

Mr. Sweet

March 21, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. R. Earl Landers  
Administrative Assistant

Re your note to give you my opinion on Mr. James A. Smith's Memorandum of March 14, 1969, to Mr. Wofford pertaining to first batch of weekly lists from the Housing Authority of families certified for Public Housing, the following is offered:

Hasty perusal of the 45 certifications indicates that only 11 locations listed appear to actually justify Housing Code notices (4 of these already had Housing Code notices, and notices were prepared on 4 others as result of these inspections); a few may have been justified because of overcrowding.

The remaining 34 certifications because of sub-standard housing conditions or overcrowding include:

- Public Housing unit in Perry Homes
- A location outside of the City Limits
- Six addresses given which could not be found
- Remainder apparently unjustified (in opinion of Housing Code Inspectors)

Attention is invited to paragraph 4 of my Memorandum to you of February 26 (copy attached) in which I pointed out the fallacy of the Housing Authority accepting the tenants' word for sub-standard conditions of housing as a basis for application for Public Housing. This practice is clearly confirmed in communication of February 28, 1969, from the Chief Tenant Selection Officer to Mr. Smith (copy of which is enclosed). This is obviously the principal reason for the abuse indicated in Mr. Smith's Summary Memorandum to Mr. Wofford. Unless this is corrected, no amount of effort on the part of the City can ever produce enough Public Housing in Atlanta.

The attached material appears to be positive evidence of why the current procedure should be changed, as proposed by Building Department Officials, that a prospective applicant for Public Housing

Mr. R. Earl Landers  
March 21, 1969  
Page 2

because of inadequate housing conditions should first request and obtain a certificate from the Housing Code Division that the unit occupied is sub-standard or overcrowded to the extent that relocation is justified; and that such certification be presented to Housing Authority Tenant Selection Officials before certification for Public Housing is considered.

I recommend that the Housing Authority be requested to adopt such procedure immediately.

One other detail brought out during my discussion with Housing Authority Officials was that in reporting certification for Public Housing to the Building Department, an estimated date for move would be included (although it was mutually admitted that such dates would be tentative). This does not appear to have been done in these instances. It should be included in future reports.

Sincerely,

Malcolm D. Jones  
Housing Coordinator

MDJ/mc

Encls: Assembled correspondence  
Copy of Memorandum of February 26, 1969