

July 10, 1969

TO: The Honorable Mayor and the Board of Aldermen
of the City of Atlanta:

Re: Concerned Young Women Citizens
of the City of Atlanta

We wish to call to your attention that there are more than 40,000 young girls in the City of Atlanta who do not have a decent place to stay.

WHO ARE THESE GIRLS?

They are our girls ranging from 18 to 26 years of age

WHAT DO THEY DO?

They work in hospitals, go to school, work for the telephone company, do secretarial work, work in laundries, factories, banks, grocery stores, restaurants and various department stores; and they are cooks and maids in private homes.

When a girl comes into town or gets to be 18 years old she wants to feel as though she is able to take care of herself. She wants a decent place to stay of her own choosing in a community like any other girl. These girls do not have the money to rent an apartment and furnish it. If they are lucky enough to get a job paying \$50.00 to \$75.00 a week, by the time social security and withholding taxes are taken out, they hardly have anything left.

These are our girls; they are the mothers and wives of tomorrow. They are a part of us and our community.

HAVE THEY BEEN PROVIDED FOR? NO!

CAN THE Y.W.C.A. AND CONCERNED
CITIZENS DO IT ALL? NO!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

These girls get together and rent a home together. They cook together. They sleep in separate beds as a family. They share their common problems. They enjoy one another's company because they are young girls.

HOW IS THIS DONE?

There are a few men and women in this town who have bought some decent houses in decent neighborhoods and have provided these facilities and advantages:

First, decent neighborhoods. No house notes for them to pay; no light bills, no gas bills, no telephone bills, no water bills, no furniture to buy or pay for, no stove or refrigerator to buy or pay for. The houses are completely furnished, and all bills are paid by the owner or agent when the house is rented.

There are approximately 10 to 12 girls in a twelve room house. They pool their resources to pay their rent. Out of their \$50. to \$60.00 weekly check, they can save a little, eat and live decently. It has

been proven over the years that these girls can live together cheaper than any other way.

No men can stay where the girls live. We have inspected some of the places where these girls live. We at the Y. W. C. A. and Concerned Citizens recommend the ones that we have inspected and seen. No one will try to take advantage of these girls because there are number of them living together as a family. They do not wish to live in commercial or apartment sections. They want to live together as a family in a decent neighborhood.

The purpose of this communication is to ask The Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen to stand up for these girls to live together with supervision in a family manner in a decent neighborhood. We do not think the houses where these girls stay should be tagged as rooming or boarding houses.

These girls are concerned. They wish to be left alone, and they wish to be good citizens. There is a true report that there is someone from ~~SOMEWHERE~~ going around checking with these girls in some houses and checking with neighbors about these girls who live together as a family.

We hope and pray that the Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen will see fit to lend a helping hand to these innocent girls in order that they may be left alone and not harrassed by some "crackpot".

IF THESE GIRLS HAVE TO MOVE, WHERE WILL THEY GO?

We need your kind understanding and help.

Y. W. C. A. Signed by Mrs. Magnolia M. Smothers (with adequate supervision)

Y. W. C. A. Mrs. Kelli C. Dressell (" " ")

Julian Bond
Rev. B. Johnson

Rev. A. J. [unclear]

Mrs. Geneva Hayabrook

J. A. Middleton Postul. Morris College

Rev. Will Holmes Borders

Senator Leery [unclear]

[unclear]

Rev. J. A. Wilborn (with supervision)

Publisher of Atlanta Daily World

Atty. [unclear]

[unclear]

