

J. M. W.

June 7, 1967

The Honorable John J. Sparkman
The Honorable Wright Patman
The Honorable William A. Barrett

Gentlemen:

This letter is to call to your attention my serious concern with a problem facing the enforcement of housing codes in Atlanta and I am certain in all the nation's cities.

In accordance with the emphasis placed on housing code enforcement sought by Secretary Weaver and our own desires, we have moved ahead vigorously with the housing code provisions in Atlanta. As you know, in those areas where an urban renewal project or a code enforcement concentration area exists, home owners in need may qualify for grants and low interest loans.

However, there are many areas of Atlanta where we seek to prevent further deterioration by code enforcement that are as yet not covered by either of the above programs. Home owners in these areas are without recourse and are in the unhappy situation of having their homes condemned unless they can produce the necessary funds.

It seems to me that these persons are entitled to relief. In effect they are in an area covered by U. S. Government action since the required workable program covers the entire city. They should not be unduly penalized. To continue to do so creates an unfair situation which will undermine the entire effort of cities to enforce their codes.

I, therefore, suggest that action be taken to alleviate this situation. We suggest two possible courses.

1. As a minimum approach the F. H. A. should ease up on their requirements under 203K and make loans under this program easily available for financially deprived persons who are subjected to code enforcement expenditures.

2. Much more could be accomplished if the benefits of the \$1500 grants and the 3% loan were extended to all persons without resources who

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are faced with rehabilitation requirements under code enforcement. As stated above the Workable Program is, in effect, a Federal requirement for the entire city. It seems possible that the law allowing grants and loans could be extended to cover all citizens under a workable program.

I would appreciate your giving this problem your most earnest consideration.

Sincerely,

Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Richard J. Daley, Mayor
Chicago, Illinois
The Honorable Jerome P. Cavanaugh, Mayor
Detroit, Michigan
The Honorable John V. Lindsay, Mayor
New York, New York
The Honorable John B. Collins, Mayor
Boston, Massachusetts
Mr. John Gunther, Executive Director
U. S. Conference of Mayors
Mr. Patrick Healey, Executive Director
National League of Cities