

September 7, 1966

Mayer Ivan Allen
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mayer Allen,

Your example of leadership in a besieged area yesterday was most impressive to see. It was a far cry from the pictures of other mayors in troubled cities who have held themselves apart from the fray. I hope our city can find ways to meet the problems of slum-dwellers which other cities have found insurmountable thus far. If we do, it will be because of your courageous and compassionate leadership.

If you could somehow convince these people to present their grievances where there is a possibility of talking them out and acting upon them, that would help. Maybe a meeting or clinic at the Stadium with many lawyers and social workers and ministers to talk with people who have problems and constructive suggestions could be a start. I only know that some kind of creative tackling of the problems of the cities will enable America to continue.

I wish there were middle-class housing and excellent schools available in the center of the city so that concerned people could move back into the city with their families to be part of the voting, tax-paying base.

Perhaps community organizations of deprived citizens would help them feel a greater part of their city. Maybe we need a Saul Alinsky to take the spotlight off of the violent-type organizers.

Thank you for your leadership and vision. If you can think of ways that concerned citizens can help, please call on me.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. Gene G. Clement
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