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Interviewer: Bayor, Ronald H.

Interviewee: Jones, Malcolm

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(MS450)

RONALD BAYOR: [00:00:00] -- six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

(break in audio)

BAYOR: (inaudible) Is it all right to put it there?

MALCOLM JONES: (inaudible).

BAYOR: Good.

JONES: I don't know whether you want to take any notes or  
(inaudible)?

BAYOR: Well, I just -- I'm sure the tape recorder will be  
fine.

JONES: November, in 1956, I had just retired from the regular  
Army, and I was hired by the Planning Department to guide  
the city through an urban renewal program that they just  
applied for. [Prior to?], nothing had been done. I was  
assigned to the Planning Department, and designated as the  
Urban Renewal Division -- just me. Didn't even have a  
secretary.

BAYOR: You were -- you were the coordinator, I guess?

JONES: Yeah, I was -- whatever we had [00:01:00] to do  
(inaudible) for urban renewal here. And I soon (inaudible)

that the city would have to have a workable program, and (inaudible) the federal government for their (inaudible), through grants to the city of Atlanta. I don't have a copy of that (inaudible) program. I have at home, I'm quite sure. But what it was, was spelled out on paper -- it was written, what the city intended to do, and what facilities they have for carrying it out, and use the facilities [wisely?]. One of the things they required was a housing code. The city of Atlanta did not have a housing code of any kind. [00:02:00] The building inspector -- the organization would be the Building Department should be responsible for the housing code enforcement. And they would propose a -- several times, a code that just wasn't ample at all to meet the needs. For example, they proposed adopting the Alabama state code for rural communities, which wouldn't have applied at all in Atlanta. And we (inaudible) housing code. This is a copy of the first housing code that the city had. [00:03:00] And it was adopted by the Board of Aldermen, as stated there, and became official on that date. I can't see how that -- my eyes are -- been taking drops in them (inaudible). Now, it soon became obvious, when we started every new approval, there was going to be hostility to it. In fact, there was considerable hostility. For example, I -- personally, I

was the only one who had been doing it at that time, working with urban renewal. I was called every night, for nine -- for ten consecutive nights, at exactly the same time, at my home, complaining -- [00:04:00] somebody complaining about the urban renewal program. Didn't want it. (inaudible) the tenth night, I recognized -- at least -- I thought I had before, but I was determined, this time, that I knew who it was. It was a fireman in one of the fire stations out in southeast Atlanta. Now, the biggest objections came from southeast Atlanta.

BAYOR: In the white community?

JONES: How's that?

BAYOR: In the white...?

JONES: White community, yeah. So, (inaudible). And another time, a Sunday afternoon about 2:30, we got a telephone call and said that my house was (inaudible). And if he didn't get out in the next 30 minutes, well, this house would be blown up. I called the Police Department. They came out and inspected, didn't find anything. It was just an annoyance, was what it was. They were finally -- just telling these things as an example of what was happening. [00:05:00] Two-thirty in the morning, a Patterson hearse arrived at my front door, with an order for my body. (laughter) And I happened to be home, and I opened the

door, told them I wasn't quite ready for them yet. But it would have been very embarrassing and very detrimental to my family if I hadn't been there and they came in to get my body.

BAYOR: Sure. What were they afraid of, these people who were against it?

JONES: They just didn't like the idea of anybody stepping in and interfering with their living conditions.

BAYOR: Were they afraid blacks were going to be brought into their neighborhood at all?

JONES: What?

BAYOR: Were they afraid that blacks would be brought into their communities?

JONES: Well, that was part of it.

BAYOR: Yeah.

JONES: These objections came from the whites.

BAYOR: Yeah.

JONES: I think that was part of it -- that was part of the reason. [00:06:00] And so, we decided we had to overcome that, so we developed what was known as the housing -- let's see... I'm being treated here for Parkinson's disease, and part of it is forgetfulness. And I have to...

BAYOR: Oh, well, take your time.

JONES: But I can check my notes, from time to time. We found that, in order to get the city participation that we needed, we had to have what we called a Citizen's Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal. And that was headed up very prominent people in Atlanta (inaudible). It started out with Cecil Alexander. I don't know whether you know him or not?

BAYOR: [00:07:00] I've spoken to him, yeah.

JONES: But he was the chairman of the Housing -- the Housing Committee.

BAYOR: OK, right.

JONES: So, the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal. We got people from every neighborhood in the city, and tried to get as many influential people as we could. Now, it was later, that chairmanship (inaudible). And Dr. Atwood, at one time, of Emory University. And finally (inaudible) -- added some blacks to it (inaudible). There you go -- [James?] Alexander, Sr.

BAYOR: Right. [00:08:00] (inaudible).

JONES: You probably know him, or know of him.

BAYOR: Right.

JONES: And people like that. And it worked like a charm. Then, in order to develop the housing code, I contacted a number of cities and got what they had. I (inaudible)

[Dallas?], for example, for what Dallas had. And worked on developing the housing code and the -- (inaudible) program, and very, very (inaudible). The federal government actually refused to make any commitments to the city, financially, (inaudible) until the city had produced a workable program showing intentions -- what they intended to do, [00:09:00] how they were going to carry it out, and if they had enough facilities to do it with, particularly inspectors. Now, about this time, the building inspectors -- Building Department thought they should have urban renewal (inaudible), and they weren't getting anywhere with the housing code enforcement. The housing code enforcement was citywide. It wasn't just the urban renewal project; it was citywide. And they weren't getting anywhere with it, at all. They were dragging their feet on it. So, finally, one day, just out of the blue sky, Mayor Hartsfield said he was going to put the housing code [00:10:00] enforcement in the Urban Renewal Department. Me and (inaudible) established it, (inaudible) put it under the Urban Renewal Department, (inaudible).

BAYOR: That was, what, 1960?

JONES: Yeah, I was hired in 1956. This was about 1957, '58, along in there. I found out what other cities were doing, and tried to get ours on a similar basis. Now, (inaudible)

a little sideline. We had -- how our inspectors -- didn't have any. We all had (inaudible). We hired the first black inspector [00:11:00] in the city of Atlanta, (inaudible) whatsoever. In order to get him to function without any difficulty, we had to -- didn't operate with city hall. He operated with the office of one of the members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

BAYOR: He was a housing inspector?

JONES: Housing inspector.

BAYOR: Remember his name at all?

JONES: (inaudible). His name was (inaudible). He was the first black inspector for any of the services the city had. We had -- Mr. [Bob Thompson?] was the man who was overseeing the (inaudible) had his office down at Auburn Avenue. And [Lowry?] operated out of his office.

BAYOR: I've spoken to Thompson. He's...

JONES: Now, the (inaudible) functions and responsibilities [00:12:00] are written in here, and spelled out in this little pamphlet. You see when this was. This was dated in 1961. One of his responsibilities (inaudible) project areas, and they had --

BAYOR: You stayed on as director of urban renewal (inaudible)?

JONES: Director of urban renewal, yes.

BAYOR: Under Mayor Allen, as well?

JONES: Under Mayor Allen, and also under [00:13:00] Sam  
Massell.

BAYOR: Oh, under Sam Massell, too?

JONES: And also under Maynard Jackson.

BAYOR: You stayed under Jackson, as well?.

JONES: For a while.

BAYOR: As director of the Department of Urban Renewal?

JONES: I was (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

BAYOR: You were also director of the Housing Resources  
Committee at some point, weren't you?

JONES: In the Housing Resources Committee, I guess I was -- I  
guess you'd call it executive director of it. The Housing  
Resources Committee was kind of a committee to replace the  
Citizen's Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal. In the  
meantime, the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Urban  
Renewal had its functions changed, so they'd have a broader  
base. It became the Citizen's Advisory Committee for  
Community Development. And the Housing Resources Committee  
was -- didn't particularly apply [00:14:00] to the urban  
renewal project (inaudible) the city as a whole. Now, it's  
part of (inaudible) the Citizen's Advisory Committee for  
Urban Renewal. It was a modification of it -- that's what  
it amounts to.



BAYOR: But Cecil Alexander was the -- he was the chairman and you were the executive director?

JONES: Who was the chairman?

BAYOR: Cecil Alexander, of the Housing Resources Committee?

JONES: No, he was -- he was -- yes, he was chairman.

BAYOR: And you were executive director?

JONES: I was the executive director.

BAYOR: OK.

JONES: Now... We tried to keep very close check of what we were doing, so we would put as many men (inaudible) projects. This is another one. You see (inaudible) '60.

BAYOR: Seventy, yeah.

JONES: [00:15:00] What years was that?

BAYOR: Nineteen seventy.

JONES: Nineteen seventy. But to get to fully appreciate what's in here, you'd have to read these notes [in some ways?]. Now, I'd be glad to lend this to you, if you want to.

BAYOR: Let me see what's there.

JONES: (inaudible) projects are listed, and (inaudible) property.

BAYOR: It just goes right through all the properties.

JONES: And that's this whole thing here. And that's -- this one --

BAYOR: Seventy-two.

JONES: Seventy-two. This is '73.

BAYOR: Seventy-three.

JONES: It just gives you an idea of what was happening, as well as who was keeping track of it.

BAYOR: I see. (laughs) Well --

JONES: These (inaudible). [00:16:00] I was in the Resources Committee, probably brought a copy of this. And also made copies for the libraries and (inaudible).

BAYOR: In '72.

JONES: (inaudible) inventory of just what we had (inaudible). This was done [literally?] on an annual basis. And the policy documents (inaudible) urban renewal containing these things, (inaudible) in these folder here, which I'll show you a little later. [00:17:00] And the (inaudible) we couldn't get anybody to comply with the housing codes. You had to have a (inaudible) function -- had to take people to court for violating it. And then (inaudible) -- like the one city (inaudible) I thought a very unique system. Before they took them to court, they had a preliminary legal hearing on each property they were trying to get improved on the housing code. And at that legal hearing, the owner appeared, and also in the inspector of that particular building, who made the inspection. And they had

a regular lawyer [00:18:00] hear these cases, and they gave him \$10 a case. And he was told to look at it and see whether or not the housing code decision had authority to get what they were trying to get done, and if the man's rights were not imposed upon. That went very well, and (inaudible) quite amazing improvement under that.

BAYOR: Let me ask you one thing about that. When the slums were being torn down, let's say beginning in the 1950s, where did the city leaders think that the low income blacks were going to move? Was there any relocation plans at all?

JONES: Yes, we had a relocation section in the Urban Renewal Department.

BAYOR: How early? Right back at the very beginning?

JONES: It wasn't -- not in the very beginning. We found out we needed it, and [00:19:00] (inaudible) period for urban renewal.

JONES: OK, but in the very beginning, where did they think all these relocated people were going to be living?

BAYOR: Well, we were trying to develop other housing outside the urban renewal projects as well as inside. And we had the relocation section in the Urban Renewal Department, which helped them in any way they could. And you saw these papers -- (inaudible) statistics here, of -- here's the numbers of (inaudible) that were affected, both for

relocation and for repairing the buildings. Now, the building inspector, as I said, was not getting along very well with the housing code enforcement. He wasn't having it at all. [00:20:00] He didn't even had a code adopted. So one day, Mayor Hartsfield said he was going to take the housing code enforcement away from the Building Department and put it in the Urban Renewal Department, which he did.

JONES: And that was you, (inaudible)?

BAYOR: The Building Department resented that. They were very resentful, and never did give up on it. So, for example, every meeting that the Urban Renewal Department had, or the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal had, the Building Department had one of their senior people sit in on it, and mark the action that was being taken or the (inaudible) that were being taken. And another thing that made it a little awkward, before I came here -- before I was hired by the city, the city of Atlanta had designated the Housing Authority and its executive was asked to carry out urban renewal. That is buying the property [00:21:00] and actually advertising and actually selling it. The Urban Renewal Department did not do that. The Housing Authority did it. And the committee -- an [action?] committee, and it was supposed to pass on these things and recommend and give -- recommend to the Board of Aldermen

whether or not to adopt them or modify them. That committee consisted of three people from the Housing Authority -- John O. Chiles, who was the chairman of the Housing Authority; M.B. Satterfield, who was executive director of the Housing Authority; and his assistant, [Earl Meskin?]. Now later, on the other side, from the city side, we had the chairman of the Urban Renewal Committee of the Board of Aldermen, and me as head of the Urban Renewal Department. So, there was five votes to be cast. Many times, [00:22:00] the three from the Housing Authority would carry the thing through. And it got where they would send the notice of action for the Board of Aldermen without even notifying the Urban Renewal Department ahead of time. And I finally had to (inaudible) the mayor that anything that the Housing Authority wanted adopted by the Urban Renewal Committee of the Board of Aldermen or by the Board of Aldermen, they'd have to reach me 24 hours in advance, so that I'd have time to look it over and prepare for it. It went much smoother after that.

BAYOR: Was there a -- was there any effort to discuss any of these issues with black leaders of the city?

JONES: What?

BAYOR: Was there any effort to discuss any of these issues with black leader -- the relocation issues and...?

JONES: Oh, yeah, oh, yeah. We had [00:23:00] black leaders on the Citizen's Advisory Committee (inaudible).

BAYOR: So, they were made aware of what was going on?

JONES: Oh, yeah, everything. There weren't any secrets being held back at all.

BAYOR: How were they won over?

JONES: By seeing that the more influential blacks -- we tried to get as influential blacks as we could on the committee. If they were willing to go along with it, and then they set (inaudible).

BAYOR: But why would they -- why would they be willing to go along when just the whole effort or urban renewal was to move a lot of blacks out of the business area?

JONES: No, that wasn't -- that wasn't how I did it. It was that way, to a certain extent. But the idea of urban renewal was to develop the slums and redevelop it for better use than they had. And in all these project areas, we had areas designated for commercial redevelopment, for residential redevelopment, [00:24:00] and for expansion of universities such as Georgia Tech, and we had Atlanta Univeri-- I mean, Georgia State University. And they provided the land at a very marked-down price from (inaudible) had been acquired by the urban renewal program.

BAYOR: Wasn't there -- wasn't there a plan, originally, not to build any low income projects on renewal land?

JONES: It may have been a suggestion, but it didn't go where -- it wouldn't carry very far.

BAYOR: Because I thought -- I thought Mayor Allen had pretty much not built any renewal -- any low income projects on renewal land until about 1966, and...

JONES: Well, now, you take, for example, the [00:25:00] Atlanta Civic Center, the Landmark Apartments, the Marriott [Central?], (inaudible) place where the stadium now stands, all were urban renewal projects, on urban renewal land.

BAYOR: Right, just not housing.

JONES: What was that?

BAYOR: That's not housing that was built there, though.

JONES: Well, that's the part that was not housing. But then, we designated the area that was for housing, too. It wasn't feasible to do housing right in the middle of the city where the business really ought to be.

BAYOR: OK, so you were really redeveloping this area for commercial purposes and for civic centers, stadiums, things like that.

JONES: That's right.

BAYOR: And the housing was to be pushed further out, I guess?

JONES: Well, we didn't -- we didn't propose any [00:26:00] housing right in the city of Atlanta -- right in the center of it. It just wasn't feasible.

BAYOR: Right, OK.

JONES: And Fulton County (inaudible) tried to plan for -- it was low- and medium-income housing, commercial, schools and colleges, and civic needs. And now, always remember that the urban renewal -- [00:27:00] the urban renewal projects were just part of it. The housing code enforcement was citywide. It didn't apply just to the housing and to the project areas. And the policy for reinforcement -- for carrying it out -- was also citywide. And on the... But the housing code was revised two or three times, and it was brought up to date. Obviously, it had to change as conditions changed. [00:28:00] You can glance at that, if you like. Well, finally, we decided to -- probably towards the end of the urban renewal program, after we accomplished most everything we set out to accomplish, the mayor decided to break up the Urban Renewal Department, and turn the discretion over to the -- using the (inaudible) developed by the Urban Renewal Department and the building inspector's office, (inaudible) rehabilitation of buildings.

BAYOR: Which mayor was this?



JONES: I think this is Ivan Allen, in his second term. No, it must have been Sam Massell. I don't remember the exact timing [00:29:00] of it. But anyway, they broke up the Urban Renewal Department. Housing code enforcement went to the Building Department. Planning went to the Planning Department. And the execution of the projects still stayed with the Housing Authority, as the buying and selling of land. And the rest of those pamphlets here -- there's quite a bit in there. (inaudible) projects areas, it states right in here when they [00:30:00] (inaudible). Also, in this material we have somewhere -- I can't lay my hands on it right now -- is the one showing the (inaudible) involved in each urban renewal project. Housing goals and the program -- the city of Atlanta. That had to (inaudible) the program. I have a few papers here which are mostly policy, to show how it functioned. And anything that I have more than one copy of, I'd be glad to give you a copy of it.

BAYOR: Oh, sure. Thanks.

JONES: [00:31:00] I had Parkinson's disease (inaudible).

That's what I was in the hospital for -- for treatment of Parkinson's disease. (inaudible)?

BAYOR: (inaudible).

JONES: [00:32:00] (inaudible) called it (inaudible) housing, and now (inaudible) code enforcement on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1963, the one I just gave you. I think there's two copies of this, aren't there? This is one of the (inaudible) the city of Atlanta trying to tell the city what (inaudible). And all this time, we made a number of appearances before various civic groups -- the [00:33:00] Chamber of Commerce, Atlanta City Capital Club -- Capital City Club, and places like that. The West End Businessmen's Association was very active. We had a -- made a number of appearances out there for presentations to them. (inaudible) we would go out and have a presentation of what it was all about, so the (inaudible) try to keep the people who were affected notified of what we were trying to do. [00:34:00] And here are the papers (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible)?

JONES: It's a [long story?] (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah, (inaudible), in slum clearance (inaudible), right.

JONES: Now, one document, or is that two?

BAYOR: That's one. That's one thing. Just one. [00:35:00] Is that the same thing?

JONES: It's the same as this. You can have that one. Now, the housing code had to modified from time to time. This

is a (inaudible) the housing code at one time. That's the only property (inaudible), and I don't think I would (inaudible).

BAYOR: That's just one copy that you have.

JONES: (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah. [00:36:00] Must be in -- that's the same as this, I think.

JONES: (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah, (inaudible).

JONES: [00:37:00] And this is part of the inspection (inaudible), each project.

BAYOR: OK, let me -- let me -- I've just got a few questions (inaudible).

JONES: I have one more thing to show you, then I'll answer your questions. See these charts and --

(break in audio)

BAYOR: -- in the library. Let me ask you some of this.

Nineteen fifty-seven, I came across a quote from you saying that the displacees must be found housing before renewal -- the renewal program began (inaudible) 1957. Was there any attempt at all to find housing for those who were going to be displaced by renewal?

JONES: Ask your question again?

BAYOR: [00:38:00] Yeah, oh, was there -- was there any attempt to find housing for those who were being displaced in the very early stages of urban renewal, let's say around 1957, '58?

JONES: Yes, there was. And the progress of the acquisition and demolition of some of those slum properties was delayed until housing could be found for them in other places.

BAYOR: Where were they trying to find housing for them?

JONES: Well, we had a relocation section in the Urban Renewal Department that worked with them.

BAYOR: Right at first? Right at the beginning?

JONES: Well, it kind of grew with the department -- as they department grew. That's why we had that inventory here, to show -- this is one of the last ones. We made one every year, [00:39:00] and we used this as a means of helping them find housing they might not know about. And have a -- the head of that section would go out and talk with these people and take them, in many cases, out to show them the different places where they could go.

BAYOR: Was there -- was there -- to link it to something else, what do you think of the impact of the failure to build public housing on the Egleston Hospital site? What impact did that have, in 1960, I think it was?

JONES: At what hospital site?

BAYOR: Egleston -- Egleston Hospital site. There was a big controversy over building public housing there. Georgia Baptist Hospital, on the old Egleston Hospital site, East Atlanta -- do you remember that at all?

JONES: Yeah.

BAYOR: [00:40:00] What impact did it have? You know, what problems did it cause for relocation?

JONES: Well, the relocation was quite a problem all the way through, on any part of the program. (inaudible) one site was any worse than another site, and we decided to do everything we could (inaudible). One thing I haven't mentioned here: we took advantage of these people the federal government was ending out to make (inaudible) in the summer? (inaudible) three or four or five. And they worked on the inventory, warehousing (inaudible), and kept the housing relocation chief advised of where you could find housing. And he would pass the word on to the people who were looking for it.

BAYOR: [00:41:00] Was it generally an attempt to push blacks into the western part of the city?

JONES: No.

BAYOR: Because most of the public housing was places in the west.

JONES: Well, that's --

BAYOR: Or was it -- most of it was in the west. Some of it was in the south of the city. But I -- from what I've read, from what the blacks were saying during that time, they felt that there was an effort being made to push all their housing into the west.

JONES: No, there wasn't. No, they claim that, but that wasn't true. Now, (inaudible) project, and we had every project for development of new housing was urban renewal or (inaudible), one of the other programs. We had to go to the housing -- and (inaudible) section. [00:42:00] They had a man that had to pass on whether or not that location -- proposed location was suitable for the community as a whole, as far as the blacks were concerned. We had to get his OK on every project before it was carried out. We wanted, at one time, to have a project adjacent to the automobile plant in Doraville, I believe it is. And he objected to it, because he said that was too far away. (inaudible) these blacks, they'd have to travel too far across the city from where they lived. And there -- we didn't get a project there. His name was [Smith?], who we had to coordinate with.

BAYOR: [00:43:00] And I think it was about 1967, I think, HUD said that unless public housing in Atlanta was dispersed a little more, that they weren't going to support any more

renewal projects. So, I'm thinking that even the HUD, at one point, felt that the -- that public housing was going too much into one area.

JONES: We (inaudible) in certain areas because that's where the dilapidation was. (inaudible) to redevelop the land for more practical use.

BAYOR: How about -- how about the effort to put public housing into the Northeast of the city? And there was some kind of package zoning deal for (inaudible) first public housing in the city. What became of that?

JONES: So that was worked out on a piecemeal basis. We -- [00:44:00] there was quite a bit of public housing in the areas out near East Lake, out there.

BAYOR: Yeah. But how about in the Northeast of the city?

JONES: Well, it was on the Northeast of the city too, on -- what's the street? (inaudible)?

BAYOR: Yeah. But --

JONES: There wasn't very much there, but they did put some units there.

BAYOR: I got the feeling that some of the area in the Northeast, where the upper-class whites lived, when that area was being suggested for public housing, the area was rezoned commercial to keep the low income projects out of the area. Any memories of that at all?

JONES: I didn't have anything to do with the zoning -- the rezoning of it.

BAYOR: Yeah, [00:45:00] no, I just wanted to know if you had heard about that whole thing?

JONES: There was all kinds of accusations being made by the [organizations?]. We never did get (inaudible) organizations to agree to (inaudible). Always had some of it. But it was the use of the Citizen's Advisory Committee, and the development of the (inaudible) program, that (inaudible) get enough relocated housing dispersed (inaudible) accepted by the federal government.

BAYOR: Well, the federal government opposed the concentration of public housing at first. They -- and then they -- then they changed their mind. One of the last -- I think about 1967, and they said there was no more public housing to be built in minority [00:46:00] areas -- that they wanted to spread it around a little more.

JONES: No (inaudible).

BAYOR: And then they changed their minds a little -- I guess, later on. How about -- how about efforts to win over the black community, with 221 housing, construction loans, money to purchase sites. Was there -- was there an attempt to bring black real-estate firms into the -- into the whole renewal project?



JONES: Yes, there was, in quite a few projects.

BAYOR: And what was the point of that? To win over black support for renewal?

JONES: Yeah, general support for the project. You couldn't run this program without the support of the community.

BAYOR: OK. And also, the land -- the expansion land for Atlanta University -- that was also done to win support from the black community, I guess?

JONES: Yeah.

BAYOR: OK. [00:47:00] Kind of, the role of the federal government in all this -- for example --

(break in audio)

BAYOR: OK, in 1963, the Urban Renewal Administration said they would continue to support the renewal only if more public housing was built in the city. It seems the government was upset that there was too little public housing being built, and too many people being displaced. That was in 1963. Was the federal government putting pressure on the city to build more public housing during this time?

JONES: (inaudible) putting pressure on the city, it was just stating their policy. I couldn't say that the federal government put pressure on the city.

BAYOR: How about -- how about the role of the FHA in continuing segregation in the city? I had read someplace else that, [00:48:00] when you dealt with white people being displaced, the FHA was very willing to approve land for their relocation. But when it came to blacks being relocated, the FHA was very reluctant to put blacks into certain areas of the city.

JONES: For one thing, there was a man in the FHA that we had to go see to get his approval before we could have a project developed. He wanted to keep the blacks in the central part of the city, (inaudible).

BAYOR: Right. This is the FHA chairperson who wanted that?

JONES: FHA person.

BAYOR: [00:49:00] Who was that? That was --

JONES: I think his name was --

BAYOR: -- [Thompson?] -- [Al?] Thompson -- was that it?

JONES: Yes, he was. Yeah, Al Thompson. That's not Bob Thompson -- Al Thompson.

BAYOR: Yeah, Bob Thompson. And the city leaders -- Atlanta city leaders didn't want the blacks to stay -- to stay in that area?

JONES: The city realized that in certain parts of the city, if you wanted to improve the city as a whole, (inaudible) put blacks (inaudible) low income housing in the middle of

the city, like where Marriott is right now, and where the Landmark Apartments is, and where the Civic Center is. And it really is more for the development of the city as a whole, I guess, the place to locate blacks.

BAYOR: OK. Now, was there any concern with white neighborhoods [00:50:00] that might be taken over by blacks as the blacks were being pushed out of the city?

JONES: Yes, that was part of the (inaudible).

BAYOR: Was anything done for the whites in those areas, at all?

JONES: Well, we had that trouble down in what was called the Poole Creek area, in southeast Atlanta. It was a big undertaking, and an awful lot of process that you have to (inaudible) to actually make the program work. You always get some opposition no matter what you do.

BAYOR: There was also -- I said before, Mayor Allen, up until 1966, didn't commit renewal land to be used for public housing. In 1966, he changed his policy, and the first public housing put on renewal land was the McDaniel Street project in the [00:51:00] Rawson-Washington renewal area. That was the first one -- 1966. Why -- do you have any idea why he changed his mind? Why he was willing, in 1966, to put a low income project on renewal land?

JONES: I (inaudible).

BAYOR: Because it seems, before that, that the business leaders in the city -- particularly the Central Atlanta Improvement Association -- was against any public housing being put on renewal land. That was -- it seemed to be policy until 1966, to keep projects off the renewal land, and to push black further out.

JONES: Well, that (inaudible) of the program from the beginning.

BAYOR: To, what? To keep -- push black a little further out (inaudible)?

JONES: You can't help but push them further out if you're going to take where they're living and develop it for commercial development.

BAYOR: Was there -- [00:52:00] was there any thought of building a civic center and a stadium as racial buffers during this time, to protect the CBD commercial area?

JONES: No, I never heard that.

BAYOR: No? Not the stadium, and not the civic center, as a buffer area?

JONES: No.

BAYOR: OK.

JONES: Allen [built?] most of it. In fact, he wanted the stadium on land that the city did not own, with money that the city did not have, for a team that didn't exist.

BAYOR: OK, right, right. I had heard that Allen wanted to build a white project there first, where the stadium is. And that there was opposition from the blacks, who wanted a black project there. And so, Jackson -- so, Allen said he's not going to do either a white or a black project. [00:53:00] He's going to put the stadium there.

JONES: I think there's probably something to that. They had those discussions about that.

BAYOR: Do you think --

JONES: (inaudible) the buying and the selling of the land, the actual purchase of it, and the actual digging (inaudible) was under the Housing Authority. Then they'll move on down to (inaudible).

BAYOR: Do you think -- do you think racial factors played an important role in decision making during that time?

JONES: Did what?

BAYOR: Racial factors -- dealing with racism in the city -- did that play an important role in decision making?

JONES: Well, I don't know if it played too important a role. It played a role, there's no question about it.

BAYOR: But it's hard to say how important it was?

JONES: Well, for example, (inaudible) Park Department, [00:54:00] (inaudible) occupied by a white, by a woman. She had it for years. And she actually made a remark one

time (inaudible) that this woman -- she had (inaudible) for some reason. (inaudible) she had done very well, there was no complaints. But when they put a black in there, (inaudible) chief position. And he was torn (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah. Did you see -- did you see any change in renewal policies at all by the time Mayor Jackson came in? Now that it was a black mayor, was there any change at all in how the (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)?

JONES: Yes, there was change [00:55:00] when he came in

BAYOR: What type of change?

JONES: He tried to put blacks in the power positions in the city. And, for example, the head of the Fire Department and the Police Department. In order to put the blacks in commanding positions, he had established a commissioner program to include the Fire Department and the Police Department both under the -- what was it?

BAYOR: The Public Service Commission?

JONES: The Public Service Commission.

BAYOR: Yeah.

JONES: And that's the they overcame that. There was a very definite effort to place blacks in key positions -- operating positions.

BAYOR: And did that change the renewal situation in the city?

JONES: [00:56:00] Well, it didn't change it. It just made it a little more difficult to operate?

BAYOR: In what way? Why more difficult?

JONES: A lot of changed personnel, in jobs that they weren't familiar with, and hadn't worked (inaudible). Putting them in charge of something totally (inaudible) departments.

BAYOR: So, did you get the feeling that there was a desire by Hartsfield and by Allen to work with the blacks, and try and work out some of the problems?

JONES: Yes, I think there was, all the way through.

BAYOR: OK. I wanted to get some of the dates that were various things. Now, you were director of the Urban Renewal Department from when to when? Do you remember?

JONES: Well, [00:57:00] nineteen-- see, I was placed in the Planning Department performing an urban renewal function in the Planning Department. I was the division head, then, (inaudible). I went in and didn't have any personnel.

BAYOR: You were division head of the Planning Department?

JONES: Of the urban renewal section --

BAYOR: Of the urban renewal section of the Planning Department.

JONES: -- of the Planning Department.

BAYOR: What year was that? Do you remember?

JONES: What?

BAYOR: What year?

JONES: That was in '57.

BAYOR: Fifty-seven, OK. So -- and then -- and then you stayed with that until an Urban Renewal Department was actually created?

JONES: Yes, until it was actually created, which was about nineteen--

BAYOR: (inaudible)?

JONES: Fifty-eight, I would say.

BAYOR: Sixty-eight?

JONES: Maybe '57 or '58, I don't remember which.

BAYOR: OK. I think it might be 1960 -- I think black people -- [00:58:00] I think under Hartsfield, I think, an Urban Renewal Department was created in '60. And I think you were placed in it then.

JONES: Yes, that's correct. I don't remember the dates, exactly.

BAYOR: And then, you were -- you became housing coordinator in 1968?

JONES: No, when they abolished the Urban Renewal Department (inaudible) Building Department, and the supervisor of inspectional services for two years. I held that for two years. And then, after -- at that time, it was getting on pretty late. In the '70s, I was designated -- I was taken



out of the Building Department and designated coordinator of low- and medium-income housing in the Office of the Mayor.

BAYOR: OK, and what year was that, do you think?

JONES: [00:59:00] I think that was in about (inaudible) '74.

It must have been about '72.

BAYOR: And when were you director of the Housing Resources Committee?

JONES: Housing Resources Committee was a development from the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal. After the (inaudible) Department we didn't have an urban renewal (inaudible) coordinator because it didn't have (inaudible) placed right immediate under the mayor. And I stayed there, in that position, (inaudible).

BAYOR: [01:00:00] So, the director of the Housing Resources Committee -- you took that over with director of the Housing Resources Committee along about the late 1960s, you think?

JONES: Late 1960s to late 1970s.

BAYOR: I was also curious about if you could suggest any other people to contact at all, that had worked with you during that time? I was thinking particularly of people like Philip Hammer -- do you remember that name at all?

JONES: Hammer?

BAYOR: Yeah.

JONES: Yes, I do.

BAYOR: Do you know -- do you know if he's around anymore?

He's (inaudible)?

JONES: I don't know what he's doing. I haven't heard from him in years.

BAYOR: OK. How about [Jim Carham?]? He was the Metro planning commissioner, housing relocation coordinator.

[01:01:00] Is he ar-- do you know if he's still anyplace?

JONES: As far as I know (inaudible).

BAYOR: You don't know where he is anymore either?

JONES: No.

BAYOR: And can you think of anybody else that might be worthwhile to see, too?

JONES: What?

BAYOR: Can you think -- can you think of anybody else it might be worthwhile to speak to?

JONES: Yes. Now, when the urban renewal projects were being developed, and I could see the land that was being made available, and knew how it could be purchased at a reduced price for educational purposes, I sat down and wrote a letter to the president of Georgia State University and one to the president of Georgia Tech, pointing out the advantages that they would have in the acquisition of

campuses -- that both, of course, were trying to do -- to do it under urban renewal. [01:02:00] Georgia State took it up right away, immediately. And (inaudible) was pulling ahead of (inaudible) Citizen's Committee for Urban Renewal.

Georgia Tech was slow in responding. They didn't respond for about a year. And they had one man from Georgia Tech (inaudible). He was very helpful. Have you talked to Bob Thompson?

BAYOR: Yeah, talked to Bob Thompson. And I talked to Cecil Alexander, [Dan Swift?] --

JONES: Swift?

BAYOR: Swift, yeah. [01:03:00] [Connie Glenn?] -- spoke to him.

JONES: Yeah.

BAYOR: And Ivan Allen, I spoke to, and Mussell, and Jackson.

JONES: Let me see, who else (inaudible). Have you talked to Satterfield?

BAYOR: No, no.

JONES: (inaudible)?

BAYOR: No, is he still -- is he still in the city?

JONES: He's not -- not (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible).

JONES: I haven't seen him for years. I was almost completely out of contact with former city employees, particularly the

last couple of years. I've been either in this institution or in the hospital since July the 15<sup>th</sup> [01:04:00] of last year, (inaudible).

BAYOR: Because, I know, I've tried to get in touch with you, first, in the hospital.

JONES: I can't think -- some of these papers here that I've given you, you'll find the names of certain people that you (inaudible) whether or not it's worthwhile talking them.

BAYOR: Well, I'll see if I can get in touch with some of them. It's hard to find people sometimes, years and years later.

JONES: I know it is.

BAYOR: I was able to find you, simply through the phone book. That's the best place to look sometimes, just to look in the phone book and see who's still in the city.

JONES: Yeah, (inaudible).

BAYOR: But, well, I'll give it a try. Well, thanks very much.

JONES: You're quite welcome.

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