

September 21, 1966

Mr. Robert McDaniel, Chairman  
The Good Neighbors Club  
Sum-Mec Neighborhood Service Center  
65 Georgia Avenue, S. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

I appreciate you sending me the list of items which the Good Neighbors Club thinks are the major problems in your community.

I will attempt to give you a status report on prospective help in each area in the order listed by you in your letter of September 12.

1. Recreation Centers - The Atlanta Parks and Recreation Department has leased a duplex apartment at 255 Dodd Avenue, S. W. as a first step in providing some immediate indoor recreation during the fall and winter months. The Parks Department is making plans for the operation and programming of activities at this location and as soon as they have completed their scheduling I am sure that they will be in touch with you and your group.

The Planning Department is also working with the school officials to initiate plans for the development of a possible neighborhood center in connection with one of the schools being expanded in your area.

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2. Enforce Housing Code - Our Housing Code Division has stepped up its code compliance program in that area particularly along Capitol Avenue and firm action is being taken to assure that property is brought up to standard through our special program with the Atlanta Housing Department, the City Inspection Department, EOA and the Housing Authority. Help is being provided those people who desire to move into better housing and who are qualified for public housing to get them in standard homes at the earliest possible date.
3. Caution Lights (Capitol Avenue School) - The Traffic Engineering Department is investigating the feasibility of additional Caution lights at this school and a report will be forwarded to you as soon as their engineering investigation is completed.
4. Playlots for Teenagers and Children with Extended Night Programs - Improvements are being made to the playground across from Capitol Avenue School. The Atlanta Braves are fencing in the area and will asphalt areas for special play activities.

The Stanley Daniel Park is under construction and the City now has a firm under contract to renovate the large building for an indoor recreation center.

The Community School Program which is starting in the area will also provide some additional recreation facilities during the cold weather months.

5. More Elementary Schools and High Schools - The School Board now has in plans or under contract projects which will include major expansion of the Capitol Avenue School, Stanley Daniel School, and expansion of the site of the Johnson Elementary School. The old Smith-Hughes School will be reclaimed by the School Board, renovated and placed back into operation as a high school or junior high school.

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6. More Sanitation Services for Street Pickups and All Other City Services Due This Area - I think you will note an increase in the sanitary services and as indicated on the attached report from the Sum-Mec Center sanitation services have been expanded greatly.
7. Interracial Patrolmen for Regular Duty in This Area - As you are aware, our Police Department operates on an interracial basis. We do not have two man cars in any area because of lack of personnel. Therefore, you will probably see many one man cars with both Negro and white officers patrolling the area on a regular basis.
8. Enforce Guidelines for Renting Houses and Apartments - I believe the cooperative program mentioned above will accomplish desirable results in this area and our housing code compliance inspectors are moving to insure guidelines coming under their jurisdiction are followed.
9. Better Streets - There have been several street improvements in the area. Bass Street has been prepared for paving and should be paved this week, the weather permitting.
10. Better Law Enforcement - Plans are being made for the expansion of our Police force in the next year's budget and I am sure that this will be reflected in improved law enforcement in all areas.

There are other improvements which will be made in the area real soon and I will try to keep you advised.

Please do not hesitate to let us know of the feelings in your area regarding City services and improvements.

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We appreciate your help and your interest in your neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Sweat

DS:fy

cc: Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.  
Mr. R. Earl Landers, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Johnny Popwell, Sum-Mec Neighborhood Center

bcc: Mr. Deane C. Tucker, Community Relations Service