

COMMITTEE ON APPEAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, INC.

P.O. Box 110211
Atlanta, GA 30311

November 6, 2000

Johnny Parham
601 East 20th Street #4C
New York, N.Y. 10010

Dear Johnny:

In the spring of 2000, many of us came to Atlanta to participate in the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Student Movement in Atlanta in 1960. During the reunion, we had the pleasure of interfacing with "ole comrades" who had participated in what has been described as the most significant movement for human and civil rights in the history of America, and possibly the world, due to the immense impact that it had on oppressed peoples everywhere. We reminisced, shared common battle stories, published an updated An Appeal for Human Rights, discussed our grandchildren and, in general, had a very good time. However, as we moved through the planned activities of the weekend, we became acutely aware that there was a paucity of present day students attending the activities. Moreover, when we, as well as the students, were queried by reporters from the local newspapers about their lack of participation, they allegedly related that they did not see the need to participate in the activities because they did not face the problems that we faced 40 years earlier. One clear implication of that response is that present day young African Americans are oblivious to the more subtle forms of racism which continue to plague this nation. This writer did not personally speak to anyone who had those feelings, but assuming that the information which has been reported is correct, there is a problem of immense proportion with regard to the future of African Americans in this country. Knowledge of one's history provides the foundation for building a prosperous and meaningful future.

Racial discrimination has not disappeared and, in many areas, is still very open and pervasive. Witness, for example, the profiling of African American men on the streets and highways of America. Many discriminatory actions have assumed various forms that may not be as visible as "Separate but Equal" accommodations. Though more insidious, they are still designed to continue the subjugation of people of African descent in this country. Moreover, the institutions in the Atlanta University Center that serve as the learning environment for future generations have not inculcated into their curriculum a focus on the contributions of its students to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, which provided the substance for the slogan that Atlanta was a city "Too busy to hate." The change in the racial climate in Atlanta set in motion the unprecedented economic expansion of the city over the past 40 years. Moreover, some of the most important leaders in the country's history were participants in the struggle of the 1960s in Atlanta. These facts need to be presented to students of today and tomorrow.

In a unanimous decision, it was determined in the spring that we should endeavor to address this problem by incorporating The Committee on Appeal for Human Rights and approach the Atlanta University Center presidents for permission to teach African American history to the freshman classes at the 4 undergraduate schools, beginning in the fall of 2001.

Teaching a course in history is just the first step in a long and gradual process designed to ameliorate some of the problems of apathy and indifference that we witnessed in the spring during the 40th anniversary. We envision utilizing the latest teaching techniques and strategies to carry forward our message. Your participation in developing this program is needed.

Since the spring meeting, some of us have worked intermittently on this project and have put together a Constitution and by-laws and will file Articles of Incorporation for the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights prior to the meeting on November 18, 2000.

Enclosed is a summarized copy of minutes of meetings held since the spring for your review. Additionally, a copy of the Constitution and by-laws are also included. The ball is rolling, but it cannot go very far without your commitment and support. In order for this program to get off the ground, we need financial support of like-minded people who believe as we do that the Atlanta University Center students do not know their history, and that something should be done about it.

Note in the by-laws that the membership fee for a year is \$100.00. Please forward to Ann Border-Patterson, our Treasurer, the membership dues at 4507 Dudley Lane N. W., Atlanta, GA, 30327. Some of you can and will respond to this appeal for funds by contributing more than \$100.00. We encourage you to do so. The monies will be used for operational expenses and curriculum design.

We know that many of you are either retired and/or enjoying children and grandchildren. However, we call upon you one more time to take up "arms" and renew the fight for equality and opportunity for people of African descent living in this country. We can use our minds, our training, our experience, and our commitment, gained over the last 40 years to educate the present and future generations about their historical legacy, and imbue in them a sense of dedication to carry the torch for freedom and equal opportunity for African Americans into the 21st century.

Let it not be recorded that we were aware of the disconnect between this generation of students from their past, but failed to take any action to remedy the situation.

In August, the Atlanta Inquirer honored us on their 40th anniversary. It was a grand set of events that we all enjoyed. We again thank Mr. John Smith for his generosity and commitment to the cause of civil and human rights. At the dinner meeting, we reaffirmed our commitment to organize.

Our next meeting will be held on November 18, 2000, at the Kilgore Center on the campus of Morehouse College. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. Please come and share your ideas as we plan future strategies leading to our most noble goal.

Continuing the Struggle,

Lonnie C. King Jr.

COMMITTEE ON APPEAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AGENDA
4/29/00

Prayer

Adoption of the Agenda

Review of Anniversary Activities

Discussion of Plans for the Future

- (a) Proposed Organization
- (b) Policy Discussion regarding Proposed Documentary with Fulton county and Other Projects in the Future

Other Business

Next Meeting

Adjournment

To: Members of the 40th Anniversary Commemoration Planning Committee

From: Lonnie King

Re: Proposed Organization

We had an exciting array of activities for the 40th anniversary. We saw many "comrades in arms" that we had not seen since 1960-61, but there was a paucity of student participation. With regard to comrades in arms, there is no feeling more powerful than the one that exists between people who fought in the foxholes and trenches during warfare. When one receives a call from a fellow soldier, it does not matter what one is doing; he/she will answer the telephone because of the prior bond that exists.

When we joined many thousands of others throughout the South and fought segregation and discrimination in the 1960s, we were at war with the established white order. The defenders of the racist system of American apartheid used every means at their disposal to curtail us, but our cause was just and the immediate victories of integration of places of public accommodations and voting rights were won. However, the battle was not over, and we knew it, but we had to get on with our lives. Many of us expected that the cause would be continued by succeeding generations of African American students who took our places in the halls of academia. Those of us who thought that were wrong!!! In order for a movement to continue, there must be some type vehicle, or bureaucracy in place that does research, develops plans, and implements courses of action, etc.

Forty years later, we find that not only did the students who followed us not carry the baton of freedom, but the institutions of higher learning within the Atlanta University Center which should have housed the corporate memory of our accomplishments, also did very little to document the history of the movement, or in any way instill in the successor students a desire to become more involved in civil rights issues. The result is that the current crop of students has no brain cells of recognition of the movement, and its accomplishments. They do not see any reason to become involved because far too many of them have the mistaken notion that all of the problems have been solved.

At the program of March 31, we heard presentations from many experts regarding the status of African Americans in Atlanta. All of the speakers were very powerful, but the one that hit this writer the most was the medical director from Fulton County who argued that health care for African Americans in Atlanta is on the "CRITICAL LIST." This issue resonated with me and should be a wake-up call to all of us. There are many other issues that are vitally important, however, to effectively address them, there must be a vehicle. Accordingly, we need to organize.

It is proposed that we incorporate the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights as a not-for-profit corporation that will conduct research, teach, initiate public forums and issue

position papers that continuously address the dichotomy between policies and practices with regard to race throughout America.

The organization should be open to all members who were actual members of COAHR, fellow students and citizens who participated during the 19960s, current student leaders within the Atlanta University Center, and current members of the community who have demonstrated a continuing interest in supporting the objectives and goals of COAHR.

With regard to teaching, it is proposed that we approach the leadership of the Atlanta University Center institutions seeking a contract from each to teach African American history to every freshman class, beginning in September 2001. Each institution would be asked to fund the effort through their academic budgets. The syllabus of the course would deal with African American history through our prism, using the Atlanta movement and other civil rights initiatives as catalysts to inculcate in the students a dual purpose for their education, self-help and service to the African American community in general.

The issue of academic accreditation should not be a problem because many of us have advanced degrees and experiences that would augment any history curriculum.

It is proposed that the organization have the following officers: Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer; President and Chief Operating Officer; Secretary; and Treasurer.

It is further proposed that the articles of incorporation and by-laws be drawn up within 60 days and be presented back to this body by no later than July 15, 2000.

In the meantime, it is recommended that we elect temporary officers at the meeting on April 29, 2000, who shall have the power to act for and on behalf of the group until the State of Georgia charts a permanent organization.

COMMITTEE ON APPEAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
MINUTES

Saturday, May 29, 2000.

Persons Present:

Lonnie King
Mary Ann Sumrall,
Ann Ruth Borders-Patterson
Charlie Black
Joe Drapper
Robert Mants
Danny Mitchell
Karen Jefferson
Brenda Cole
John Smith

I. Voted to incorporate as Committee on Appeal for Human Rights.

II. Voted on Officers

Treasurer: Ann Ruth Borders-Patterson
Secretary: Joe Drapper
President/COO: Mary Ann Sumrall
Chairman/CEO: Lonnie C. King

III. Financial Statement -Lonnie King
Owe Morehouse \$3,400.

IV. Discussion regarding mobile art exhibit portraying images of historically black colleges, "To Conserve a Legacy" sponsored by National Parks Service.
Trevor Arnett Art Gallery and High Museum (June 6th -September 26th).
Charles Black and Ann Ruth Borders-Patterson were appointed to create a brochure
Explaining the historical marker to be distributed at Trevor Arnett Bldg.

- V. Lonnie King offered to seek pro bono services of Jim Henry as general counsel for the group.
- VI. Extensive discussion on historical recordings regarding the Student Movement including the work of Althea Brown. The consensus of those present was that the incorporated Committee should have control of student movement images. A committee on image issues was formed (Bob Mants, Danny Mitchell, Charlie Black). Atty. George Howell was suggested as one who could assist in establishing a video policy.

VII. Discussion on Student Movement memorial in West Side Village which is being developed. Brenda Cole and Ann Borders-Patterson were asked to bring forth suggestions for an appropriate memorial.

VIII. Next meeting scheduled for Sat. July 15, 00 at 12:00 noon.

Saturday, July 15, 2000.

Persons Present:

Lonnie King
Mary Ann Sumrall
Gwen Middlebrooks
Joe Drapper
Connie Currie
Brenda Cole

I. Prayer

II. Exposition by Chairman -- Lonnie King

III. Financial Statement -- Ann Borders-Patterson

Beginning Balance: \$1214.78

Expenses:

Wolf Camera	14 3.00	-----Artwork for Brochure
Boyd & Brekman	561.33	-----Printing of Brochure
	12.00	-----Name Tags

Total expenses

Balance \$ 496.43

Expenditure Pending

Connie Curry \$ 144.00 -----two copies of tapes of the 40th
Anniversary Activities

IV. Fund Raising Campaign by written letter suggested by Lonnie King.

V. Historical Marker Brochure--Ann Borders-Patterson

The brochure was designed for distribution at the site of the Student Movement historical marker (Trevor Arnett Bldg), However, several Uses for it were discussed:

1. AUC Library
2. King Chapel at Morehouse College
3. Atlanta Inquirer Anniversary
4. Atlanta History Center
5. Fund Raising tool--poster, post card, T-shirt, etc.

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- VI. Student Movement Images
Mants and Black to attempt to work out a win-win situation regarding Althea Brown.
Connie Curry requested Interviews regarding SNCC (seeking grant)
Connie Curry passed around "movement" pictures taken by Donna McGinty
- VII. 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Atlanta Inquirer—John Smith
Schedule of Events given.
Announcement made that travel and accommodation arrangements will be made for people coming from out of town.
- VII. Constitution of the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights
- VIII. By-laws of the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights
- IX. Some thoughts by persons present regarding Committee projects:
Coalitions with other organizations could be beneficial.
E. Yates has given permission for use of the AUC Library.
Need a 2-tiered approach for proposed curriculum—college symposium and curriculum for lower grades.
Should use the advanced technology of distance learning.
- X. Chairman, Lonnie King was given authority to discuss proposed educational project with AUC power structure.
- XI. Chairman, Lonnie King was given authority to send out letters to raise funds.
- XII. Next Meeting: Saturday, September 9, 2000. Breakfast Mtg. at 9:00am.

Students and other young people should be invited.
John Smith to arrange site for meeting.

COMMITTEE ON APPEAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

MINUTES (Unapproved)
SEPTEMBER 9, 2000

Presiding: Lonnie King

The breakfast meeting was convened at the 10:25 AM

Present: Lonnie King, Mary Ann Sumral, Johnny Parham Anne Borders-Patterson, Charles Black, Gwendolyn Middlebrooks, John Smith,

Lonnie thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He indicated that efforts would be made to improve communications with everyone interested in working with the committee. It was decided that Gwen Middlebrooks would work with Joe Draper and Mary Ann Sumrall to summarize and distribute minutes of past and future meetings to members around the country.

Minutes from previous meeting: Unavailable for approval

The need for financial support was discussed. It was decided that each person would be asked to contribute at least \$100.00 per year (a contribution will be separated from a membership). Lonnie will write a cover letter for the minutes containing the rationale for soliciting funds. Additionally, the Constitution and Bylaws (approved at the last meeting) will be included in the mailing.

Lonnie indicated that the name of the organization must be registered and filed. It was suggested that we use Attorney Leroy Johnson for the 501C3. John Henry will be a great help because he has agreed to do everything free and he worked with Lonnie on the articles of incorporation. Charles Black will take a check to the secretary of State so we can get a tax ID number (as soon as possible) and also remove Anne's social security number from the account before the end of this year.

The committee discussed using a two tiered approach for teaching a Civil Rights History Course in the Atlanta University Center and in one public school. The following ideas were discussed: Seminars in the History Department, developing an interactive web page by January 2000, a curriculum that emphasizes the purpose of the Movement, getting a verbal commitment for classroom space in the Woodruff Library, setting up Distance Learning and transporting it to other colleges and universities (if it works in Atlanta), developing a course syllabus(start from an African American perspective and develop the course up to 1960, or emphasize milestones from 1619 to 2000), and requesting that the president of CAU talk to the council of Presidents to get the course ideas accepted.

It was decided that we should move slowly, confirm the course title, and develop a marketing package before we approach the AUC Presidents. It was also decided that we need to identify financial support because the estimated cost for starting this program would be \$25,000.00 per institution. Lonnie asked Anne to call Rosalyn Pope (from the Alumni Office) because she wants to be involved with the curriculum.

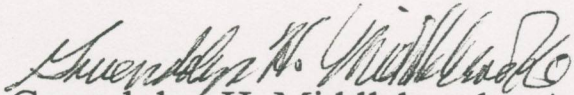
Treasurer's Report: Anne Borders-Patterson

Anne distributed copies of the bank statement and indicated that we have a balance of \$387.27. The report was accepted as information.

John Smith indicated that the committee will receive additional money from the sale of all T-shirts. It was decided that we need to trade mark everything and identify someone to monitor our activities and be the recipient of our records. Lonnie agreed to send a memo or letter indicating that everything is the property of the committee.

The next meeting (a working meeting) will be on November 18, 2000, at 2:00 P.M. in Kilgore Hall.

The meeting was adjourned



Gwendolyn H. Middlebrooks, Assistant Secretary

2.0

BY LAWS OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPEAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,
INCORPORATED

ARTICLE I
Membership and Dues

Membership shall be accorded to those persons as described in the Constitution of this organization, as amended. Membership dues shall be at least \$100.00 per year and may be increased by the membership as deemed necessary. The term of the yearly membership shall run for one year from the time it is received by the Treasurer. Members in good standing shall be those who have paid their annual dues.

ARTICLE II
Officers

The officers of the organization shall be those defined in its Constitution. They shall be elected by the membership for three-year terms.

ARTICLE III
Duties of Officers

Section 1. Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Organization, with general responsibility for oversight of the affairs of the organization. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the organization, and shall be an Ex-Officio member of all committees.

Section 2. President. The President shall be the Chief Operating Officer of the organization, with responsibility specific responsibility for the conduct of the regular affairs of the organization. The President shall report to the Chairperson on and as needed basis.

Section 3. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform duties as defined by the Chairperson, President and/or the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Secretary. The Secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings and forward same to the membership within a reasonable period of time.

Section 5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the organization and shall deposit same in accounts established by the organization. The Treasurer shall make reports to the Executive Committee and the membership on a regular basis. Disbursement shall be only upon approval of the Chairperson, President, Executive Committee or the membership at large. Checks must be signed by at least two persons.