## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ATLANTA

INCORPORATED

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May 17, 1968



The Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr. Mayor of Atlanta City Hall Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mayor:

The attached memorandum suggests a procedure for compliance with new requirements for selection of directors for Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc., the community action agency authorized by the City of Atlanta and Fulton County in 1964, later joined by Gwinnett and Rockdale Counties, and which you have indicated should be continued.

The EOA Board now has nineteen appointed members, seven each by Atlanta and Fulton County, one by the two governments jointly, and two each by Gwinnett and Rockdale Counties. It also has fourteen members elected by the poor, one each from the twelve Neighborhood Service Areas in Atlanta and Fulton County, one in Gwinnett County, and one in Rockdale County.

The elected representatives of the poor comprise at least one-third of the Board, as required. The Neighborhood organization has worked well, so it seems wise to retain these fourteen area units, with one representative each, as the basic numerical control.

The law requires that one-third of the Board be representatives of public officials and agencies as selected by them. This number would be fourteen as related to representatives of the poor. The memorandum suggests representation that would provide broad coverage of the public interest, including city interests such as housing, recreation and youth; county interests such as health and welfare; and other general interests such as education, employment, planning and relations.

The law also requires that other Board members, up to one-third, be representatives of major private community groups or interests concerned with problems of poverty as selected by the groups. Public officials in the respective jurisdictions may designate which groups will be invited to select representatives. The memorandum suggests eleven private groups most representative of such community interests.

The law requires also that the Board be so constituted as to permit the addition of private community groups who feel inadequately represented and

successfully petition EOA for membership. Although no such petition is anticipated, it would be possible to add three places to the eleven in the category of community groups without disturbing the required distribution ratio.

The memorandum, prepared after extensive consultation, is our best judgment as to how the EOA Board can meet current membership requirements and best retain the general character and individual representation established by the respective city and county governments.

I shall appreciate your agreement or suggested changes in the memorandum in order that we may present the necessary information for Office of Economic Opportunity approval. Following such approval, I shall wish to consult with you further.

Sincerely yours,

Boisfeuillet Jones Chairman EOA