Raleigh fire department makes its pitch for diversity

RALEIGH—The Raleigh Fire Department is responding to complaints about the lack of diversity and its hiring practices head on.

Last week, the Raleigh City Council approved the fire department's new plan to hire more women and minorities. Since 2003, the city has hired 83 new firefighters - 13 are African American - but none are black women. The face of the department will change if the new plan works.

John McGrath, the department's new fire chief, presented the plan, which offers several different avenues the fire department will take to make the agency more reflective of the community it serves.

According to a press release from the city of

According to a press release from the city of Raleigh, the department will hold open house sessions on the weekends at fire stations in or near neighborhoods that have larger African-American and Latino populations. Members of the fire department's recruiting team will be on hand to pass out information about the agency and answer questions about employment opportunities. They will also help potential recruits fill out their applications.

The plan also calls for making applications available at all 26 fire stations throughout the city. Vacant firefighter jobs and other positions will be posted on flyers that will be posted in other places in the community, such as barber shops, hair salons, libraries, churches and community centers.

The department also plans to start an exte The department also plans to start an extensive advertising campaign on local radio stations and in newspapers. In addition, it will work more closely with area colleges and universities, including Shaw University and Saint Augustine's College, in developing strategic recruiting partnerships.

Keith Sutton, president of the Triangle

Urban League, is hopeful that the plan will successfully attract more African Americans and women to the department.

"They have some good ideas and some good strategies, but there are still some other things that could have been done," he said, explaining that the plan does not give enough specifics in some areas.

some areas.
Sutton said the plan should include a mentoring program to help retain more black fire-

"Sometimes there might only be one black firefighter in a station, and he might feel iso-lated," he said.

"Sometimes there might only be one black frefighter in a station, and he might feel isolated," he said.

Controversy about the department's hiring practices started in January after McGrath was hired over longtime fire department employee Larry Stanford. Stanford is black and has been with the department for more than 25 years McGrath, who is white, was hired from another state.

After being passed over, Stanford wrote a letter to Raleigh City Manager Russell Allen who is in charge of hiring for all city employees. Representatives of local organizations, including the Triangle Urban League, the Raleigh-Wake Chitzens Association, publicly supported Stanford and also visited city officials to get changes made in the fire department.

Marshall Harvey, former president of the RWCA, said the plan is at least a beginning. "I think it's a good beginning to get diversity in the department, but what took so long?," he asked "Now it is time to put us in more responsible positions. Reports will be presented to the city council and the general public following each recruitment class. McGrath's first progress report on minority recruitment is due in September.

ADVERTISE!

Office DEPOT.

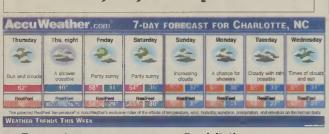
Taking Care of Business





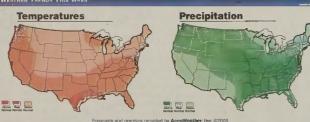
Kodak

The Charlotte Post



You have story ideas. We're listening.

Call (704) 376-0496 e-mail editorial@thecharlottepost.com



Friday Salurday Sunday Monday Tuesday	Riss 6.34 a.m. 6.34 a.m. 6.34 a.m. 6.34 a.m. 6.34 a.m. 6.31 a.m. 6.29 a.m. 6.28 a.m. 6.26 a.m. 6.26 a.m. 6.26 a.m. 6.26 a.m.		Moon Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesda	8:20 9:19 10:21 11:25 no 12:30 ty 1:34	p.m. 7:17 a.m p.m. 7:40 a.m p.m. 8:07 a.m p.m. 8:37 a.m ne 9:14 a.m a.m. 9:59 a.m	F		New 3/29	First				
City Alken, SC Augusta, GA	Thursday Hi Lo W 68 40 pc 70 43 pc	Friday Hi Lo W 69 33 pc 68 38 pc	Saturday Hi Lo W 62 31 pc 63 38 pc	Sunday Hi Lo W 61 38 1 60 42 1	City Memphis, TN Myrtle Beach, SC	Thursday Hi Lo W 61 40 c 65 45 pc 58 39 s	Friday Hi Lo W 59 36 s 65 35 pc 49 31 r	Saturday HI Lo W 56 39 c 59 37 pc 46 33 s	Sunday Hi Lo W 51 42 1 57 43 0 50 42 8				
Charleston, SC Columbia, SC Durham, NC Greensboro, NC Greenville, SC Knoxville, TN Lynchburg, VA	69 46 pc 69 41 pc 63 40 pc 60 40 pc 68 39 pc 58 38 pc 58 36 pc	69 40 pc 68 34 pc 60 31 pc 58 29 pc 61 34 pc 52 33 pc 51 24 r	62 38 pc 63 35 pc 56 29 pc 54 33 pc 59 34 pc 54 32 pc 48 28 s	63 44 pc 63 42 t 62 37 s 57 37 s 60 38 t 54 37 pc 52 30 s	Norfolk, VA Raleigh, NC Richmond, VA Roancke, VA Savannah, GA Wilmington, NC Winston-Salem, No	66 42 pc 60 35 pc 59 39 pc 70 44 pc 65 46 pc	49 31 r 60 33 pc 52 28 r 48 30 r 73 37 pc 66 34 pc 56 33 pc	46 33 s 54 31 pc 51 28 s 48 30 s 65 39 pc 59 36 pc 54 33 pc	50 42 s 60 38 s 56 36 s 55 36 s 64 44 1 63 40 s 56 37 s				

City	Th	Thursday			Friday		Saturday			Sunday				The	ursd	rsday		Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	HI	Lo	W	HI	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hì	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo		
tanta	63	42	1	62	38	pc	61	39	pc	58	42	r	Miami	80	70	pc	83	66	pc	80	66	pc	80	66		
loston	42	30	S	38	28	C	36	26	s	34	29	S	Minneapolis	27	11	sf	28	15	рс	30	20	pc	32	21		
hicago	38	20	sn	36	17	pc	38	22	pc	40	26	р¢	New Orleans	74	58	t	70	54	t	68	57	t	71	61		
leveland	39	22	ธก	35	22	sf	35	23	sf	38	27	S	New York City	45	32	ро	37	26	sn	39	30	S	39	34		
allas	74	44	pc	64	44	DC	56	46	г	60	47	t	Orlando	80	60	pc	80	60	DC	76	56	рс	76	58		
enver	49	24	pc	54	27	рс	54	26	C	42	20	С	Pittsburgh	44	28	Г	38	22	SI	39	20	рс	41	23		
etroit	36	21	sn	36	20	рс	38	23	рс	46	27	DC	Phoenix	79	52	pc	77	53	pc	70	48	C	65	48		
custon	78	62	t	70	55	рс	70	58	t	76	60	t	San Prancisco	59	47	1	57	42	sh	57	44	рс	59	46		
ansas City	50	25	pc	46	25	pc	46	27	sh	45	27	С	Seattle	50	38	- 1	48	34	sh	48	34	pc	50	36		
os Angeles	68	52	pc	62	48	r	60	44	sh	62	46	DC	Washington, DC	54	36	DC	48	30	r	45	30	8	45	36		

	Thureday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday				The	i Lo W HI Lo W Hi 1 1 28 pc 41 28 pc 45 3 3 75 pc 85 74 pc 86 7 3 39 c 54 39 pc 55 4				urd	irday Sunday					
City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	City	Hi	Lo	W	HI	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	V
Amsterdam	39	32	рс	41	34	C.	43	36	рс	41	34	pc	Paris	41	28	pc	41	28	pc	45	32	рс	46	36	p
Berlin	32	25	sí	34	25	C	34	27	pc	34	21	pc	Rio de Janeiro	86	75	pc	85	74	90	86	74	pc	84	73	P
Buenos Aires	79.	64	t	77,	64	r	75	65	s	76	67	S	Rome	50	39	С	54	39	OC	55	41	pc	57	45	
Cairo	73	56	s	74	54	S	74	61	s	83	59	S	San Juan	85	72	s	85	72	рс	85	72	pc	83	72	P
Jerusalem	58	43	8	56	45	s	56	46	ŝ	70	49	8	Seoul	57	32	r	60	37	S	49	31	pc	47	24	
Johannesburg	74	56	С	71	55	- 1	66	55	sh	71	56	DC	Sydney	86	68	90	81	64	s	75	66	pc	79	68	P
_ondon	39	30	Sil	39	32	DC	41	32	DC	43	34	DC	Tokyo	53	47	r	56	44	pc	. 57	50	pc	51	34	
Maxico City	77	48	OC.	77	44	s	75	43	s	75	43	S	Toronto	34	20	pc	30	16	С	32	18	DC	32	16	
Moscow	29	14	c	27	12	DC	28	21	С	31	17	sh	Zunch	40	26	st	43	28	DC	44	27	DC	54	29	D



S.T.I. Turfcare

Equipment 908 Albemaria Ros 704-579-1005

Equipment

Hardware 4245 Main Street 784-455-7900 Mount Holly Farm Supply 120 South Mein Stre 704-827-4431 Steele Creek Lawn Equipment 13902 York Road 704-504-8838

stihlusa.com

Faulk Brothers

Hardware Inc.

Are you ready for a **STIHL**?