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August 15, 1997

Mr. Charles W. Porter
Executive Director
Human Relations Commission
City of Mobile
Post Office Box 1827
Mobile, Alabama 36633-1827

Dear Charles:

Thank you for your letter regarding race relations in America. I have forwarded your letter to appropriate members of my staff for consideration.

I am confident that The President's Initiative on Race will help build a stronger, more just, more united American community -- one that offers opportunity and fairness for all of our citizens. I urge you to continue your efforts to advance our national dialogue.

Again, thank you for getting in touch with me.

Sincerely, **BILL CLINTON**^A

BC/KB/RSM/RLM/DWB/ws-ws-ws-ws-ech-ws
(Corres. #3654619)
(8-15.oneamerica)

cc w/copy of incmg to President's Advisory Board
on Race, 3236 NEOB

cc: IGA, 106 OEOB

970903



Date Received in PLM: 7/28

Assigned to:

☒ Kyle Baker

☐ Anna Cushing

☐ Sarah Freeman

☐ Diane Ikemiyashiro

☐ Leanne Johnson

☐ Tracy Sisser

RE:

Race Relations Commission

☐ SCHEDULING REQUEST - Forward to Megan Williams, Room 106

☐ PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATION - Forward to Ruth Eaglin, Room 158

☐ REQUEST FOR A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE (letter of greeting for an event or proclamation) - Forward to Carmen Fowler, Room 91



CITY OF MOBILE

MOBILE, ALABAMA

228/695
MICHAEL C. DOW
MAYOR

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

July 14, 1997

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20023

Dear Mr. Clinton:

This letter is written with the greatest admiration of your character and boldness in announcing the initiatives on race relations. The mere acknowledgement of a race problem in America by the President is of major significance.

As opposed to settling into a wait-and-see mode, I am searching for something to do to help move all of us to the next level.

I am emencley impressed with the caliber and diversity of individuals you have selected to serve on the 11-person advisory panel. However, I do wish to point to a major concern I have. With the large numbers of African-Americans living in the Deep South to the Southeast (Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida), I only see the name of former Mississippi Governor William Winter on the panel. Mr. Winter may very well do an excellent job of expressing the most inward racial attitudes of whites in the old South and whites who have been part of the problem who now is trying to be part of the solution. Though racism is a problem across our nation, blatant acts of racism seems to be more typical or common in the above mentioned states. African-Americans in the Southeast are not part of the loop in your initiative. Obviously, other African-Americans serving on the panel will be able to convey the Black Experience and our hope for racial harmony. However, any perception that a very large group of people are not at the discussion table, the reception to the proposed solutions may not be favorable.

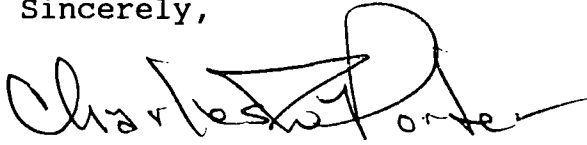
The Mobile Human Relations Commission is the only "budgeted" Commission in Alabama. There is no Commission in Mississippi. I would hope that we are in a position to be of significant service in this bold initiative.

In addition, the 423 human relations commissions\agencies across this country seem to be in an excellent position to help. Race relations is the major component of our business. I will be joining commissions and executive directors from across the

country at the 49th Annual Conference of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies(IAOHRA) in Miami the first week of next month, August 2-8, 1997.

If I can be of any service please let me know. I would consider it an honor and a high calling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles W. Porter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "P" at the end.

Charles W. Porter
Executive Director

cc: IAOHRA/ Pres. Bill Hale
IAOHRA/ Executive Director
444 North Capitol St.,N.W.
Suite 408
Washington, D.C. 20001