

SUBJECT: Statement of Purpose and Plan of Action for Atlantans  
Concerned about Riots, Their Causes, and Their Consequences

We, the undersigned Atlantans, are deeply concerned about the riots which have occurred in our nation with increasing frequency and with mounting violence.

We are concerned about the consequences of continued rioting and believe that the deterioration of human relations could do greater damage than the loss of material things if we fail to bring an end to riots and the conditions which spawn them.

We commend to every thoughtful citizen who believes in law and order and human progress the recently released "Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders". Whether one would agree absolutely with its methodology or the conclusions of the Commission, we believe the Report contains food for thought and suggestions for action which merit consideration. The Report is a good point of reference and a basis for discussion and action.

We are convinced that neither studies, nor resolutions, nor good intentions alone will suffice. We believe that all of the religious leaders of Metropolitan Atlanta should act now to bring an end to conditions in our midst which create despair, contribute to human degradation and fuel violence.

We, therefore, commit ourselves to assist in the task of transforming our urban area, that insofar as our abilities and resources permit, we should endeavor to respond to this urban crisis and help create a city where there is personal safety for all persons and property and where there is reason for hope and opportunity for individual growth and dignity for every citizen.

To do this there are many things which we believe must be done.

There must be a pooling of our resources - a coordinated effort for rich and poor, by affluent and depressed citizens, by leaders in religion, education and business and the professions, in industry and labor, in government and in all walks of life to meet our citizens needs in the following areas.

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1. Police Protection
2. Education
3. Housing
4. Employment

(Note: These areas are spelled out in the Council's memo)

As we see it, we must create a new attitude even more than we need to create new programs but both are needed. To establish new attitudes we must begin with ourselves, our families, our churches and synagogues.

Therefore, we pledge ourselves to - - - - -

(three areas are listed)

In order to develop wide acceptance of our stated purpose and our plan of action, we respectfully urge Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. to issue invitations to Atlanta ~~politicians~~ political, economic and religious leaders, to citizens representative of all areas of our urban community, to attend the meeting sponsored by the undersigned, with the Mayor serving as host. The purpose of this meeting will be to achieve in the Atlanta urban area, an agreement on our stated purpose and to arrange for a coordinated use of all possible resources. We seek a true and a new commitment and to develop a simple connectional structure to carry out this commitment.

We, by signing this resolution, do declare ourselves to be an inter-faith committee and authorize our designated representatives to visit the Mayor of the City of Atlanta and the other local leaders of this area for the following purposes.

1. To offer the full support of ourselves as representatives of the religious community.
2. To fund a luncheon for leaders and representatives of both races /which time we could hear from Mayor Ivan Allen his suggestions as to how all available resources might be coordinated to achieve our objectives.

3 and 4 are listed in other memo.

Finally, we invite all citizens to join with us in a commitment to our Statement of Purpose and our Plan of Action and we ask the help of Almighty God in this endeavor to transform and redeem our entire urban area.