

Suite 1103
41 Exchange Pl., S.E.
Atlanta, Ga. 30303
September 9, 1966

Mayor Ivan Allen
City of Atlanta
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mayor Allen:

The undersigned professional staff of intergroup relations agencies have long been concerned with the well being of our community. Thus the events of this past week dictate that we communicate with you relative to the situation, and our role in the amelioration of this and similar incidents which might occur.

The two things which occurred this week must be of concern to all Atlantans. The first was the disorder on Tuesday, which we do not condone. The second is the response of the community to the disturbance. There has been in our opinion competent criticism of the violence and of those who supported it, for no one can countenance violence, the injury of persons and the willful destruction of property.

On the other hand, it would be tragic, indeed, if community consensus were to become arrayed against certain individuals and organization and thus become a substitute for a more constructive response to the conditions which brought it about. Ample data is available from other communities, that agitation to action is not possible in a vacuum. Nor is the Summerhill area unique. It could have occurred in any of a number of different places in our city, just as riots can and do occur in other cities in America. For whenever there are deprivations and injustices those who would incite violence will find a ready response to their appeals.

If Atlanta is to spare itself from future disorders, the leadership of the city of Atlanta must focus on the real problems which face too many of its people: inadequate housing; overcrowded schools; under-employment; a lack of adequate recreational facilities; a dearth of public services to these disadvantaged areas; minimal enforcement of the city's building code. These are but a few of the general areas of immediate concern with many, many more that could be enumerated and which demand immediate attention and prompt action.

The undersigned are prepared to lend their technical abilities and the full resources of their respective agencies to the City of Atlanta and to all of its people in an effort to develop a meaningful program for the city in the resolution of these problems.

Mayor Ivan Allen
September 9, 1966
Page - 2 -

We respectfully request an opportunity of an immediate meeting with you and such members of the Board of Alderman and your staff as you deem appropriate for the purpose of more fully exploring these problems, their ramifications and an immediate course of action to be initiated by the city in dealing with these complex and highly volatile matters.

Respectfully,

Paul Anthony
(Executive Director, Southern Regional Director)

5 Joweth St. NW

Theodore Freedman
(Southern Director, Anti-Defamation League of
B'nai B'rith) *41 Exchange Place, S.E., Atl. 30303*

Mrs. Ruby Hurley
(Southeast Regional Director, National Association
for the Advancement of Colored People)

859 1/2 North Street, NW

Miss Constance Curry
(Southern Field Representative,
American Friends Service Committee)

41 Exchange Place, S.E.

Don McEvoy
(Georgia Director, National Conference of
Christians and Jews)

*First Federal Savings and Loan Building
40 Maratta Street, N.W. 30303*

The Rev. Oscar McCloud
(Office of Church and Society, United
Presbyterian Church U.S.A.)

*Suite 1418, First Federal Building
40 Maratta Street, NW 30303*

The Rev. John Morris
(Executive Director, Episcopal Society for
Cultural and Racial Unity)

5 Joweth St. N.W.

Charles F. Wittenstein
(Southeast Area Director, American Jewish
Committee)

41 Exchange Place S.E.

The Rev. Edward Brown
(Anti-Poverty Task Force, National Council
of Churches of Christ)

*499 Emory Church NE
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Randolph Blackwell
(Director, Southern Rural Action Project,
Citizens Crusade Against Poverty)

50 Whitehall St. - Suite 819

Mayor Ivan Allen
September 9, 1966
Page - 3 -

Junius Griffin
(Director of Public Relations, Southern Christian Leadership Conference)

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Jody Palmour
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