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ADMINISTRATOR

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ATLANTA, INC.

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September 14, 1966

Mr. Dupree Jordan  
Office of Economic Opportunity  
101 Marietta Street, N. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Dupree:

In order to keep you posted on our problems here in the city I would like to send you this brief report. Frankly, we feel now since the white murder suspect has been placed in jail things will cool off for a while. Probably the most gratifying thing which has come out of this whole situation is the outstanding leadership which EOA's neighborhood service center staff and local advisory committees were able to give to our disadvantaged neighborhoods and our Negro communities. We have received praise from the Mayor's Office and from the Negro community leadership. They are still working hard.

Since the beginning of our race disturbance in the City of Atlanta, EOA through its local advisory committees and its community service staff has worked long hours trying to calm the disturbed people in their neighborhoods. The results have been most gratifying.

Thinking back over all the recommendations that were made it is crystal clear to me that our citizens living in the areas of the disadvantaged were treating this disturbance as a special incident and did not and could not properly connect it to the community's long-range needs or goals.

It seems to be very obvious that the Negro leadership was just as disturbed and concerned as the white leadership. In fact, they worked just as hard and probably harder to bring matters

under control. They were pleased with the Mayor's actions but were rather vocal in their criticism of the police. They did not connect the outbreak with our organization or the efforts being made to help build a better Atlanta.

If you will review the following suggestions which were made over and over again, I am convinced you will also recognize that the grass root leadership as well as the Summit Leadership was trying to advise how to stop the incident and not to cure long-range needs.

#### Recommendations for Emergency Action

1. A number of youth in the Boulevard area do not approve of some of the methods being used to call attention to grievances, which have resulted in violence. Accordingly, they have organized themselves into the Boulevard North-east Youth Council and would like to meet with some responsible City officials to discuss these grievances.
2. Their immediate concern is in regard to recreation. Successes evidenced by the Summer Recreation Program and Playlots have inspired them to seek action. Several vacant lots on Boulevard offer possibilities of being used for such programs which should include facilities for dances, games and other types of entertainment.
3. There is considerable concern also about funeral arrangements for Hulet Varner, Jr., the young man who was killed. The young people feel strongly that the public officials, as well as the community, should have an opportunity to join the family of the deceased in a mutual expression of grief.
4. The position of the family, especially the deceased youth's mother, in being able to provide an appropriate burial is in question and the interest taken in this matter is of importance.
5. The members of the Youth Council would like to have badges to pin on new members and handbills to pass out which would show their interest in non-violence and good human relations.

6. It is recommended that integrated police squad cars be used in the area.
7. There should be an investigation of the Grady Hospital ambulance service which is reported to have failed to pick up the two Negro youths at first but took the white policeman. The results of the investigation should be publicized.
8. Questions are also being raised as to why the doors of the Georgia Baptist Hospital, which is nearby, were not opened to the Negro victims of the Saturday night shooting.
9. There are also questions as to why there are no reports on the condition of the second youth, the young man who was shot on Capitol Avenue and continued announcements and steps taken to bring about justice in both cases. The arrests of suspects have lessened the tension greatly and especially the frequent and wide-spread newscasts in regard thereto.

It took a great deal of digging for our local leadership to come up with long-range corrective measures. Basically they made few emergency recommendations that have not already been discussed many times by the local advisory committees, the Citizens Central Advisory Council and the EOA Board. However, it was plain that they still believe that their long-range answer to Atlanta's problem is to build a great city which will give much effort to accomplish the following.

1. Cooperation of all major employers to build a city where equal employment opportunities are a matter of normal course where every citizen may advance in accordance with his education, training, experience and ability. It was clear in every meeting that adequate jobs and job opportunities were considered probably the most important recommendations made.
2. That the number and quality of job training courses be increased so that every unemployed person will have the opportunity for advancement and for a good job.
3. That the Atlanta educational programs continue to improve so that every person will have an opportunity to remain in school and to receive quality education in accordance with his ability.

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4. That slum housing be abolished with speed and that adequate housing be available for all citizens.
5. That all citizens have full and equal opportunities to participate in all of the community's programs and activities.
6. That Atlanta's services through the United Appeal, the county welfare program, the county health program, the state employment service, EOA and others all be continued and improve so that opportunities may be extended to all disadvantaged in the city.

EOA's staff is now compiling all the suggestions made to date, and they will be brought to the attention of the Citizens Central Advisory Council this week, probably Friday, for a final review. After this is done the recommendations of the council will be submitted to the official EOA Board at its next regular meeting on September 21.

We are doing everything we can to work with our community leaders and will keep you informed. As soon as our recommendations are in hand I will send them to you.

Sincerely yours,



C. O. Emmerich

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