

bcc: Mr. Dan Sweat, Jr.



Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.

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T. M. Parham
Executive Administrator

December 9, 1968

Mr. M. B. Satterfield
Executive Director
Atlanta Housing Authority
824 Hurt Building
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Satterfield:

We wish to thank you for sending representatives to the meeting of the Central Citizens Advisory Committee of EOA on November 19. The meeting was very helpful to us and creating improved understanding of some of the policies of the Housing Authorities.

At that meeting, representatives of the Regional Office of HUD, Housing Assistance Section, read to the group from a "circular" dated 3/22/68 which was transmitted to local Housing Authorities from Washington HUD (Mr. Don Hummel) in regard to "social goals for public housing."

Mr. Hummel indicated that as a matter of national policy, urgent and major social objectives included:

More attention to resident's dignity, privacy, and personal safety. Special attention should be given to the elimination of unnecessary rules and regulations.

Leadership to achieve better and more coordinated social services for project tenants.

Increased training and employment of tenants in project management.

The development of equitable systems for handling grievances.

Greatly expanded participation of tenants in project management affairs and programs designed to strengthen the self-sufficiency of tenants.

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Mr. Hummel's directive indicated that national and regional offices of HUD should give attention to these matters, but stated that "it is the local Housing Authorities who will make the goals a reality. It is they who must examine their own operations and make the changes called for by their findings."

He recommended immediate review of the following:

The raising of income limits where they have substantially fallen behind changes in the community.

The liberalizing of the definition of income with the respect to the income of minors.

The adjusting of rental policies and requirements for the examination of tenants to minimize the difference between public housing and normal real estate practices.

The use of the statutory authority to continue in occupancy an over-income family when it is unable to find good housing in a suitable neighborhood.

The liberalizing of regulations limiting the number of employees who may live in a project.

The adoption of a simple and equitable lease.

The simplification of rules and regulations.

The provision of adequate measures for safety and security of tenants.

The adoption of procedures where tenants, either individually or in a group, may be given a hearing on questions relating to Authority policies and practices, either in general, or in relation to an individual or family.

The upgrading of levels of maintenance and the appearance of buildings and grounds with the maximum tenant participation and, where possible, tenant employment.

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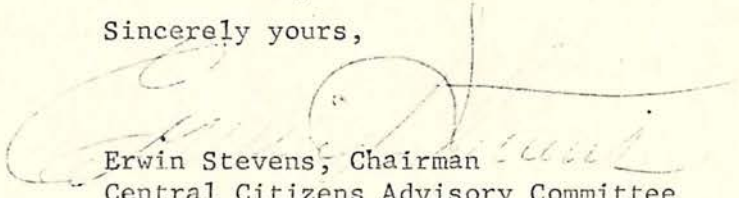
Among other things Mr. Hummel also suggested that local Housing Authorities:

Develop a two way communication with tenants concerning basic policy; afford the tenants full opportunity to organize, including the provision of meeting rooms and access to tenant lists and bulletin boards.

Give residents the opportunity to participate in the determination of management policies and practices, subject to general principles of HAA, such as rental and occupancy policies; rules and regulations; charges for breakage and damage; eviction policies, etc.

The Central Citizens Advisory Committee would like to ask what action the Atlanta Housing Authority has taken or contemplates taking, to comply with the recommendations of Mr. Hummel. We are especially interested in the points listed above and would appreciate a reply, if possible, by December 17, 1968, the date of our next meeting.

Sincerely yours,



Erwin Stevens, Chairman
Central Citizens Advisory Committee

ES/gnd

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