

Pearson fought for minority involvement Commissioners approved airport businesses

Clark County commissioners Friday chose 17 concessionaires, most of them local firms, to set up shop in McCarran International Airport expansion areas.

According to federal regulations, at least four of the 17 concessionaires selected had to be minority or women's businesses. The commission ultimately selected five such concessionaires.

But they awarded the plum general gifts and news concession — expected to produce about half of the total revenues generated by new concessions — to Elson's Inc., an Atlanta firm that guaranteed the county a minimum of \$567,000 with a 31% sales concession fee.

Commissioner William Pearson, however, protested that minority businesses were not getting a fair chance to compete.

Pearson, however, pushed for another Atlanta-based firm, Concessions International, which included local minority participation in proposed McCarran Airport operations.

Concessions International offered a \$225,000 minimum guarantee.

"Elson's Inc. has by far the best financial offer," said Commission-

er Bruce Woodbury. "This is certainly one of the most important of the concessions to make sure the revenues are very high."

Pearson argued Elson's had already been awarded a concession (a cookie shop), saying "minorities should be given a chance to compete. In order for minorities to compete, they have to be given a chance."

Concessions International, he maintained, "should be given a chance in spite of the difference in revenues."

But Commissioner Ka-

ren Hayes said that county officials were "obligated" to choose the concessions that would generate the most money.

"We can't turn our back on a quarter of a million dollars," the difference between the two offers, Hayes said.

"We should turn our back on our citizens, that's what you're telling me," Pearson replied.

Commissioners Paul Christensen and Manny Cortez joined Pearson in supporting Concessions International but when that motion failed the board voted 6-1, with

Pearson opposed, to award the concession to Elson's.

•• Vegas Memories, owned by local contractor Evan Williams, received the personalized T-shirt and sportswear concession, while Williams' Memories & More

was selected to provide lingerie and loungewear in the specialty clothing category.

Other specialty clothing concessions were awarded to De Tomaso.

Tark Inc., a family business of UNLV basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian, was awarded the sportswear concession for personalized athletic wear and T-shirts.

Equal Rights Commission To Hold Open Meeting

The Nevada Equal Rights Commission will hold an open Commission meeting on Thursday, Mar. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Clark County School District Education Center, 2832 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, Nevada.

The public is invited to attend.

Earnest Stewart found guilty in shooting death

A 38-year-old man was convicted Tuesday of two counts of first degree murder in the shooting deaths of two brothers who were gunned down in a small lounge in what was believed to be a drug-related dispute.

A District Court jury of nine women and three men returned the guilty verdicts against Earnest Earl Stewart, who faces the death penal-

ty. After deliberating for almost two days, the jury also found the defendant guilty of possession of a firearm by an ex-felon, but innocent of battery on John Patillo, the owner of the Safari Room nightclub at 810 W. Bonanza Road, where the killings took place. Patillo was shot during the incidents, but has since recovered from his wounds.

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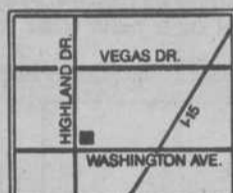


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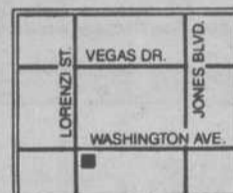
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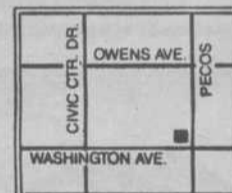
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