

July 10, 1967

Honorable John Hood
Representative, District 124
1123 Windsor Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30310

Dear Representative Hood:

I have been instructed by Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. to advise you in writing as to the scope of our recreation and park operation during the summer of 1967.

The summer has been rather hectic for all of us in the Parks and Recreation Department for a number of reasons; first, it is virtually a carbon copy of last summer insofar as relates to the availability of Federal funds. Secondly, we never know until the last minute how much money will be made available and so we have to do a lot of planning on plain and simple faith.

To briefly acquaint you with what we are doing, we have established sixty-two areas where recreation supervision, field trips, noontime snacks, etc., are being furnished to the poverty areas of our City. The City is doing everything humanly possible to meet the needs and demands of all its citizens in all of the entire city areas. In the last several year, a number of new park facilities have been opened and many are presently under construction. I would like to say that I cannot think of a single request for a playlot that has been turned down, except in instances where the property owner absolutely refused to allow the City use of the property or where the terrain and topography were so severe that it was physically impossible to construct any useable area.

If anything, I am afraid that we will be criticized for favoring Mechanicsville and Summerhill. I say this in view

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of the fact that within the defined limits of these areas, we have the only recreation house that we've rented, four playlots in Mechanicsville and Operation Champ operation at Peter J. Bryant School. In Summerhill, we have an Operation Champ at Johnson Elementary School and a playlot on Connally Street which is to the rear of the school. Summerhill is one of only four areas in Atlanta blessed with a portable swimming pool. These pools which are for instructional purposes only were donated by the Rich Foundation. I have already been criticized for selecting Summerhill as one of the four areas to receive a pool but regardless of where it might have been placed, we would have had criticism from those communities not similarly treated.

We pledge to you our full and complete support in attempting to meet the needs of park and recreation facilities for all of our citizens and I am

Cordially,

Jack C. Delius
General Manager of
Parks and Recreation

JCD:lg

CC: Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. ✓
Mr. Charlie Leftwich