

CITY OF ATLANTA



June 27, 1969

CITY HALL ATLANTA, GA. 30303

Tel. 522-4463 Area Code 404

IVAN ALLEN, JR., MAYOR

CECIL A. ALEXANDER, Chairman
Housing Resources Committee
MALCOLM D. JONES
Housing Coordinator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. R. Earl Landers
Administrative Assistant

On June 23, at request of Jim Parham, I attended a meeting in his office with representatives of J. P. Stephens and Company.

Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

1. J. P. Stephens and Company expressed willingness to cooperate fully with EOA, City of Atlanta or any other agency in resolving the housing delima created by the Company's closing the Exposition Cotton Mills and selling the property for redevelopment.

2. The Company denied lack of information to its people and non-cooperative spirit in dealing with or answering queries of local agencies.

3. 2,700 jobs from other firms were offered to the affected employees after announcement was made of closing the Exposition Cotton Mills. Some of these were accepted.

4. September 1, is the one and only date announced by the Company as to when it would like for all of the houses to be vacated.

5. The Company is still shooting for this date, but does not preclude alternatives if justified.

6. There are still 177 families occupying Company homes in the area.

7. The Company anticipates that a sizeable number of these will vacate during the 4th of July week-end.

8. It was agreed by all concerned that there will probably be a residual group (which could be substantial) of families which will not move on their own initiative, for various reasons, some of which may be legitimate and some may not. This is the group that both EOA and the Company are concerned about and which could become a problem for the City.

9. It was apparent that no organization or Agency of or in the City is currently geared to take on the responsibility of assisting this group, since they are not being displaced by Governmental Action; and the City has no agency to provide relocation assistance in such situations. Solution was sought without much progress and appeared to be a stalemate.

10. I then proposed and so recommend the following, which was enthusiastically received by all participants at the Conference.

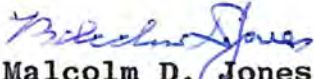
- a. Effective July 15 through August, the Company provide without cost a room(s) on the premises to be set up as a relocation assistance office. This office to be staffed by:
 1. A Company Representative
 2. EOA Representative(s)
 3. Housing Authority Representative(s)
(Relocation Worker(s))
 4. FHA foreclosure homes office be requested to have informational material at this office and a partime representative.
- b. All remaining families be informed (perhaps by circular) of the existance of this Relocation Assistance Office and encouraged to register their family composition, ages and sexes, amount the family is able or willing to pay, whether rental or purchase housing is desired and preference as to locations.
- c. The staff to record this information and then actively attempt to relocate these families in whatever type of housing that may be available, particularly by private development.
- d. If some families are unable to pay advance rents, make utility deposits and or hire drayage to move, that the staff attempt to get necessary assistance through any source that may be available, including welfare and charitable organizations and that moving of household goods locally if necessary be done by City owned trucks and Prison labor detail (as was done once before in vacating a condemned-flooded-portion of Buttermilk Bottoms).

11. It was felt that the Housing Authority could justify its participation in this venture on the theory that it would be checking out these families which might be able to qualify for Public Housing, but if this could not be done legally that the City of Atlanta contract with the Housing Authority in a nominal amount (perhaps \$1,000 only) to perform this service, in order to make it legal. I would suggest that the Housing Authority, the Agency most experienced in Relocation, be placed in charge of this emergency operation. Both EOA and the Company agreed to participate in such a project.

12. Unless something of this nature is done timely, I anticipate that at the last minute the City may become embarrassed and criticized for not having foreseen the difficulty and done something about it.

13. I recommend that procedure, substantially as indicated above, be effected commencing July 15 and continued until all of the families have been satisfactorily relocated.

Sincerely,


Malcolm D. Jones
Housing Coordinator

MDJ/mc