

July 23, 1969

MEMORANDUM TO : Malcolm D. Jones
FROM : W. R. Wofford *WRW*
RE : Suggestions from Construction and Design Panel
Housing Resources Committee
William Beers, Chairman, Subcommittee of Panel

I have studied the comments of your Construction and Design Panel relative to the proposed revision of the City of Atlanta Building Code and furnish the following information:

Sec. 101. The term 'building official' is used in accordance with the National Building Code. It must be remembered that the City of Atlanta Building Code sets out regulations for construction of structures. Each of the codes governing other phases of construction clearly define the building official's responsibility in that phase. The Building Code has no authority to designate responsibility for other activities; i.e., electrical, plumbing and heating and ventilating.

Sec. 107.2 All innovations of materials and methods of assembly, when approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, are immediately accepted by the Building Department.

The Building Code Advisory Board is not authorized as an approval agency for each innovation. It does, however, have authority to hear appeals for use of such approved innovation. If evidence is furnished to insure that a new, approved material and/or method of assembly gives equal safety to meet code requirements, the Board may recommend to the Building Official that the proposal be accepted.

In addition to those at the Building Code Advisory Board hearing only the building inspector who will inspect the construction (authorized representative of the building official) is concerned with recommendations of the Board. He is notified of the recommendations in order that he can efficiently perform his duties.

It must be pointed out that each request is considered on its own merit; decisions of the Building Code Advisory Board are not to be deemed as establishing precedents or new regulations for building construction, therefore, issuing numbered certificates would be of no purpose or value.

General - A major complaint of the architects, engineers and builders has been

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the need to refer to a group of regulations - a single volume code is considered most practical. The City Clerk also wants a one-volume code in order that he can certify same for court use; therefore, the Building Code Advisory Board and the Building Department recommend one volume.

Appendices - The City of Atlanta follows the National Building Code. The National Building Code is based on national standards such as Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), American Standards Association and all nationally recognized testing laboratories. The Southern Standard Building Code has its own technical code and is, in essence, its own engineering advisory board and the requirements are written generally by industry itself.

Clerical - Any comments will be considered.

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