

# **Religious Leaders Address Allegations Of Accepting Bribes From City Councilman** DEG

#### 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

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 creditability to someone who is clearly an ethically unsound politician whose motivation is now questionable," said Rev. James Rogers,

spokesman for the ministers and "In politics, you do pastor of New Jerusalem Missionwhatever you have ary Baptist Church.

"We do know one thing for certain about Mr. Nolen. He does Former Mayor, Ron Lurie 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

"As elected officials, we must be coonizant of

The special meeting, which was called by

the most part because they were prohibited by

law from speaking or voting on issues not on the

of payoffs to some of them in return for supporting 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

SENTINEL-VOICE EXCLUSIVE

### 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."

CITY COUNCILMAN

FRANK HAWKINS

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

the United States that small business concerns and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economi-

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

Socially and economically disadvan-

panic 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)

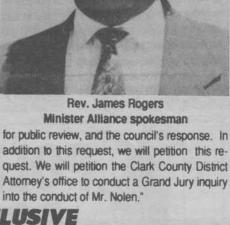




taged is described by Public Law 95-507 as "Black Americans, His-



"It is the policy of cally disadvantaged



## EDEV By Lee Brown the community.

to do to win."

To the West Las Vegas residents who attended the City Council meeting at the Doolittle the needs and wants of the people," Hawkins Community Center Monday night, the fact that the African American Community is in desperate need of jobs, the building of new homes and Mayor Jones, was conducted as an open public businesses, and simply hope for the future, hearing. Residents were allowed to speak freely, amongst other things, came as no surprise. however, council members remained silent for

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 Laverty 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

agenda. Though the council was praised at times, the concensus 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)