

April 30, 1969

Honorable Lawrence M. Cox, Assistant Secretary
for Renewal and Housing Assistance
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D. C. 20410

Dear Larry:

Time has a way of slipping up on all of us. It seems like only yesterday that you and your staff in Norfolk, Fred Fay, Allen Charles, Gene Arrington, the remainder of the Virginia Association of NAHRO, and I were one big family in Virginia. Now, the family has scattered in several directions but it's all for the best. I have seen several of the "old family" on occasion at the Southeastern Regional Council of NAHRO meetings, but missed seeing you.

When I was vacationing with my folks at Virginia Beach recently, I heard that you might be appointed Assistant Secretary for Renewal and Housing Assistance. I was delighted at the prospects as no one individual is more capable or knowledgeable with present and past national housing legislation than you, other than Senator Sparkman and former Representative Albert Raines.

Congratulations to a most worthy deserver and best wishes for success in your new endeavor.

For the past five years, it has been my good fortune to have been with a great Mayor and to contribute (hopefully) in the development of a very progressive city.

Federal funds are certainly no stranger to this city. In fact, we publicly extoll the fact that we would not have accomplished what we have without federal financial assistance -- and the citizens know it! The major risk we run, of course, is one of building up their expectations to the point at which neither this city nor the Federal government can ever hope to deliver. But, it is a risk we must take, as the alternatives are mighty slim.

Hon. Lawrence M. Cox

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If you have not been to Atlanta recently, do come. It is well worth a trip. Again, congratulations on your appointment. If I can do anything to help make your assignment a little easier, feel free to count on me for assistance.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

George L. Aldridge, Jr., Director
Community Improvement Program
City of Atlanta
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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P.S. An unusual CBD study proposal for Atlanta was submitted jointly to HUD and DOT during the transition period of the Johnson and Nixon Administrations. A local contingent is coming up to Washington on May 7th to inquire into its status. Collier Gladin, our Planning Director, and Dan Sweat, Mayor's Assistant, will be with this group. Anything you can do to be of assistance here would be most appreciated.