

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.

File

July 3, 1967

Mr. Willie Johnson, Chairman
Constructive Youth Council of the
Northwest Perry Homes Area
2339 Arno Court, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 28, 1967, regarding our conference of June 20, 1967, outlining the requests made by the citizens of your area for recreational and park facilities. By copies of this letter, I am requesting the Directors of the Neighborhood Playlot Program and Operation Champ to submit to you the list of all locations presently in existence. We certainly will welcome the opportunity to allow the community to assist in the planning, development, and operation of recreational programs for youth and young adults in your neighborhood.

As to the utilization of neighborhood Youth Corps in-school enrollees and out-of-school enrollees, we currently have a request before E.O.A. for one hundred out-of-school young people. Fifty of these would be utilized in Operation Champ (the city-wide recreation program) and fifty, we hope utilized in the development of the Wilderness Camp at Lake Allatoona. As of yet, we have not received any enrollees but we understand that they are being recruited from the respective E.O.A. Service Centers. I would assume that some will be coming from your neighborhood service center and there should be no problem to see that these individuals are properly assigned back to the area from which they reside.

By copy of this letter, I will make it known to Miss Virginia Carmichael, the Director of Recreation, and also the Directors of Operation Champ and the Neighborhood Playlot Program that you are requesting the placement of recreation leaders at Pitts, Finch, and Chattahoochee Elementary Schools.

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The Aldermanic Parks Committee over the last several years has written the Atlanta Housing Authority requesting that recreation personnel be employed on a permanent basis by the Housing Authority to supervise recreation not only at Perry Homes but at all public housing projects.

We have signed the contract for the second phase of Gun Club Park. This phase will be on the lower end of the property adjacent to Proctor Creek and the contractor is expected to commence work just any day. As discussed with you, we are still in a quandary over the availability of a pedestrian bridge across Proctor Creek so that the Park that will be developed can be immediately accessible to the residents of Perry Homes. We are waiting on a response from the Atlanta Housing Authority as to who will pay for this bridge since our property line stops on our side of Proctor Creek and it's our understanding that the Housing Authority owns up to this line.

We certainly appreciate the suggestion for location of additional playlots for your area. I am Xeroxing your letter and supplying it to Mr. Pete Williams, Right-Of-Way Agent, Land Agent's Office and ask that he search out each and every location you have suggested and, in the event he is unable to obtain permission for the use of any of these lots, to advise you accordingly.

We would certainly like to extend the Operation Champ program to include other communities, but as you know this is a federally financed program which must terminate August 31 and we must be very careful not to overspend the allotted sum of money for this activity. If we should be able to save funds or have over-estimated the cost of certain activities, we would be the first to want to expand the program into other communities.

Although the Master Plan for Gun Club Park includes a swimming pool, at this time I do not know at what date one could be installed. Rest assured that your area will be given every possible consideration in making up the 1968 Capital Improvement Program, which will amount to a little over \$300,000. This rather limited amount of money must be spread over the entire City of Atlanta and include the construction of not only swimming pools but basic site work on some ten to fifteen parks purchased under the 1963 Bond Program, construction of recreation buildings, landscaping, etc.

I am very pleased that your committee will be willing to meet

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with the undersigned and other representatives of this Department in making your community a better place to live and I assure you that when we obtain leases on the playlots at the locations you have suggested, we will work very closely with your committee to see that the program, equipment, etc. is what you need and want.

On behalf of Mayor Allen and other City Officials, let me again thank you for meeting with us on the 20th and I am

Cordially,

Jack C. Delius
General Manager of
Parks and Recreation

JCD:lg

CC: Mr. Pete Williams, Land Agent's Office
Mr. Tom Christenson, Director, Operation Champ
Mr. Eddie McLemore, Director, Neighborhood Playlot Program
Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. ✓
Miss Virginia Carmichael
Mr. John Cox, Atlanta Youth Council
Mr. Bud Stone, E.O.A.
Mr. J. H. Robertson
Mr. Dan Sweat