



C. O. EMMERICH
ADMINISTRATOR

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ATLANTA, INC.

101 MARIETTA STREET BLDG.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
525-4262

September 12, 1966

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Dan E. Sweat, Jr.
Director of Governmental Liaison
City of Atlanta
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Dan:

A committee called on me this morning along with representatives from one of our projects suggesting ways in which our City might help quieten our people. Rev. Albert R. Dreisbach, Jr. and a young Negro Baptist preacher were the ones that did most of the talking.

The first thing they said probably the Mayor should do is to quit playing the part of a hero. They are afraid he might be hurt and it could cause a real riot.

They suggested that the Mayor quit telling them about our great city and what we hope to accomplish. This calls for a high degree of reasoning on their part and at the present the people are acting from emotional upset and fright.

They said the Mayor should stop calling on the Summit Leadership and several leaders such as Rev. Borders and Rev. King, Sr. He claims the young people are not impressed and assume they are speaking for the white people.

They further suggested that the police try to be less aggressive.

They also wanted to know why the Georgia Baptist Hospital was not used to help the boys in trouble. They also suggested the Mayor quit blaming all of this on SNCC as there are a lot of people that also dislike SNCC that are emotionally involved and the more he persecutes SNCC at this time the more these people will come to the aid of SNCC. At one time they even suggested that they wished Carmichael was out of jail.

One of the main stories they were fussing about was that two Grady ambulances came to the rescue of the police but almost ignored the Negroes that had been shot.

The next thing they pointed out is that the Mayor has not expressed great concern about the second Negro that is wounded. This is what is bothering the community. Some think he has died.

Frankly, these are things that most anyone could tell you, however, when I pressed them for positive things they could only suggest five ideas which they think may work.

1. Have the Mayor report often by TV, radio and newspaper on his concern for the second wounded Negro. Give as much proof as possible that he is still doing well, etc.
2. Have the Mayor make himself available for some of the members to come in and gripe to him. They feel at this time some of these people need to ventilate (?) on their own. It would only mean the Mayor would listen to some of these people and really let them tell the the story.
3. Have the Mayor investigate why the ambulances did not arrive to pick up the Negro boys (if this is true).
4. Try to pick up some quick success stories of things that are being accomplished right now.
5. Have reports come out often on the detectives efforts on trying to find the murderers. Let it be known by all the press media that every effort is being made.

Mr. Sweat

-3-

September 12, 1966

I realize there is not a thing said here that you are not aware of already, but since this was the consensus of the group I thought I would send it on to you.

Under separate letter I am giving you a report on some of the things we are now doing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. O. Emmerich".

C. O. Emmerich