

DR. ALBERT M. DAVIS
PRESIDENT

MRS. EUNICE COOPER
SECRETARY

DR. C. MILES SMITH
TREASURER

ATLANTA BRANCH

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

859-1/2 HUNTER STREET, N. W. SUITE 105

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

524-8054

March 21, 1967

Mayor Ivan Allen
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Allen:

The NAACP, again, congratulates you on the vast housing program and tremendous urban planning you have proposed for the city of Atlanta. These projects will enhance the status of our great metropolis.

On the other hand, we criticize you on your failure to, effectively, permit the citizens to participate in the planning of these programs. As a result, some serious mistakes have transpired which can create some unnecessary turbulence; one of which is potential over-crowdiness.

It has come to our attention that one of the sites now under consideration for proposed construction of public houses is in the Harwell Road-Skipper Drive-Bankhead area. Mr. Allen, we strongly oppose this due to the fact that the Northwest-Southwest area is already saturated with public housing and additional housing projects will only increase the density and decrease the morale and comfort of our people.

The Atlanta Housing Authority seems to have overlooked public housing location statistics and ignored the feelings and attitudes of Negroes who now live and will live in a crowded environment. Statistics reveal that of the 9404 public housing units existing 82.76% are in the Northwest-Southwest area while none are existent in the Northeast area. This imbalance in its most obvious and deplorable form. It seems logical that some local remedies to this problem should be exercised rather than augment this segregated concentration.

Mr. Allen, we recommend and insist that the Atlanta Housing Authority consider a more balanced dispersion of additional housing projects. Atlanta cannot and must not jeopardize its good reputation by establishing additional ghettos or perpetuating segregation in its housing patterns.

In order to assure comfort of our citizens and tranquility of our city and in the best interest of you, the Atlanta Housing Authority and our citizens, we urgently request an immediate audience with you in order



to Mayor Allen
page 2.....

to share some ideas and opinions. We would, also, hope that you can encourage the presence of Mr. Alexander of the Housing Resources Committee as well as Mr. Stearne and Mr. Satterfield from the Housing Authority.

There are some potential problems that can be alleviated before construction takes place on the above mentioned site as well as other proposed sites of which we are aware, if you can arrange to see us within the next day or so. We are prepared to meet you at your convenience.

We realize you are busy but because this is so important we hope you share our urgency of the need to listen and learn what our people are thinking so this conflict can be promptly settled..

Sincerely,



(Dr.) A. M. Davis

D:c
cc: Alexander
Stearne
Satterfield
Edward Baxter
A. R. Hanson