

9/6/2011

**Statement to the City Council**

**Mayor Perrin,**

**Members of the City Council,**

**Jonesboro Department Heads,**

**Jonesboro Citizens in attendance,**

The newly organized Jonesboro Diversity Coalition, comprised of citizens of the Jonesboro, Arkansas community, has identified as its primary mission to “Encourage, Facilitate and Support” improvements in racial and gender diversity in all aspects of life throughout the Jonesboro community.

Our initial focus, however, is on the Jonesboro Police and Fire Departments, where there is a rather conspicuous absence of minorities and women in the work forces of these two city departments. The numbers speak for themselves, i.e.:

**The estimated Jonesboro minority population is:           18%**

**The estimated Jonesboro female population is:           50%**

**However,**

The estimate of minorities and women on the Police force: Less than 3%

The estimate of minorities and women on the Fire Dept: Less than 3 %

We do want to acknowledge and express our appreciation to Mayor Perrin, to members of the City Council, to Fire and Police Chiefs Padrich and Yates, and to Mrs Gloria Roark of the Human Resources Department for their responses to date to our request for information.

We also express our appreciation to the presenters at this City Council Meeting for their responses.

So, in addition to our presence to hear from the Fire and Police Departments in the matter, we are also here to offer our assistance and support to Fire, Police and other city Departments in whatever ways they request in addressing this embarrassing absence of diversity in their departments.

Please feel free to contact us to communicate to us how we might assist you in achieving success in your recruitment efforts.

Jonesboro Diversity Coalition

Mr. John Gibson, Co-Chair, (870-972-9248)

Dr. George C. Grant, Co-Chair, (901-218-3135)