

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
1203 CITY HALL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
HEARING IN THE DIXIE HILLS AREA

June 19, 1967

Hearing on Dixie Hills, Wednesday, June 19, 1967, EOA Center, 2193 Verbena St.

The Executive Committee of the Commission met at the request of the Mayor.

Present:

CHAIRMAN:	Mr. Irving K. Kaler
FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN:	Rev. Samuel Williams
SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN:	Miss Helen Bullard
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	Mrs. Eliza K. Paschall

Also present were Senator Leroy Johnson, Alderman Q. V. Williamson, Rep. J. D. Grier, Rep. J. C. Daugherty, Mr. Cecil Alexander, Mr. Johnny Robinson, and Mr. B. L. Lowery, City Inspection Department.

Mr. Kaler explained that the session had been called at the request of the Mayor to hear from residents about the events of the past few days, and invited anyone to speak.

SPEAKERS: (In Order)	Mr. Howard Watson 49 Shirley Place	Mr. Willie Fordan 346 Wadley St.	Mr. Charles Weber Am. Frds. Ser.
	Miss Dorothy Shaw 2232 Verbena St.	Mrs. Albert Ford 2235 Verbena St.	Mr. C.W. Smith 2261 Verbena St.
	Mr. Marion Ward 31 Shirley Pl.	Mr. Jerry Carlton 31 Shirley Pl.	Mrs. V.A. Jackson 2150 Verbena St.
	Mr. William H. Furlow 2166 Vesta Ave., #8	Mr. Johnny Billingsley 2225 Verbena St. #5	Willie Glaze 155 Wadley St.

Mr. Howard Watson, the Youth Corps Co-chairman, was the first speaker. He expressed his complaints, and what he thought precipitated the rioting was (1) inadequate play lots for the immediate area, (2) better treatments in the stores, (3) apartments, (4) police brutality, and (5) unpaved streets, with holes in them.

The apartments are owned by private owners, and the owners should be made to repair the apartments, and rents are too high for the way they are unkept by the owners. Streets need paving, some large holes are in the middle of them. The sewage is very bad, when it rains, water floods up in the streets. He felt that the stores in the Center, should treat the children, as well as others with respect. The brutality is another factor for unrest - when the official was arresting the girl they used brutality with her, and the people didn't want their women treated that way. The policemen seem to feel that the people in the low-income bracket, can be treated anyway, and talked to anyway. The rioting did not just stem from the trying to get recreation facilities, but mostly "police brutality".

DOROTHY SHAW: She stated that her grievances, or complaints were (1) playlots for the children, (2) E.O.A. should have field trips for the smaller children (3) the selling of beer and wine to our children in the store should be stopped (this complaint had not been formally reported to the authorities.

BULLARD: (Question) Do you think that Mr. Carmichael's presence precipitated this rioting? Do you think this would come about anyway?

SHAW: The disturbance would come about sooner or later, mainly because our kids are on the streets.

MARION WARD: the man who was shot, treated, and released, stated that he waited in the streets in order to help the fellow who was shot (later he died). After waiting on the police, he went to get his superior officer (the police), he never came back to help the other man. He told the Commission that he heard four shots, that the officer pump the gun four times. That the man who threw the fire bomb (Molotov Cocktail) was not near them. The Molotov Cocktail went just a few feet in front of the officer who shot these people. He saw the police start to shoot, the police was under a street light. He stated that he could identify him if he saw him again. The other man (who died) was just lying in the streets "face down", and the boy was not bleeding, unless he was bleeding on the inside, both unattended. He stated that he was treated and released at Grady's Hospital. The ambulance took about two hours to come. He said he had started to bleed again, that it was about 30 minutes after he got to the hospital before he received any service. He was asked to make a statement to detectives before he began to get service.

There are no playlots for our children, the rent is too high, and nothing is offered for them. ("I pay \$65.00 per month; no utilities are included") He has three children himself, and that the apartments are infested with roaches, rats, and other insects: that the owners should get rid of.

WILLIAM H. FURLOW: Feels that previous problems cause this thing to come to a point. After the rioting he came back to this area to see what was happening, he feels that this situation came about because of the brutality of the police arresting of the girl (Georgia). This community this large do not need a Jew Store, with prices skyhigh, and little quality. A community this size needs a store like A & P or one similar. The city should make the owners repair the apartments. There are holes in the wall, where children get into them to play. This is dangerous. Also play lots are needed for our children.

WILKIE JORDAN: Get property owners to fix up the property, keep places clean. Felt that if the policemen were to parole the area, it should be in such a large quantity, and not harass the people. As long as the people are treated like people, there will be peace. If the officials are mean to them, they will continue to gather in crowds as such. There should be an effort if the policemen are needed they should be able to reach the area in 5 to 8 minutes. The people feel that the thing which caused the rioting was: (1) when the police used brut in arresting the woman. A meeting was called on Sunday to find out the people grievance, and to stop the past troubles of the community with the security guards, play lots for our small children. He thought that this thing would come

about eventually, even if Mr. Carmichael did not come into the area.

MRS. ALBERT FORD stated that these problems were here before this thing happen. She felt that the City transit gave good bus service in the area. A bus comes in here every five minutes, and during the Xmas holidays, one came about every minute. The police brutality is not wanted in the area. The community decided that they will not shop at the store (Dixie Hill Store). She stated that, "We are not violent people", if some of the police is taken from the area, the people could go back to their normal way of living. She says that she realize that a lot of people do not have respect for the law, but this comes from the brutality from the policemen.

MIKIE JORDAN said that the people held a meeting that night, (Monday) We called this meeting to hear from the people their complaints. A community preacher made arrangements as to where this meeting was to be held. Their complaints were as follows: (1) work, (2) the stores in the Center, (3) EOA, they are not helping the people with their problems, (4) Poor Sewage, (5) Play lots, and recreation are not doing what could be done with the apartment. We would like someone from the City to guard this area as a regular beat, someone who knows everyone. And they should take a human-relations course, similar to the one given in colleges. Then they would know how to handle these people. Also EOA do not show to much interest to the people in the area, and are not really giving assistance to them. The counselors do not take interest.

MRS. ALBERT FORD: Police brutality is drawing attention from the people.

JERRY CARLTON: The police are not protecting the people, and they should be gotten out. He stated further that he saw the little boy who was shot, in the hospital, and that the kid wants to kill every cop that comes into his sight -- that this is the reaction a small child has from such brutality --- and that he is too young to think like that --- but the police are teaching him this way because of the way they treat people. The security guards are given a gun and a badge and that is their license to kill, or harass anyone they want.

Q. V. WILLIAMSON: "The only thing the police are there for is to protect life and property. If they are taken out now what will happen"?

JOHNNY BILLINGSLAY: "This community once had a fellow who was real nice, but the city took him away, and gave us another person here who tried to bully everyone. He was removed after he shot a man here. Then the store and the grill hired a Security Guard . The man who everyone liked was Mr. Collier".

CHAIRMAN: "Could this man be brought back to help us with the people, and their problems"?

BILLINGSLAY: "The only thing we want here is 'peace'".

CHARLES WEBSTER, AFSC: "Chairman, I agree with Mr. Billingslay, and Mr. Carlton. This community needs someone who the people love, and trust."

C. W. SMITH: "We have a number of complaints". He works with EOA as Area Block Chairman of their lighting committee. He states that they had a number of complaints, in addition to the other complaints, is proper lighting in the area. This complaint has been brought up before the proper authorities, but nothing has yet been done about it.

VIRGINIA JACKSON: Works with Anderson School's PTA, and talk to the boys in the area. The people here feel that the people with the EOA are better than them, the way they are treated. Since most of these people are not high-school graduates, they (EOA) in counselling them should tell these kids, not to expect to make a lot of money on the jobs that they are sent out on. Some of them have gotten into the training program, but this makes them frustrated, because if they have families, the salary they are given are not enough. The counselors should let them know what is to be expected.

HELEN BULLARD: "Some people will not respect the policemen if the children are told that the policemen go about and beat up the people. What could be done about this"?

VIRGINIA JACKSON: "My suggestion is, as I tell my children, (and I have five) that whenever a policeman orders you to do something, do it. If you are arrested go with them peacefully, wheter you are wrong or right. Then this is when you exercise your rights by hiring a lawyer".

CHAIRMAN: "If the City removes the policemen from the area, will it make this area less disturbed"?

VIRGINIA JACKSON: "We don't need anyone here, who cannot get order. The policemen are causing disorder."

WILLIE GLAZE: "Some of the people in the area feel that the people who the cops shot are either their friend or relative".

CHARLES B. HART: Asked what would their reactions be if Mr. Carmichael came back into the area, once the policemen are removed. Would they be able to guarantee anyone that they would not be motivated by his speeches and riot again? He also stated that he is a volunteer worker with EOA, as an area representative, and that about three months ago they expressed a desire for a "good Guy" to patrol this area. We have not had full cooperation with the community working with EOA. We had also tried to get the City to cuild two playlots for our children. Mr. Hart is to submit a written report to the committee on these efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P. M., in order to meet with the Mayor at City Hall.