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ATLANTA 9, GEORGIA

January 3, 1963

Done See me
(Signature)

Mayor Ivan Allen
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Mayor:

As one of your long time admirers and supporters, as well as a proud citizen of Atlanta for some 50 years, I feel it incumbent upon me to drop you a note concerning Atlanta's "Image" which I found on a recent trip to Florida from which I returned on New Year's Day. I was there at the time the National radio and television commentators reported on the "Buffer Wall" set up in Atlanta.

While I realize that my information concerning the events which lead to this action come only from newspaper reports, and while making no claims to knowing what is best in solving this and other similar problems in race relations, I can report without equivocation that this action has caused the "Image" of Atlanta to suffer enormously in the minds of the people with whom I came in contact during a ten day period.

For the first time in a great many years I found myself on the defensive with relationship to actions of "my town" and I must say I found it very unpleasant. While I have not always been able to feel proud of the actions of our State Government, I have not found it necessary to "explain", with embarrassment, action that our "City Fathers" have taken. I have always in the past felt that the spirit was positive; a spirit where progress was being made. In this situation, I must say that whatever the merits of the action taken, the action itself appears to me a negative one and not in keeping with the spirit so often pronounced by our beloved Mayor Emeritus, "Bill" Hartsfield: "We don't have time to hate in Atlanta - - - We're too busy making progress".

I trust this letter will be received in the spirit in which it is being written - that of sincere concern, because of a deep love for Atlanta, its history and its future.

My best wishes to you for a healthy, happy and progressive 1963.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,
Irving L. Greenberg
Irving L. Greenberg, M. D.

ILG/hf