



CITY OF ATLANTA

DEPARTMENT of PARKS

Office of General Manager

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

March 29, 1968



JACK C. DELIUS
GENERAL MANAGER

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.
Advisory Committee on Civil Disorders

FROM: Jack C. Delius, General Manager of Parks and Recreations *Q*

In accordance with your instructions of March 29, 1968, entitled "Requested Action To Be Taken By City Departments And Public Agencies," I wish to advise you of the following.

We are in continuous meetings with EOA, private agencies in the field of recreation and social and cultural enrichment, and the Atlanta School Department, preparing a detailed proposal to be submitted to Economic Opportunity Atlanta probably by April 4, 1968 and certainly by April 19, 1968, which will in fact comply with the most recently available guidelines from the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington.

Our proposal is to, beginning June 1, 1968 and running through September 1, 1968 to operate approximately 134 centers, schools, playgrounds and parks. Heavy emphasis will be placed on teenage activities, such as social dances, civic councils, field trips to our Lake Altoona property, and work experiences. Every neighborhood has been carefully inventoried from the viewpoint of the availability of either a school or a park and recreation facility. It is anticipated that not all of the currently existing forty odd playlots will be staffed; however, those not staffed will be adjacent to operational schools.

Heavy emphasis will be placed on employment using in-school and out-of-school neighborhood Youth Corps enrollees, as well as additional young people who come from disadvantaged areas.

Tentative plans were developed as to what we would do in terms of programs in disadvantaged areas if we received no federal funds. The staff had estimated that upwards of forty-four permanent employees could be diverted from affluent areas of our community to the less fortunate areas. The plan was voted down by the Aldermanic Parks Committee on March 12, 1968. However, the Committee planned to contact the Mayor and arrange a meeting to

discuss in depth what additional City funds might be available in the event the City did not receive OEO financing.

A master map has been prepared showing all school and park locations which will be operational. The Director of the Atlanta Youth Council has had emphasized to him the importance of the City of Atlanta Park/School Program receiving the substantial amount of any EOA funds this summer. The matter has also been mentioned briefly to Mayor Allen, as well as to the Members of the Park Committee, and has been discussed at some length with the Director of EOA.

A central headquarters will be established at Central Junior High School adjacent to the City Hall Annex and not too far distant from City Hall. A director will be hired at the earliest possible time (immediately if funds are available from the \$30,000 HUD Grant sent to the City for Youth Coordination). The Director will assume the technical responsibility of coordinating all recreation in the Metro area where EOA funds are involved since we understand that the Vice President's \$30,000 grant to the City was to provide Metro-wide coordination and was not limited to the confines of our City limits.

We would like to have available and on the staff no later than May 1st a director, associate director, accountant, secretary, telephones, desks, mimeographing machines, etc. in order to establish our base of operations and to begin in-service training. The central office, like our entire program, will remain open at least six days a week from 9:00 o'clock in the morning until approximately 10:00 o'clock at night. Possibly, the central office will remain open on Sunday to receive inquiries and give out information on activities, etc.

The entire summer program will be heavily publicized, using all news media and, if necessary, paid advertisements in the press. We are calling upon people in the theater, art world, etc. to participate and to add to the diversification of the program this summer.

In summary, we will attempt to have a comprehensive program going some twelve hours a day, six days a week that will provide recreation and cultural enrichment, as well as education in every identifiable neighborhood within the hard-core target areas established by EOA.

JCD:jw