



THE ATLANTA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Atlanta 3, Georgia

JOHN HALL JACOBS
DIRECTOR

May 22, 1967

Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mayor of Atlanta
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Allen:

The news item in the Atlanta Constitution of May 11 has come to the attention of the Library Board. The article made the following request as presented to you by the Atlanta Summit Leadership Conference:

"Desegregation of main library staff and desegregation and merit promotions in branch staffs."

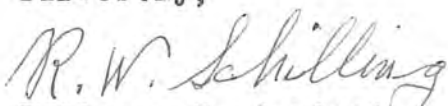
We would like to present our position to you.

First the staff at the Main Library is not segregated. All positions in the Main Library are filled with the best qualified people we can get. There is a terrific shortage of professional librarians throughout the country and therefore we are pleased to employ trained people whenever and wherever we can get them. Due to the fact that the salaries have been low and even yet are not too competitive, we are failing to attract graduates from either of our local library schools, Emory University and Atlanta University.

As for the second part of the request, it has been the practice of the Atlanta Public Library for a period of years to advertise all vacancies first to the staff. There has been no situation in branch promotions where a qualified applicant has been refused a promotion on the basis of race. The branch staffs are not segregated.

We feel that the Summit leaders have received a mistaken impression of the make-up of the library staff. Our motto has been and is to hire the best person we can get at all times for each job to better serve our community.

Sincerely,


Robinson W. Schilling
President, Library Board

RWS:dw