

CAREY ARMS MANAGEMENT STAFF SPEAKS OUT

By Muhammad Abdullah

Last week the Sentinel-Voice ran an article by this reporter titled "CIA Readies For Action in West Las Vegas." We promised our readers that we would follow up with the management side of the Carey Arms Apartments story. And we did just as we promised.

I had an opportunity to meet with the new management team for the Carey Arms complex and our readers are in for an interesting story.

I interviewed Lisa Williams, Project Administrator of Park Management, Inc., a subsidiary of Dalton Properties, Carol Smith, Project Administrator of the Carey Arms Apartment Complex and Don Burse, Chief of Security for the complex.

Our interview took place in Smith's office at the main complex.

After presenting the allegations of the CIA (Community Improvement Association), the management staff was more than eager to address each complaint, one by one. They were extremely cooperative and candid.

Before addressing their concerns, Williams stated that she was hopeful that the Sentinel-Voice would present a "fair" story and let the public know that the management team inherited a lot of problems from their predecessors. "Make sure that you let the public know that we are new and that many of these problems existed before we arrived, and that we do not want to be given credit for problems that we did not create," she said. "I admit that Carey Arms does have a lot of serious problems and since we've been here we have been working daily to change the image of the complex. We want our tenants to be treated like human beings...We are willing to work with the CIA and any other group, for that matter, that wants to improve the quality of life for all the tenants. We can accomplish a lot if we work together."

Williams said that Smith was hired because of her experience and especially for her determination to change the image of the complex. She said that they have begun to beef up the security, to step up maintenance and are presently seeing that abandoned buildings are boarded up.

The manager of the complex is the first resident/manager ever at Carey Arms. Smith deserves a lot of credit because, not only does she share the concerns as a resident, but she also happens to be the first white manager ever at the complex.

Smith contends that she took the job because of previous management experience, but mainly because she believes that she can turn the trend around.

"I knew that when I started it was going to be an uphill battle. I knew it wasn't going to be easy. My husband didn't want me to live here, but I am determined to turn it around. We won't be able to make overnight changes, but I certainly have made many positive changes since I took over," she pointed out.

Some of the changes that Smith pointed out were: 1) Stepped up security; 2) More buildings being cleaned out and boarded up; 3) light fixtures have been ordered and will be installed in the Lake Mead complex alley immediately; 4) maintenance work orders are being increasingly filled and reviewed; 5) the CIA has been allocated an office complete with several desks and telephones; 6) laundry rooms are in the process of being revamped; 7) Funds are being awaited to re-hab vacant buildings more speedily; and 8) Smith and Michele Bardlett and staff of the CIA are in the process of ironing out communications problems so that they can work in harmony.

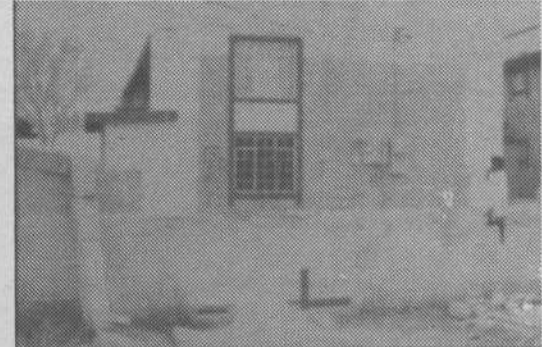
Smith added that after reviewing the records, she found that there were no tenants that had work orders in for over three years, to her knowledge. She said that many of the tenants had not paid their rent in years and that might be a reason why the past management did not attempt to fill their work orders.

"After reviewing the tenant records, I found many instances where some tenants had not paid their rent in years. Many tenants decided that they would pay rent when they wanted to. That's going to stop! I intend to work with the tenants, but this is a business and I intend to run it like one," she emphasized.

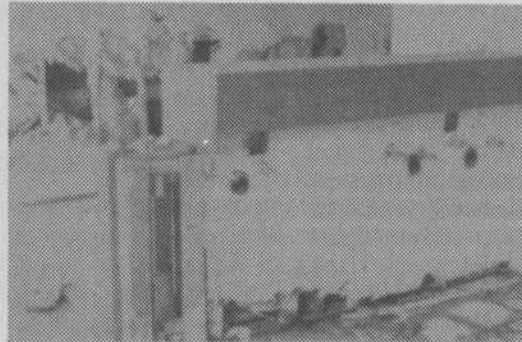
When asked about her relations with the CIA, Smith pointed out that they are a plus for management and should have existed long before the few months that she and Williams had started. She said that the tenants should be grateful that there are people who care enough to take a stand.



SCENES FROM CAREY ARMS...Trash and garbage in vacant apartment...



...Walls with holes which serve as escape routes for muggers and drug dealers...



...Trashed and torn up laundry room with no washing machines...



... The CIA comes to the rescue...



...Graffiti on block walls...



...CIA members talk with the tenants...

"We need strong and aggressive leaders like Michelle and her staff, who have strong convictions and want to see changes. It is a credit to Carey Arms, and I and Ms. Williams are willing to do whatever we can to encourage and support them within reason. We don't intend, however, to tell them how to run their business and we have HUD guidelines that

we must follow. We will be meeting this week so that we can establish guidelines that must be followed, if we are to work together. We need them and they need us and we cannot be at odds with each other. We must work together," she said. "We are scheduling a summer neighborhood lawn barbeque and plan to invite all the tenants so that they can get to know each other. I believe that if we develop mutual respect for

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