The Vine City Council, a grass roots organisation based in the 136th district, long concerned about the terrible housing conditions prevalent in the area. They have been working with the city to improve the conditions. The council has planned to protest the terrible conditions by picketing the Marham Street Area on Sunday, January 30, 1966.

But January 30 turned out to be a terribly cold day—the temperature fell below zero and the wind was fierce. The council hoped for the best, but the results were not what they had hoped for. The protest was met with a strong police presence and the council was forced to disperse.

The council came up with a plan to distribute blankets and food to those affected by the harsh weather. They were able to collect enough blankets to distribute to those in need. The council also went door to door to give out blankets and food.

The council met with the Red Cross to obtain blankets and food for those affected. They went from house to house to distribute the blankets where they were needed. Over 300 blankets were distributed in the area. On Monday morning, a worker for the Vine City Council returned to the area and was visiting people in the Marham Hotel to see how people were doing after the bitter cold night. They arranged a meeting at the Marham Hotel for that afternoon where it was hoped that Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr., Mrs. Bernice May, and possibly Mayor Ivan Allen would be present to see the situation. As Hector Black was in the building he was approached by Joe Shaffer, the landlord of the building and many other buildings in the area and asked what business he had there. Black said he was visiting friends, whereupon Mr. Shaffer told Black he was nothing but a trouble maker and to get out of the building or he would call the police. Black replied that he had a right to be there. Shortly later Black was arrested on the front steps of the hotel and charged with trespassing.

Members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SNCC, and the Vine City Council called an immediate meeting to plan action to protest the arrest of Black. At the meeting a joint statement was drafted and plans were made to begin picketing Marham Street.

A few hours later, members of the VCC and SNCC began picketing, carrying signs saying, "We demand Heat, and" "SIC Must Go." Martin Luther King Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy of the SCLC appeared and gave a personal inspection as a tour of the area. Afterwards, Dr. King was quoted as saying that the conditions in the Marham St. Area had been some of the worst conditions he had ever seen. The Press was there in great number and for the first time some of the abominable housing conditions which exists in Atlanta under the noses of giant skyscrapers and great affluence were brought under public scrutiny.

That evening, a second strategy meeting was held and decided to contact the welfare department and Red Cross to see what sort of aid they could provide. Members of the council met with these agencies, they