

Mr. Sweet.

July 23, 1968

Mr. C. P. Bedford, Jr.
Program Manager
Kaiser Engineers
Kaiser Center, 300 Lakeside Drive
Oakland, California 94604

Dear Mr. Bedford:

Thank you for your letter of July 17, 1968, pertaining to the Experimental Housing program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which was delivered to me yesterday personally by Mr. G. M. Abraham, Project Engineer.

The City of Atlanta is very much interested in the Experimental Housing program in that we are committed to probably the most extensive low-income housing program in the Southeast and are currently very active in implimenting it. We certainly hope to be included as one of the cities recommended for participation in the program.

With respect to the criteria which you are using in your evaluation of cities as potential locations for experimental Housing, I will comment briefly on each point, in the order listed in your letter.

1. Atlanta, probably more than any other city in the Southeast, attracts many workers in the low and moderate income brackets. Hence, our need for low-income housing is great.
2. Housing is considered our Number one priority and our entire city is committed to providing adequately for it. We have a very active Housing Resources Committee, composed of prominent business and civic leaders, sponsoring the overall program. Included in its membership are leaders of both labor and industry. This Committee also sponsors a monthly coordinating group meeting with the heads of Departments and Agencies involved with low-income housing.
3. In our application for Model Cities we went on record as to our willingness to make appropriate adjustments in our Codes and Zoning to permit innovations in techniques and materials in housing.

July 23, 1968

Page 2

4. We understand that in order to meet program schedule requirements, it will be necessary for construction sites to be available by March 1, 1969. We feel confident that this requirement can be met, through advanced land acquisition (subject to approval from HUD), in our Model Cities Area. We are positive that suitable sites outside of our Model Cities Area can be available at that time.

As to constraints cited in your letter, which may require relief:

a. Atlanta has a good reputation for reasonable cooperation of organized labor in the use of indigenous labor and easing of work rules. We do not anticipate any major difficulty in this field.

b. The labor force in Atlanta is about 50% Union and 50% Non-Union. Reasonable cooperation may be expected in the application of new technical ideas, particularly in our Model Cities Area, where we are prepared to waive certain aspects of our existing technical codes to permit experimental innovations in techniques and materials.

c. We have a Board of Adjustments for considering zoning variances; also Technical Advisory Boards for considering changes and or variances in the construction technical codes. We anticipate their willingness to cooperate fully, where health and safety will not be affected.

d. We are already well advanced in the overall housing program and several substantial non-profit organizations are available for sponsoring major projects in the housing program. Financing is available through local banks, mortgage bankers and insurance companies, several of which are already quite active in this field. Necessary seed money is available through the recently organized, Atlanta Housing Development Corporation, with a committed initial operating capital of approximately \$500,000.00.

With respect to the letter of commitment requested by HUD in regard to site availability, suitability of the proposed experiments and cooperation in relief of constraints, I wish to advise that sites are available within the City Limits (and we anticipate can be made available in the Model Cities Area) and I pledge my personal support in relief of constraints where reasonable and desirable in carrying out the Experimental Housing program.

Mr. C. P. Bedford, Jr.

July 23, 1968

Page 3

Should you desire additional information, pertaining to Atlanta and our low and moderate income housing program, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mayor

IVJr/mc

cc: Mr. G. M. Abraham
Mr. Edward H. Baxter
Regional Administrator, III Region, HUD