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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Religious Leaders Address Allegations Of Accepting Bribes From City Councilman MINISTERS ASK FOR COUNCILMAN NOLEN'S RESIGNATION

By Lee Brown

Black ministers yesterday charged that Las Vegas City Councilman Bob Nolen slandered them when he commented to reporters that he routinely gave money to West Las Vegas ministers during his campaign for city council. Nolen also stated that many other local politicians, including former Mayor Ron Lurie, had done the same thing in the past.

Lurie reportedly confirmed that he has given money to some ministers so they could gather support for him through the churches.

"In politics, you do what you have to do to win," Lurie said.

Both Nolen and Lurie stated they felt there is nothing illegal or unethical about what they did, however, West Las Vegas ministers strongly disagree.

At a news conference held before a scheduled city council meeting at City Hall on Wednesday, thirteen members of the Pastors Conference of Southern Nevada and Las Vegas Ministerial Alliance released a statement addressing allegations

of payoffs to some of them in return for supporting his campaign.

"The recent attack by Councilman Nolen is unprecedented. While we could argue the validity of Mr. Nolen's allegations, we will not do so. For to respond to statements such as those would only give credibility to someone who is clearly an ethically unsound politician whose motivation is now questionable," said Rev. James Rogers, spokesman for the ministers and pastor of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.

"We do know one thing for certain about Mr. Nolen. He does not know the meaning or refuses to embrace the concept of respect. It is painfully obvious to us, that Mr. Nolen has no respect for African-American leadership in Las Vegas. He has no respect for the African-American residents of our fair city and he has no respect for himself as an elected official."

The ministers have called upon Councilman Nolen to retract the statements made, issue a formal public apology for the statements, and to submit his resignation as councilman and retire

quietly from public service.

"The issue here is not whether the ministers have done something illegal, if possibly they have, but if Councilman Nolen has done something illegal as well," Rogers added.

Nolen contends his remarks were misunderstood.

"There was never any bribes," Nolen said. "To me, when you bribe someone, you are asking them to commit some illegal act. I only expected them to assist me in my campaign in anyway they thought was right."

Nolen also said that of the ministers present at City Hall Wednesday, several had received money from him to assist him in his campaign. The minister's alliance refused to comment on any of its member's involvement in the controversy, and said they would continue to do so until a formal hearing could be held. They have also called for the City Council's Ethics Committee to launch a full scale investigation into Councilman Nolan's actions and allegations.

"We are specifically asking for an expedient investigative review with written findings available



Rev. James Rogers
Minister Alliance spokesman

for public review, and the council's response. In addition to this request, we will petition this request. We will petition the Clark County District Attorney's office to conduct a Grand Jury inquiry into the conduct of Mr. Nolen."

SENTINEL-VOICE EXCLUSIVE

LOCAL UTILITY COMPANIES NOT CONFORMING TO FEDERAL LAW

By Joan Shepard

Las Vegas utility companies are not in compliance with a federal law requiring utilization of minority contractors and subcontractors by companies who do business or provide services to the federal government; charged City Councilman Frank Hawkins and State Senator Joseph Neal in an exclusive interview with the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice.

"Our goal is access," said Hawkins. "We are asking," said Neal, "for a piece of the procurement pie to which we are legally entitled."

Hawkins and Neal referred to Section 211 to Public Law 95-507 which states:

"It is the policy of the United States that small business concerns and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged



CITY COUNCILMAN
FRANK HAWKINS

Individuals shall have the maximum practical opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts let by any federal agency."

Socially and economically disadvantaged is described by Public Law 95-507 as "Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans and other minorities, or other individuals found to be disadvantaged by the Small Business Administration."

The elected officials said they were made aware of the failure of utility companies to use minority contractors and subcontractors by local business people who felt they were "shut out."

To date, Hawkins and Neal have met with Centel, Southwest Gas, and Nevada Power. In addition, Hawkins sent a letter of inquiry to all three (See Utilities, Page 20)



STATE SENATOR
JOE NEAL

RESIDENTS REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT WEST LAS VEGAS REDEVELOPMENT

By Lee Brown

To the West Las Vegas residents who attended the City Council meeting at the Doolittle Community Center Monday night, the fact that the African American Community is in desperate need of jobs, the building of new homes and businesses, and simply hope for the future, amongst other things, came as no surprise.

Despite this, residents of the area damaged after the Rodney King verdict gathered once again to air their concerns to the Las Vegas City Council.

The group of about 250 that gathered in the gymnasium of the center, were given the opportunity to personally speak to the council, including Councilman Frank Hawkins, who represents the citizens of the area in question, and Mayor Jan Laverly Jones.

"If we are to address the concerns of the West Las Vegas community, it is imperative that we hear directly from those who live and do business here," Jones stated in a release issued late last week.

"Councilman Hawkins and I feel the best way to receive this input is to hold a public hearing in

the community."

"As elected officials, we must be cognizant of the needs and wants of the people," Hawkins added.

The special meeting, which was called by Mayor Jones, was conducted as an open public hearing. Residents were allowed to speak freely, however, council members remained silent for the most part because they were prohibited by law from speaking or voting on issues not on the agenda.

Though the council was praised at times, the consensus of those on hand appeared to be that the lack of both job and economic opportunities, combined with poor citizen/police relations, were the biggest problems faced by the residents of the community. Others also criticized the city for poor public transportation to and from West Las Vegas, and for the lack of good educational programs for minority students.

On the other hand, Pastor Willie Davis of Second Baptist Church said that he didn't totally agree that the lack of jobs was the main problem.

"We had jobs when we were slaves," Davis (See Redevelopment, Page 20)

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