

July 24, 1962

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.  
City Hall  
City of Atlanta  
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Mayor Allen:

As a homeowner and civic-minded citizen of the City of Atlanta, I am writing this letter in the interest of my home, as well as the homes of my friends and neighbors.

I am a resident in the Utoy-Peyton Forest Area, which is constantly being plagued with threats from the negro race, to invade on our property, and secure our homes. It is not very pleasant to know that you have worked for many, many years, are finally able to give your family what you have always wanted for them, then, by no fault of your own, have to unwillingly sell out, and leave it. Sure, it is said that you do not have to sell, that's true, but after being plagued with threats from the negro race, as we have been, almost constantly, for the last year, there is usually one, as has been proven in other parts of the City, who will panic - then your community usually goes.

I do not believe the elected officials of our City realize just what a threat this is to the City of Atlanta. If not, it is time your eyes were opened to what is happening and will continue to happen. People who have been forced to give up their homes are leaving the City Limits of Atlanta. The majority of others who are being threatened, or are in a danger zone, are planning the same. We certainly have no intentions of staying, with the possibility of getting into similar situation in another part of the City.

We will continue to battle this situation until the bitter end, but we certainly need, and should have the support of you in the City Hall. There is an urgent need for action to be taken to curb this "block-busting" that not only is threatening our community, but the City of Atlanta at large.

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Ask yourself what will become of Atlanta if the people affected leave the city limits? Can't you see the potential danger. If you could live in the situation, with the people, hear the discussions, and see it through our eyes, I then believe you would realize there is a danger of losing not only a great amount of tax money today, but your white citizens in great numbers. Then what will happen?

I have lived in Atlanta the greater part of my life, love it dearly and would never have wanted to live anywhere else until now, but to have peace and tranquility, it seems I have no other choice.

We are not asking or saying that the negro race not have what they justly deserve. We only ask that they get it in their own rights, instead of harassing us, and by hook or crook, get what is ours, when we are unwilling to give it up, but do so through force.

Mayor Allen, I would appreciate an answer, telling us just what plans are being made, if any, or what steps we might take to get help in stopping this before it has gone too far. Please let me hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. J. S. Hames*

CC: Alderman Milton G. Farris

CC: Alderman Jack Summers