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7 July 1967
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Mr. Thompson H. Shuttleworth, Chief
Land-Use Control Division
Department of Planning
City of Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Shuttleworth:

This is to acknowledge your letter of 27 June 1967. I have communicated its contents to members of the Boulder Park Association of Civic and Community Clubs and other groups who are allied with us in our efforts to effect the best possible land-use control in the Adamsville community. The membership will make every effort to comply with the wishes of the Aldermanic Zoning Committee by the September 1 deadline.

We are being temporarily delayed in our attack on the zoning problem because of the community's preoccupation with Project OCS (Operation: Cool Summer) which involves a major total area commitment to ease neighborhood tensions, particularly in the shopping center area, and avert the threat of mid-summer violence. Our particular concern is with unemployed teenagers and those merchants who are not in complete sympathy with neighborhood improvement programs. Significantly, our big handicap is a lack of recreational facilities in the area -- no swimming pools, no community club houses, no YMCA nor YWCA, no library, no supervised recreational facilities. We hope, through Project OCS, however, to advertise our needs and encourage a little more effective cooperation from City Hall.

Admittedly, the Department of Planning is not immediately concerned with an area's teenager problems, but wise urban planning does involve fashioning means for the effective absorption of burgeoning area populations. So this problem does at least lie on the periphery of your department's area of concern.

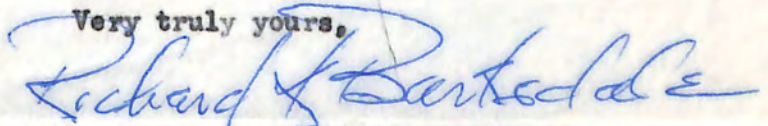
As for the specific matter of the rezoning petitions, I have three personal reactions:

- (1) First, I cannot personally concur with the view that every neighborhood must have multi-family units in order to be considered a "well-balanced" community. A well-balanced community, it seems to me, is one that has sufficient services to accommodate the needs of its citizenry. To impose multi-family units on an area lacking these essential services brings a precarious imbalance to a community.

- (2) Secondly, it seems to me that, by giving the community a deadline, the Zoning Committee has relieved the petitioner of the burden of the proof and placed it on the citizenry. Instead of the petitioner having to prove why a zone change should be granted, the community is being asked to concede that the petition has validity and recommend areas for multi-family dwellings. In other words, we are being subtly inveigled to cooperate against our best interests.
- (3) Finally, I think that all petitions for zone changes for building multi-family units should include "hard" plans for building adjacent schools and recreational facilities, as well as a traffic study of the area in which the units are to be constructed. In other words, the petitioner should provide the Zoning Committee with a "package" plan, detailing the installation of services to accommodate the citizens who will live in the multi-family units.

I hasten to add that much of the above represents my personal point of view. In the weeks to follow, I plan to confer with some of my friends in HUD and federal and public housing in order to become more informed. In the meantime, as we make our plans to cooperate with the Zoning Committee, we will probably call on you for guidance and assistance.

Very truly yours,



Richard K. Barksdale, Chairman
Boulder Park Association of Civic
and Community Clubs

cc: The Honorable Evan Allen, Jr.
Mayor, City of Atlanta