

CITY OF ATLANTA



October 31, 1969

CITY HALL ATLANTA, GA. 30303

Tel. 522-4463 Area Code 404

IVAN ALLEN, JR., MAYOR

CECIL A. ALEXANDER, Chairman
Housing Resources Committee
MALCOLM D. JONES
Housing Coordinator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Dan E. Sweat, Jr.
Chief Administrative Officer

Please see attached copy (Encl. 1) of letter to Planning Director, dated September 25, 1969, (which is self explanatory) requesting assistance in providing material for inclusion in next revision of the Status Report on Atlanta's Low and Moderate Income Housing program.

Also see attached copy of reply from the Planning Director, dated October 9, 1969, (Encl. 2).

Note that the reply from the Planning Director proposes certain studies related to housing to be initiated by the Planning Department. The desirability of these studies is not questioned. However he calls upon me for assistance in preparation of the studies, but does not agree to provide any of the information requested for the Housing Resources Committee for updating the Low and Moderate Income Housing Status Report.

About two years ago, when I first requested a Statistical Clerk to keep up the Housing Status Report, I was informed by the Administrative Assistant that a new position of Planner for housing had just been authorized the Planning Department and that therefore the Housing Resources Committee should obtain any needed research and statistical data from the Planning Department.

Consequently, I called upon the Planning Department then for similar information to that again requested in the attached letter (two years later). As yet none of the information requested has been provided.

I do not consider this deliberate, or unwillingness to cooperate, but rather a natural consequence of another Department being so overworked and preoccupied with numerous details on too many matters, to provide attention and detailed information to another office, for which that Department is not directly responsible. I predict that the situation will not improve materially.

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The information requested for HRC is essential to meaningful revisions of the Housing Status Report. In order for the City and its officials to have any concept of progress being made in the Low and Moderate Income Housing program, it is essential that a Housing Status report be maintained and constantly revised by someone. No office in the City, other than the Housing Resources Committee, currently has this information.

On the other hand, it is physically impossible for me (alone) to obtain the information needed, affect the appropriate updating of the report and at the same time accomplish other essential coordinating and administrative duties for which I am responsible. This is why, for over two years now, I have repeatedly requested assistance of a Statistical Clerk in this field.

Mr. W. W. Gates, who as FHA oriented Housing Consultant to HRC one day per week, was very helpful. However, after working for over a year with no pay, he has discontinued serving.

In the absence of other assistance, last summer I requested and obtained the services of an Urban Corps Intern, primarily to work on updating the Housing Status Report. However, he was more interested in changing the system than in obtaining the needed information. Consequently, much essential information pertaining to respective housing projects, such as bedroom composition, monthly rentals or purchase payments, utility costs and estimated time of completion of many projects has not yet been obtained.

An additional effort this fall to obtain another Urban Corps Intern to assist in this field has not been successful.

When I was initially approached by the Administrative Assistant with view to taking over the functions of Executive Director of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal, in addition to my other duties, I was informed that I would get an assistant. Last July, during Mr. Landers' last month of duty, he reiterated that he planned to provide me with an assistant who, could not only be charged with monitoring and revising the constantly changing Status Report on Low and Moderate Income Housing, but who would also be capable of assisting in coordinating other housing matters, such as promoting housing with builders, representing me in conferences and even on occasions, possibly conducting meetings on housing matters.

Recent difficulties in adoption of a satisfactory workable Housing Code Enforcement Plan, preparation of the Breakthrough application, housing in Model Cities and proposed housing improvements in other NDP areas, appears to justify additional coordinating efforts in the housing field. In addition, such assistant should be capable and trained to take over my duties as Administrative Coordinator for Housing when I retire.

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Consequently, I recommend that provision be made in the 1970 Budget for an assistant.

Respectfully,



Malcolm D. Jones
Administrative Coordinator for Housing

MDJ/mc

Encls: Copy letter dated Sept. 25, 1969
Copy reply dated October 9, 1969

cc: Mr. Cecil A. Alexander
Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.