

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION



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406 FULTON FEDERAL BUILDING / ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303 / TELEPHONE 255-0424

May 31, 1966

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GRIFFIN, GA.

MAYOR B. F. MERRITT, JR.
MACON, GA.

Mr. Dan Sweat
Federal Programs Coordinator
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dan:

I appointed a committee during the last board meeting in Atlanta for the purpose of evaluating the role of the Georgia Municipal Association as relates to the part the Association should play in relation to the metropolitan local councils of government and to area planning and development commissions.

Under Section 701-G of the 1965 Housing Act, certain grants may be made to metropolitan local councils of government for studies and data collection, etc. It has occurred to the GMA staff that a relationship might be developed between the local councils and the Association which would have the effect of (1) providing the already existing resources of the Association to local councils, thereby avoiding unnecessary duplication and competition of GMA programs which have been over 33 years in the making and (2) providing a strong liaison between the larger urban areas in the evaluation of programs which are directed, or should be directed, toward our large cities and/or their respective metropolitan areas.

Since counties are involved in the metropolitan local councils of government, it might be of benefit to work with the Association of County Commissioners in developing joint policy in support of our large urban areas, recognizing at the same time, that local decision-making must not be interfered with, nor any joint programs pursued, except with the consent of local officials.

Another area for possible consideration by the committee is the problems of the local community outside the metropolitan areas.

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Mr. Dan Sweat
May 31, 1966

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There are some problems developing in relation to programs of area planning and development commissions which serve communities outside metropolitan areas. There are federal programs being developed for municipalities under 5,500 population, administered by the Farmers Home Administration and other agencies of the Federal Department of Agriculture. These deserve serious review.

For the cities of over 5,500 population outside standard metropolitan statistical areas, there are other problems, or opportunities.

In addition, there are other problems in relation to new and/or changing federal grant and loan programs which need to be studied.

It has taken the Georgia Municipal Association 33 years to develop a coordinated program to assist our cities and towns at the political level, as well as at the service level. We need to evaluate the role of the Association with the new metropolitan local councils of government, the area commissions and our total membership.

The committee, as appointed, is as follows:

Mayor John Cromartie, Gainesville, Chairman
Mayor Howard Atherton, Marietta, Vice-Chairman
Mayor Jack LeRoy, Ailey
James B. Blackburn, City Attorney Savannah
Dan Sweat, Federal Programs Coordinator, Atlanta

Please return the attached card, advising of your acceptance.

Sincerely,



J. Steve Knight
President

JSK/rs

cc: Malcolm Maclean

enclosure