

I regret very much that you have taken what I consider  
an  
to be/arbitrary position in the Peyton-Harland Road problem.

The abandonment of the portions of these roads by the Board of Aldermen and signed by me was for the purpose of stabilizing an unwarranted condition in the Peyton Forest area. The closings exercised the same restraint on all citizens and discriminated against no one. The right of purchase and sale, access and egress has been denied no citizen of Atlanta into any area of the city.

The Board of Aldermen reconfirmed their position on this matter last Monday. It had been my hope that you as a group, taking the position that you represent the entire Negro community, would discuss the overall problem and work out a voluntary agreement that would help in protecting the interest of all our citizens, stabilizing property values and eliminating the unfair tactics that have previously been used by some parties.

Your refusal to appoint any member of your group to discuss this matter openly in an effort to reach an amicable solution is deeply regrettable.

However, your unwillingness in no way deters my determination to see that the matter is satisfactorily resolved and, to that end I will continue to work through whatever representative groups are available.

(Ivan Allen, Jr. - 1/11/63)