

# CITY OF ATLANTA



CITY HALL ATLANTA, GA. 30303

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IVAN ALLEN, JR., MAYOR

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DAN E. SWEAT, JR., Director of Governmental Liaison

File

May 26, 1967

Mr. Irving K. Kaler, Chairman  
Community Relations Commission  
1203 City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Kaler:

I was very surprised to learn that the Community Relations Commission had filed a Vista Project Proposal with the Office of Economic Opportunity for the purpose of providing a "reliable source of information on the various programs having to do with the proposed Model Neighborhood Program in Atlanta."

As you know, the Model Neighborhood Program is a project of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Atlanta. A planning grant application was approved by the Board and Mayor on March 6th requesting funds to plan a Model Neighborhood under the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966.

A key part of this application provides for a Community Relations Coordinator, four Neighborhood Involvement Specialists and twelve Supporting Community Development Aides ( citizen planners who will be employed from among the residents of the neighborhood.) A copy of the proposed organization chart is attached.

The wording of the Community Relations Commission application to OEO ( copy attached) implies:

1. That information provided through the Model City organization might not be "reliable".
2. That groups must plan "independently" of the City or Model City agency.

May 24, 1967

Mr. Irving K. Kaler, Chairman  
Community Relations Commission

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The Model City proposal was developed with the cooperation of many groups, agencies and individual citizens of the Model City Neighborhood. Citizens of both races were involved. The Mayor's Office and all the agencies and groups involved in the preparation of the application have acted in good faith with all involved.

We have attempted to provide reliable, intelligent and honest information on all phases of the program as we have progressed to this stage.

We feel that the Model Cities organizational structure as proposed will be able to provide for full involvement and participation for all citizens and groups interested in being a part of the project.

It is my opinion that any information group as proposed, using temporary outside residents such as Vista Volunteers, would tend to increase the confusion and anxiety which might exist in the community.

Since the Model Neighborhood Program is being coordinated from the Mayor's Office, it would be helpful if any proposals which might affect the Model Neighborhood Program were discussed with this office. If we are ever to hope to achieve full communications and coordination among our deprived citizens, we certainly must first be able to have cooperation and understanding among those of us who have been assigned to help.

Please be assured that the Community Relations Commission has the full cooperation of this office at all times.

Sincerely yours,

Dan E. Sweat  
Director of Governmental Liaison

DES:lp

CC: Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. ✓  
Mrs. Eliza Paschall