

October 7, 1969

Mr. Charles L. Figley
% Dr. Mario Hidalgo
Coordinator of Youth Activities
City Hall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Dear Mr. Figley:

I am pleased to furnish you the following information concerning Atlanta's Youth Commission and its overall effectiveness in dealing with youth problems of this city.

The Mayor and the Board of Aldermen established the Youth Council in February 1966, to carry out the following specific objectives:

1. To develop community programs designed to prevent and control juvenile delinquency;
2. To coordinate activities of agencies devoted to the welfare of youth and the prevention of delinquency;
3. To implement preventive programs through all means available to the city departments and private agencies;
4. To collect, correlate and disseminate information, statements, and data on the subject of children and youth;
5. To conduct investigations and any and all other activities necessary to effectively perform its purpose.

It is the mission of our Council to coordinate some 85 agencies offering direct youth services and some 30 agencies offering in-

direct services to children and youth in the Metropolitan Area.

The Council serves as the overall coordinating agency for the city's Youth Opportunity Program. Said Council pulls together a Metro-Atlanta Youth Opportunity Council consisting of representatives from several business, civic, religious, private and public groups. This Council makes recommendations to the Youth Council's Board regarding program priorities, distribution and hours of operation. Such recommendations are made on the basis of researched and evaluated needs and gaps undertaken by the Council's staff. . . in the areas of employment, recreation, education, art, camping, transportation, volunteers, special events, social services, special programs and public relations.

For your benefit, I am enclosing a copy of our 1969 Youth Opportunity Plan.

It is my strong conviction that youth have a very essential and important role to play in any community, for youth, in fact, constitute the citizens of tomorrow.

A big part of the urban problem is essentially a youth problem in terms of human resources and development; and any urban planning must take into consideration this very important ingredient. I would recommend that youth be intimately involved in any coordinating activities aimed at helping youth.

I would specifically recommend that:

1. youth serve on the Board of Youth Commission;
2. youth serve in an advisory capacity to your City Planning Department;
3. youth serve in an advisory capacity to your Board of Education;
4. youth serve as consultants to your Recreation Department;
5. youth serve as consultants to your Public Employment Agency;
6. youth serve as consultants to the Mayor's Office.

The problem of youth unrest is certainly one to be dealt with. This is not only true in Atlanta, but is the case in every major city in the nation.

Atlanta's approach to dealing with this problem centers around the general lack of services, commitments and interest on the part of larger communities. In this respect, the Atlanta Youth Council has been very effective in getting agencies to provide more services on a need basis; the result being those youth most in need of the services, receiving it. In addition, the total community has been alerted to the pressing need for providing adequate and effective services for all youth in the Metropolitan area.

It is my feeling that Atlanta has been very successful in this regard and while all of the youth problems have not been solved, the successful involvement of the total community on youth problems is the necessary ingredient to successfully solving these problems.

I hope this brief explanation has been helpful to you and will assist you in planning and coordinating the various services in your city.

Sincerely yours,

Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mayor

IAJr:sm