



WESLEY FOUNDATION . . . *Methodist Student Center*

189 FOURTH ST., N.W.
ATLANTA 13, GEORGIA

TR. 2-7642

AT GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

March 11, 1963

The Honorable Ivan Allen, Mayor
City of Atlanta
City Hall
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mayor Allen;

I am writing to commend you for your forthright leadership at the aldermanic board meeting on Monday, March 4 concerning the resolutions of alderman Farris. I feel it is necessary that definite action be taken in the area of Negro-White relations and it appears to me the five resolutions should help to establish better communication between the races and enable difficult problems to be resolved.

I am particularly glad to see your immediate response to Judge Whitman's ruling by removing the barricades on Peyton and Harlan roads. I felt they were harmful to the general feeling of persons immediately involved and not in the best interests of Atlanta as a whole.

I would strongly endorse the study to be made by the City Planning department in the hope that additional land may be made available for housing within the City. If the statistics I have seen are correct, they show a proportionately small land area available for Negroes, and I would encourage the Aldermanic Board to make more housing land open for Negro building.

Finally, it has come to my attention that there is some concern as to whether or not the City will open its swimming pools this summer, especially if they are not segregated. Let me strongly urge you to keep the pools open to all who would desire to use them. I have been proud to see Atlanta handle the schools, colleges, movies, and lunch counters as the racial bars have fallen; and I think we could also handle any situation which might arise at the pools. Caution and planning would be essential to carrying this out, but I am confident that the people of Atlanta would accept with understanding your leadership at this point.

My wife joins me in expressing the sentiment of this letter.

Sincerely,



Lon B. Chesnutt, Associate Director
Wesley Foundation at Georgia Tech

cc: Mr. Sam Massell, Jr.
Mr. Milton G. Farris