

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, NOVEMBER, 1966  
1203 CITY HALL, ATLANTA GEORGIA 30303 TELEPHONE 522-4463 EXT. 493

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

MECHANICSVILLE-PITTSBURGH AREAS MEETING, WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 5, 1967 at ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 666 McDANIEL ST.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

MR. T. M. ALEXANDER, SR.  
MR. R. BYRON ATTRIDGE  
MRS. SARA BAKER  
MISS HELEN BULLARD  
MR. R. J. BUTLER  
MR. ROBERT DOBBS  
MR. HAMILTON DOUGLAS, JR.  
MR. C. G. EZZARD  
MOST REVEREND PAUL J. HALLINAN  
*Archbishop of Atlanta*  
MR. JOSEPH HAAS  
MR. AL KUETTNER  
DR. ROBERT E. LEE  
MR. ROLLAND MAXWELL  
MR. F. W. PATTERSON  
RABBI JACOB M. ROTHSCHILD  
MR. M. O. "BUZZ" RYAN  
MR. JACK SELLS  
MRS. MARY STEPHENS  
THE REVEREND SAMUEL WILLIAMS  
  
MRS. ELIZA K. PASCHALL,  
*Executive Director*

Miss Helen Bullard, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M. Forty-seven attendance cards were returned. Members present:

Mr. Rolland Maxwell  
Dr. Sam Williams  
Rabbi Jacob Rothschild  
Mr. Clarence G. Ezzard  
Mrs. Eliza K. Paschall, Executive Director

## Observers:

Mrs. Jacob Rothschild  
Mrs. Marilyn Baldwin  
Mr. Joseph Amisano  
Rep. John Hood

Miss Bullard remarked that the CRC was appointed by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen to try to help to deal with the problems of living together. She asked the group what it considered No. 1 problem in all Atlanta. Group answered: "Money..money..money. The next problem: "Clean up...clean up. The yards, the streets." Individuals spoke out mentioning crime; housing...not enough and what there is, inadequate.

At this point, Miss Bullard invited people to get up and speak out.

1. MR. MARVIN K. MACDOWELL, 781 Hubbard St. S.W.: Speaking for SCLC, Operation Breadbasket. They are having meetings in the different neighborhoods, Mechanicsville, Pittsburgh, Grant Park, to get something done regarding housing and second, the streets...the majority are dirt streets which need to be paved. Said the people will have to get up and speak. Miss Bullard asked if the complaint had been made to the city formally or informally. He said they have been to EOA centers in the neighborhoods.
2. MR. RUDOLPH HINES, 65 Harlan Rd. S.W.: "One of the problems in Atlanta is lack of concern that the people of Atlanta have about somebody else...For 11 months I was assistant director for John Hope Homes. I know how these people live...Hines continued. "I don't represent any group but my concern is .. for all the Negroes in Atlanta....the evils can be pinpointed in this one...it is inhuman... it is beyond the law....a lady called me tonight...she said last month I paid \$46 rent...in April I pay \$86.." On questioning from Miss Bullard, he said this is the way rents are adjusted and computed in public housing...that Mr. Satterfield and Mr. Boggs are little gods in this town. He told of an incident where a person was seen at the car stop and since he was then presumably working, his rent was adjusted so that he owed back rent of \$490. Mr. Hines commented



that the tenant organization was not effective since Paragraph 9 in the lease says the manager of any individual housing project in Atlanta can evict any family without written notice for the reason of the eviction.

Mrs. Paschall said she understood that readjusted rents were not retroactive. Mr. Hines said that if a person calls the central office the call is sent back to the area management office...a vicious circle... the mere fact that the tenant calls downtown makes that tenant next in line for eviction.

Mrs. Paschall asked for location of specific streets that needed repairing to pass on to Mr. Nixon.

Group: "McDaniel Street...it is a hazard. Bass Street...from Cooper to McDaniel. Pryor...Minora Street to the stadium." In the group's opinion, formal complaints on these streets have probably gone into the wastebasket. A woman remarked that on the weekends, teenagers tear them (the roads) up.

3. REV. L. C. CLACK, 591 Pulliam St. SW.: He objects to Collier Street being zoned for commercial use. Thinks it unnecessary...commercial district already out to Fulton Industrial Boulevard. Advised he had been to one zoning meeting. Said he was making a statement right then requesting it be kept residential. Told Dr. Williams he thought they should attend the zoning meetings. Dr. Williams skeptical about the effectiveness of zoning hearings.

Miss Bullard to next speaker: "Are you speaking as an individual?"

- 4.MR. EDWIN MOODY, 241 Doane St. S.W. "For once in my life!" Said he agreed with Dr. Williams about zoning committee. Has several recommendations for Commission to present to "city fathers" as follows:

a. "Top issue is appointees...most of problems bloom from people appointed that know or care very little for the problems...how can a well-fed person know actually how a hungry person feels..how can a person in a mansion know how a person in a ragged, substandard house lives?

b. "Tax dollars - start to spend fund to labor where it has been neglected.. in Mechanicsville, Summerhill, Pittsburgh.

c. "Hire us on a qualified man-to-man basis...in the Georgia State Employment Service, it hasn't stopped...

d. "Laws voted by legislature..almost any tax increase is helping poverty.. Atlanta's sewage tax falls on the tenants...our representatives voted themselves raises..this means more tax for the poor man to pay. I will not vote for a single person offering for re-election next time and I hope you will follow the same example.

e. "I will conclude with planning, zoning and housing..to get a house you have to get it zoned from a to z, to get commercial you have to get it zoned from a to z, same for schools...when you go before the zoning committee, you don't make A, you done lost out...these departments should be one and an allowance should be made for elderly homeowners...members, please don't come out and listen and place it in file 13--come out here and do something about this...there is a long hot summer coming...I got



kids in the schools and those two-for-a-quarter rides come dear for me... (he mentioned meeting at State Capitol re increase)...the Commission (Public Service) will hold a hearing...the more of us get there the less chance they will get to raise...Sommerville will get mad but I have got to pay Mr. Sommerville.

Remarked that not voting for those presently in office might let the next one know not to vote himself a raise. On questioning by a reporter, remarked that the Georgia State Employment Service still goes by a color line.

5. MRS. ETHEL SHAW, 592 Whitehall Terrace. Complained of surrounding apartment buildings having no janitors. "Have called City Hall five times, written to Ivan Allen, Jr. ...the inspector came out and went around and cleaned up one time...been no one since. Don't know who the landlords of buildings are.....apartment at 600 Whitehall Terrace is ridiculous." (Discussion between Mrs. Shaw and person in group re contacting her area block chairman for corrective action.)
6. REP. JOHN HOOD, 124 District, 302 $\frac{1}{2}$  Pryor St. S.W. In checking, he found that motels are going in this area. Pryor St. area sewer problem is a hazard...on a rainy day your car will almost drown out. Commission should recommend to City Hall something be done. Need a school to go along with 650 apartment units planned for construction on McDaniel St. Construction (of the school) has not started and if it is to be finished within the allotted time, they will have to get on the ball (they being the Bd. of Education) to get property in this area. Mr. Hood advised he had voted for salary increase.

One person reported a river when it rains on Ira Street where he lives and a horrible mess afterwards.

7. MRS. ROSA BROWN, Chairman of Area Block 42, EOA. Addressing Mr. Hood: "The people on Garibaldi Street have been asking for a light." Cited dangers of dark area. Sewer too small on Stevens and Sanders St...stays stopped up all the time. (Light on Garibaldi between Bass & Stephens.)

Mrs. Paschall advised that the city is beginning a lighting modernization plan - asked that she be advised of special places where lights are needed - takes six to eight weeks because the Board of Aldermen has to pass a resolution for each location.

Group: "We have asked for a light at Rockwell and McDaniel. 396 Baker is broke up."

Mr. Moody speaking again asked why the planners and the zoning committee don't get together on the Model City plan - work in places going to be wasted - office building was to be built on Richardson and Central - neighborhood protested - protested on I-20. If commercial comes into neighborhood, residents might as well pick up and leave.

Mrs. Paschall reported what Mr. Gladin told her about the Model City program - the application from City of Atlanta to Federal Government is for \$500,000 to pay for a year of planning and at the end of the year would come a grant to put the plans into effect .. if grant is approved, they will want to meet with the people in the community to talk about what kind of neighborhood the people want - the more prepared the people are to talk about what they want, the stronger the plan will be when it gets going.



Mr. Hood speaking again: "Mr. Ezzard and I are in a peculiar situation because the last two meetings I have found myself with the Commission in the neighborhood in which I live ... and I have been trying to keep up with it as much as possible." Thinks a strong organization will be needed in Atlanta if it gets the grant. Thinks one and a half million dollars is a small sum. Mr. Blackwell and Mr. Thompson (congressmen from 4th and 5th Districts) have got a lot of correspondence against it - doubts if 5 of present group have written two congressmen to support the project. Need to get ball rolling for model city. If turned down, will apply to private source. Thinks the stadium has helped south side a lot. Regarding bare apartments, thinks Commission could recommend that there be some liaison person to visit apartment developments to make sure people keep them up - they are unsanitary on Commerce Street...Primrose....

Journal reporter asked: "With the interstate system and the stadium, it makes slum areas prime business sites in the future and is it the Commission's objective to keep this residential area and keep out businesses and what is the overall objective in this area?"

Dr. Williams referred him to the ordinance setting up the Commission. Business of Commission is to see that there is peace and harmony in the community and justice done where people live. Moody and Ezzard and other people have said that the people in the city will have something to say about what happens re the model city and we have no position .. the people who live there must be taken into account .. our concern is what happens to people .. would that satisfy you?

Reporter: The economic factors mean that this would be a tremendous business area.

Dr. Williams: "One of the things wrong with this town..we place economic opportunity before the interest of people.. I don't know if he wants these notes or not because these aren't what you want to put in the newspaper...I am offended about America on this..America offends me at this point...three things matter in America..that is profit, profits and property and then we say to hell with people..we have got to correct that...people have been living here for a long time and..our (early) pastor here had to carry on a fight to keep people from being evicted here...now because of the stadium we have come to see what prime property this...is..young man, I hope you get a little conversion here and see that people are more important than property..and when we do we will see that America is a great place and if we don't people are going to be doomed....

There was a question regarding whether or not to go ahead and improve property on Windsor St. Miss Bullard suggested calling City Planning Department,

Mr. Hood was critical of the application for the Model City. It shows on the policy making level the mayor, two aldermen (Alderedge and Cook) and one private member (business community representative) but no representatives from the community. There was a consensus of the group that they have representatives from the community. Discussion revealed that action is expected on the model city program in May. And that Mr. Gladin of the City Planning Department does anticipate involving the neighborhood people, Mrs. Paschall pointed out, the more organized and ready the community is the better. She suggested a



joint meeting of all model city areas sponsored by all groups and have Gladin, Buchanan and Wofford come to answer questions re housing. Maybe a good idea to form a permanent joint group organization.

A woman in the group stated that she had written President Johnson and was referred to some people in Atlanta who say it will be one year before the model city plan is effective and she was unhappy with just waiting which is what they had been doing for a long time. Mr. Hood remarked that the application was in and the city administration was getting ready and now the people had to get involved.

Rev. L. Terrill: Made a plea to set up a joint meeting of all groups involved in model city application to talk with City Planning Department staff. Mr. Hood advised that a meeting was held in Summerhill last week and they had agreed at that meeting to try to arrange a joint meeting in 3 weeks and everybody would be advised. On a motion made by Rev. Terrill and seconded, a resolution that a meeting of all the people in Peopletown, Summerhill, Mechanicsville, etc., be held in April was passed.

Mr. Moody: shouldn't say what he is trying to tell me.. the mayor came out with two meetings before with more people and said what do you want?..when that thing got to Washington what was in there was what the mayor wanted and not us..If you don't argue about it now just save your breath child because the mayor done got it that thick and you haven't said the word.

Before adjourning, Miss Bullard explained the Commission has no policy making powers and its purpose is to take back to the city administration expressions of what the groups consider their problems. When asked if they felt they had had their say, the group replied Yes, Yes, thank you.

One last comment from a man in group re buses coming down West Avenue: "I think that if the transit could ask for more money I think we could ask for more transportation.."

Miss Bullard thanked the people for coming and told them if they wanted to ask a personal question, to come down front.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 approximately.