

UTILITIES

(Continued from Page 1)

utility companies asking for specific information in writing:

- 1) What services do you provide to the Federal Government?
- 2) What is the dollar flow of services you provide to the Federal Government?
- 3) Have you failed a Subcontracting Plan as required by Section 211 of the Small Business Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-507)? If so provide a copy?
- 4) If you have filed a Subcontracting Plan pursuant to the Small Business Act; what goals have you set for utilization of minority business? What goals have you set for women-owned businesses?

REDEVELOPMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

said. "What we need is the opportunity to become entrepreneurs like anyone else."

In regards to economics, Dora Harris, a loan officer at American Bank of Commerce, and State Assembly hopeful, brought up the fact that there are government programs that exist where, should a city set aside monies to aid minority businesses, the government would match those funds.

Mayor Jones responded by saying, "the council is already in the process of looking into these programs."

On jobs, an unidentified resident said he was concerned because he, and others, believe that most of the new employment programs, including those for youths, established after the April unrest, would end at the end of the summer, leading some youths back to the streets.

"You've come up with all these temporary solutions, to ongoing problems. What's going to happen when the summer's over?" he said.

Though the Mayor assured residents that the newly instituted programs would remain active after the summer, several residents remained angered by the lack of opportunity within the community. "We pay taxes here, and want jobs here," one speaker said.

"We all realize that racism is alive and well all over the nation, including Las Vegas," Hawkins said before Jones ended the meeting which lasted close to three hours. "I am committed to do whatever I can to make a difference, and I know it can't be done without the help of the community."

Jones followed by adding, "West Las Vegas has the full commitment and support of all the major leaders in the city."

TRAVEL

(Continued from Page 18)

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Have you succeeded in meeting these goals?

Of the three utility companies, Neal said that Southwest Gas was the most cooperative. "Southwest Gas," explained Neal, "felt pressure in California."

"We felt our talks with Neal and Hawkins were positive and constructive," said a spokesman for Southwest Gas. "We gave them information to provide to minority contractors. And we discussed our minority hiring practices and our affirmative action policy. I think we are on the same track," said the gas company spokesman.

In California, state law not only duplicates federal law 95-507 but also includes a state administrator to oversee compliance.

"A similar law in Nevada," would be one of the remedies," said Neal.

The State Senator said that Nevada Power refused to share data and that Centel said that the federal law does not apply to them.

However, the GAO (U.S. General Accounting Office) ruled that Public Law 95-507 not only applies to companies with specific contracts with the Federal Government but also to those companies who provide services.

The GAO interpretation was:

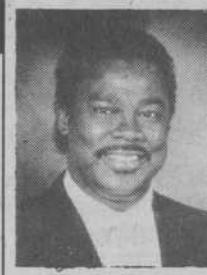
"Based upon our review of federal law, it is our opinion that a public utility that sells services to the federal government but that declines to enter into a formal contract with the government is nonetheless subject to section 211 of Public Law 95-507 and is required to satisfy those requirements.

"In our opinion, the most appropriate remedy available to the government in cases where there is no formal contract would be to seek judicial enforcement of the subcontracting plan requirements by obtaining an injunctive order enjoying an utility from failing or refusing to comply with the statutory requirements."

Hawkins said that meetings would continue with the utility companies. But if they failed to voluntarily comply, then ratepayers, minority businesses and shareholders would file formal complaints with the Public Utility Commission which could hold public hearings on the issue.

"The basic problems," said Neal, "is that these companies don't consider minorities as part of the community."

Hawkins added, "The utility companies seem to forget that African-Americans pay utility bills, pay taxes, and in some cases may be shareholders."



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