

MINISTERS ALLIANCE IN UPROAR OVER LOSS OF FUNDS

Officials of the Ministers Alliance of West Las Vegas handed their support last Friday to a beleaguered Las Vegas economic development agency under investigation by federal auditors.

In a news conference, representatives of the Las Vegas chapter of the National Black Pastors Conference denounced a federal crackdown on the Southern Nevada Economic Development Council.

Officials of the Alliance said they want to know who in Nevada state government is responsible for discouraging business development on the West Side.

Rev. I.W. Wilson, spokesman for the alliance, said "a grave injury has been committed against the poor and jobless people" by closing of the Council.

"We feel there should be some reason why the program was cut off when jobs could be developed in this community," said Wilson.

Wilson said an investigation by the ministers turned up evidence that the council was closed "as a result of oppressive, inequitable, and

irregular tactics that any reasonable person would find repulsive."

In May, the federal Economic Development Administration withheld nearly \$528,000 of a \$965,200 grant to the Las Vegas agency because



Otis Harris

of alleged misuse of federal funds.

In August, the agency (as reported in the Sentinel) fired back with a lawsuit in federal court claiming the government deliberately delayed payment of the grant. The suit is still pending.

"SNEDC had one international developer-investor that was interested in bringing in a \$120 million project that would have produced 4,000 jobs in five years,"

said Wilson. "SNEDC also set up an incubator building to house other developing small businesses, and it developed a central business data bank. Many other business assistance programs were developed or in the process of being developed."

John Woodward, Economic Development Administration spokesman in Seattle, also said a final audit of the Las Vegas development agency should be completed this month.

Otis Harris, who founded the agency in 1977 to attract business to the city's black community, said the investigation "is just a matter of calling me a fraud in order to stop programs."

This isn't a matter of a black organization crying wolf," he said. "We haven't been able to get anything from the federal government."

Meanwhile, a federal spokesman said the government may turn over the remaining \$527,800 to the city of Las Vegas.

The black ministers group said federal investigators have yet to prove the allegations.

Playboy Gang Members TURK KILLERS APPREHENDED IN "VEGAS"

Police arrested three young men last Thursday and at that time searched for a fourth suspect in the slaying of jazz musician Tommy Turk, 54, who was fatally shot during a Las Vegas tavern holdup last August.

Arrested were Victor Duane Holmes, 20, of 1810 N. J St., and two 16-year-olds whose names were not released.

Homicide Detective Sgt. Frank Jergovic said all the suspects are members of "The Playboys" club, a West Las Vegas group composed of adults and juveniles who are suspects in numerous criminal activities.

Police believe the trio

may be involved in other robberies, including one that occurred in North Las Vegas.

The gang, according to police reports, only surfaced at the end of last winter.

"The only thing we can really tell about them is that they are kids, about 15 to 23 years old, who have grown up together in that area (1700-1800 block area of North J Street)," said Metro Patrolman Larry Ross. "We number them at about 25."

Ross said the Playboys are "not really a gang." They are more of a group of kids who grew up together and congregate together. They have a gang struc-

ture with a leader and a chain of command," he said. "They also have guns and access to guns."

Robbery Detective Charlie Jordan, who helped crack the Turk killing, said the adults in the gang, many of whom are ex-felons, frequently rely on the juvenile members to carry weapons, contraband and often, commit crimes which the adults have planned.

In the Turk killing, police believe the actual robbery and shooting was done by juveniles while an adult drove the getaway car.

Investigators said Holmes is suspected of being the driver of the

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Stabbed Victim Seeks Help

"Bad heroin" was described as the reason for the stabbing a 33-year-old man received several times Sunday afternoon at a gas station in West Las Vegas, Metro police said.

Robert Williams, 33, also known as "Black Jerry," was rushed to Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital for stab wounds to the chest, stomach and

back, police said. His condition was reported late Sunday afternoon as being stable.

Williams was stabbed about 1 p.m. at the gas station on the corner of H and Owens Avenue, police said. He then staggered to the Peoples Choice, 805 W. Owens., where police and an ambulance was summoned.

An unidentified woman, who allegedly

witnessed the stabbing, told the police the attack was over bad heroin.

Homicide Detective Dave Hatch said Williams was "uncooperative and refuses to tell us anything" about the attack or the assailants.

Police were searching for two other men and another woman for questioning at SENTINEL press time.

Photo Contest For AASK Work

The Nevada Academy of Art & Technology is sponsoring a Baby and Child Photo contest beginning October 17th through November 28th.

Children will be divided into five different age categories and will participate in quarter-final, semi-final and

final judging events. Winners will be announced (both boys and girls) in each age category as well as overall King and Queen.

First, second, third and fourth place trophies will be awarded in each age division and in overall competition.

Winners will be based on two factors, judging of the child's photo will represent 50% of the entrant's votes, and ticket sales will represent 50% of the votes. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit Aid to Adoption of Special Kids. For more information call 737-1569.

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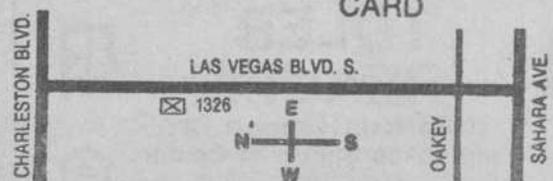
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