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THE HONORABLE:

JOHN ALLEN DE MARCO
CITY OF ATLANTA, GA.

J. A.

DEAR SIR,

I'm writing in regards to the trouble (car) we've been having here in our city, and possibly how they can be given a borrowed friend.

First I would like to say first before I went into the service (prior to 1959) we needed it. Atlanta was having what can be called an undesirable life we had restriction of good measure, and was happy with what we had, but now 8 years later I find we still have the same thing, (there has been no change for the growing population) and with a few restriction, I will single out one. Park of many that seems to be going backwards. Mosley Park in N.W. Atlanta. Well when I left Atlanta in '59' this park was open from 9am-10pm with the pool being opened from 9^{am}-5^{pm} (seems with some people work) and the dance hall until 10^{pm}. Also when you were swimming, you could (if you -

COULD) SWIM TO ANY PART OF THE POOL YOU WANTED BE IT 2' OF 20'. NOW, THIS PARTICULAR PARK, BOAST HOURS OF 1^{PM} - 6^{PM}, NO DANCING, SWIM ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREA, AND NOW WITH 4 EXTRA HRS. OF DAYLIGHT, WHERE CAN YOU GO FOR RECREATION? HOME? NO. T.U.'S ONLY REPEATS, MOVIES? NO, MAJORITY OF PIC'S ARE 4 YEARS OLD REPEATS. BUT NOW, THERE'S ALWAYS THE STREETS. THEN SOME TOOKIE POLICEMAN AFRAID OF HIS OWN SHADOW, COMES ALONG TELL YOU "TO MOVE ON." (LIE REFUSE, BECAUSE OF MANY REASON.

REPEATS, 81° TEMP. NOT HARMING ANYONE, DISGUSTED BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING TO DO + NO PLACE TO GO BUT HOME, AND MAJORITY HERE A WHITEMAN WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR IF ALL TELL'S YOU TO MOVE ON, YOU DON'T, HE SHOOTS, HENCE: RICE, TO GET ALL ENERGY OUT THAT'S BEEN BOTTLE UP FOR 8 YEARS - THEN YOU COME, AND WANT TO BUILD A KIDDY PLAYGROUND FOR PEOPLE, AGE 14+ UP -

I WAS TOLD (TRUTH OR FALSE) THAT PARK NOW CLOSE BECAUSE OF A FEW FIGHTS (OR MANY) THAT INVOLVE OUR PEOPLE, AND PUNISHMENT WAS "CLOSE THE PARKS." "CUT THE HOURS OF OPERATION," AND, GENERALLY KEEP 'THEM' OFF THE STREETS. MR. MAYOR WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER FIGHTS (AFTER ALL, EVERYBODY CAN'T GET ALONG, WITH EVERYBODY) OF RACIAL RIOTS?

SECONDLY I FIND THERE NO INSIDE RECREATION, NOT ENOUGH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE; I'M ALMOST 30 YEARS OF

AGE, BUT STILL, I LIKE TO GET OUT AT LEAST 4 DAYS OR NIGHTS AND PLAY BASKETBALL TO KEEP MYSELF IN SHAPE AND FOR THE WANT OF SOMETHING TO DO. I'M SURE OTHERS IN MY AGE GROUP AND YOUNGER HAVE THE SAME FEELING.

NOW HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT HAPPENED TODAY, FROM 11'O'CLOCK ON.: I TOOK MY SON (AGE 3) WITH ME TODAY TO PLAY BALL AT GROVE PARK ON BARKHEAD. IN THE GYM THERE (TOO HOT TO PLAY OUTSIDE 84°) BUT COULDN'T PLAY BECAUSE OF DAY CAMP FOR SMALL GIRLS, BEING HELD THERE. — NOW, THERE STOOD AROUND THE GYM, ABOUT 15 PEOPLE (YOUNG MEN) AGING BETWEEN 14-32 WANTING TO PLAY BALL INSIDE. THEY WERE CURSING ABOUT THEIR LOSS OF RECREATION. MYSELF AND 4 MORE LEFT THERE AND WENT TO WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, (WHERE WE ONCE PLAYED) BUT NO ACTION, FROM THERE TO ARBUCKLE HIGH SCHOOL, LOCKED DOORS, THEN TO ANDERSON PARK, TURNER HIGH SCHOOL, PRICE HIGH SCHOOL, BETHLEHEM CENTER (CARVER VOC HIGH) HOWARD HIGH SCHOOL, MOREHOUSE COLLEGE AND HARPER HIGH SCHOOL, WITH THE SAME RESULTS. NOW ALL THESE GYMS ARE IN OVERDENSE NEIGHBORHOODS, BUT OFFER NOTHING BUT CLOSED DOORS.

TO MEN LIKE MYSELF AND THE YOUNGER SET THIS COULD BE CORRECTED, BY OPENING THESE GYMS WHAT WE HAVE, AND PUT THEM TO FULL USE, SAY FROM 9 AM - 9 PM DAILY AND 9-5 ON SUNDAYS.

THE CITY COULD SAVE MONEY I BELIEVE, BY

Paying someone to run these centers day + night.
~~then~~ ~~putting~~ ~~up~~ ~~turn~~ trying to build new ones.

Mostly what you're spending on is for the 3-13 yrs. age group, putting sliding board, swing sets, + seesaws knowing we in the 14-up group can't use these. The children want the ones rebounding + rotating, its the 14+ up group and these are the one that needs the pacification. We have what it take for recreation but the real need is to make use of what we have.

A few of them will find job in these gyms. The crime rate among young negro will drop. If this is carried out, I'm almost sure.

It would be a frightening thing if racial riots should erupt in Vinewood, Lightin', Summerhill, Blud Area, Mechanicville, Peoples Town, Buttermilk Bottom, Pittsburg Area, Deep South Atlanta, or even in my area Perry Homes (I'll tell you from listening, Perry Homes might be next.) all at once. I know there's not enough patrolmen to take care of something like this, but all of this can be avoided, by making use. Please do, before Atlanta gets a darker name.

But please Mr. Mayor, consider opening other recreation facility's such as school gyms + park gyms. For much longer recreation time during the day. Let the parks remain open for a reasonable time also,

I WANT MY CLOSING STATEMENT TO BE ONE I
RECENTLY SAW ON A COMMERCIAL (T.V.) THERE'S THIS YOUNG
BOY WALKING DOWN THE STREETS WITH HIS BALL, WHEN
HE GETS TO THE REC. FIELD, THERE'S A BIG, TALL FENCE
WITH A PADLOCKED GATE. HE TRIES UNSUCCESSFUL TO ENTER,
BUT GIVE UP AND TURN TO GO, PICK UP SOME CHALK AND
WRITE ON THE SIDEWALK, BY THE LOCKED GATE:

DON'T FENCE ME OUT.

yours truly
Charles Lo