



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, NOVEMBER, 1966

1203 CITY HALL, ATLANTA GEORGIA 30303

TELEPHONE 522-4463 EXT. 433

May 9, 1967

Mr. Sterrs Johnson

For the past two years or so, I have been familiar with Mr. Sterrs Johnson's efforts to obtain employment in the Civil Defense Organization of Metropolitan Atlanta. When I worked as Executive Director of the Council on Human Relations of Greater Atlanta, Mr. Johnson asked for our assistance. Mr. Johnson has documents from his Commanding Officers in the Army Reserves attesting to his training and experiences in Civil Defense, and recommending him highly for work in this area.

Mr. Johnson states that upon his early requests about employment he was not notified that such applications should be submitted to the State Merit System, he then took the Merit System examination and passed it. He then preceded with the help of the Council office to contact, in turn the Department of the Navy, Equal Opportunity Atlanta, the Department of Defense, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the city of Atlanta. He was told in each case that the agency involved did not have jurisdiction over this. The Department of Defense acknowledge that the Atlanta Metropolitan Civil Defense Organization receives Federal money, but advised him that employment is through the State Merit System, which put him back where he started.

By this time, the State Merit System register had expired and it was necessary for Mr. Johnson to take the examination again. Having been ill and being under considerable pressure about this matter, Mr. Johnson did not pass the examination that time but shortly thereafter took it again and did pass it. (Mr. Johnson points out that there appears to be no Negro examiners at the State Merit System and that he knows of no way to find out if the reports of the examiners are without prejudice)

In February upon the establishment of this Commission, Mr. Johnson again asked for help in his efforts to obtain employment in the Civil Defense Organization. General Woodward assured us that employees are selected without regard to race although we know of no Negro employees in the professional or office staff of the central Civil Defense Organization.

Then Mr. Johnson requested that I inquire of the State Merit System about his position on the register several weeks ago. I was told that that his position at that time was No. 1 on the register, but I was reminded that this might change at any time if someone else took the examination and made a higher grade than Mr. Johnson.

cc: Mr. Eugene Patterson, Atlanta Constitution