

To Deu Sweet

July 23, 1969

822 Grant Street, S.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Ben Blackburn
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

I am sending this letter to your Decatur office since I understand my recent letter concerning the problem with the Model Cities here in Atlanta has been referred to your local office for handling.

I appreciate your reply received on July 22 indicating that this matter has been turned over to the Office of Housing and Urban Development for action.

Since writing to you previously, we have continued to try to sell the property through individuals and real estate companies who have running ads in the newspaper advertising for rental and investment property. We have been advised by two different real estate representatives that they have checked with personal contacts at City Hall and were advised that it would be impossible for them to re-sell the property if they buy it because all City Inspectors have been advised not to approve any property in the area for any type VA loan and that all the banks in the city have an agreement not to finance any purchases in the area. These two real estate agents did not give us the names of their contacts at City Hall since they said the information was given to them strictly off the record.

The closing date on our new home is fast approaching and at this point the only solution seems to be for Model Cities to purchase the property to use as temporary housing for people who are being dislocated in clearance areas. Since as I indicated in my previous letter one individual who inquired at the City Planning office in City Hall about purchasing the property was informed not to purchase because they "had plans for the property" it would be my opinion that they plan to eventually purchase the property for some purpose. Under these circumstances I believe you will agree that it would be more economical for them to purchase property such as ours to use as temporary housing than to purchase mobile type temporary housing or at least to supplement the mobile type. This would also I believe solve our problem as well as others who are presently or may at a future date find themselves transferred out of the area.

Again, I will state that I do not believe we are making an unreasonable request, and I believe you will agree that with a long range plan such as this some provisions should have been made initially to cover such situations. They apparently were not and as a result we find ourselves in a situation of being unable to dispose of property in the area because they have it tied up where no one is interested in the property for rental, investment, or a home, and yet when you try to talk to anyone in their office here they just keep referring you from one person to another until you are back talking with the first person you spoke with and the circle begins all over again.

We will be expecting to hear from someone within a few days.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lazell Kirkland

(Mrs.) Lazell Kirkland
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Telephone - 622-9074 or 688-8036

cc: Mayor Ivan Allen
cc: Mr. Johnny Johnson - Model Cities Office
cc: Mrs. Xerona Clayton- Model Cities Office