

July 21, 1965

The Mayor's City Job Opportunities Committee convened at 2:00 p. m. Wednesday, July 21, 1965, in Committee Room No. 2, City Hall. The following were present:

John A. White, Chairman
C. D. Coleman
S. W. Graydon
Q. V. Williamson
Carl T. Sutherland

After calling the meeting to order, John A. White asked if anyone knew of any discrimination anywhere. Mr. Q. V. Williamson said that he had heard some complaints from citizens who feel that negroes are not getting a fair chance to obtain employment in "white collar" jobs. Mr. Graydon explained that the "white collar" jobs have to be filled by promotion. Mr. Sutherland continued by saying that filling jobs by promotion can be a disadvantage because sometimes people who barely meet the requirements have to be hired. Mr. Sutherland also explained the system of filling jobs by promotion. He stated that when a job is open in a department, if any one person in that department qualifies, he has to be promoted. If no one qualifies in the department in which the vacancy occurs, then any person in the City government who qualifies is eligible for promotion. The head of the department in which the vacancy occurs has a choice of three in City-wide

promotionals. If there are only one or two who qualify, he may request that the job be filled by open-competitive examination. Mr. Coleman asked if the promotional system of filling jobs was a law of the Personnel Board. Mr. Graydon answered by saying that it was an act of the legislature. He stated that he and Carl Sutherland opposed the approval of the act, but the legislature adopted it.

Following the discussion of the City's promotional system, C. D. Coleman said that he would like to mention the fact that about half of the negroes who apply for jobs other than Laborer do not pass the examinations. Coleman suggested that a training program be set up to help more negroes pass examinations. Mr. White agreed that a training program would be beneficial to negroes. He appointed Carl Sutherland and C. D. Coleman to work together on setting up a training program. He also approved the suggestion of Mr. Coleman that a negro be hired to go into the colored schools to recruit negroes for City employment.

Carl Sutherland read a list which included statistics of employment by the City of Atlanta from October 5, 1964, through June 30, 1965. After hearing the figures quoted in this list (a copy of which is attached and made a part of these minutes) the members of the Committee agreed that good progress is being made in providing equal opportunities for negroes for employment with

the City of Atlanta.

A suggestion was made by C. D. Coleman that Mr. Paul Weir be asked to present a report concerning the progress made in the Water Department in providing equal opportunities for employment for both white and colored. The Chairman and members of the Committee concurred that Mr. Coleman's suggestion was a good one and that Mr. Weir would be included at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


CARL T. SUTHERLAND
Secretary

1 Attachment