

487 Lynn Valley Road, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30311
November 22, 1968

The Honorable Mayor Ivan Allen
City Hall
68 Mitchell Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Allen:

We are proud of our Atlanta and the progress it has made under your fine leadership.

One dared not dream of this Atlanta a decade ago, but here we stand today poised to move in one of three directions. There are those who would prefer to live in the past, those who feel things should remain as they are - and those who want to forge forward. Atlanta, like the lyrics of the Negro Spiritual "I'll Never Turn Back", can not afford to look back. Although we are proud of our progress to date, we are still beset by too many ills and inadequacies to stand still for a brief moment. Under these circumstances, there is but one acceptable route open-and that one is labeled Forward March.

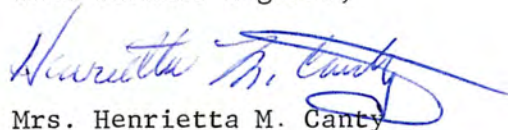
Miracles in urban crises seem to have occurred in many urban communities like ours by local Urban Coalitions. I've followed their programs for some time and would like to see such an organization functioning here in Atlanta.

The National Alliance of Businessmen in its massive attack on hard-core unemployment this past summer, is an excellent example of the type of returns we could expect from committed concerned businessmen.

Unfortunately the NAB is limited to job placement for the hard-core unemployed. An Urban Coalition would enable groups of civic and business leaders to operate in the full spectrum of urban problems of education, transportation, housing, race relations, etc. This, to me, could be a most fruitful venture.

I would like to see Atlanta organize an Urban Coalition. Do you think this is desirable and/or feasible?

With Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henrietta M. Canty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mrs. Henrietta M. Canty