

MINUTES

HOUSING RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 14, 1967

Members of the Housing Resources Committee met for their organizational meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 1967, at 10:00 a. m. in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cecil Alexander, Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Alexander then presented Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. who spoke at this time. Mayor Allen first expressed his appreciation to everyone on the Committee for their willingness to serve and to respond to the City's efforts to provide better housing for its citizens. He reviewed with the Committee the great magnitude of this problem and the increasing need for more and more housing units. He pledged the City's full cooperation in attempting to overcome this problem and in getting this program underway. He expressed the hope that by 1968 the City would meet its goal for 9,800 new housing units. He also told the group of the Model Cities Program presently being developed by the City. This program would cover a very large portion of the city and would affect 55,000 citizens living in the area. This would be a different program to try to save this particular section of the city. He stated that he felt the progress that had been made since the November Housing Conference is an indication that we will meet the goal.

Mr. Ferd Kramer of Draper and Kramer of Chicago spoke to the group at this time. Mr. Kramer is the past President of Action, Inc. and is presently on the Board of Directors of Urban America, Inc. and is chairman of their committee concerned with non-profit housing funds. Mr. Kramer told the Committee of a housing project he helped develop in Chicago some 7 to 8 years ago. This project was developed by a group of private individuals representing a cross-section of the community and the benefits were two fold:

1. It improved the environment considerably in the declining neighborhood; and
2. It provided much needed housing for the staffs of the Michael-Reese Hospital and the Illinois Institute of Technology (these organizations were the first groups to institute studies of the area to determine the approach to follow to combat the decline of the area).

This program was tremendously successful in Chicago and Mr. Kramer felt it would have some applicability in Atlanta. Mr. Kramer also explained that Urban America, Inc. has a division especially interested in non-profit housing and in

creating development funds. It is not possible for the Urban America staff to serve the entire nation's non-profit groups and as a result they have been successful in persuading communities to create local development funds to deal with this problem. He stressed that each community must use every possible means for securing housing for its low and middle income citizens.

The Chairman then thanked the members of the Committee for accepting this responsibility and outlined the challenges facing them in providing this low income housing in Atlanta. He stated he hoped this Committee will serve to bring the elements together which are necessary for success (new ideas, new structures, new financing methods, etc.). He reviewed several programs that are available to help solve this problem. He then outlined the work to be carried out by each panel and explained that the actual work of the Committee will be conducted through the panels. He suggested that each panel appoint two young men to assist them and to carry out the majority of the work. He pointed out that Col. Malcolm Jones and Mr. William Gates are available to assist the Committee and that their office is located on the 12th floor of City Hall. Mr. Dan Sweat of the Mayor's Office is also working closely with this program. He asked that each panel meet at least once a month and suggested that the full committee meet monthly also.

The meeting was then adjourned and the Committee members were asked to meet with the other members of their panels here today for the purpose of selecting a Chairman and Co-Chairman.