

CITY OF ATLANTA



May 14, 1968

CITY HALL ATLANTA, GA. 30303

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IVAN ALLEN, JR., MAYOR

R. EARL LANDERS, Administrative Assistant
MRS. ANN M. MOSES, Executive Secretary
DAN E. SWEAT, JR., Director of Governmental Liaison

Mr. Robert Dobbs, Chairman
Citizens Neighborhood Action Committee
Northwest-Perry Homes Service Center
1927 Hollywood Road, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Dobbs:

On August 21, 1967, the Board of Aldermen deferred action on a request for rezoning the Browntown Road site for a Turnkey Housing Development.

The deferral and continued delay of this project has been based on the objections of the community to deficiencies in several areas of community services.

As a result of the rezoning application and concern by the community leadership of the Northwest area, two City planners were assigned to your committee to help document problems in your area and recommend solutions.

It was my understanding that the community was not objecting to the construction of the housing per se, but to the lack of adequate services and facilities and the overcrowding of existing facilities.

The City and the community, through your committee, have exercised very encouraging cooperation and coordination in identifying problems, examining alternatives for their solution, and, in many cases, instigating actions which have resulted in immediate solutions.

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The Browntown Area Report prepared by the City planners assigned to your committee was probably the first of its kind prepared in this city and most others. It not only identified the problem areas but recommended specific actions to correct or resolve the problems.

A survey of the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Browntown Area Report has recently been made and it was found that many of the recommended improvements have already been accomplished, others have been initiated and are now being carried out, while plans are in existence for making additional improvements as soon as circumstances and funds permit. A copy of this status report is attached.

The Browntown Road site location has been approved by both HUD and the Housing Authority. It is designed to house 450 low and moderate income families for which decent, safe and sanitary housing is desperately needed. We cannot indefinitely deny these families a suitable place to live.

I think you will agree with me that considerable progress has been made. The credit for these improvements is due in a large measure to the helpful assistance and cooperation of the responsible citizens of the area, whom you represent.

If Atlanta is to continue to progress and provide decent housing for all of its citizens, we cannot afford to wait indefinitely for all desirable improvements. Many of these will have to be developed simultaneously with development of the housing to serve the areas involved. The City of Atlanta is committed to such a program.

I feel that both the City and the community have acted in good faith in our joint effort for improvement of the Northwest area.

I further feel that these efforts should continue and I am confident they shall.

In the meantime, it is my feeling that the City's program to provide decent housing for the poor must go forward. I hope that you and

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your committee will recognize the progress we have made and will see fit to withdraw your opposition to the Browntown rezoning. I am confident that during the two year construction period of the Turnkey housing, the improvements underway or scheduled will not only provide a better community for those residents who live there now, but for the future residents who will move into the community.

I will be glad to meet with you and the committee to discuss the status of our program if you desire.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Sweat

DS:fy

cc: Mr. Sam Battle
Mr. Eddie Billips
Mr. Collier Gladin
Mrs. Odessa Hill
Mr. Peter Labrie
Mr. Johnny Robinson