

**They
Came
Last
Week
From
All
Parts
Of
The
City
For
The
Mahlon
Brown
Party
Hosted
By
'Big
Al'
At
The
Hide-
away
Lounge**

**Commission Reversal
Sends Groups In Fury**

Three West Las Vegas action groups expressed "shock" and "fury" Tuesday over the Monday night reversal by the City Commission of an earlier decision to provide offsite improvements in Vegas Heights.

Mrs. Eleanor Walker, president of the local NAACP, speaking on the behalf of her organization, Poor People Pulling Together (PPPT) and the Franciscan Center, said in a press conference, "We called this meeting to express our fury at the treatment we've received from the commission concerning Vegas Heights."

"We plan to consult our attorneys to see if we cannot force the commission to go through with the assessment district," Mrs. Walker said.

Mayor Oran Gragson said Tuesday the commission had approved funds September 11 to provide the predominantly black community with curbs and gutters.

The residents would have been assessed for the sidewalks and street lights.

But he said it was the ordinance that was turned down. The ordinance had to be adopted to complete all the legal requirements for the special assessment district," Gragson said.

He did not quite make it clear, however, as to why the commission should approve the funds and then disapprove the ordinance.

Gragson was the only commissioner who voted in favor of the ordinance. Commissioners Ron Lurie, George Franklin and Paul Christensen opposed it. Christensen and Lurie voted in favor of the district September 11 and Franklin voted against it.

Gragson said, "The district is dead unless it is revised. I do think the commission was very shortsighted after we had approved funds we thought would do the job."

Lurie said he changed his mind on the district because some of the property owners had failed to keep up payments on a previous assessment-district for sewers in the area. He failed, however, to mention this September 11.

Franklin said, "I can't see that putting new streets around ghetto housing will do anything but give the ghetto nicer streets."

Mrs. Walker said the area can never be brought up to par without the offsite improvements. "The NAACP can't go through with any proposal for the area without the improvements," Mrs. Walker said.



DIONNE WARWICKE
'VOICE' Photo Pic Of The Week

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