

February 27, 1967

Mrs. Eliza Paschall
Executive Director
Community Relations Commission
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Eliza:

We are all very pleased that you have been appointed as Executive Director of the Community Relations Commission and we look forward to working with you and accomplishing many things in the very near future. Please rest assured that both the Parks and Recreation Divisions are at your disposal and we will do any and everything humanly possible within the capacity of our personnel and Budget to alleviate the many deficiencies in recreation and park facilities throughout the disadvantaged areas of our community.

I would like to make some general comments concerning our capacity to produce. The City has been as fair as they can be financially, to the Department of Parks and Recreation. But many other departments have higher priorities; for example, the Police and Fire Departments. We have stretched every dollar at our disposal as far as it will go and how we will be able to take on much additional activity is simply beyond my comprehension. To compound the problem, the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington cut off every penny of our recreation funds which we were receiving through EOA. This left us with a decision as to whether or not to attempt to operate three separate and distinct and urgently needed recreation activities; namely, the neighborhood playlot program, the summer recreation and job opportunities for youth (Operation Champ) and last but certainly not least the arts and crafts recreation program for the elderly in the senior high rise apartments. Upon my recommendation and in full agreement with Miss Carmichael's thinking the Mayor has declared that the neighborhood playlot program has the highest priority of any of these three activities. We have therefore curtailed normal activities in the advantaged or affluent of our City so as to accumulate approximately \$48,000 in salaries

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which we will utilize in the operation of neighborhood play lots. EOA started off by financing the creation of 7 of these lots and we have now grown to approximately 21. We plan to operate 21. We plan to operate them from June 1st through Labor Day and offer the children a variety of activities plus excursions with our new bus which will hold 30 youngsters or 20 adults.

Our problems are many but most of them could be certainly solved by money.

As a member of the Atlanta Youth Council I am pleased to say and to see that the City administration is leaning towards this agency as the coordinator of Park and Recreation activities among the private and public agencies. There is duplication in some instances and certainly we should all coordinate our activity.

I suppose the real purpose of this letter is to advise that in many instances we will be unable to meet your requests or the requests of the communities that call upon you; however, this is not to say that you shouldn't contact us in each instance so that we can be certain that everything is being done that is humanly possible.

I wish you every possible success in your new undertaking and looking forward to working with you, I am

Cordially,

Jack C. Delius
General Manager of
Parks and Recreation

JCD:bjw

cc: Hon. Ivan Allen, Jr., Mayor ✓
Hon. Charlie Leftwich, Chairman
Municipal Parks Committee