



News Release

IVAN ALLEN, JR.
Mayor of Atlanta

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Mrs. Ann Drummond
Executive Secretary

STATEMENT BY MAYOR IVAN ALLEN, JR.
FEBRUARY 8, 1966

Judge McKenzie's order in Fulton Superior Court ends for all time, so far as Atlanta and the Southeast are concerned, any question about the future of the Atlanta Braves.

They are our baseball team! They are our Braves!

The Braves have said so; the National League -- in a magnificent solid stand -- has said so; the one court that has legal jurisdiction over them has said so.

From here on the success of the Braves and the success of Atlanta and the Southeast as a showplace for major league baseball is up to the people of Atlanta and Georgia.

As mayor of Atlanta, I am determined that we are all going to show the whole country -- and especially Milwaukee -- that the Braves' move to Atlanta was the best thing that has happened to baseball since Ty Cobb.

When the Atlanta Braves open against the Pittsburg Pirates on April 12th, every seat in Atlanta Stadium is going to be full. Then Atlanta Stadium is going to be full the next night and again when they come back from their first road trip.

I want the sports writers in Milwaukee and Chicago and New York who have been crying about the Milwaukee fans -- who let the Braves down except when they won pennants -- to come down here to our town and see real baseball fans cheering a real baseball team, season after season, never deserting them, win or lose.

This is the kind of spirit you find in Atlanta . . . whether it's about baseball or business . . . civic pride or crime prevention. . . Dogwood blossoms or daily bread.

- PAGE TWO -

This spirit is also enthusiasm -- and I would like to see every Little Leaguer and every fan . . . and every housewife and every businessman, buy a ticket to see the Braves. I hope every business organization will support our team and buy season tickets and extra tickets to opening games.

Time is drawing close, and you had better move fast, from what I have seen with major league sports in Atlanta, the tickets might not last.

I wouldn't want anyone to miss this great sport experience and I know you wouldn't want to miss giving the Braves a genuine Southern welcome.

Further, I am asking the City Attorney to look into this matter and remain constantly vigilant in the protection of the rights of Atlanta citizens to the privileges of major league baseball as contracted for with the Atlanta Braves for the coming twenty-five years.

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