

1803 Haygood Drive, N. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307  
September 8, 1966

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.  
City Hall  
68 Mitchell Street, S. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia

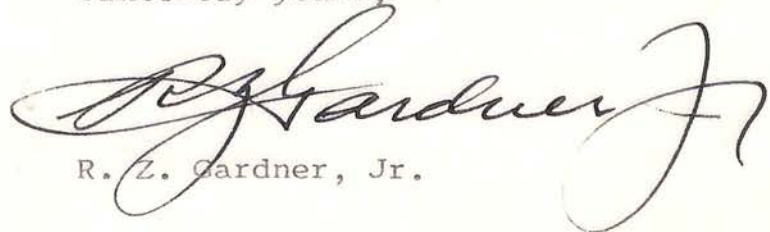
Dear Mayor Allen:

As a native Atlantan for over fifty years, I wish to express my commendation for the stand which you have taken in the recent unrest caused by a portion of our Negro populace.

Many people seem to overlook the fact that the Negro race, particularly as we know it in the South, is endowed with certain inherent characteristics which give vent to a status paralleling a parent-child association. Strong and influential guidance is necessary but an occasional scolding or spanking has proven to be a necessary ingredient to proper "up-bringing". Certainly, lawlessness, violence and disregard for the rights and property of others has no place in our society. It hasn't been too long ago when people were apprehended and punished for merely disturbing the peace.

Today strong leadership is called for, and many of us believe that the leader who gets there "firstest with the mostest" will prevail.

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Z. Gardner, Jr.", with a prominent flourish at the end.

R. Z. Gardner, Jr.

RZG:vr