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The Atlanta Community Relations Commission held a town hall meeting for the residents in the Peachtree-Tenth Street area in an effort to begin some kind of dialogue between the young people, long-time residents, and property owners and to determine whether the city services and resources are adequate for that area.

The areas of concern seemed to be as follows:

- Priority Number 1: Jobs
- Priority Number 2: Housing
- Priority Number 3: Drug traffic and drug hazards
- Priority Number 4: The need for a community house that would also house health facilities and provide for counseling.
- Priority Number 5: The need to make plans for a projected influx of vacation Hippies from other cities
- Priority Number 6: The need for police patrolling the district without harassment of the residents
- Priority Number 7: Neighborhood cleanup facilities  
(Need for more street garbage cans)
- Priority Number 8: The need for a center to cope with the problems of runaway people

The Community Relations Commission is concerned with the Tenth Street area in the same way that it has concerned itself with other neighborhood areas in the city. However, we realize that the problems in this area are made more complex by the presence of drugs and the conflict between the life styles of the long-time residents and the younger residents. The Commission applauds the efforts by the young people in handling the drug problem and for using their own pressures to rid the neighborhood of drug pushers and to keep new drug pushers from coming into the area.

Obviously Atlanta has no desire or inclination to make the city into a police city by prohibiting anyone from choosing to come to Atlanta to live or to exist. However, the Commission does urge that whatever means are available be used to get information to Hippies in other areas as to the lack of job opportunities that exist all over Atlanta as well as the lack of housing for the existing population. We urge that this information be disseminated as well as the information that the city government intends to use every resource it has and even to using whatever outside agencies are available in a tough crackdown policy on the sale of narcotics throughout the city. The Commission believes that there should be no misunderstanding as to the climate of

opinion in regard to the implementation of the city government itself, its police department and all other agencies in policing of the overall city. We think it is only fair to tell young people what to expect if they arrive in Atlanta without a job and without visible means of support.

Up until now coexistence in the area has been made possible by concerned citizens, by churches, by individual members of the medical profession, which includes psychiatrists. We are grateful for the concerned people and organizations. As individuals and as a city commission we will continue to work with the community in attempting to further a peaceful, creative community. We in no way subscribe to the theory for this community or any community in America that if you ignore problems they will go away. The grim lesson of other cities which subscribe to this philosophy has been heeded. We intend to return to the Tenth Street area on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to make a report, to make suggestions, and to listen to the residents. In the meantime, there are certain recommendations which we would like to make now and which we believe would be supported by the majority of the people in the community.