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by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

VOTE ENDS FORCED BUSING FOR BLACK STUDENTS

PRIME 6 PLAN APPROVED BY SCHOOL BOARD

Sentinel-Voice

The first step was taken Tuesday evening to do away with Las Vegas' 20-year-old school desegregation plan, as the Clark County School Board, by way of a 6-0 vote, unanimously approved Superintendent Brian Cram's Prime 6 plan, which would take the burden of busing off of the shoulders of Las Vegas' Black students.

Though the historic vote will probably lead to an improved educational environment for many Black students, the future of the plan itself remains in question.

The Clark County Classroom Teachers Association threatened to sue the school district if the plan, as it currently reads, was approved.

CTA Executive Director, Joe Lamarca's, main concern was that a clause in the plan indicated that Prime 6 school principals will be able to choose faculty and staff, but Cram stated that

the contract with the CTA would be observed.

Lamarca estimates the cost of the plan to be close to \$800,000 the first year and around \$400,000 the following year. A lot of money considering he claims the district said they had no money to help off-set the rising cost of health-care for teachers. The actual cost of the Prime 6 plan, however, could be lower or higher depending on the number of Black parents who send their children to the new neighborhood schools.

The district, which is already battling a lawsuit filed by the Las Vegas Alliance of Black School Educators, is also concerned that the Prime 6 plan may be in violation of Federal desegregation rules, however, district officials believe they are in compliance and believe the plan is well worth the risk.

Cram added that unless Gov. Bob Miller calls for further budget cuts, the

district would be able to afford the plan.

Tuesday's vote topped an eight month struggle by Black parents to get the school district to return elementary schools to the West Las Vegas area after a twenty year absence.

The Prime 6 plan will take the eight current sixth-grade centers, in addition to the H.P. Fitzgerald school, which is about to begin construction, and made them Prime 6 schools that will have grades kindergarten thru third and sixth-grade. Fourth and fifth grades will be added over the next two years.

By the '95-'96 school year, only sixth graders and those who chose to continue attending schools outside of West Las Vegas, will be bused for desegregation.

Also, as a result of the new plan, Mabel Hoggard Sixth Grade Center will be converted into a Math and Science Magnet school, and the new Fitzgerald school may be designated as a year-

(See Prime 6, Page 7)



Pleased with the outcome of the vote on the Prime 6 plan, WAAK-UP's Deborah Jackson (L) and Marzette Lewis (R) remain cautious of further stumbling blocks, and are looking forward to seeing the plan in action.

Photo By Savoy/LVS-Voice

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ALLEGED AGAINST HOMEOWNER'S ASSOC. IN OUSTER OF FORMER PRESIDENT

By Muhammad Abdullah

Walter B. Hammond and his wife Adah F. Kennon, Ph.D., reside at 5369 Waving Sage Drive in the Desert Fairways West community, a subdivision of the exclusive Painted Desert development.

Hammond and his wife purchased their home in June of 1990 and are among four other Black families that reside in this relatively quiet and prominent community. The homes in the area start at the \$250,000 price range.

After some urgings from various neighbors and his active involvement in the Homeowner's Association, Hammond decided to run for Director.

Hammond was elected to the Board of Directors in December of 1991. He was one of three directors, two were white, one male and one female.

Consequently, Hammond was selected as Vice-President with the white



From left is Walter Hammond, former President of Desert Fairways West and Wife Dr. Adah Kennon, School Psychologist, CCSD.

male being selected as President.

According to Dr. Kennon, since that time their dream of making the community a better place to live took a downhill turn.

"We have encountered prejudice, racism, harassment and a level of dis-

respect and verbal abuse the likes of which would certainly influence people of a "lesser metal" to put up a FOR SALE sign," she said.

Hammond and Dr. Kennon both have highly prestigious backgrounds.

(See Discrimination, Page 7)

ARBERRY SELECTED TO CHAIR ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS

Monday became a historic day in Nevada politics as North Las Vegas Assemblyman Morse Arberry was selected as chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, marking the first time an African American will be chairman of a budget committee.

The Ways and Means Committee is one of the two budget committees that helps direct where the state's tax revenues go.

A member of the Ways and Means Committee since 1987, Arberry began vying for the chairmanship last Spring after current chairman, Assemblyman Matthew Callister, D-Las Vegas, entered the race for State Senate.

Stating that though he will be looking out for his district (Assembly District 7), Arberry added that he will not try to drain the system in the process. "I will be fair," he said.

Arberry, 39, a plans checker for



MORSE ARBERRY

the City of Las Vegas, will no longer serve as chairman of the Assembly Health and Welfare Committee, which will be re-named the Assembly Human Resources Committee.

In related news, Assemblyman Wendell Williams (Assembly District 6), a local teacher, will head the Education Committee, the same position he held in 1991.

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