

STATEMENT BY MAYOR IVAN ALLEN , JR.

FIREMEN'S STRIKE

ON BEHALF OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT I WANT TO EXPRESS GRATEFUL APPRECIATION TO DR. EDWIN HARRISON FOR HAVING ACCEPTED A DIFFICULT TASK. HE HAS PERFORMED A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELFARE OF THE CITY. HE HAS AGAIN EXEMPLIFIED HIS INTELLIGENT LEADERSHIP AND DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING BY MAKING SOUND AND REASONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA WILL STRIVE VIGOROUSLY TO IMPLEMENT AND CARRY OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I AM INSTRUCTING THE ASSOCIATE CITY ATTORNEY JOHN DOUGHERTY, WHO REPRESENTED THE CITY GOVERNMENT BEFORE DR. HARRISON, TO FORWARD COPIES OF THIS REPORT TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF FIREMASTERS, THE PERSONNEL BOARD AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND ALSO TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO THESE COMMITTEES TO INTERPRET THE REPORT. THESE COMMITTEES ARE MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROPOSALS MADE BY DR. HARRISON

I AM ASKING THESE THREE COMMITTEES TO CONSIDER THESE RECOMMENDATIONS IMMEDIATELY AND THEN TO MEET SEPARATELY AND JOINTLY IN ORDER TO DEFINE THE CITY'S POSITION IN THIS MATTER.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN HAVE ALREADY INDICATED BY RESOLUTION THAT THEY WILL GIVE FIRST CONSIDERATION IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 56 HOUR WORK WEEK FOR ATLANTA FIREMEN. AT THE PRESENT TIME WE ARE COMPLETING AND SHOULD HAVE READY WITHIN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS, AN OVERALL EVALUATION OF SALARY SCHEDULES FOR ALL CITY EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING FIREMEN. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 56 HOUR WORK WEEK WILL IN NO WAY DECREASE THE CITY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONSIDER INCREASES IN FIREMEN'S SALARIES IN KEEPING WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FORTHCOMING REPORT.

IN ORDER TO DISPLAY EVERY INDICATION OF GOOD FAITH ON THE PART OF THE CITY IN IMPLEMENTING DR. HARRISON'S REPORT, I AM RECOMMENDING IMMEDIATELY TO THE THREE COMMITTEES MENTIONED ABOVE THAT THE CITY ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY EMERGENCY FUNDS TO COMMENCE HIRING AND TRAINING ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL BY OCTOBER 1, 1966, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE 56 HOUR WORK WEEK AS OF JANUARY 1, 1967.

I AM OF THE OPINION THIS CAN BE DONE WITH FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE AND AT A REASONABLE EXPENSE.

IF THE FACTS IN THE MATTER SUSTAIN THIS OPINION, I WILL PRESS THE RECOMMENDATION VIGOROUSLY.