

2714 Chapel Hill Road
Durham, North Carolina
September 29, 1966

Hon. Ivan Allen
Mayor of Atlanta
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mayor Allen:

As a graduate student at Duke University, I am not often able to stay in my native state of Georgia for any length of time. I have, however, been much interested in the political campaign, and now I deplore the results of the Democratic primary. Today, on an Atlanta news broadcast, I heard your comments on the Democratic nominee.

I am writing to commend you for your forthright stand. It was good to hear a Democratic leader call Lester Maddox wholly unqualified for the office he seeks. His appeal to bigotry and irresponsibility have been contemptible, and the damage to Georgia's reputation will, I fear, be great. Those of us who have hoped that Georgia would continue to have sensible leadership under the Democrats have been greatly disappointed.

Your statement to the press expresses my views well. The Democratic party has chosen an unsupportable leader.

Sincerely yours,
John Michael Matthews
John Michael Matthews