

Messrs. A. T. Walden, Q. V. Williamson,
Co-Chairmen; C. R. Yates, Treasurer,
W. R. Cockrane and J. H. Calhoun, Co-
Secretaries, Atlanta Negro Voters League
Atlanta, Georgia

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your telegram of December 16, in regards to the Peyton and Harlan Road closings. I suggest that you make a careful investigation of all the unnatural circumstances surrounding this action. I am convinced that after you do so, you will agree with me that this is a practicable solution.

In my opinion An artificial situation in the area has been created mainly by unscrupulous dealings in order to bid up the price of real estate holdings. Neither of the roads has served as a through fare, nor is either a major source of access.

The proposed action ^{*Could*} ~~will~~ release hundreds of acres of land for residential and apartment dwelling -- which land has previously been artificially zoned and which has been denied its normal use for a number of years.

The proposed action ^{*should*} ~~will~~ stabilize the entire area and bring about a much better attitude on the part of all citizens residing there.

The City has established and maintained a precedent of not interfering with the normal laws of supply and demand, of sale and ^{*purchase*} ~~purpose~~ of natural expansion. However, in this instance, none of these factors is evident.

My own consideration of the misuse of zoning privileges was evidenced by my action in regards to the cemetery property and in other instances. The opening up of all this large tract of land on the south side of Gordon Road would provide greatly needed living areas for thousands of Negro citizens who now badly need such space.

I sincerely hope you will reconsider what you said in your telegram and take all factors into consideration in support of my firm stand.

Sincerely,

Ivan Allen, Jr.