

LEADERS MEET

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Floumey listed the African American hospitality professionals in Las Vegas; Roosevelt Toston, Senior Sales Manager, LVCVA; Verdia Turner, Senior Buyer, LVCVA; Rita Holbert, National Sales Manager, Flamingo Hotel; Julius Taylor, Director of Hotel Operations, Tropicana hotel and Country Club; Walter Mason, Director of Enter-

tainment, Las Vegas Hilton; Don Givens, Excalibur Hotel and Casino; Robert Foster, Assistant Hotel Manager, Flamingo Hilton; Antinita Brant, Room Reservations Manager, Excalibur Hotel and Casino; Ed Miles, Michael Willis, Barbara Rhodes and Tony Smith, Front Desk Assistants, Sahara Hotel and Casino; and Diana Aird, President/owner of Aird & Associates.

Floumey cited in her comprehensive analysis the efforts of the 24-member Multi-Jurisdictional Community Empowerment Commission (MCEC) to attract more economic development to West Las Vegas.

Many residents have been forced to move out of the predominantly black community due to red lining and the lack of needed goods and services,

housing and business development.

Rev. Wasson II said that the NBCC was interested in meeting with Cortez and would extend invitations to officials of the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and the Latin and Asian Chambers of Commerce in an attempt to gain equal access to the tourist industry.

Areas of discussion in their future meetings will include the following:

1. Hiring of more African-Americans and other minorities in policy-making positions;
2. Equal access by African-Americans in the procurement process and bidding for tourist dollars;
3. Inclusion of LVCVA in "Disparity Study";
4. Affecting changes in how African-Americans are represented in R&R's marketing strategy;
5. Utilizing existing African American media in national advertising campaigns (eg., Ebony, Black Enterprise, Essence, BET-TV et al.);
6. review and discuss existing organizational plan by LVCVA in an attempt to create sensitivity from the top, down;
7. utilizing more African-Americans in national and local advertisement campaigns and
8. becoming more

ethnically sensitive to the cultural needs and images of African-Americans and other minorities.

Rev. Scott said that the climate in America favors parity and that black people are developing new strategies to acquire equal access.

Reasonable people should be able to sit down and reason together. That's why this forum was called. If we can define the problems and agree that something should be done, then we can begin to work towards solving them without taking other

actions. So we put our concerns on the table," Wasson said.

"Our main concern is economic parity. We want our fair share of the tourism dollars that come into Las Vegas.

Here we are in the 'Entertainment Capitol of the World' and we find that blacks and others are still being denied their rights to a multi-billion dollar industry. It is shameful.

Hopefully we can begin to see a change soon. If we act now, we can eradicate other actions that could occur in the future," he said.

DISPARITY STUDY

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Akers presented the benefits for the city, county and state in participating in the disparity study after being introduced by Debbie Conway who gave a stirring presentation about why such a study will create stimulus for all municipalities.

City Councilman Theron Goynes was concerned about the legal ramifications for non-involvement by a municipality and was adamant about the city not being muscled or strong-armed by the county. Hawkins however, cleared up that misnomer when he spoke and said that "no one would be sued for not participating." Although the possibility exists, it is extremely remote.

Akers emphasized that by participating in the study in good faith, it would alleviate any litigation that might ensue to the city at a later date.

Councilman Mary Kincaid was somewhat taken back when told by Akers that the study could cost a total of \$200,000.00. She reminded her colleagues of the need for fiscal budget restraints and commented that it would be a duplication of an

effort that the City of Las Vegas has already instituted on it's own. She voted against the proposal.

Mayor James Seastrand concurred with Kincaid and remarked that he felt that the city's open-door policy and other ongoing communications efforts in public relations and community outreach programs have convinced him that there was no need to participate. Seastrand said that the city was doing a good job in inclusion and equal access. He also voted against the measure.

While Councilman William Robinson questioned the total cost projection of the proposal, he was not totally against it.

In the final analysis a vote by Rhodes, Goynes and Robinson carried to table the issue for further evaluation with Seastrand and Kincaid casting dissenting votes.

Rhodes said that the issue of fiscal budget restraint is viable however he said that the city had other areas in the budget where the funds could be appropriated.

NAACP AND YOU

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Richardson who is the National President of the NAACP and President of the Louisiana State Conference of Branches.

Dr. Beverly Cole, director of education and housing, announced the NAACP scholarship winners which included our own youth council president Miss Rhea Watson who is a second year student at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Attorney Lani Guinier, President Clinton's nominee for U.S. Civil rights Attorney, was the recipient of the Crisis Magazine Award. Attorney Guinier spoke eloquently on the wrongness of the US Supreme Court decision on Black political districting.

The convention ended with a banquet for 1800 people with Dorothy Height, the National President of Negro Women receiving the Springam Medal.

Gladys Knight provided the entertainment with a concert. The 1994 National Convention will be held in Chicago the second week in July of the same year.

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