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ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY, INC.

153 PRYOR STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
March 6th, 1969

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Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.,
Mayor, The City of Atlanta
City Hall, 68 Mitchell Street, S. W.,
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Allen:

As you may know, our client TUFF and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference jointly sponsored a mass meeting at the Carver Homes Community Center on March 4th to protest the policies of the Atlanta Housing Authority. Approximately 750 people attended the meeting, and I think I am safe in saying that every single one of these people had a specific complaint against the Atlanta Housing Authority.

Seven weeks ago, on January 16th, TUFF presented to the Board of the Atlanta Housing Authority a "Tenants' Bill of Rights" which, if adopted, would go far towards alleviating many of the tenants' complaints. (The Bill of Rights has been endorsed by such diverse groups as Good Government Atlanta and Metropolitan Atlanta Summit Leadership Conference.) From January 16th to today we have had no response from the housing authority on the subject of that Bill of Rights; and judging by Mr. Attridge's irresponsible denigration of a lawsuit recently filed by this office against the Atlanta Housing Authority as "harrassment", and Mr. Satterfield's recent attempt to block Legal Aid's funding, we would be foolish to expect voluntary action from the Atlanta Housing Authority on this or on any other matter designed to benefit tenants.

The refusal of the Atlanta Housing Authority to respond to the legitimate demands of tenants can only harm our city, for as you will see from the enclosed copy of Dr. Abernathy's remarks last night, the tenants are beginning to escalate their demands.

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If we continue along the present road the Atlanta Housing Authority and TUFF will find themselves on a collision course.

When TUFF first demonstrated early in November at the Marriott Hotel, you offered to use your good offices to help the tenants with their problems. On other occasions Messrs. Sweat and Robinson of your office have re-affirmed their support of TUFF and its rightful demands.

In my opinion it is now urgent that you intervene in this matter on behalf of the tenants. Unless the tenants are granted some relief from the arbitrary policies of the housing authority, and unless they are given some power to control their own lives, the present conflict will deepen, and, I fear, broaden. May I implore you to join with TUFF, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society in seeking a fair solution to the problems of tenants in Atlanta public housing.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Padnos
Director

MDP/cj
Enclosure.