

# CITY OF ATLANTA



CITY HALL ATLANTA, GA. 30303

Tel. 522-4463 Area Code 404

May 12, 1966

IVAN ALLEN, JR., MAYOR

R. EARL LANDERS, Administrative Assistant  
MRS. ANN M. MOSES, Executive Secretary  
DAN E. SWEAT, JR., Director of Governmental Liaison

## MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Duane Beck, Executive Director, Community Council of the Atlanta Area, Inc.  
Mr. Karl Bevins, Traffic Engineer  
Mr. Henry Bowden, City Attorney  
Mr. Charles L. Davis, Comptroller  
Mr. Jack Delius, Parks General Manager  
Mr. C. O. Emmerich, Administrator, Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.  
Mr. Collier Gladin, Chief Planner  
Mr. Stafford Graydon, Sanitary Engineer  
Chief C. H. Hildebrand, Jr., Fire Chief  
Mr. John Hall Jacobs, Library Director  
Chief Herbert T. Jenkins, Police Chief  
Mr. R. Earl Landers, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Ray Nixon, Chief of Construction  
Mr. M. B. Satterfield, Executive Director, Atlanta Housing Authority  
Mr. Robert Sommerville, Chairman, Citizens Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal  
Mr. Dan E. Sweat, Director of Governmental Liaison  
Mr. Paul Weir, Water Department General Manager  
Mr. William Wofford, Building Inspector

From: Ivan Allen, Jr., Mayor

Subject: Services to Slum Areas

Several areas of our city continue to deteriorate in physical condition and in human blight. These areas generally are encompassed in an East-West swath through central Atlanta and are within 1 - 3 miles of City Hall.

Urban Renewal has alleviated some of the worst slum areas nearer downtown and several UR and Public Housing Projects underway at

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present will provide some relief for additional citizens. But these past and current projects have but scratched the surface when considered in the light of total needs.

Realistically, we can expect to move only as fast as financial resources are available to cope with slum clearance and rehabilitation. With the completion of the Community Improvement Program study, we hope to have a city-wide priority established and the basis for adopting a total program and schedule of action in these blighted neighborhoods.

Present conditions in many of these neighborhoods are intolerable. The citizens who have the misfortune of economic failure or lack of social status and are trapped in this environment must be given relief at the earliest moment.

Therefore, and with full awareness of the City's lack of adequate financial resources, shortage of labor and equipment, and ever burdensome daily work load, I am requesting a cooperative and coordinated attack on the conditions which exist in these slum areas.

In order to test the City's ability to increase and advance services in these neighborhoods I am directing the Department of Planning to immediately prepare a map for each departmental use listing a priority of implementation, with initial action in neighborhoods of greatest need.

The following actions are minimum requirements which must be met by individual departments and/or city-related agencies:

1. Sanitation Department

Trash pick up twice a week,  
Garbage pick up twice a week or three times if necessary.  
Clean streets once a week.  
Remove abandoned automobiles.  
Coordinate with EOA to clean up vacant property and the elimination of hazards to children at play.

2. Construction Department

Clean out storm drainage.

Clean right of way of debris,  
Grade and gravel unpaved streets,  
Patch paved streets,  
Pave streets on petition basis,

### 3. Building Inspector

- A. The Building Inspector, according to the policy established in the Housing Code Compliance Program, will in proposed Urban Renewal areas:
  - a. Placard where warranted and seek demolition.
  - b. Correct hazards and coordinate with the Health Department any unsanitary conditions (Example: water standing in basements).
  - c. Reduce overcrowding - Liaison with Housing Authority for relocation help.
  - d. Vacate unfit units.
  - e. Clean up premises.
- B. In the remaining areas as designated on the Planning map, step up housing code enforcement to the greatest extent possible without deviating from the established policy.
- C. Enforcement of Zoning Ordinance.

### 4. Parks Department

- A. Equip and staff a massive recreation program using all park and school properties and other land secured under short-term lease. This should be coordinated with EOA to secure funds and community support.
- B. Maximum development of properly supervised day and evening social activities and recreational programs (Example: evening movies and possibly street activities).
- C. Coordinate with Traffic Engineer the possible blocking off of streets for recreational activities.

5. Police Department

Improve police protection to residents and homes.  
An expanded crime prevention program.  
Increase traffic speed control efforts.

6. Fire Department

- A. An expanded fire prevention program.
- B. Investigate the possibilities of street showers for children using fire hydrants on a weekday basis, weather permitting -- coordinate with the Water Department.

7. Traffic Department

Install speed control signs.  
Survey area and provide stepped up street light maintenance activities.

8. Planning Department

- A. Inform Planning and Development Committee of Services to Slum Areas Program in order to begin implementation of a survey and planning application for the following areas: Vine City, Blue Heaven, Cooper-Glenn and Plunkettown.

9. Law Department

- A. Determine accelerated legal methods of disposing of junked cars, both on public and private properties.
- B. Determine legal methods of forcing property owners to clean up their vacant lots.

10. Library

- A. The bookmobile schedule be increased and expanded in the affected area.
- B. Branch libraries located within this area be given maximum support and attention.

- C. Library coordination with such activities as Projects Uplift and Headstart to promote and encourage maximum use of library facilities.

11. Atlanta Youth Council

- A. Coordinate the Summer Youth Opportunity Campaign to provide the maximum number of jobs for young people in private industry and the public agencies.
- B. Cooperation with the City Parks and Recreation Department, Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc., and the Community Council of the Atlanta Area, Inc. to monitor and recommend adequate playground and recreation facilities in the target neighborhoods.

12. Mayor's Office

- A. Coordinate public relations through Citizens Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal, EOA, and the Community Council giving weekly progress and status. (Bill Howland)
- B. Coordinate activities of non-departmental agencies (EOA, Housing Authority, utility companies, private groups, Federal and State and County agencies involved, Youth Council, etc.). (Dan Sweat)
- C. Coordination of total effort and City departmental activities. (Earl Landers)

In order for maximum desired results to be achieved, we must all work together. The Aldermen representing the Wards affected must monitor the activities of their Ward, evaluate the effectiveness of services and make prompt recommendations for changes or improvements.

It is recommended that non-departmental agencies designate a coordinator who can devote full time to their coordinated program.

It is recommended that each department head appoint a department coordinator to work directly in this area.

Implementation of this project in initial target neighborhoods will begin immediately.