



# SHEPARD

Decorating company

16 YONGE ST. S. E., ATLANTA, GA. 30312

(404) 525-8441



*File*

April 14, 1969

*Discussed with  
Bill Knight. 4/21/69*

Chief J. F. Seagraves  
Fire Marshall  
46 Courtland Street S. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Chief Seagraves:

We at Shepards do hereby request equal and fair treatment under the "City of Atlanta Fire Code."

"To wit" the Atlanta Fire Department has since 1963 required our Company to use flameproofed material in all our decorations. This means that we had to take the following steps:

1. Stop using cloth purchased from local tax paying merchants. We now purchase all our cloth from New York City merchants.
2. We had to throw away over \$6,000 worth of overhead drapes used at the Southeastern Fair and other locations because it was not flameproofed.
3. All of our table covers had to be torn up and used as rags. This item cost my Company over \$5,000 annually due to the Dental Shows and other large table shows.
4. All of our plastic plants had to be junked and live plants used on our shows. However the "Home Show" can still use such plants. Hotels still use non-flameproof plants.

On the other hand the following items have been reported with no action taken.

1. Aaron Rents was reported on three (3) separate occasions for not using flameproofed cloth.
  - A. G.E.A. - March 1967
  - B. Mart Gift Show - January 1969
  - C. Shoe Show - April 10, 1969

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Chief J. F. Seagraves  
Fire Marshall



On the last show eleven (11) exits were found blocked and the floor plan was not approved. However Aaron was allowed to continue using non-flameproof cloth. This is in violation of the City Fire Code.

Aaron does not get their floor plans approved as required

2. That the Atlanta Merchandise Mart exhibit floor does not meet the minimum requirements for aisles and fire exits as set forth by your department.
3. That the 1968 and 1969 Camping Show and Boat Show has less cross aisles and smaller than required on other shows, even though these shows have a larger public attendance than other shows.
4. The Southeastern Hospital Association requested that we submit a floor plan showing a larger number of booths in the Marriott exhibit hall than would meet the standards set forth by your office. Our competitor meet their requirements and had 6 foot and 7 foot aisles. When we pointed out to your office that the floor was not layed out as per your approved plan no action was taken.

We could site case after case of non compliance with the Atlanta Fire Code as you have explained it to our Company. Your ruling against non-flameproof cloth alone has cost our Company better than \$10,000 plus per year.

We do hereby request the following:

1. That the Fire Code either be enforced equally or forgotten.
2. That one man, other than yourself, be charged with the responsibility of inspecting each show. No matter when the show is held. This this man by charged with the following duties.
  - A. That all exits are clear and open.
  - B. That no fire hazard is present.
  - C. That all City of Atlanta Codes are met.
  - D. That the floor plan is approved before the show opens.
  - E. That no set working hours are kept. He should be present on a show be it night, Saturday or Sunday.

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Convention Service Contractors

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Chief J. F. Seagraves  
Fire Marshall

We have moved our City into the big league convention arena. Lets not tarnish our image by ill-defined and/or hap-hazard enforcement of our fire code.

In closing I wish to commend you Chief Seagraves and your department in the outstanding job you have done in fire prevention. My complaints are not directed at you or your men. I just feel that enforcement has been almost an honor system.

We need someone who is not bogged down with other fire prevention duties to oversee the convention industry. We do not want another Winecoff or McCormick fire in Atlanta.

I will await your reply, I remain

Sincerely yours,

C. J. Lynch, lll

CJL/raw

P.S. I have taken the liberty of writing you as you once said you have to act on all written request.

- cc: Mayor Ivan Allen ✓
- cc: Chief P. O. Williams
- cc: Mr. Bill Knight - City Councilman
- cc: Mr. Jim Hurst - Convention Bureau

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