

December 17, 1969

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor-Elect Massell
From: Dan Sweat
Subject: Model Cities Program ←

This memorandum is provided for your general information so that you will be aware of the administrative situation in regard to the Model Cities Program as it is now established.

Technically, the Model Cities Program is a part of the Mayor's Office. Its budget, for example, is under the administration of the Mayor, although Mayor Allen has delegated the responsibility for approving the disbursement of project funds to the Model Cities Director. This organizational structure was established in accordance with the Model Cities Act that required the program to be a "Mayor's Program". The same act, however, required broad citizen participation in the program. In attempting to reconcile this requirement with Atlanta's committee system, it was decided that the Executive Board of the program would be chaired by the Mayor and would have on it two Aldermen in addition to citizens and other officials. It was further decided that all resolutions and official actions required for the program would come from the Executive Board to the appropriate Aldermanic Committee but, because the Mayor and two members of the Aldermanic Board were on the Executive Board, the other Aldermen would not have to be overly concerned with the details of the program and could act on the recommendations of the Executive Board with confidence.

This situation has created some problems in determining the Mayor's exact role in the administration of the program. Notwithstanding the federal government's position that the program is the responsibility of the Mayor, our Board of Aldermen must, of course, give its sanction to the day to day activities under our system. Further, the citizen

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participation requirement must be met. This brings up the question of who can make administrative decisions; the Mayor, the Executive Board, or the Board of Aldermen. At present, the Model Cities Director feels that he is on the staff of the Mayor, but decisions concerning his program are officially made by the Executive Board. Further, the Board of Aldermen should not normally question actions made by the Executive Board if they are within the context of the approved program.

Even less clear and of some concern to me is the exact role that the Mayor's Staff is to play in the Model Cities Program. The Director has made it clear in the past that he feels that it is his position that he answer directly to the Executive Board and especially to the Chairman, the Mayor. This is only important in that you understand and approve this arrangement so that you will not expect that the staff has any responsibilities in this regard.

This is not a problem that requires immediate action, but it is one that obviously needs some direction. Hopefully, this will provide you with some information so that you can be prepared to deal with it after the first of the year.

DS:ja