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See Memo of 12/10/68
To Mayor Allen

2-10-68

Mr. Cecil A. Alexander, Chairman
Housing Resources Committee
Finch, Alexander, Barnes, Rothschild and Paschal
10th Floor Standard Federal Building
44 Broad Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Cecil:

It is with regret that I was unable to attend the Second Annual Meeting of the Housing Resources Committee on December 12, 1968. However, I have received and read with interest the Committee's report and wish to thank the Housing Resources Committee for a job well done.

I note that although our initial replacement goals of low and medium income housing are in the pipeline, those figures do not take into consideration interim growth of the City, formation of new families and any in-migration which may occur. These factors will undoubtedly increase our requirements in the low-income housing field. Also, it is necessary to follow through after units get in the "pipeline" to insure completion when they are most needed.

I note in the "FUTURE DIRECTION" portion of the Committee's report that you request consideration by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the proposals enumerated therein and a revised statement of mission for the Committee.

It is my understanding that copies of the Committee's report have been provided all members of the Board of Aldermen and I feel sure will receive sympathetic consideration.

With respect to revised mission, as we are all sadly aware, in spite of our efforts and accomplishments to date, in the low-income housing field, there still exist several sizable slum pockets in the City. Until these can be eliminated, through the Neighborhood Development Program, or otherwise by private enterprise, I want the Committee to remain in tact and work aggressively toward our ultimate goal of providing a decent, safe and sanitary dwelling unit for all of our citizens. To this end I suggest that your Committee concentrate on the following:

1. Endeavor to get low-income housing developed near sources of employment for the occupants.
2. Encourage and cooperate in development of low and medium income housing in unincorporated areas of adjoining Counties.

3. Strive for elimination of slum pockets within the City, through inclusion of such areas in future annual increments of the Neighborhood Development Program and or by other means.
4. Assist, where feasible, in rehabilitation of appropriate structures in all areas of the City, especially in the gray areas approaching decay.
5. Encourage development of medium and high priced housing within the City.
6. Continue to encourage the development of advanced building methods in the areas of low income housing.
7. Direct your attention to the social problems involved in low income families and neighborhoods in changing patterns.

In addition, I suggest that a joint study of the housing needs of the City be conducted by the Atlanta Housing Authority, the City Planning Department and the Housing Resources Committee to determine the true extent of Atlanta's needs. It is my understanding that A.R.M.P.C. is conducting a survey of housing needs in the metropolitan area and it is suggested that you call upon them for assistance.

Sincerely,

Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mayor