

May 15, 1969

Mr. John Cox  
Executive Director  
Atlanta Children and Youth  
Services Council  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear John:

Several weeks ago the decision was made that in order to get the Urban Corps Program established and functioning this summer it would be necessary to tie the administration of the Urban Corps to an existing City agency. It was my recommendation that we use the Atlanta Children and Youth Services Council as the administrative vehicle for getting the Atlanta Urban Corps underway.

There was much pressure from the students and others to place the administration of the Urban Corps directly in the Mayor's Office and there has been much feeling all along that this is where it must be located if it is to gain the strength necessary to make it through its initial organization stages.

As we have become more and more involved in the legal and financial mechanics of establishing the Urban Corps Program, it has become more apparent that we should have gone ahead and tied it to the Mayor's Office until such time as the non-profit Urban Corps organization can stand on its own.

In view of some of the requirements for contracting and for gaining program support, it is the recommendation of this office, the City Attorney, the Director of Finance that we go ahead and tie it to the Mayor's Office at this point.

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This summer our payroll will total almost \$270,000 which necessitates a special payroll account in the City's Data Processing and Finance Department. Since this account requires departmental sponsorship, that means all employees of that department would be tallied on the same ledger and bank account which could confuse an already complicated system if lumped into a small department such as the Youth Council. The Accounting Department is creating a special billing department due to the size and number of checks to be issued. This can be done under no presently existing department since we will be billing other City departments and private agencies.

In dealing with other City agencies, it is easier to influence their opinion and participation if they realize the Mayor is sponsoring the program. Also, this keeps us from inheriting inter-departmental conflicts that virtually any department would have accumulated.

Contacting colleges at all levels is much easier from a formal relations point of view if it is done through the chief executive's office. This advantage can save us valuable time in Atlanta on certain campuses due to political problems. We will deal with six other government units in Atlanta at the highest level; therefore, our base in Atlanta City Government should be known and respected.

Another point that keeps coming up from the students and others in the business and academic community is that 13 out of the 14 Urban Corps programs operating in the country are operating directly out of the chief executive's office of each city. The fourteenth agency is operated out of a Model Cities agency.

Since you did not ask for the program to be placed under the Youth Council to start with and since I have felt all along that we might have taken advantage of you and your staff by shoving this great administrative burden upon you, it is our intention to go ahead and do what we should have done in the first place and place the Urban Corps under the Mayor's Office for the time being. If you have any strong feelings about this either way, I would appreciate you letting us know right away.

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Thank you for your cooperation and help.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Sweat

DS:fy

cc: Mr. Charles Davis  
Mr. James Pilcher  
Mr. Sam Williams