

September 17, 1966

Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Allen:

This letter is to record my admiration of your magnificent behavior during the recent racial disturbances in Atlanta. I felt a deep sense of admiration for your courage and your wisdom in your handling of the matter. No mayor in America has come close to your record.

We are facing deep trouble as the racial troubles easily remediable are dealt with, while we are left with much more serious problems--problems that will take years and decades to work out. It will call for courage and wisdom to be a municipal leader in the coming years, and I feel fortunate that you have given other mayors a model on which to mold their own behavior.

Good luck and best wishes, Mr. Allen.

*Sincerely,  
Thomas Masterson*