

Summary of Situation re HUD's
Experimental Housing Project
July 15, 1968

April 22 - Mr. H. Ralph Taylor, Assistant Secretary of HUD, wrote Mayor Allen explaining the proposed project and asked if Atlanta wished to participate. The letter stated in part:

"These experiments will be carried out only in cities which are willing to cooperate in the development of innovative techniques aimed at generating a higher level of housing construction for low-income families", and

"The Department will be committing not only substantial research funds in this effort, but also tens of millions of dollars of program funds from several program sources."

May 6 - Mayor Allen replied to Secretary Taylor, stating that we definitely want Atlanta included among the cities to be selected for the Experimental Housing project and expressing desire to cooperate fully. (Atlanta's application for Model Cities stated that Atlanta is prepared to amend application of its codes and ordinances within the Model Cities area as appropriate.)

June 21 - Mayor Allen's letter of May 6 acknowledged by Secretary Taylor, assuring that every possible consideration will be given Mayor Allen's recommendation and he would be pleased to advise when final decision is reached.

May 8 - Study team of ABT-DMJM (ABT Associates, Inc., and Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall) headed by Mr. Allan W. Cameron, visited Atlanta. Initial conference was held with Dan Sweat. Remainder of day, team was escorted about town by Malcolm Jones who made appointments with key individuals as requested by team and accompanied team representatives on visits. Team was provided all materials and records requested.

May 24-25 - Enlarged study team visited Atlanta. Dan Sweat's office made appointments in advance with those requested and his office was made available for use by the team. Malcolm Jones again escorted team members about town and arranged for additional interviews and materials requested.

May 27-28 - Malcolm Jones again assisted Mr. James B. Frisby, team consultant, in obtaining additional materials desired.

Every possible courtesy was shown the team and complete cooperation given its representatives by all concerned. The team expressed satisfaction and pleasure re reception and cooperation furnished in Atlanta and indicated that Atlanta would have high priority in its recommendations.

June 18 - Mr. Frank Shakelford of Alston, Miller and Gaines wrote to Senators Talmadge and Russell and to Representative Fletcher Thompson requesting their assistance in getting ABT-DMJM selected as contractor for Phase II and stating that Atlanta is one of the 15 cities selected. (This reference to Atlanta appears to be premature and in error, since the survey report was not due in HUD until June 15). All 3 recipients of Shakelford's letter contacted the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in response to Shakelford's request.

July 2 - Shakelford wrote another letter to each of the above Members of Congress expressing distress over Atlanta not being included in the 12 cities selected and requested that HUD be urged to reconsider for selection of 15 instead of 12 cities and include Atlanta as one of those to be added. Fletcher Thompson has written to Secretary Weaver urging such reconsideration. Action of Senators Russell and Talmadge is not yet known.

(Apparently the basis of information on which Mr. Shakelford wrote letters on July 2 requesting reconsideration by HUD and inclusion of Atlanta in the list of selected cities) was result of telephone call from Mr. Francis Green in Washington, whose law firm was engaged as General Counsel by ABT-DMJM for its survey. Mr. Green accompanied the survey team to Atlanta on its second visit and consulted with Alston, Miller and Gaines at that time.

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According to reliable source, certain officials from Washington, D.C., in position to know the inside story, passed through Atlanta July 7 and advised a local person here interested in this project, that Atlanta would probably not be included among the cities to be selected for the Experimental Housing project because HUD was seeking cities in which the building codes are not too restrictive.


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