

[1966]

Rough Design for a Tenant's Rights Handbook

page 1 --- People have a right to good housing. It is a basic right.

quote from Atlanta's housing code

page 2. -- But here in Atlanta we see raggedy houses, junk-yard lawns, unpaved streets, houses without heat, or hot and cold running water, or without electricity or with cracks and large holes in the walls, floors, and roof.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

perhaps a picture series

page 3 -- We have a right to good housing. This is what the law of Atlanta says. The city has a housing code which is supposed to protect tenants against money-greedy landlords who refuse to keep up their houses and make needed repairs

picture of the cover of the city's housing code

page 4 --- the Code lays down certain requirement for every house.

Summary of the major articles of the code

page 5 --- The housing laws are supposed to be enforced by the building department of the city. The building department has housing inspectors who are supposed to go around the city to make sure that there are no violations of the law

~~XXXXXX~~ Iddgddddd

If the house you are renting has violations of the housing law you should call W 522-4463 and ask for W.R. Wolford or go personally to the 13th floor of City Hall to lodge a complaint.

page 6 -- Right now the city does not enforce the housing laws. Anyone can see this. All you need to do is look around

picture series of conditions (or drawings)

page 7 --- Why doesn't the city enforce the housing laws. We think it because the city doesn't really care about poor people. We think the city is more concerned about landlords making money than ~~than~~ it is about the rights of tenants.

drawings



page 8 -- Landlords are very powerful. They and other rich people run most of the city government

drawings

page 9 Look who sits on the Better Housing Commission or the Building Code Advisory Board.

pictures of two boards and something about the members

page 10. Look who represents us on the Board of Alderman.

picture of Q.V. Williamsodn very rich Negro realtor

page 11. Landlords can evict ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ without any trouble. 14,000 people are evicted each month. Think about how many times you have seen furniture out on the street. But when it comes to enforcing the housing laws, the government doesn't do anything.

pictures of evictions and drawings.

page 12. Tenants need to join together. We need a city-wide Tenants Right movement We need to demand that the mayor and Board of Alderman enforce the housing laws.

drawings

page 13-- We also need new laws ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ protect tenants. We need laws making it ~~xxxxx~~ harder for a landlord to get an eviction warrant. We need laws which would ~~xxx~~ make landlords make repairs immediately And we need new laws which will put heavy penalties on landlords who break the law.

drawings.

page 14... We can begin to do this by demanding that the Mayor call for public hearings of the Building Code Advisory Board. This Board has the right to recommend changes in the housing laws. It has the right to hold public hearings. The mayor must be made to call for such hearings. It is within his power. He can not and must not be permitted to refuse.

drawings

page 15... We must urge our civic leagues, fraternities social clubs, labor unions to join the fight for tenants rights. We must ~~xxx~~

get on our p olitical representatives  
and demand that they stand up and  
fight for better housing for poor  
people, for new housing laws and for  
strict enforcement against landlords.

drawings