

# Pasco Hires Youth To Head Committee

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An east Pasco youth leader, Andrew Groce, was placed on the city payroll today to help bridge the communications gap between east Pasco and the rest of the city.

This action came after a three-hour heated discussion between Negroes and whites at a city council workshop last night, where Negroes accused policemen of "treating us like dogs."

This, the Negroes said, did more to cause the weekend violence than anything else. At least four Pasco policeman were injured when attempting to arrest Negroes for breaking windows in 14 downtown and east Pasco buildings.

City Manager Horace Menasco said the city was facing "a potentially explosive and dangerous situation."

"The police department has learned a sound lesson," he said. "They are not part of an intimately directed operation, but rather they are people who have their own ideas."

He noted the policemen will have to eliminate their prejudices while on duty.

Menasco said today the city is looking for young Pasco citizens to serve on an advisory committee to provide a communications outlet with east Pasco.

Groce, a leader of the Young Adult Action Movement (YAAM), will coordinate the group and will be responsible to Menasco.

Objective of the committee is to promote and increase cooperation between the police department and the citizens they serve.

About 125 interested citizens overflowed the council chambers. Most were Negroes.

Ed Jackson, an east Pasco businessman, said it was time for the city to listen to Negro solutions to the problem.

"I have been afraid to speak in the past, but now is the time for everyone to have their say."

"Amen," shouted one Negro in attendance. "Well said," injected Negro Councilmen Art Fletcher.

Fletcher said the violence could have been avoided if a citizen's advisory committee would have been formed when it was recommended earlier this year by Police Consultant Bill Jones.

"Many east Pasco youths would have been glad to serve on the committee. This could have been done at no cost to the city," added Fletcher.

The biggest ovation came for Mozetta Orange, a teen-aged east Pasco Negro girl, who said she was tired of prejudicial

treatment from police.

"If they continue treating us like dogs, we will continue treating them like dogs," she lamented.

She described situations where police constantly harassed Negroes, "and then hid behind their badges."

An east Pasco barber, John Thart, pleaded to be treated like a human being, adding "promise us something. And at least keep part of the promise. That's all we want."

E. M. Magee, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, renewed his support for an integrated police force.

"I don't want law and order," he said. "I want law and justice."

Jones explained it is very hard for a Negro to make the transition and "join the enemy." He said the department hoped to break the barrier through the new community relations program.

Leon Harris, director of the Community Action Committee, offered the committee's support adding the city must train Negro people and make them quali-

## Justice Department To Study East Pasco

A federal task force is expected to arrive in the Tri-Cities soon to study the law enforcement problem in east Pasco, and offer its help.

Leon Harris, Community Action Committee director, said he has been in contact with the justice department "and they are

ready to move as soon as the city gives their ok.

"We are ready to listen to any solution," injected Councilmen Ed Hendler.

Harris said he will complete final arrangements with the justice department today.



ANDREW GROCE  
...on payroll

fied, not just Negro people.

Mayor Ed Carter said the city recently had three Negro applicants for the police force, but none showed up for the examination.

Several young east Pasco Negroes walked out of the meeting after Menasco said one event leading to the disturbances was the arrest of a Negro man for allegedly twisting a nun's arm at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital.

"No," groaned the youths.

Mrs. Fletcher retrieved the teenagers, but most left a few minutes later. They were identified by several at the meeting as the ones who ignited Saturday night's fireworks.

Councilmen Ed Hendler asked why these youths weren't arrested. Chief Al McKibben said they were attempting to arrest them Saturday night, but other Negroes kept pulling them away.

Menasco said the policemen would have to sign a complaint before any arrest could now be made.

The meeting closed with expressing hope future violence could be averted through better communications.