

SIXTY-SEVEN DEMANDS PRESENTED BY THE ALBANY BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE TO THE CITY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK

Government

1. Public statement from Mayor Corning that all departments of city government are to assume the authority that they are normally expected to carry and that they are to henceforth carry out their duties promptly and efficiently without any prodding or intervention from the Mayor's office.
2. The creation of an "ombudsman" position which would have an office in the inner city and would receive, investigate, and attempt to alleviate all complaints of private citizens against governmental agencies.
3. All public service departments of city government should have an inner-city resident as a member. (Departments such as housing, welfare, public works, mental health, urban renewal, education.)
4. Periodic hearings of the Common Council held in Arbor Hill and the South End, to provide a direct channel of communication between lawmakers and their constituents.
5. Voting machines made available to responsible groups wishing to instruct people about the machine's operation.
6. Each department chief in city government draw up and then implement a plan for increased hiring and upgrading black employees.
7. Lobbying by the city government to persuade the county government to repeal the regressive and unnecessary sales tax and return the property tax to its former level; this will more equitably distribute the cost of government on the basis of ability to pay, and end the relative hardship that the sales tax forces on city residents.
8. Adoption of policy by the City of Albany that it will withhold all contracts from firms practicing racial or religious discrimination.

Education

1. That public school buildings be open afternoons, evenings, and weekends, year round, supervised by trained personnel and volunteers, for use as education, recreation, and community activities.
2. That hot lunches, subsidized by the Federal Government, be served in all city schools.
3. That physical education facilities be added to all schools now lacking proper exercise space.
4. That more black administrators and more black teachers be recruited and hired, to be placed in schools throughout the city.
5. That there be a concerted effort by school officials to develop parent-teacher associations.
6. The use of multi-racial textbooks in all city schools, at every grade level, and in as many courses as possible.
7. A significant increase in the number of trained guidance personnel, many of them black, in all schools.
8. Utilization of parents and other interested persons as guidance aides and teaching aides to the trained personnel.
9. Immediate negotiations with officials and professors from State University at Albany concerning the establishment of cooperative programs of research and education in teaching the disadvantaged student.
10. An end to the discouragement and/or prohibition by city education officials of teacher participation in the summer institutes on "Special Educational Problems Occasioned by Desegregation," sponsored by State University at Albany; this attitude to be replaced by encouragement of participation.
11. Increased cooperation by school authorities with local college students and faculty on innovative tutorial projects.
12. Modification of present plans for the new Albany High School, to prevent its being racially segregated the moment its doors open.

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13. Open hearings and active consultations with parents and civic groups in all planning for new schools.
14. Enlargement of the school board to nine members, with the institution of an elected board rather than an appointed one.
15. Adoption of regulations by the city that persons with children only attending non-public schools be barred from serving on the Board of Education.
16. Increased efforts by the City of Albany for a modification of State law so that there may be a separate budget for the schools, rather than education being part of the general city budget.
17. Increased expenditures for the school system, including more ordinary supplies, such as paper, pencils, chalk, crayons, and clay, as well as more teachers and support staff.
18. Required, regular training sessions conducted by outside personnel (such as the New York State Intercultural Relations specialists) for teachers and guidance personnel.
19. Improvements in quality and speed of service to mentally disturbed children, including the expansion of the Child Guidance Center.
20. Establishment of cooperative programs with the suburban school districts, involving two-way student exchanges between inner and outer city.

#### Housing

1. Purchase by the Albany Housing Authority of single- and multiple-family units in all areas of the city for low-income rentals.
2. Enlargement of the staff of the Bureau of Code Enforcement of the Department of Buildings.
3. Vigorous enforcement of the Albany Housing Code.
4. Immediate survey of all vacant buildings in the city by an advisory group to determine whether buildings could be repaired and put back into use, or should be demolished; after the initial survey, it should continue on a regular basis.
5. Providing of city money, supplemented by State and Federal money, for low-interest loans for the repair of houses with code violations.
6. Adoption of an aggressive policy by the City of Albany to promote the construction of new housing units in all areas of the city.
7. Enforcement of the law requiring vacant buildings to be securely boarded up.
8. Revision of the tax structure so that owners of deteriorating or vacant buildings are encouraged to repair them or demolish them.
9. Employment of more trained social workers and home-maker advisors in the public housing units.
10. Joint planning with and mutual consent from neighborhood and civic groups in all future urban renewal and highway projects.
11. Adoption of an open-occupancy housing ordinance for the City of Albany.
12. Removal of all political influence from the process of selecting tenants for public housing.
13. Insistence by the Welfare Department of signed leases between tenant and landlord.
14. Adoption of a policy by the Welfare Department that it will not allow its recipients to live in substandard housing.
15. Placing welfare families in scattered housing throughout the city, rather than concentrating them in small areas downtown.
16. Encouragement of landlords by housing authorities to make use of leased housing and rent supplement programs.

17. Special dispensations be given wherever possible to the private, non-profit / <sup>groups</sup> attempting to eliminate the current housing shortage.

#### Public Services

1. Immediate end to discriminatory practices in providing municipal services.
2. All streets in the inner city must be swept once per week either with machines or with hand brooms.
3. City crews must maintain all playgrounds free of broken glass.
4. All vest-pocket playgrounds should be leveled, planted with grass, and then maintained as a green area, rather than packed dirt with occasional patches of thistles and weeds.
5. A vastly increased number of public trash containers placed on the streets.
6. All public trash containers should be emptied weekly or whenever full, whichever comes first.
7. Continual inspection of vacant lots for junked cars, with all such cars promptly removed at owners' expense.
8. Strict enforcement of littering and no-dumping laws in all areas of the city.

#### Police

1. Human relations course, conducted by trained specialists, be required on a regular basis for all city policemen.
2. More black policemen and firemen be recruited and hired.
3. Increased salaries for policemen and firemen.
4. More police protection and less harrassment in the Arbor Hill and South End areas.
5. Enforcement of all traffic laws in the city, to promote respect for the law.
6. Improvement of police and court procedures for youthful offenders.
7. Establishment of a Community Service Officer in Arbor Hill and the South End to deal with police-citizen relationships and to promote understanding between law enforcement men and private citizens. The officer in each area must be acceptable to all neighborhood groups in the area.

#### General

1. Immediate improvement of recreational facilities in Arbor Hill and the South End, including building new playgrounds, installation of lights on several play areas, the creation of numerous vest-pocket playgrounds on vacant lots, and construction of a large swimming pool in Arbor Hill.
2. Creation of many part-time jobs for teen-agers on such tasks as playground supervision, park maintenance, street cleaning, washing of city vehicles, etc.
3. A continuation of the concept of the Job Fair, but on a smaller scale, with recruiters actively working in the neighborhoods.
4. The establishment by September of a Human Rights Commission for Albany, with power to enforce compliance with its findings. One half of the initial commission must be acceptable to the Council on Community Concerns, which represents a broad spectrum of community opinion.
5. Establishment of a Senior Citizens Bureau to provide many services to the elderly (some through volunteer workers), such as visitations, shopping, and general advice and assistance.
6. The installation of "Walk" lights at many major intersections.
7. Immediate provision of concrete or asphalt sidewalks for the west side of Green Street, between Madison and Arch.