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COUNCIL REACTS TO CITIZENS COMPLAINTS OF UNREASONABLE HOUSING CONDITIONS

By Victor S. Ingram

A barrage of reporters and camera crews convened upon Madison Terrace apartment complex two weeks ago to expose rodent and insect infestations at the Las Vegas Housing Authority complex. The complex was then the focus of a community which was astounded at the news videos which showed roaches scurrying from the light of an opened refrigerator. Located at 1000 W. Monroe Avenue in the center of West Las Vegas, the complex became an embarrassment to housing authority director, Carl Rowe, who was subsequently forced to admit management oversights.

meeting last Friday, January 21, to determine corrective measures for the complex. The city council then condemned the housing project based upon health and safety reasons, displacing 80 families. Some families will be immediately relocated at other housing developments while others will be forced to stay at hotels until alternate housing can be made available. The effort was initiated when a group of residents petitioned the city for help due to their substandard housing accommodations and inattention from housing management.

Complaints were filed for excessive waits for maintenance which extended 6 months and beyond for basic appliance repairs, according to some resi-

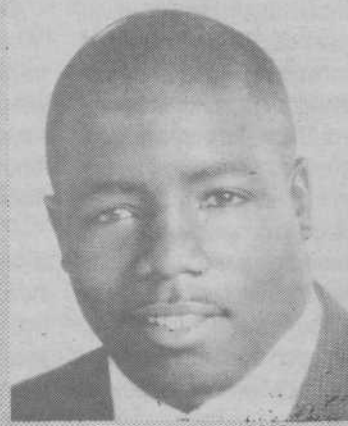
dents. Residents said an uncontrollable insect and rodent problem developed without response from housing administration.

City officials have not made a final determination on the consistency of the nearly 20-year-old complex, yet demolition seems a last alternative. Rowe, who has admitted that oversights occurred in the management of the Madison Terrace development, is faced with declining budgetary constraints and an increasing clientele. If the complex is destroyed, the city does not have the available resources to permanently replace housing for the nearly 100 families which must be relocated.

In a surprising move, the council ordered an inspection of all city housing projects to determine if dilapidated conditions are widespread. Rowe said he is confident that Madison Terrace is an aberration and not the norm for housing throughout the city.

COUNCILMAN FRANK HAWKINS' FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS SCRUTINIZED BY MEDIA

From a non-reported \$100,000 loan to an alleged eviction from his sports lounge, Las Vegas Councilman Frank Hawkins has recently faced scrutiny regarding his financial transactions. The city's largest newspaper, The Las Vegas Review Journal, reported that Hawkins had been evicted from his bar last week for failing to pay nearly \$20,000 in back rent. Rent payments extend some 9 months in arrears. Hawkins responded by saying he had voluntarily closed the business and had not been evicted as stated by the media. An arrangement had been established with his landlord, according to Hawkins. He took a camera crew to the bar to demonstrate that he wasn't evicted by using his keys to open the doors.

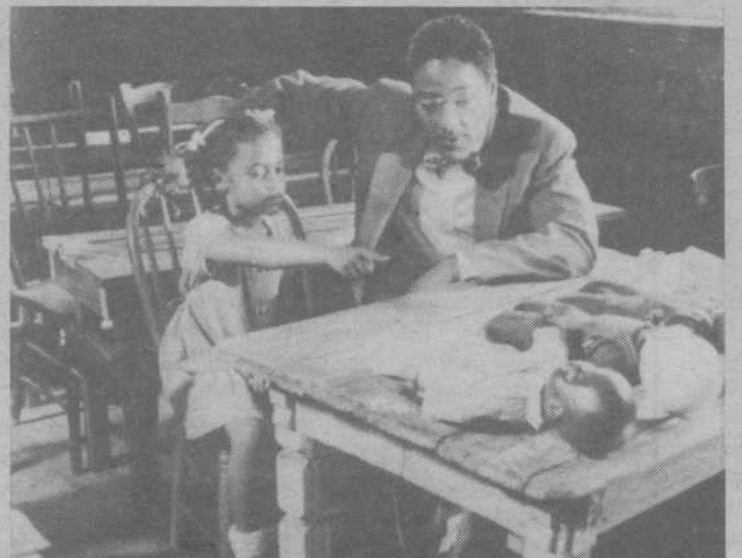


CITY COUNCILMAN FRANK HAWKINS

City Constable, Bob Nolan, does admit there was an eviction notice served on the bar, yet Hawkins said

he is unaware of any such notice. Nolan said the bar was locked and the notice was then posted outside the bar. Nolan previously served as a City Councilman with Hawkins prior to his recent appointment to the
 (See Hawkins, Page 11)

SIMPLE JUSTICE RETURNS TO PBS LEGAL ROAD TO LANDMARK CIVIL RIGHTS CASE AIRS ON "THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE"



Giancarlo Esposito (right) stars as Dr. Kenneth Clark in THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE "Simple Justice," a drama about the Supreme Court landmark Brown v. Board of Education ruling. (Wednesday, 2/2/94, 8:30 p.m. ET, 2 hours and 30 minutes). Photo: G. Ward Callum

The landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, Brown v. the Board of Education that ended racial segregation in public schools - was a watershed event in our history, paving the way for the civil rights struggles of the 1960's and forever changing the life of every American. Less well known, however, is the dramatic story of a small group of lawyers, led by African-Americans Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall, who, for two decades, tirelessly battled segregation in courts across

the country, setting the stage for Marshall's arguing - and winning - of Brown v. Board before the United States Supreme Court.

On Wednesday, February 2, 1994, 8:30-11:00 p.m. ET (check local listings), the award-winning PBS history series THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE will depart from its usual documentary format to air an encore presentation of this stirring chapter in American history, in the series' first feature-length dramatic (See American Experience, Pg 11)

NEW ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER NAMED

Lynette M. Boggs has been named Assistant City Manager for the City of Las Vegas. Boggs will join the City's Management team on January 31, under the leadership of City Manager Larry Barton. She will be paid an annual salary of \$52,000.

Boggs, 30, was most recently the Director of Marketing for the University of Nevada School of Medicine and was responsible for creating and implementing marketing, development and administrative strategies for the school's Las Vegas campus, based at the University Medical Center.

"Ms. Boggs is a dedicated professional whose skills will provide important assistance in our City team efforts towards the planning, analysis and implementation of the goals set forth in the City's Strategic Plan," says Larry Barton. Mayor Jones said, "The Council members and I enthusiastically support Ms. Boggs' appointment and believe she has demonstrated a keen awareness of our community through her career achievements and volunteer involvement; we know she will be a great resource to the City."

Boggs is a 1985 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and attended the University of Oregon Graduate School of Journalism. Among her many
 (See Asst. City Mgr., Page 11)



LYNETTE M. BOGGS, ASST. CITY MANAGER