

November 3, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Johnny Johnson

FROM: Dan E. Sweat, Jr.

SUBJECT: Model Cities Mass Convention, Inc.,
and QED Consulting Firm

I appreciate your memo on this subject dated October 30, 1969. As I understand your position, you state that the expenditure to employ this consultant will be from the proceeds of an EOA, Inc. grant to Model Cities Mass Convention, Incorporated (MCMC, Inc.) and, consequently, the city is in no position to exercise any control over which firm that MCMC, Inc. employs for this work.

I will defer to your judgement as to the technical operations of this procedure and I understand that the city does not exercise any direct control over the actions of MCMC, Inc., when city funds are not involved. My only interest is that the city, and more specifically the Model Cities Program, does not suffer any embarrassment resulting from the award of contracts by any Model City Agency or contractor.

To preclude this possibility, I reiterate my request of October 28, 1969, that a complete dossier be prepared on QED prior to a decision being made on the award of the contract to them. This dossier should include the complete list of the principals with resumes of their education and experience; review of their present positions so that any conflict of interest can be determined; some examples or references of similar work performed; a complete review of the experience and qualifications of the firm to do this work; a budget and program designed to accomplish the work desired; and any other information necessary to make a well-informed decision on the capability of this firm to successfully accomplish this work.

This request should be made to MCMC, Inc., recognizing that the city does not have the authority to require it but feels that good administrative practices demand it. When this information is prepared, a good case can supposedly be made for awarding this contract to this firm instead of another. Should there be any later question, the city will be in a much better position to defend the action. You may be assured that the general public will not distinguish between MCMC, Inc., and the larger Model City Program in the event charges of impropriety or conflict of interest are made against the corporation.

My only interest in this project is the well being of our Model City Program. If the facts support the contention that QED is qualified and able to do this work at competitive prices, I will fully support the award to them. By the same token, if the facts indicate that they are not qualified to accomplish this work, I feel that the award should not be made. In any event, I want us to be in a position to defend the action of MCMC, Inc., even if we are not directly responsible for the management of the organization.

DESJr:sm