

CITY OF ATLANTA



CITY HALL ATLANTA, GA. 30303

Tel. 522-4463 Area Code 404

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
COLLIER B. GLADIN, Director

April 2, 1968

Planning Staff Report:

The Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, Chapter 17, "Housing".

In response to the Mayor's request, we are submitting for your consideration our thinking and recommendation relative to the Housing section, Chapter 17 of the report of the National Advisory Committee on Civil Disorders.

Basically, this section contains recommendations for national action. At the heart of the section is a recommendation for the enactment of a comprehensive and enforceable federal open-housing law to cover the sale or rental of all housing, including single-family homes. The Planning Department would support such a national law, however, we would not support local legislation in this regard until after national policy has been established.

Many of the following recommendations for national action we have endorsed previously, namely:

- Expansion and modification of the rent supplement programs to permit use of supplements for existing housing.
- Expansion and modification of the below-market interest rate program to enlarge the interest subsidy to all sponsors and provide interest-free loans to non-profit sponsors to cover pre-construction costs, and permit sale of projects to non-profit corporations, cooperatives, or condominiums.
- Expansion of the public housing program with emphasis on small units on scattered sites, and leasing and "turnkey" programs.

We have reservations about the following recommendations. More information and/or time is needed in order to assess them.

Planning Staff Report

Page 2

April 2, 1968

- Creation of an ownership supplement program similar to present rent supplements, to make home ownership possible for low-income families.

Question - How would it work? What are its ramifications? Costs?

- Federal write-down of interest rates on loans to private builders constructing moderate rent housing.

Question - How would it work? What are its ramifications? Costs?

- Expansion of Model Cities Program. To date the theory of this program has been most appealing. However, its much too early to talk of expansion without more experience in execution.

- Expansion and reorientation of the urban renewal program to give priority to projects directly assisting low-income households to obtain adequate housing. While we support the expansion, we are uncertain as to what is meant and the intent of reorientation of the urban renewal program. If the intent is to return the program to its earlier days when housing was provided to the mutual exclusion of new commercial and industrial plants and jobs, then we would oppose such "reorientation."

As to specific recommendations for local action and public policy, we refer your attention to a report rendered in October, 1967. This report was "A Review of Atlanta's Housing Program - Its Problems and Prospects," a joint staff report of the City Planning Department and the Housing Resources Committee. There has been no action taken on this report and its recommendations. Attached is a copy of that report.