

Human Relations Unit, Press Rapped On Tension Report

Two spokesmen for activist groups have criticized the local press and the Tucson Commission on Human Relations for reports that tensions are building again in a North Side trouble area.

The two appeared before the City Council last night.

"What role is being played by the Tucson Commission on Human Relations?" Johnny Bowens, 839 E. Linden St., asked, continuing:

"It is acting as a provocateur in its own interest. It serves to heighten tensions between black youth and the police."

Bowens, who said he represented the Black People's Community Organization, was fol-

lowed by Mrs. Betsy McDonald of the Peace and Freedom Association. She called statements last week by "certain park officials" and commissioners "unwise, unfair and inflammatory."

Concluded Mrs. McDonald, "Such remarks appeal to latent racism in the white community."

The comments of Bowens and Mrs. McDonald were directed at TCHR's appeals for capital improvements at Mansfield Park, N. 4th Ave. just south of Grant Road.

It is in the area where racial tensions brought confrontations with police two years ago. The commission spokesmen said more trouble might be forth-

coming this summer if the park is not improved. Specific requests included a diving bay at the park's pool and a neighborhood center.

City officials said after last week's meeting that the park had one of the highest vandalism rates in the city park system.

In other business last night, the council appointed three new members to the Tucson Commission on Human Relations.

Named were Mrs. Bella Lumm, a real estate woman; sign painter Rey Robles and Dr. Ruben G. Acosta, a surgeon. They replace three on the 15-member commission who resigned because they could not attend meetings.