

Pine Lake Is Still Short a Councilman After Touch Resigns Newly Won Post

BYLINE: GUEVARA, CASTRO LILLIAN DeKalb

DATE: January 19, 1989

PUBLICATION: The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution

EDITION: The Atlanta Journal Constitution

SECTION: EXTRA

PAGE: A/8

Lillian **Guevara-Castro** Staff Writer

Pine Lake is looking for a councilor. According to **Pine Lake** Mayor Neil Copeland, the council is still searching for someone to fill Ralph Touch's post until the city can hold an election in November. In the meantime, Mayor Copeland said he would perform the duties of police commissioner for the city's two-man police force. "We'll wait to get the Council up to speed and then see about any assignments," he said. After running unopposed for his seat on the **Pine Lake** City Council last November, Councilman Ralph Touch resigned his post at the council's swearing-in ceremony Jan. 9. Mr. Touch, 53, had served as mayor pro tem and police commissioner during the six years he was on the council. According to Mr. Touch, frequent work-related traveling would keep him too busy to attend to city matters. "I would have had to miss the next four meetings in a row" because of out-of-town business, he said. "I won't be able to give the council the in-depth help that it needs," said Mr. Touch.

The Council unanimously approved the appointment of Councilor Charlotte Neil as mayor pro tem. Mayor Copeland and Mr. Touch were the only two candidates to run for the mayor's post and a seat on the council respectively last November. A health administrator for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in Atlanta, Mr. Touch left the Council once before in 1986, but returned after an eight-month interim. "I'm leaving a bit reluctantly. I'll especially miss the police force, but it's time now for someone else to take part," said the eight-year Pine Lake resident.