

3117 McDow Ave., N.W.  
Huntsville, Alabama 35805  
September 29, 1966

The Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.,  
Mayor of Atlanta  
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Mayor Allen:

Your courage in facing the recent rioters in Atlanta deserves much more credit than I can express in this letter. However please accept my admiration and congratulations ~~for~~ being one of the truly great Americans of this age!

Georgia has been well ahead of her sister states in recognizing what is going on in this great country of ours; and it was with great sorrow that tonight I learned that the people had selected Lester Maddox as their choice for Democratic nominee for Governor. Nevertheless, with wise people such as yourself in high places, it is still probable that Georgia will lead all the South in realizing

that these clamors and furors will be settled only by realizing that what we, who as whites, would prefer to believe, can no longer exist anywhere in the world. Maybe it's our heritage and maybe it's something else that's forced it on us, but we cannot sidestep nor cringe from our responsibility as Christian human beings to make our world safe in Democracy!

Again, let me salute you! You are one of America's best hopes!

Yours very truly,  
Rodney S. Wheeler