

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DEKALB
CITY OF ATLANTA

Joe Gill

filed July 23 1953

TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM B. HARTSFIELD, MAYOR, CITY OF ATLANTA; HONORABLE CHARLES LEFTWICH, CHAIRMAN PARKS COMMITTEE; GENERAL COUNCIL, CITY OF ATLANTA; MR. GEORGE SIMONS, GENERAL MANAGER, PARKS AND CEMETERY DEPARTMENTS; MRS. VIRGINIA CARMICHAEL, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION, CITY OF ATLANTA.

WHEREAS, we the officers and members of the Edgewood Civic League and other interested citizens are vitally interested in the recreational facilities provided for Atlanta's Negro population and the citizens of our community and are cognizant of the vast inequalities and shortage of said facilities provided for Atlanta's Negro population, we the officers and members and other interested citizens of the aforementioned organization petition the above-mentioned city officials and administrative heads for such relief as may be deemed equitable and just, and

WHEREAS, we are vitally interested in the wholesome and well rounded development of the youth of this city and our community, and

WHEREAS, we are concerned and vitally interested in the growing juvenile delinquency among the youth of this city and our community and,

WHEREAS, we feel that one of the causes of this delinquency among Negro youth of this city is the alarming lack of recreational facilities available to the youth of this city and our community and the prohibition of their use of other existing facilities provided and maintained for whites, and

WHEREAS, we urgently feel and sincerely believe that by close cooperation and sincere efforts on behalf of all residents and citizens of our city many of the problems now confronting us can be resolved in a manner satisfactory to all parties concerned, and

HOW, THEREFORE, we respectfully submit and show the above stated city officials and administrative heads the following facts:

1.

That the officers and members of the Edgewood Civic League are citizens, residents and taxpayers of Atlanta and Dekalb County and have been for a substantial period of time.

2.

That Atlanta has a total population of approximately 600,000 and that of that population approximately 165,000 are Negroes. That the population of our community is approximately 3165 and of that total 2242 are Negroes, and that our community is situated in Census Tract D6 of the city of Atlanta.

3.

That there is a shortage of baseball facilities and equipment provided and maintained by the city of Atlanta for the use and enjoyment of Negroes in this city and our community.

4.

That tennis facilities provided and maintained by the city of Atlanta for Negroes are extremely limited as shown by statistics. (See, Department of Parks, MEETING OUR NEEDS FOR PARKS, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JANUARY, 1953)

5.

That the existing recreational facilities provided for the Negro citizens by the city of Atlanta are not only inadequate, unequal and segregated but are also understaffed, and poorly serviced, thereby further accentuating the dire shortage and urgent need for increased recreational facilities.

6.

That there exists a shortage of recreational facilities in the city of Atlanta and our community for both white and colored citizens and the operation of existing facilities on a segregated basis and in an unequal proportion works undue hardship and privation on the Negro population of this city and of our community.

7.

That petitioners are Negroes, citizens, taxpayers living and residing in the city of Atlanta, Dekalb County, Georgia, laboring under the above-mentioned inequalities, hardships and privations.

WHEREFORE, petitioners pray:

a. That the above officials and administrative heads eliminate and abolish the policy and practice of segregation as to the use of parks, playgrounds, golf courses, baseball fields, tennis courts and all other recreational facilities of like manner and similar nature.

b. That the above named officials and administrative heads provide equal parks, playgrounds, golf courses, baseball fields, tennis courts and all other recreational facilities of similar nature for the Negroes of this city and of our community.

c. That said officials and administrative heads immediately provide Negroes with more and better recreational facilities.

d. Petitioners further pray that the above named officials of the city of Atlanta, Dekalb County, Georgia, grant petitioners any and all other relief deemed equitable, fair and just in the above stated matters.

Charles Turner, President, Edgewood Civic League
1532 Foote Street, N. E.

Daisy Griffey
Ella Clark
William Jackson
William Dixon
Beatrice Morris
Volia Willis
Annie Smith
John Gaither
Thomas Butts
N. D. Jones
Annie Phillips
Horace Dobbs
Carrie Reynolds
Elise Reynolds
Jennie Reid
Beulah Thomas
Leomi Hoke
Pearlie White
Wilburn Edwards
Annie Rea Fallins
Hubert Shephard
C. T. Jacobs
Willie Durden
L. A. Stroud
Ruby Langford
Barbara Robinson
Altanese McCord
William Patterson
Rachel Montgomery
Thomas Forbes