

December 26, 1967

Mr. Robert B. Flanagan  
Executive Secretary  
Atlanta Branch, NAACP  
859-1/2 Hunter Street, N. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Flanagan:

I want to thank you for your letter of December 8th which I have delayed answering during the Christmas holidays.

I think that many of the suggestions that you plan to make to the NAACP are good suggestions, and I would be interested in knowing what results can be obtained.

Assuring you of my cooperation, I am

Sincerely,

Ivan Allen, Jr.

IAJr:am

DR. ALBERT M. DAVIS  
PRESIDENT

MRS. EUNICE COOPER  
SECRETARY

DR. C. MILES SMITH  
TREASURER

ATLANTA BRANCH

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

859-1/2 HUNTER STREET, N. W. SUITE 105

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

524-8054

December 8, 1967

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.  
Office of The Mayor  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Allen:

I sincerely believe your hands are tied on this one, but, I feel I had better bring it back into focus and especially since you have expressed much concern with the Vine City problem and, what could arise during the summer months.

Last night, I was invited into this area, specifically two apartments and what I witnessed literally brought tears to my eyes, unpainted filthy walls, poor lighting, and general deterioration in evidence throughout these dwelling units. This is no doubt true in all of Vine City. Incidentally, the rent for one room and bath is \$49.50 a month.

I could rationalize and say that the people living in this dastardly situation should assume the landlord's responsibility, repair, and paint their homes - - after all, "cleanliness is next to Godliness, but Mayor Allen, these people are highly religious because on these filthy walls I saw crosses and pictures of Jesus Christ. One lady informed me that she would paint her walls but the landlord refused to provide the paint.

I know and I hope that you are aware of where the problem lies in Vine City and other slum areas throughout this country; and that is with the building inspectors and landlords.

When the people greeted me at their doors and through conversation with them, I got the feeling that they were wondering just what did I really want-- "I wasn't one of them"--I had on nice clothes"--I talked different than them"--"Everybody has discussed us, but we haven't seen any changes."

The Model Cities program is a start in the right direction, for it is designed to make living conditions better for the underprivileged and to upgrade their status as well as their attitudes. However, we still have a long way to go and as far as Vine City is concerned, we should have been there yesterday.

In the above paragraphs, I have reminded you of the problem and it is unfair to present a problem without offering a solution, therefore, I am going to recommend to the President and the NAACP Executive Board that they consider the following plan for possible implementation:





1. An emergency fund be established to be used to provide money to relocate these citizens to other living quarters outside of Vine City. That private charitable institutions and interested citizens be asked to contribute to this fund.

2. Conduct a survey of all private apartments and home-owners requesting that as vacancies occur, earmark them for these people.

3. Provide commercial transportation for furniture removal.

4. Provide money to each family involved to defray the cost of the higher rent incurred, for a period of three months.

5. Buy tents and rent trailers to house them temporarily until other permanent facilities can be obtained.

6. Buy good used furniture for those in need of it.

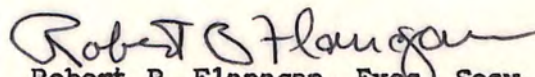
7. Find out how many of these people can be temporarily housed on military installations.

There are many more details that will have to be worked out, however, the above is the basic plan.

Wishing you and Mrs. Allen a very Merry Christmas and a New Year of Prosperity.

I am

Sincerely your friend,

  
Robert B. Flanagan, Exec. Secy.  
Atlanta Branch NAACP

RBF:cab

November 17, 1967

Mr. Robert B. Flanagan  
Executive Secretary  
Atlanta Branch, NAACP  
859-1/2 Hunter Street, N. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Flanagan:

Mr. Sterrs Johnson has been in and out of contention for a number of years. In reply to several telegrams, I have offered to refer this matter to the City Job Opportunity Committee or the Community Relations Commission, and have the matter completely investigated again.

There is no reluctance on the part of the City to continue to investigate such matters even though they are repetitious.

Sincerely,

Ivan Allen, Jr.

IAJr:am

bc: General Woodward



DR. ALBERT M. DAVIS  
PRESIDENT

MRS. EUNICE COOPER  
SECRETARY

DR. C. MILES SMITH  
TREASURER

ATLANTA BRANCH

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

859-1/2 HUNTER STREET, N. W. SUITE 105 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314 524-8054

November 16, 1967

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.  
Office of the Mayor  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303


Dear Mayor Allen:

For several years now Mr. Sterrs Johnson an Ex-Air Force Veteran has been trying to continue to serve his country in a civilian capacity. In this connection, he has been given numerous reasons why he cannot serve as an instructor on the Atlanta Metropolitan Area of Civil Defense Staff. After reviewing his records, it appears that he would be an asset to this defense organization.

He has completed many courses of instruction in Disaster Control conducted by the Air Force as well as civilian institutions. In addition, he has also successfully completed the Disaster Control Instructor Course conducted at Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado.

Mr. Johnson informed me that he has discussed his plight with you personally and I hope you are looking into this matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Robert B. Flanagan, Exec. Secy.  
Atlanta Branch NAACP

RBF: cab



September 22, 1967

Mr. Robert Flanagan  
Executive Secretary  
NAACP  
859-1/2 Hunter Street, N. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Flanagan:

Congratulations on your appointment as Executive Secretary of the Atlanta Branch of the NAACP.

I am certain that you will render able service to the future development of this national organization.

Undoubtedly, there are many problems in a growing cities that should be settled across the conference table by representatives of civic organizations furnishing citizen leadership.

I would like very much to have the opportunity to meet you at an early date and sincerely hope that you will call on me for any information that I may furnish.

Sincerely,

Ivan Allen, Jr.

IAJr:am

LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE NAACP

Dr. Albert M. Davis, President  
592 Waterford Road, N. W.  
522-0791, Bus. 794-7824, Res.

Rev. Amos O. Holmes, Vice President  
706 Center Hill Ave., N. W.  
525-5582

Mrs. Reba T. Greenwood, 2nd V. P.  
1278 Fair Street, SW  
758-4159

Mr. W. M. Shipp, 3rd V. P.  
420 Tazor Street, N. W.  
522-6865

Mrs. Eunice Cooper, Secretary  
248 Chicamauga Ave., S. W.  
753-6859

Mrs. Peggy Church, Asst. Secretary  
1030 Washington Heights Terrace, N. W.  
522-5175

Dr. C. Miles Smith, Treasurer  
239 West Lake Ave., N. W.  
794-1266, Bus. or 755-0227



PRESS RELEASE

March 31, 1967  
Dr. A. M. Davis, President  
Atlanta Branch of the NAACP  
522-0791 or 524-8054

We are presently faced with the need to publicly express our problems to the vast populus of Atlanta. We have tried previously to iron out our diffixulties with letters and other approaches, but to no avail. We refer specifically to the urgent pressing problems relative to public housing location and our efforts to settle some of these problems with the Mayor, the Atlanta Housing Authority and the Housing Resources Committee.

Atlanta now has 9,394 public housing units (Completed and under construction). Of this number, the geographic location is as follows:

Northwest - <sup>4,392</sup> 4,902	(43.56%)
Southwest - 3,681	(39.18%)
Southeast - 1,621	(17.26%)
Northeast -	----
<hr/>	
9,394	100%

This reveals that nearly 83 percent of all of the public housing is located on the westside of Atlanta while there are none in existence in the Northeast section. This example of racial segregation is indeed appalling!

This, of course, is not as demoralizing (as bad as it is) as the new information we have received. There is a new project under consideration in the Skipper Drive, Harwell Road-Bankhead Avenue area which will further saturate the already saturated area.



In addition to this, there are other project sites under consideration which will include the same geographic area.

The NAACP has sponsored 2 Housing conferences trying very eagerly to aid in the disposition of numerous problems relative to the housing program. At the first conference we invited the Mayor, Cecil Alexander of the Housing Resources Committee and representatives from the Atlanta Housing Authority as well as members of the Federal Housing Administration. The FHA representatives responded as called. Malcolm Jones, representing the Housing Resources Committee came and helped where he could but was unable to really answer for the Mayor or the Housing Authority.

Our second conference repeated our attempt to get answers to our questions as well as interpret the attitudes and thinking of the Negro population. Again, we were unsuccessful in getting "in-person" representation.

We, in a "last resort attempt", wrote the Mayor a letter (Sent copies to Housing Authority and other associated agencies) informing him of our position and made a desperate plea for a conference with him so we could better interpret these attitudes. We wrote the letter on March 21st and as of this date, March 31st, we have not been provided the courtesy of a reply.

The Negro citizens are impatient to this "slow-to-respond" action and when turbulence transpires every one wonders why.



Atlanta cannot continue perpetuating the existence of ghettos. Congestion prevents revitalization. The housing market must be fully open; with an ample supply of low-cost housing available throughout the city. Millions of Americans have been trapped in the "seamless web" of past and present discrimination.

We all must recognize, Mayor and all other officials, that the ghetto system itself is the root evil which inevitably denies basic freedom and results in physical, social and psychological damage to the entire society. Dispersing is essential if eradication of the ghetto is to be a reality.

The "racial strife" of last summer has been attributed to the influence of Stokely Carmichael. If any disturbances occur as a result of disproportionate location of these public housing units then we'll have to attribute this to the impervious attitude of Mayor Allen.

The NAACP will probably be branded as "irresponsible" now just as all other Groups are "branded" when they dramatize the serious problems prevailing in our community. We can accept the branding if need be for we feel our obligation is to the <sup>Negro</sup> Negro people.

Our purpose and aim states:

- 1) To improve the political, educational, social and economic status of minority groups.
- 2) To eliminate racial prejudice and
- 3) To keep the public aware of the adverse effects of racial discrimination.



We must and will insist that the Federal government assume its responsibility in insuring that the local housing authority and all urban renewal agencies stop using public funds to entrench and extend segregation.

Rev. Amos O. Holmes

As a result of our concern over these serious problems, we are requesting Mr. Weaver, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to withhold all funds to public housing and Urban Renewal Programs until all discriminatory practices are eliminated and a balanced dispersion of public housing units are accomplished. Further, we are requesting the Secretary to withhold funds of the Model Cities Program until Atlanta officially adopts an "open occupancy" ordinance.

We consider city-wide planning important in the dissolution of many problems in housing, school sites and the prevention of "sophisticated ghettos.": Adequate planning must include citizens participation by law, and voter approval of any proposed plans.

Therefore, we are demanding ordinances which will structure the kind of planning that will meet the approval of the majority of citizens in this city.

File NAACP

ATLANTA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

POST OFFICE BOX 897

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30301

SPECIAL DELIVERY

April 4, 1967

JESSE HILL, JR.  
ACTUARY



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

Dear Mayor Allen:

This letter is written as directed by a special conference today of Summit co-chairmen. The Saturday morning issue of the Atlanta Constitution, April 1, 1967 carries the attached article by Alex Coffin. Included in the article are references to an apparent interview with you, listing the home address of Dr. A. M. Davis and remarks attributed to you as follows: Davis lives at 592 Waterford Drive NW, which connects with Skipper Drive. "That might influence his position," the mayor said.

Mayor Allen consider the reference an intolerable personal "dig" or "slur" against a dedicated and unselfish leader in our community and an insult to the Negro community. Dr. Davis is the president of the Atlanta Branch NAACP. The actions and pronouncements made by Dr. Davis regarding discriminatory housing in Atlanta were developed over a month ago at all day conferences long before Dr. Davis had knowledge of the proposed Skipper Drive-Harwell Road area as a possible site. If you were quoted accurately and in the correct context, we feel that you have cast an unfair aspersion against Dr. Davis and we take exception to this "bad taste" comment. We request that you apologize to Dr. Davis. Very, very few of the busy professionals in our community are willing to offer the service and leadership given by Dr. Davis. In addition the NAACP, our oldest strongest and most serviceable civil rights organization over the years, is one of the major sponsors and member of the Atlanta Summit Leadership Conference coalition.



Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Page 2  
April 4, 1967

The issue referred to is not where Dr. Davis lives, but the over saturation of the predominately Negro residential areas with public housing projects, which means continued over crowding of schools, thus forcing Negro children on double and triple sessions and built in school segregation in the future. The city of Atlanta must face up to providing housing for "human beings" and not housing for Negroes, and housing for whites as is the case now.

The Summit Conference supports the Housing Program of the NAACP. We hope that our relations with you, the fine leadership you have given our city and the cooperation you have given our community will not be damaged at this time.

We cannot over emphasize that Dr. Davis did not act as an individual, he is the elected leader of largest paid membership civil rights or civic organization in Atlanta, and we insist that he is respected accordingly. He is acting with a mandate of citizens and leaders.

Very truly yours,  
THE ATLANTA SUMMIT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Jesse Hill, Jr., Co-Chairman  
Ald. Q. V. Williamson, Co-Chairman  
Rev. S. W. Williams, Co-Chairman

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April 3, 1967

Dr. Albert M. Davis  
President  
Atlanta Branch  
NAACP  
859-1/2 Hunter Street, N. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Davis:

I regret to note that the newspapers quote you as having said that you had not received my letter of March 23rd which was mailed the same day in reply to your letter of March 21st.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter, and, again, urge you to get all of the facts. Again, I offer to see you whenever you wish to see me.

Sincerely,

Ivan Allen, Jr.  
Mayor

IAJr:am  
Enclosure



March 23, 1967

*Handwritten initials: "A. J. J."*

Dr. Albert M. Davis  
President  
Atlanta Branch  
NAACP  
859-1/2 Hunter Street, N. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Davis:

May I acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 21st, and assure you that I will be glad to discuss housing matters at any time with any group of responsible citizens.

However, before we start discussing individual projects, I think it would be best for you to obtain some information regarding the great number of sites that are being considered all over Atlanta for public housing and Turn-key units.

Colonel Malcome Jones is available to furnish you such information, as well as the Atlanta Housing Authority. After you have received full information, I will be glad to discuss it further.

Sincerely,

Ivan Allen, Jr.  
Mayor

IAJr:am

cc: Col. Malcome Jones  
Mr. M. B. Satterfield

DR. ALBERT M. DAVIS  
PRESIDENT

MRS. EUNICE COOPER  
SECRETARY

DR. C. MILES SMITH  
TREASURER

ATLANTA BRANCH

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

859-1/2 HUNTER STREET, N. W. SUITE 105

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

524-8054

March 21, 1967

Mayor Ivan Allen  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Allen:

The NAACP, again, congratulates you on the vast housing program and tremendous urban planning you have proposed for the city of Atlanta. These projects will enhance the status of our great metropolis.

On the other hand, we criticize you on your failure to, effectively, permit the citizens to participate in the planning of these programs. As a result, some serious mistakes have transpired which can create some unnecessary turbulence; one of which is potential over-crowdiness.

It has come to our attention that one of the sites now under consideration for proposed construction of public houses is in the Harwell Road-Skipper Drive-Bankhead area. Mr. Allen, we strongly oppose this due to the fact that the Northwest-Southwest area is already saturated with public housing and additional housing projects will only increase the density and decrease the morale and comfort of our people.

The Atlanta Housing Authority seems to have overlooked public housing location statistics and ignored the feelings and attitudes of Negroes who now live and will live in a crowded environment. Statistics reveal that of the 9404 public housing units existing 82.76% are in the Northwest-Southwest area while none are existent in the Northeast area. This imbalance in its most obvious and deplorable form. It seems logical that some local remedies to this problem should be exercised rather than augment this segregated concentration.

Mr. Allen, we recommend and insist that the Atlanta Housing Authority consider a more balanced dispersion of additional housing projects. Atlanta cannot and must not jeopardize its good reputation by establishing additional ghettos or perpetuating segregation in its housing patterns.

In order to assure comfort of our citizens and tranquility of our city and in the best interest of you, the Atlanta Housing Authority and our citizens, we urgently request an immediate audience with you in order





to Mayor Allen  
page 2.....

to share some ideas and opinions. We would, also, hope that you can encourage the presence of Mr. Alexander of the Housing Resources Committee as well as Mr. Stearne and Mr. Satterfield from the Housing Authority.

There are some potential problems that can be alleviated before construction takes place on the above mentioned site as well as other proposed sites of which we are aware, if you can arrange to see us within the next day or so. We are prepared to meet you at your convenience.

We realize you are busy but because this is so important we hope you share our urgency of the need to listen and learn what our people are thinking so this conflict can be promptly settled..

Sincerely,



(Dr.) A. M. Davis

D:c  
cc: Alexander  
Stearne  
Satterfield  
Edward Baxter  
A. R. Hanson

IVAN. . . .

The NAACP has just issued this release. . . particularly  
note the last page.

The WSB boys were in and wanted your reaction. . . .

I told them you wouldn't be in probably all afternoon. . . .

I am sure they will be back.



April 11, 1967

Dear Ivan:  
Why not put me of  
these negro projects next to  
Rustin M. S. M., me next to Gene  
Patterson, me next to Aunt Gemina  
Sibley and me next to Bruce  
Dolphin? We could hear Sibley,  
M. S. M. + Patterson back all the  
way to Metairie.

J. S. Johnston

# 3 Negro Leaders Ask Allen for an Apology

The Atlanta Summit Leadership Conference (ASLC) has called for Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. to apologize for a "slur" against the president of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The Rev. Sam Williams, Jesse Hill Jr. and Ald. Q. V. Williamson, co-chairman of ASLC, were referring to remarks by the mayor about Dr. A. M. Davis, local NAACP leader.

Davis wrote the mayor for a meeting on the public housing situation here and later issued a statement that he had not "received the courtesy of a reply." Davis went on to say that he had asked the federal government to cut off funds for local housing and urban renewal programs because of discrimination.

Davis specifically mentioned a proposal for a housing unit in the Skipper Drive-Harwell Road-Bankhead Drive area which he said would further saturate the already saturated area."

When it was pointed out that Davis lives in that neighborhood, the mayor said, "I wonder if that might influence his position." It was that remark that drew the ire of the three Negro leaders.

Allen said that he had written Davis and said he (Allen) would be glad to talk with the NAACP leader, but suggested Davis first familiarize himself with the current public housing situation.

Allen said that the city is looking for possible low-income housing sites all over the city, but that most of the vacant and available land is in the west and southeast. He encouraged the NAACP and other such organizations to find sites and develop them under such federal programs as "221-d(3)."

As to the latest ASL charge, the mayor had no comment.

NOTICES



# NAACP Here Asks Housing Fund Halt

By ALEX COFFIN

The local unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asked the federal government Friday to cut off funds for Atlanta housing and urban renewal projects until "discriminatory practices" are ceased.

The NAACP also called on the city to adopt an "open occupancy" ordinance.

The NAACP charged that if racial strife because of "disproportionate location of these public housing units" erupts this summer, it will be because of the "impervious attitude of Mayor Ivan Allen Jr.

The association said that it asked Allen for a conference on March 21 and hasn't had a reply.

Allen produced a carbon copy of a letter, dated March 23, in answer to the NAACP request, which was sent by Dr. A. M. Davis, president of the local NAACP branch.

Allen's letter said he would be glad to meet with Davis, but suggested the NAACP leader should first get additional information on the local public housing plans.

"The invitation still stands," Allen said Friday.

Davis said Friday afternoon he has not gotten the letter.

The NAACP said that 83 per cent of Atlanta's public housing is on the west side of the city and none is in the northeast.

"This example of racial segregation is indeed appalling," the association said.

Allen did not attend two NAACP-sponsored housing conferences, to which he was invited, the charges said.

The NAACP asked Dr. Robert Weaver, secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to cut off funds to Atlanta for public housing, urban renewal and the new Model Cities Program until policies "to entrench and extend segregation" are ended.

The NAACP charged that a project under consideration in the Skipper Drive-Harwell Road-Bankhead Avenue NW area would "further saturate the already saturated area."

Davis lives at 592 Waterford Drive NW, which connects with

Skipper Drive. "That might influence his position," the mayor said.

Allen said that the NAACP by contacting HUD "before becoming conversant with all locations" being investigated might "jeopardize additional low-income units here. I hope they (the NAACP) are not going to obstruct the city's efforts," he said.

Allen admitted the public housing began on a segregated basis and that no units are in the northeast area, but added that "major strides" are being made and that some 80 acres throughout the city are potential sites for low-income housing.

# SPECIAL DELIVERY



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





ATLANTA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

POST OFFICE BOX 897

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30301

