

25 Inman Circle, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

August 17, 1969

Honorable Ivan Allen, Mayor  
City of Atlanta  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mayor Allen:

I am leaving on a six weeks  
trip abroad tomorrow and when  
I return ~~the~~ Model Cities Executive  
Board decision regarding a grant  
for Model Neighborhood, Inc., will  
probably have been made. Before  
I leave, I wish to register  
with you a white, middle-class,  
moderates' vote of confidence in  
Mr. Edward Moody and the organization  
he has developed.

I am a graduate student at Georgia Tech. I met and got to know Mr. Moody reasonably well during the course of several volunteer work/study projects ~~in~~ that I have taken part in for the Model Neighborhood Area. In my opinion, Mr. Moody possesses the individual drive and initiative that makes a successful executive regardless of race. This is what sets him apart from most of his fellow Negroes in his part of town. Because most of his contemporaries have been forced to "know-your-place" by society, they are largely incapable of dynamic leadership.

Mr. Moody apparently never has learned his place, and it's just that which makes him strong — although also undeniably obnoxious and outspoken.

Four years as an officer in the Army taught me what I am sure you, Major, as a successful executive in public and private life, also know: the outstanding leader often does not do well when assigned to repetitive everyday tasks, and conversely, the man who performs well as a clerk, office worker, or bureaucrat, often does not do well when given responsibility for organizing and running an operation. I attribute Mr. Moody's past



poor performance on the jobs with the city and EOA to the factor, and urge you to consider instead, his outstanding performance of the past year or so in putting together and operating Model Neighborhood, Inc., in the face of almost overwhelming difficulties.

The newspapers have attributed a criminal record to Mr. Moody. This is not to condone or make excuse for that record, but we must give men from the ghetto a second chance if we are ever to get them involved in changing conditions there.

Mayor Allen, I sincerely urge

you to reconsider your reported  
 opposition to Mr. Moody and  
 Modell Neighborhood, Inc. If the  
 Model Cities program helps  
 fund MNI, I am sure the  
 firm will be a success. The  
 activities of the firm will  
 help develop the area economically,  
 and even more important,  
 it will give a boost of  
 pride and confidence to the  
 entire black community that  
 will bring an enduring  
 reward for Atlanta.

In fact, Mayor Allen, ~~if~~ helping  
 MNI might turn out to be one  
 of the most beneficial of all the  
 beneficial things you've done for Atlanta.

Sincerely

Walter B. Smith  
 Myles G. Smith