



LINCOLN O. LYNCH / Executive Vice President

May 20, 1969

The Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.  
The Mayor of the City of Atlanta  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Recent events on the campuses, in the high schools, and in the ghetto communities across the nation lead us to conclude the Summer 1969 may be fraught with danger for the major cities of our nation.

The recent Federal and state cutbacks in funds available to the cities, the severe budgetary problems now faced by the cities themselves, together with the inability of the private sector to employ out-of-school young people during the summer make it imperative that the Federal government be persuaded to commit additional funds to the Neighborhood Youth Corps in order to provide many of these youngsters with a meaningful summer job rather than allow them to roam the streets with all the dangers inherent in their idleness.

As you know, the United States Department of Labor has made a decision to fund the Neighborhood Youth Corps in Summer 1969 at the same level as in 1968. This, in effect, means that fewer youngsters will be employed in 1969 as were in 1968, if one takes into consideration the fact that there will be more young people out of school in 1969 than there were in 1968. For example, here in New York, it is estimated that there are 150,000 high school and college students whose family income fall within the poverty guidelines. We also estimate that there are an additional 100,000 students whose families are living on the borderline of poverty and will be seeking jobs this coming summer. In Summer 1968 it is estimated that New York was able to provide jobs for some 77,000 young people. At the 1969 funding level, which has already been announced by Secretary of Labor Schultz, New York City will be able to provide some 55,000 summer jobs, 22,000 fewer than in 1968.

The Manpower Task Force and the Board of Directors of the New York Urban Coalition have placed top priority on efforts to persuade the Administration to request sufficient supplemental appropriations from Congress, and Congress to grant such supplemental requests for the Neighborhood Youth Corps to enable the cities to provide employment for a significant number of young people out of school.

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Obviously, it is unlikely that individual cities will receive increased grants for this purpose unless the national total is itself increased. This would suggest that a national campaign be undertaken to secure a very significant increase in the amount of Federal funds made available to provide summer jobs for youths.

As the Mayor of a very important city, and as one who recognizes the problems of the cities and the dangers of thousands of idle young people roaming the streets, you are urged to join with us in asking the Administration and Congress to increase these funds quite substantially.

While we believe that the provision of jobs for young people during the summer will not in and of itself insure a peaceful summer, we strongly believe that risk will be significantly minimized. I am sure you will agree with us that it is far more desirable to use our resources to insure that young people are gainfully employed than to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to repair damages caused by idleness and frustration.

For your information we are enclosing a list of Senators and Congressmen on the Appropriations Committee and urge that you take such steps as you see fit in helping to resolve what could be a grave national crisis.

I am,

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lincoln O. Lynch'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LINCOLN O. LYNCH  
Executive Vice President

LOL:gw

CC: Hon. John V. Lindsay  
Andrew Heiskell  
Saul Wallen  
Gary Lefkowitz