

Bldg

May 9, 1969

Mr. John T. Edmunds  
Assistant Regional Administrator for  
Renewal Assistance  
645 Peachtree-Seventh Building  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Edmunds:

RE: Georgia Demolition Grant

Recent events have led us to believe that a brief summary of our progress in the Demolition Grant Program would be in order.

This program, as first envisioned, provided for an estimate of 157 buildings to be razed under the Grant. No provision or allowance was made for owner demolitions. Under the amended and expanded Grant, this total was increased to an estimated 282 structures. The Grant fund was not increased.

Through April 30, 1969, a cumulative total of 194 structures have been removed. The actual funds spent are still running far below the initial estimate because, of the 194 demolitions, 141 have been demolished by the owners, only 53 under contract. Under existing law, the owner has the privilege to demolish himself if he so chooses.

In addition to the above, we have an estimated 50-case workload of active cases. We should add some 30 more during the remaining course of the program. It thus appears that the program will be 100% successful in its mission, i.e. to remove the undesirable buildings in the Grant area.

To get a completely rounded picture of the situation, it is also necessary to take into account the properties which the owners have chosen to repair, inadvisedly perhaps. Nevertheless, under law, the owners do have the right to rehabilitate if they so choose. We estimate that some 65 of our case structures have been repaired in the area during the life of the program to date. These would have to be deleted from our total as reported. There will probably be some 15 to 20 more repaired by the end of the Grant program.



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To summarize:

Total estimated to be demolished		282
Actually demolished, April 30	194	
Active cases	50	
To be added	30	
Repaired (est.)	<u>65</u>	
Total	339	
Overage	57	

In view of the above figures, we feel that the Program will be successfully concluded. It is also felt that as general policy in our overall City program, including the Demolition Grant Program, it is always desirable to gain the voluntary compliance of the owners, if possible. This creates a better public image, aids in Public Relations, and reduces the number of possible lawsuits both as to the demolitions and as to any damages that might occur to person or property.

We hope the above will present a more helpful and clearer picture of what we have and expect to accomplish. We are always most happy to cooperate with your office and greatly appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely yours,



W. R. Wofford  
Building Official

WRW: jb