

Minority Hire Here 5 Per Cent Workers

The Fairbanks Human Rights Commission made public last week its dissatisfaction with the City's personnel policies.

For a year the Commission has been pressing the City to hire more Natives and Negroes, after a survey in the summer of 1969 revealed that minority-group employees made up less than five per cent of the City work force.

"The situation has gotten worse instead of better," said Commission chairman Charles Parr. "The City has added fifty-one full-time employees since the initial survey, but actually has one less minority-group employee than it did then."

Pressure by the Commission last year led to a directive from City Manager Wally Droz to all department heads, directing them to recruit through the Fairbanks Manpower Center.

A recent check by the Commission turned up the fact that less than a fifth of the vacancies had been listed with the Manpower Center, and that some of those listed had been cancelled when the City hired a "walk-in."

Hiring "walk-ins," in the Commission's view, tends to perpetuate all-white departments, and the apparent disregard of the City Manager's directive may be responsive for the drop in minority-group hire.

"We were pleased when the City Council approved \$10,000 for apprentice training in the Police and Fire departments," said Parr.

"It looked like a breakthrough. And when Mr. Droz decided to call on the NAACP and the FNA for assistance in improving the picture, it seemed like progress. We have been sadly disappointed."