

Dear Mr. :

As you know, our city has a large and growing demand for housing for all income groups. I am aware of the needs of all of the citizens for adequate housing at a price proportional to their ability to pay. My program to increase the supply of housing with this goal in mind is just now bearing fruit. I most earnestly recommend its continuance under your administration.

The Housing Resources Committee, made up of many volunteers who have unselfishly given me their time and effort, has been my method of keeping track of progress in the housing program. Since many of the members of the committee are free of political bias, I have found it useful to have them investigate and report to me on matters too politically delicate for my personal intervention. The committee has developed a technique for accomplishing these delicate tasks that I would hate to see the city lose. I strongly recommend that you consider continuing this method of operating when this type of problem arises.

But, specifically, I recommend that the city continue to be receptive to new ideas in design and construction of houses so that we may benefit from the technology which is available from many sources. We have architects and engineers on the committee who can advise you impartially on these matters. The problem of codes and restrictive trade practices has been minimized in Atlanta, but we are still troubled by the lack of uniformity between our codes and those of surrounding areas. This often prevents us from obtaining maximum participation in housing contracts because the contractors who might bid are unfamiliar with or won't work with Atlanta codes. I am satisfied that Mr. Wofford, once he has a firm hand on his staff of building inspectors, will be able to assist you in relieving this problem. It is not nearly as severe now as it would be in a period of frantic home building like that which has occurred in other administrations.

The Model Cities program must move ahead faster than it is presently going. You have an experienced staff in the Model Cities program and I recommend that you insist on performance from it. Many studies have been on the area's needs. It is essential that action be taken now to satisfy them.

Atlanta Housing Authority has received a great deal of criticism, much of it from people who are unaware of the total job which the authority has done. The use of relocatable homes in Bedford-Pine and the planned use of mobile homes to further ease the shortage of low-income housing during redevelopment are but two of the ideas which typify the work of this group. I recommend that you continue to urge them to consider new ideas on speeding up the job of providing a decent home to everyone under their jurisdiction.

I have enjoyed the opportunity of creating a better environment for our citizens. When I look at an area like Thomasville and contrast it with Cabbagetown I cannot help but feel that we are on right track. All we need is more speed.

Even though I shall be out of office, I don't expect to stop being concerned for our citizens. If there is any in which I can be of assistance to you in providing better housing, please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely,

Ivan Allen