

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Members of the Human Relations Committee met at City Hall on Friday, September 9, 1966, at 2:30 p. m. with the following members present:

Alderman Milton Farris
Mr. Charles Hart
Vice Mayor Sam Massell, Jr., Acting Chairman
Alderman G. Everett Millican
Mrs. Eliza Paschall
Mrs. Dorothy Bolder Thompson
Rev. Samuel Williams

Mr. Dan E. Sweat, Director of Governmental Liaison for the City of Atlanta, was also present.

The meeting was called for the purpose of organization of the committee. However, due to the fact that a quorum was not present, it was agreed to postpone this for a future meeting. The group then discussed the role of the committee and possible activities and programs to be accomplished.

Some of the suggested programs or improvements included:

- (1) Alderman Farris suggested an ordinance by the Board of Aldermen prohibiting building of houses on unpaved streets.
- (2) The group discussed a demonstration project whereby a small area (perhaps a city block) in the disadvantaged neighborhoods could be completely cleared and inexpensive but substantial single family dwellings built back as rental property or as purchase

property. As one area is completed the program would then move to another area rather than taking in the large sections as under the present urban renewal programs.

(3) Mr. Massell suggested that a listing of problems and a schedule of priority of needs be compiled and suggested the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association for Inter-Group Relations Officials be contacted to obtain their recommendations.

(4) The group discussed the value of a survey of the residents of the disadvantaged areas to determine what they feel are their greatest needs and problems. There were many suggestions as to how to conduct such a survey including:

- a) A professional survey
- b) A survey carried out by amateurs (such as the EOA Neighborhood Aides) as the people might discuss their problems more freely with this group than with professional persons
- c) Community meetings with members of the Board of Aldermen

(5) It was suggested that a fulltime staff and budget be recommended as part of a permanent Human Relations Commission. It was agreed that the City should have one person responsible for all needs and activity in this field. The people of these communities

would then know where to go with their problems and have confidence that their needs will be handled by this office.

Since most of the discussion centered around the problems of housing, it was suggested that Federal authorities from the Department of Housing and Urban Development be asked to attend the next meeting to explain their programs and the services this department can render in solving this problem.

Mrs. Paschall agreed to review the material and information obtained from the U. S. Conference of Mayors and the Civil Rights Commission on the Human Relations Commissions of other cities and prepare a brief summary for the members of the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p. m. with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 1966, at 2:30 p. m.