

STATEMENT BY IVAN ALLEN, JR.  
Sentencing of William James to Life  
February 9, 1967

The conviction of William Haywood James for the murder of Hulet Varner, Jr. is proof certain that all persons are equal before the law and subject to the demands of the law in the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

On September 11, a few hours after the shooting of the youth, I reminded the people of this city that Atlanta's efforts which have been unexcelled by any other American city, to eliminate racial prejudice and insure the Negro citizen of equal rights and opportunity. This cannot be accomplished or carried out except under the authority of law and order; and that these two are inseparable, and neither can succeed without the other.

This belief was put to its highest test in this case.

As a result, all citizens of Atlanta can stand a little straighter and sleep a little easier tonight.

I am instructing the City Attorney to confer with Chief Jenkins regarding the disbursement of the \$10,000. reward which led to the arrest and conviction of the murderer.