

24 February 1967

Mrs. Eliza Paschall  
Executive Director  
Community Relations Commission  
City Hall  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Paschall:

In reply to your letter requesting information on participation by negroes in the Civil Defense Program, let me first assure you that we not only accept, but work hard for participation and assistance from anyone without any regard to race, color, sex, or religious belief.

Our volunteer program emphasis is now on training of shelter managers, shelter radiological monitoring personnel, and the establishment of Information Centers manned by trained personnel during periods of extreme tension.

Our recruitment efforts for shelter managers and shelter RADEF monitoring are through the building owners, building tenants, PTA organization, and public announcements. Since we do not maintain records which would reflect race, we cannot give you the ratio of colored to white.

The information teams and information centers are projects of the Fulton County and City of Atlanta PTA organizations. Here again, we cannot give any figures on colored to white ratio, because our records make no distinction.

As to employees, we have only 14, including the secretarial staff. We work through the State Merit System which means that all vacancies must be filled from the top three names on the list of eligibles, provided us by the State Merit System. Although our personnel turnover is very limited, we have always selected from the top three the best qualified who is available.

We are familiar with Mr. Sterrs Johnson's desire for Civil Defense employment and his capability. We have advised

Mr. Johnson that in the event of a vacancy to be filled, his name must appear on the eligible list provided us by the State Merit System before we could consider his employment. It is important to know that eligible lists provided us by the Merit System contain only those names that meet the qualifications for the position open.

In the event of a nuclear attack upon this nation, our staff would become operational and of prime importance to the welfare of this City and County. It is for this reason that many Civil Defense organizations will not hire staff members that have military obligations. However, the fact Mr. Johnson is a member of an active Reserve Unit has not had any bearing on his eligibility for employment by this office. As stated before, we select employees from the top three names on a Merit System list of eligibles that meet the qualifications of the position that is open.

The Policy Board of the Atlanta Metropolitan Area of Civil Defense consists of three aldermen appointed by the Mayor; and two County Commissioners appointed by the Chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

I trust the above satisfactorily answers all questions raised in your letter.

Sincerely,

William R. Woodward, Director  
Brigadier General, U. S. Army (Ret.)

WRW:mc