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490 Peachtree Street, N. E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308

JA 4-2666

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Chief Herbert Jenkins
Atlanta Police Department
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Chief Jenkins:

I have a problem with which I hope you can help. Because of the nature of my work, I am unable to attend major league sporting events as often as I would like. I have several children, two of whom are avid baseball and soccer fans. It has been my habit to carry them to the games when I cannot also attend and then pick them up after the games. In the past this has been no problem because I simply entered the taxi lane, drove to the front of the stadium as any other taxi might do, picked them up and left. I have never before been stopped or even questioned in my use of this lane after the games. However, on the afternoon of June 25th, when I attempted to enter this lane I was stopped by one of your officers. I explained the situation, but he laughed and said he couldn't help it. If his orders were as he said, to prevent anyone using the taxi lane, then I think his orders should be changed. If these were not his orders, then I think he should be punished. In any event I feel that he should be counseled in how to meet the public even when refusing a citizen's request.

Except for the use of the bus and taxi lane, I have been unable to find any other route to the stadium after a stadium event. Last year I called the Atlanta Police Department and asked for advice in this matter and was told that there was nothing they knew of or any way to get to the stadium. It was that night that I began using the taxi lane and I had used it on Saturday, June 24th, in this manner. On Sunday afternoon, as I stated earlier, when I attempted to turn from Memorial Drive onto Capitol Avenue into the taxi lane, I was stopped by a police officer, badge number 1319. At that time, for a period of approximately a minute and a half, there was not one vehicle in sight up over the Expressway ramp in the taxi lane. This is a distance, as you well know, of approximately a block and a half to two blocks. My presence in this lane would not have crowded it in the least and would not have inconvenienced anyone in the stadium area. It would, however, have spared me a great deal of distress in that it required me approximately 20-25 minutes to get close enough to the stadium to allow one of my other children to go and search for the ones who were waiting to be picked up.