

Merchants Task Force to Aid NLV Businesses

Mayor Jim Seastrand of North Las Vegas has established a Merchants Task Force and appointed Councilman Mary Kincaid as chairman and Councilman W. Brent Hardy as vice chairman. Seastrand said, "The many retail and service businesses in our city constitute an important element of our community's economic base and are deserving of focused attention."

Councilman Kincaid explained that a recent survey of 55 businesses located in the North Las Vegas downtown area showed that within the next five years 44% are planning improvements to their current facilities, 24% expect to move to larger quarters, and 60% are planning to add employees. "The task force will give us a forum to keep in close communication with our merchants. We want to be sure that city services are meeting their needs," Kincaid stated. "Even more importantly, we will discuss with the business managers possible cooperative projects where the city might assist in promoting our local merchants and service providers."

As a first step for the task force, Councilman Hardy chaired a meeting with over a dozen business managers a few days ago to determine their interest in establishing a closer communications link with city government. "The response was quite positive and very enthusiastic," Hardy said. "Local government can do a lot to enhance the opportunities for business success. For example," Hardy continues, "we are encouraging businesses to bring to the task force for study any City ordinances or regulations that may be too complicated or burdensome. We want to demonstrate that government can be empathetic and responsive to business needs rather than an unwelcome interference. As our outreach to the local business community continues, we expect the task force to develop some very effective projects."



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