the kind of situation outlined in the enclosed article. Should a similar situation arise in a project funded under the Model Cities contract, the local government would be held responsible in the manner detailed by the enclosed memorandum from the HUD Office of General Counsel.

I am sure that you share our concern that all projects funded in connection with the Model Cities program in your community receive the most careful scrutiny possible during the planning stage, and an equally vigilant monitoring during the execution phase. Your continued deep interest and commitment to the program in your community will be a crucial factor in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert H. Baida". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert H. Baida
Deputy Assistant Secretary, MCGR

Enclosures