

Inman Park Methodist Church

1015 EDGEWOOD AVENUE, N. E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30307

September 9, 1966.

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.,
The City Hall
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

As one of the ministers of the city of Atlanta, let me congratulate you on your forthrightness and courage in meeting the situation that arose in the Capitol Avenue - Ormond Street area on Tuesday afternoon this week. There is just no excuse for such rioting as was precipitated by the "Snick" leadership.

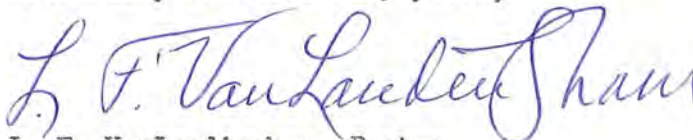
I have sometimes wondered if policemen are not too quick to use their guns, which was the excuse used in this instance. And I have not always been in agreement with certain stands that you have taken with respect to our city. But I have appreciated the manner in which all along you have tried to work to help the Negro people. We need courageous leadership in this field, and you have shown courage again and again.

You certainly acted with courage last Tuesday. I commend you from the bottom of my heart about that. The reluctance of the white mind to welcome a new day in race relationships is deplorable, and lays itself liable to just such as the radical leadership perpetrated on last Tuesday.

But we don't need the Stokely Carmichaels and those of his ilk who fester such actions and attitudes. They do not help the Negro. They hurt him.

Thank you, Mayor Allen, that you moved unhesitatingly and with such courage to try to halt an angry situation. We sincerely hope that we may have no more of what Mr. Carmichael and his gang stirred up that afternoon.

Gratefully and cordially yours,



L. F. VanLandingham, Pastor
Inman Park Methodist Church