

TO: CHIEF C. H. HILDEBRAND

FROM: 1st Deputy Chief

SUBJECT: Suggested action on the report of the National Advisory Committee on Civil Disorders

A meeting of the following Division Heads was held at Fire Department Headquarters, Tuesday, March 26, 1968, at 10 a.m. for the purpose of submitting recommendations on implementation of the corrective action called for by the Mayor as outlined in the "Report of the National Advisory Committee on Civil Disorders". The following Division Heads were in attendance:

1st Deputy Chief C. T. Ragsdale, Chairman
Deputy Chief P. O. Williams
Battalion Chief J. I. Gibson
Fire Marshal J. F. Seagraves
Superintendent of Alarms T. H. Cobb
Superintendent of Maintenance J. R. Cochran, and
Training Chief R. W. McGill

Chief Ragsdale called for a report from each individual and the following appeared to be the consensus of opinion of all in attendance.

1. Only one area addressed itself to the activities of the Fire Department and that was to provide more effective communications in the areas concerned or in other words project the Fire Department and its activities to the residents in order to improve the image that now exists.
2. In order to effectively accomplish No. 1 above the following recommendations are made:
 - A. Prepare a brochure that would project the Fire Department such as: Outlining the responsibilities of each Division explaining the functions of all concerned and to emphasis upon the citizens of these areas that the Fire Department exists for only one purpose and that is for the protection of life and property in all areas, to all citizens. This booklet would contain such information as the requirements for employment, the training, and benefits derived from being employed by the City of Atlanta Fire Department, an

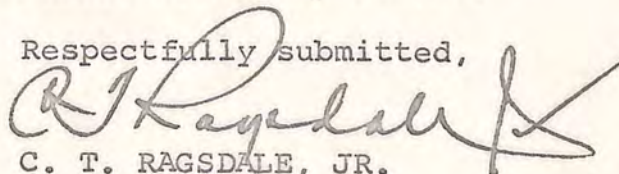
open invitation to all personnel to visit their Fire Department, how to report a fire, how to obtain emergency responses, the need for protecting fire apparatus, many fire prevention steps to be taken by each citizen, and an explanation that the Fire Prevention Bureau is available to assist any group by making Fire Prevention talks, demonstrations, and showing of film.

3. Institute a program of visitation into various communities for the purpose of distribution of Fire Prevention Literature, Demonstrations of Fire Equipment, and providing for Dwelling Inspections on request. During the inspection extend an invitation to residents to visit their community Fire Station.
4. Have Merit Badges purchased and maintained at each Fire Station in sufficient quantities to give to all children visiting the Fire Station along with an impressive comment that in receiving this badge they are assuming a helpful citizen's role in assisting the Fire Department in preventing fires.
5. Coordinate with the Water Department in providing street showers for children in these areas utilizing the fire hydrants.
6. Cooperate fully with "Little City Hall" in answering complaints and grievances that come under the jurisdiction of this Department.
7. Have the Fire Department Personnel, especially Chief Officers, show their interest and concern for citizens in these areas in responding to alarms.

In reference to Fire Departments and Civil Disorders (Page 493) wherein specific recommendations are set forth for fire service during civil disorders we make the following observations:

1. The Fire Department has a documented plan which is based on the above stated recommendations.
2. This plan was coordinated with the Department of Civil Defense, Department of Police, Georgia National Guard, Water Department, and Public Works Department.

Respectfully submitted,



C. T. RAGSDALE, JR.

1st Deputy Chief