

C. J.
R.

27 October 1967
624 Flamingo Drive, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30311

Chairman
Board of Alderman
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sir:

By way of introduction I am Lt Colonel Raymond W. Quinn, US Army, Ft McPherson, Georgia and 624 Flamingo Drive, S. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30311.

On Thursday, 26 October 1967, at approximately 1610 hours, I was present at a meeting of the Board of Alderman (for the first time in my life) to listen to a petition from a development firm to rezone Willis Mill Road, North of Flamingo Drive, from a residential area to an apartment zone. Since the opposition was allotted ten minutes, I was unable to speak my piece and I realize I could have remained until all of the petitions had been heard, and then have testified. My military duties during this week prevented me from staying later than 1630 hours. I do not know whether or not a decision has been made in this matter, but regardless, I offer this in consideration.

My plea is a personal one. This may not mean much in a world where money, strength in numbers, and statistics seem to influence the decisions of some authorities. I do not have a petition bearing many signatures; I have no petition at all. If I did have such a document, it would be signed by such luminaries as my wife, my son, me, my two dogs (Sheba and Charlie Brown) and the many house guests, both military and civilian, I have had since we built our home in August of 1964; which leads me to my next subject, my lot.

Today, I mark twenty-six years of service. In November of 1963 I was reassigned from France to Atlanta and promptly moved into an apartment, so I am familiar with apartment living and the habits of some of the people who occupy such dwellings. We liked what we saw in Atlanta and immediately decided to live here permanently upon my retirement in March of 1971. With this thought in mind, we looked for a house to buy or a lot on which to build a home. After months of searching we found what we considered an ideal spot on Flamingo Drive, S. W. We purchased the lot from the Wilson Realty Company and had our home constructed. After we had moved into the house my son and I proceeded to clear the

land from our house to the creek (UTOY) which took approximately five months. (As a matter of interest, the good city of Atlanta hauled away fifteen truck loads of brush and debris). We also cleaned out and rearranged the rocks in the stream to permit a continuous flow of the water at the border of our property. We still clean the stream bed of debris after each heavy rain and during this time of the year because of the falling leaves. As an after thought, two years ago (I spent the last year in Vietnam) I started to clear an additional part of our lot and it took me two days to negotiate a 45 by 45 foot strip. This will give you an idea as to what my son and I had to do to make this, in our opinion (which is also shared by many others), not only the most beautiful lot on the street but one of the nicest in southwest Atlanta. I invite you and your associates to see for yourselves.

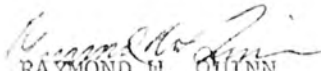
Now as to the land developing agency and the hearing itself. Two weeks ago I received a notice from the Planning Commission regarding the Rezoning Proposal. I was one of four or five people to receive such notification, even though it would appear to me that all of the residents of Flamingo Drive could be affected by this proposition. I have never been involved in this type action before, so I called the Wilson Real Estate Agency to secure some information prior to the hearing. I did not receive anything substantial from them at that time; however, Mr. Mike Wilson did call our home a few days later and said he would like to brief us (my wife and me) on the plan for developing the area in question. On Monday, the 23rd of October, Mr. Wilson and the developer came to my home and presented the project. I bring this point out only to illustrate the fact that, although (according to the proponent speakers at the meeting) this plan had been developed over six months ago, no one from the Developers or Wilson Realty had the common courtesy to call upon us and get our response to the plan. It's not that we weren't available; I returned from VietNam in June of this year and my wife remained in our home during my tour overseas. If this is fair business procedure then apparently my sense of justice is warped.

To conclude this epistle, I add the following in no special chronological order. My life savings have gone into this house/lot investment and I am not wealthy so I cannot afford to suffer a drastic loss in property value. I continue to pour my money in this house/lot complex because we love our area but this will stop if the apartment houses are permitted to be built. Our house was robbed in broad daylight in March of 1966 (you can see we are rather isolated, by choice), but I can live through this but I could not tolerate the thought of apartment houses in the near vicinity.

We love Atlanta and all of Georgia and its people. It's true we are "transplanted Yankees" but we feel there is no place like Atlanta and no place like our home and lot. I am sorry to say that if this rezoning action goes through, then I will have to say adieu, if not to all of Atlanta, at least to the Southwest Section. I really thought after 26 years I would move no more, but it appears there will be one more time.

As one last item, I offer this thought for you, sir, and your committee. Can you picture what this beautiful, blue colored, Utoy Creek will look like with an "apartment house/recreation area" complex upstream? I can. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,


RAYMOND W. QUINN
Lt Colonel, US Army

cc: Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.
Governor Lester G. Maddox
Editor, Atlanta Journal/Constitution
Editor, Weekly Star