

NLV Housing Director Arrington Removed On Mismanagement Charges

NORTH LAS VEGAS—Monday was D-Day for embattled Housing Authority Director Robert Arrington.

Arrington was removed from his position in a closed-door session of the Authority Board. All this in the wake of charges that he misappropriated \$83,604 of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds.

Arrington has headed the authority during that time and disputed charges that he misused the money as charged by a HUD official.

During the week, local HUD official Fay G. Adams reported that the federal organization was yanking control of the Centennial Park Arms housing development from under the local housing authority's control by directing Sun Homes, owners of the property, to do so.

At the same time Adams wants SUN Homes to make the local authority repay the money allegedly used to pay salaries and fringe benefits.

Arrington, who has

been under constant fire in his position from some council members and has at times fought to retain his job, said in a prepared statement: "These charges are ludicrous, we've followed all procedures."

The fall of Arrington brought cheers from a



Robert Arrington

room full of ex-employees awaiting the outcome of Monday's personnel session.

The appearance of the ex-employees upset some members of the board, and the resignation of the executive director now puts a burden on them to hire a fully experienced replacement.

"We must search the nation for an individual experienced in housing who understands HUD rules and has no ties to anyone," one Board

member said.

Arrington was hired three years ago for the \$38,000 position with no experience in housing, a move that history proved created a variety of problems in the department.

A management team, comprised of Wanda Thatcher and Al Watson, will run the Housing operation until a permanent replacement is hired. Thatcher has 10 years of finance experience with the Authority while Watson is presently in charge of tenant care.

It was reported that Arrington requested \$6,500 in compensatory

time as a last-ditch maneuver before resigning, but has not had the request approved at this time.

Much of the three-hour personnel session involving Arrington was taken up with arguments over what, if any, compensation he should receive before leaving.

Although no details were forthcoming from the closed-door session it was learned that Arrington will receive all his vacation and sick leave pay plus approximately six weeks severance pay.

Donald Ekes, who said his salary was slashed over 40 percent

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