



GEORGIA INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY

Industrial Development Division

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September 30, 1969

Mr. Cecil Alexander, Chairman
Housing Resources Committee
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Alexander:

At its last meeting on September 24 the panel adopted the following plan for its activities between October and January. The plan is based on the assumption that the winner of the mayoralty election will want to continue Mayor Allen's work to improve housing in the city. Wherever possible the plan includes only short term goals which are close to realization because the possibility exists that the committee will not continue. It will be manifestly unfair to raise the hopes of clients and then be unable to complete the work which was started.

Codes and Code Restrictions

The study of specific points in existing codes should continue. Mr. Thomas Gibson, an Urban Corps intern, completed a brief survey of the contents of the codes during the summer. His report has been transmitted to the chairman. In the opinion of this panel, his findings are typical of the problems which the codes present to small builders in Atlanta. The panel recommends that his report be accepted by the HRC and transmitted to Mr. Wofford for action. The panel is aware that Mr. Gibson was not a technical specialist in codes, but his findings are based on a literal reading of the codes, something which must be done if the codes are to be interpreted individually by each building inspector.

The Atlanta Housing Authority is planning the purchase and installation of 240 mobile homes which will have been manufactured in compliance with the city codes. The use of these units represents a major departure for the city and one that may signal a breakthrough in the acceptance of modular construction. The panel plans to monitor the use of these mobile homes.

The Plumbing Advisory Board has agreed to a trial of plastic piping in drain, waste and vent applications in a single family home in the city. The panel is interested in observing the reaction of the public to the progressive action of the Plumbing Advisory Board. It wishes to commend the board for being receptive to technical advances. It also reminds the users of this innovation that it is incumbent upon them to establish the consumer acceptance of this product now that the board has taken action to make its use acceptable.

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New Methods and Materials for Construction

The panel wishes to recognize the efforts of Urban East particularly those of Mr. Edward Benson and the volunteer staff from the various city, county and state agencies which made it possible for the city to prepare a proposal under Operation Breakthrough. The panel is also aware of two private proposals which offer interesting possibilities for the design and construction of housing in the city if they are funded by HUD. The panel plans to remain abreast of Operation Breakthrough and advise the city of ways in which it can benefit from that program.

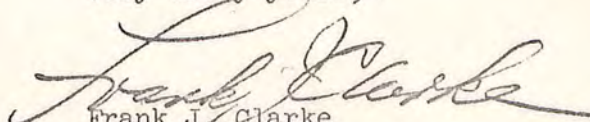
Housing in the Model Cities

The panel notes with approval the decision of Mr. Johnson to limit further studies of area problems and emphasize the construction of housing within the funding now available. After conversation with local home builders, the panel has determined that relatively little residential building is underway in the city. This means that the construction capabilities of these contractors are available for use in the Model Cities. Conversely, most of the construction is in apartment houses which require other skills. Therefore, the panel recommends that the Model Cities staff concentrate on getting individual town house, patio house and low rise construction started in the near future while contracting companies are open for competitive bidding to ensure fair use of the available funds.

The panel remains interested in the early implementation of the armature study as a means of controlling the expenditure of available funds. However, the erection of homes should not be deferred until completion of this study. It is regrettable that funding was not available at an earlier date but it is imperative that the study be completed as soon as possible, even though it is during the erection of some units recommended by the Eric Hill study. If its services are needed, the panel will assist the Model Cities in the selection of designs or construction methods suitable for the area.

In summary, the panel recommends that the work of the Housing Resources Committee be continued by the next administration. A proposed letter for Mayor Allen to deliver to his successor on this point is attached. In the interim between election and the completion of Mayor Allen's term, the committee should reappraise its charges and recommend those to be considered for continuation under the new mayor.

Very truly yours,


Frank J. Clarke
Chairman, For the Panel

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