

File NAACP

ATLANTA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30301

SPECIAL DELIVERY

April 4, 1967

JESSE HILL, JR.
ACTUARY



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

Dear Mayor Allen:

This letter is written as directed by a special conference today of Summit co-chairmen. The Saturday morning issue of the Atlanta Constitution, April 1, 1967 carries the attached article by Alex Coffin. Included in the article are references to an apparent interview with you, listing the home address of Dr. A. M. Davis and remarks attributed to you as follows: Davis lives at 592 Waterford Drive NW, which connects with Skipper Drive. "That might influence his position," the mayor said.

Mayor Allen consider the reference an intolerable personal "dig" or "slur" against a dedicated and unselfish leader in our community and an insult to the Negro community. Dr. Davis is the president of the Atlanta Branch NAACP. The actions and pronouncements made by Dr. Davis regarding discriminatory housing in Atlanta were developed over a month ago at all day conferences long before Dr. Davis had knowledge of the proposed Skipper Drive-Harwell Road area as a possible site. If you were quoted accurately and in the correct context, we feel that you have cast an unfair aspersion against Dr. Davis and we take exception to this "bad taste" comment. We request that you apologize to Dr. Davis. Very, very few of the busy professionals in our community are willing to offer the service and leadership given by Dr. Davis. In addition the NAACP, our oldest strongest and most serviceable civil rights organization over the years, is one of the major sponsors and member of the Atlanta Summit Leadership Conference coalition.

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr
Atlanta, Georgia
Page 2
April 4, 1967

The issue referred to is not where Dr. Davis lives, but the over saturation of the predominately Negro residential areas with public housing projects, which means continued over crowding of schools, thus forcing Negro children on double and triple sessions and built in school segregation in the future. The city of Atlanta must face up to providing housing for "human beings" and not housing for Negroes, and housing for whites as is the case now.

The Summit Conference supports the Housing Program of the NAACP. We hope that our relations with you, the fine leadership you have given our city and the cooperation you have given our community will not be damaged at this time.

We cannot over emphasize that Dr. Davis did not act as an individual, he is the elected leader of largest paid membership civil rights or civic organization in Atlanta, and we insist that he is respected accordingly. He is acting with a mandate of citizens and leaders.

Very truly yours,
THE ATLANTA SUMMIT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Jesse Hill, Jr., Co-Chairman
Ald. Q. V. Williamson, Co-Chairman
Rev. S. W. Williams, Co-Chairman