

## City police applicants sought

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- Author/Byline: Patrick Stout/Journal Correspondent
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MACOMB-City Administrator Mike Hays told members of the Macomb Equal Opportunity and Fair Housing Commission on Wednesday that a strong diversity push has been made regarding applicant testing for the Macomb Police Department, scheduled for April 9.

"We've given materials to Gregg Huston of the NAACP," said Hays. "We've attended job fairs. We're beating the bushes to try to get a diverse hiring pool."

Hays said written testing will take place in the police department training room, and physical testing will take place at Western Illinois University. "The police department has made follow-up phone calls to as many as 60 minority candidates, to try to ensure that they will come to take the test," he said.

In other business, the commission discussed the qualifications of five attorneys under consideration to conduct a review of a draft operations policy for the commission. Commission chair Essie Rutledge said she felt only two of the attorneys had sufficient background in civil rights law to give qualified review to the material.

Rutledge said she had also received an oral review of the document from a government attorney based in Chicago. "I'm trying to see if he will put those comments in writing for us," she said.

Hays said it is significant, at this point, that the draft document has received positive reaction. "This tells us it's on the right track and there is no need to start over," he said.

The commission indicated that, if it did not receive a written opinion from the government attorney to submit to the Macomb City Council, it would decide next month whether to ask the council to hire one of the private attorneys to review the document draft.

Also Wednesday, commissioners Mandie Hall and Janice Whitfield were seated. Both were appointed to the commission this year by Mayor Mick Wisslead.

Hays said the mayor has asked for letters from any commissioners seeking reappointment. The terms of Rutledge, Donald Wynn, Steve Collier, and Belinda Carr will expire this year.

Commissioner Wynn indicated he is aware of a possible employment complaint that may be filed with the commission. "If the person fills out the form, we can determine whether to hear his case," he said.

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