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56 PEACHTREE ST. · ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30301



W. M. ALEXANDER
TREASURER

December 6, 1967

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

Dear Mayor Allen:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the very fine talk you gave at the SWAP Meeting last Thursday. I felt your remarks were very appropriate and were exactly what the people in that area needed to hear.

I am a lifelong resident of West End and Cascade Heights, and I mentioned to Jack Adair recently of my concern for that area. I believe he mentioned this to you. My concern is not only for Cascade and West End but for the fact that the people moving out of that area are moving out of the city of Atlanta, and in a lot of cases out of Fulton County, thinking that by doing this they will leave the integration problem behind them. I have attended most of the SWAP Meetings and got involved in a racial problem in our own church, Audubon Forest Methodist. From my experience in these two areas, I had an opportunity to discuss this overall problem with a great number of people in our neighborhood. As I mentioned to Jack, I intended to get in touch with you to discuss the feelings of the people in the area, but unfortunately I never got around to it. Apparently, from the remarks you made you are very aware of the feelings of this area.

It concerns me that so many of the people blame the City Administration for the problems of Cascade Heights, not only your administration, but also Bill Hartsfield's. My experiences in this problem go back to the time when several of my friends were forced to move from the Mozley Park area. During the recent discussions, I have tried to convince the people that I have talked to that this has been a natural movement of the negroes from the West Side on into the Southwest section, rather than a deliberate plan of the City Administration.

It is true that it is much more difficult for a colored family to obtain a home loan in other parts of Atlanta, and, in my opinion, this is part of

*Dear Bill
Thank you very much for your letter &
your efforts to
be fair for this
Sincerely*



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the overall problem we are facing, rather than a deliberate attempt on the part of the City Administration to establish the Southwest section as the colored part of town. I think it is incumbent upon us who live in the Cascade area to publicize and sell the rest of the city on the fine residential area that we have, in spite of the integration. If we can hold out long enough for people's prejudice to be worn down and their thinking changed on this matter, I believe we will have helped to establish an integrated city, rather than an all negro city as the trend certainly now seems to be.

Being a native Atlantan, I have grown up with the prejudice against living in an integrated neighborhood. During the past year, after meeting the negroes moving into Cascade Heights, my thinking has changed. This has also been true of a number of my friends. There also have been people moving into the area without this prejudice and others wanting to live in an integrated neighborhood. I believe these factors coupled with the, so far, successful integration of Southwest High School can go a long way toward maintaining a successfully integrated city. We will need help from the churches, business community, school administration, and city politicians.

Any attention and help you can give us in this area will be greatly appreciated. If I can be of any help to you in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me.

Very truly yours,



W. M. Alexander

WMA:bb

cc: Mr. Jack Adair