

For Release:
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From: Community Relations Commission
1203 City Hall, Atlanta, Georgia 30303

BENNY T. SMITH NAMED FIELD REPRESENTATIVE FOR
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Benny T. Smith, widely known community leader, has been named field representative for the Atlanta Community Relations Commission and will assume his new duties immediately. It was announced today by Nat Welch, executive director for the Commission.

As field representative, Smith will head up CRC's expanded Town Hall Meeting Program for 1969 and will act as a communications link between the Neighborhoods and the Commission.

"We have expanded the scope of this position and are delighted to have secured the services of such an able and experienced leader as Benny T. Smith," stated Welch.

Smith was raised in Vine City and educated at Booker T. Washington High School, Morris Brown College and the Blayton School of Accounting. With funds he won on the national TV show, "Strike It Rich," in the mid fifties, Smith opened and operated a dry cleaning firm in Vine City. He

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later was the proprietor of a neighborhood grocery store in the Poole Creek Community. Smith was subsequently employed by the U.S. Postal Data Center and the Georgia Department of Labor where he played a key role in the Jobmobile Program in cooperation with the National Alliance of Businessmen.

Smith was a prime mover in the organization of the Community Relations Commission some two and a half years ago. He helped organize the Price and the the Pittsburgh EOA centers and the Model Cities Program. He is a former vice president of the All Citizens Registration Committee, former president of the Metropolitan Atlanta Grassroots Council, president of the Southeast Community Council, board member of the Metropolitan Atlanta Summit Leadership Congress, and former vice president of the Fourth Ward Improvement Council. He served as chairman of the transportation committee for the Poor People's Campaign to Washington.

CRC's new field representative has received awards for community service and leadership from the Peoplestown Civic League, the Atlanta branch of the NAACP, the Excelsior Knight Civic and Social Club, the Southeast Community Council and the Veterans' Administration Hospital.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Wheat Street Baptist Church and Prince Hall Masons. He resides at 209 Archcrest Drive.