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ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY, INC.

501 FULTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

February 10th, 1969

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Mr. John Robinson
Community Development Co-ordinator
Office of the Mayor
City of Atlanta
68 Mitchell Street, S. W.,
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Johnny:

The present status of TUFF is as follows:

On January 16th, the Executive Board of TUFF had a meeting with the Board of Commissioners of the Atlanta Housing Authority, and presented to AHA a "Tenants' Bill of Rights", a copy of which I have enclosed for your convenience. There was only desultory talk about TUFF's grievances, the principal issue TUFF presented to the authority being the future and not the past. That meeting concluded when the Authority agreed to "study" the proposed Bill of Rights. When Mrs. Mandy Griggs asked Mr. Stern how TUFF would have to wait for a response, Mr. Stern informed her that he "hoped" to have a response "within six months" but could make no promises.

On February 3rd, TUFF called a meeting of community leaders to discuss tenants' grievances against the Atlanta Housing Authority. The following organizations were represented at that meeting:

Good Government Atlanta

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Metropolitan Atlanta Summit Leadership
Conference

Alpha and Omega Christian Church

Young Men On The Go

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National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People

Urban League National

Urban League Local

Concerned Clergy

Georgia Council on Human Relations

Atlanta Christian Council

Community Relations Council

Southern Regional Council

Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights
Under Law

Fulton County Delegation

National Association of Social Workers

AFL-CIO

Operation Breadbasket

American Friends Service Committee

Metropolitan Atlanta Housing Conference,
Incorporated.

Approximately seventy people were in attendance and at the close of the meeting, Reverend B. J. Johnson recommended that those present support the efforts of TUFF to obtain the Tenants' Bill of Rights they had requested, and support TUFF in any other way possible.

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The Motion was unanimously carried and the participants of the meeting then determined to have a mass meeting on public housing property in order to test the housing authority's decision to forbid TUFF the use of its community centers.

The group agreed to meet late in February. The leaders of TUFF and the leaders of the organizations represented at the February 3rd meeting are now making plans for that mass meeting.

According to my most recent information, the Boards of Directors of the following organizations have endorsed TUFF's Bill of Rights and pledged to support TUFF:

Metropolitan Atlanta Summit Leadership
Conference

Concerned Clergy

Good Government Atlanta

Georgia Council on Human Relations, and

Metropolitan Atlanta Housing Conference,
Incorporated.

As TUFF's legal advisor, I am, as you might imagine, anxious to avoid any situation in which my clients would find themselves at odds with legally constituted authority.

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The rigid and uncompromising position of the housing authority, however, has now angered a large segment of informed opinion in Atlanta. Anything your office can do to assist my clients would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Padnos", with a stylized, cursive script.

Michael D. Padnos
Director

MDP/cj
✓Enclosure

P. S. I have just learned from Mrs. Griggs, Chairman of TUFF, that the housing authority has demanded of her a substantial payment for "excess gas" and has refused to accept her rent unless she is willing to tender the excess payment.

M. D. P.