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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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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.

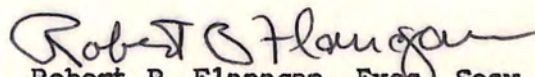
7. Find out how many of these people can be temporarily housed on military installations.

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