



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, NOVEMBER, 1966  
1203 CITY HALL, ATLANTA GEORGIA 30303 TELEPHONE 522-4463 EXT. 433

MR. IRVING K. KALER, *Chairman*  
THE HONORABLE SAM MASSELL, JR., *Ex-Officio*  
*President, Board of Aldermen*

June 28, 1967

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

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MRS. ELIZA K. PASCHALL,  
*Executive Director*

TO: THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FROM: COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

WHEREAS, we the Atlanta Community Relations Commission, have completed the public hearings in the following areas, Summer Hill-Peoplestown, Edgewood-Kirkwood, Vine City-Lightning, Mechanicsville-Pittsburg, Northwest area, Perry Homes-Scotts Crossing, Boulevard area, Capitol Avenue area, Dixie Hills area, and two open meetings city-wide; and

Whereas, these meetings have been at the request of the people who live in the area and/or community people who are concerned with what is happening and could happen to this City; and

WHEREAS, the same thread runs through all of the communities. The complaints have no geographic priorities. In broad areas they can be listed as follows:

1. Apparent unwillingness of the City to move in areas until, as it is phrased, "the City has to".
2. Job opportunities.
3. Inadequate garbage collection.
4. Inadequate recreation facilities, with particular emphasis on recreation facilities for teenagers and young adults.
5. Inadequate police patrol on one hand, and overzealousness of police in emergencies.
6. Bad housing conditions, with the attending problems of high rent, overcrowding, rats, bugs, flies, lack of garbage cans.
7. A feeling that the poor people of Atlanta are somehow set apart from the mainstream of the life of the City and that they are as a group, ignored until they start "making things happen."
8. The policies of the Atlanta Housing Authority, in regard to housing projects.
9. The policies of real estate people in failing to provide minimum conditions relating to health, maintenance, and rent increases; and,

Resolution cont'd

WHEREAS, the City is directly concerned with the first four items:

1. Apparent unwillingness---to move in areas until---"the City has to"-----
2. Job opportunities.
3. Inadequate garbage collection.
4. Inadequate recreation facilities,-----

we urge that the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen take whatever emergency measures are necessary to provide additional recreation facilities, adequate garbage collection, and preplanning in terms of next year, and that planning be a city-wide concern; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize that all Departments are limited in terms of finances; and,

WHEREAS, we heartily applaud the efforts of the past, we have an obligation and a concern to stress that the time to start for summer planning for 1968 is now; that citizens in all areas should know what is being proposed; and,

WHEREAS, we believe that the other items listed need further investigation by the Commission; and,

WHEREAS, we believe that we can work in areas involving these problems by conferences and hearings with the people involved; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Atlanta Community Relations Commission goes on record as being unalterably opposed to mob violence; that we pass this Resolution in an effort to alleviate some of the causes, and that we underline the philosophy that in Atlanta we should not allow demonstrations to determine City policies; that we urge private owners and rental agencies to immediately begin fulfilling their obligations; that we support the efforts of the Economic Opportunity Atlanta in neighborhood organizations; that we request the City Attorney to furnish the Commission with the legal obligations of private owners of dwellings and/or apartment houses; and that we applaud the efforts of all groups and individual citizens in their efforts towards making Atlanta maintain its unique potential greatness; and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is the profound conviction of the Atlanta Community Relations Commission that no city can achieve true greatness without fulfilling its obligation for city services and for community involvement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we, as private citizens of Atlanta and as members of the Atlanta Community Relations Commission, recognize our own responsibilities and involvement and our own late recognition of these problems and we urge the involvement of every responsible citizen in Atlanta in working towards a continuous effort at the solution of the problem. We recognize the efforts of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen.

Resolution cont'd

In a sense of urgency, we call for a greater concentration of essential efforts in tangible planning and performance of city obligations, which will, we sincerely believe, have the support from all citizens of Atlanta; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this is the job for all Atlanta, for all citizens in all sections, not just the elected officials.

The above Resolution was unanimously adopted at the regular monthly meeting of the Community Relations Commission, June 23, 1967, Committee Room #2, City Hall, Atlanta, Georgia