

CITY COMPLETES COMMUNITY MEETINGS ON NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

The last of seven neighborhood meetings was held on February 21, concluding a month-long effort to obtain citizen input on a new ordinance being proposed in the City of Las

Vegas. The proposed Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance, which has been spearheaded by Councilman Frank Hawkins Jr., is designed to directly address the concerns

of Las Vegas neighborhoods. Specifically, the ordinance will include better methods of dealing with such problems as the encroachment of commercial development on residential

areas, traffic congestion, code enforcement (neighborhood eyesores, abandoned cars, etc.) and the preservation of architecturally or culturally significant properties.

These seven meetings, which have been held throughout the community, have drawn a large number of concerned residents. Their comments are being incorporated into the drafting of the ordinance by a Citizens' Committee recruited by Councilman Hawkins. The Committee is comprised of individuals who have expressed a strong interest in preserving the residential areas of Las Vegas.

Residents care deeply about Las Vegas — not just about their own neighborhoods, but about the entire community.

This was evident in the important suggestions they provided to the City concerning this ordinance. The Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance is one of the most important initiatives the City of Las Vegas has proposed relating to growth and quality of life."

Completion of the drafting process for the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance is now underway. It will come before the full council in March.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC BIAS IN THE COURTS TO BE EXAMINED

WILLIAMSBURG, VA — Is there racial and ethnic bias in the court system? How does personal, institutional and systemic racial and ethnic bias operate in the courts and how can it be eliminated? Do judges and court staff really understand the culturally diverse communities they serve?

"A recent survey of the nation's state court administrators found that 23 supreme courts have formed commissions that have either documented the existence of bias, implemented remedies or monitored compliance," said H. Clifton Grandy, Conference Project Director.

Bar Association.

Los Angeles Municipal Court Judge Veronica McBeth, Chair of the Conference Planning Committee commented, "I believe judges and court officials must accept responsibility for eliminating racial and ethnic bias from our system of justice, wherever it may exist. This

conference will enable participants to develop the skills, sensitivity and commitment needed to recognize and eliminate personal and institutional bias."

For more information about the conference contact Kriss Winchester or H. Clifton Grandy at (800) 877-1233.

These issues will be among the topics of the First National Conference on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts, which will take place March 2-5 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference will help judicial leaders develop strategies to identify and to eliminate the effects of bias from state court systems across the country.

"At least three states have formed joint state bar/supreme court committees. Some trial courts have formed committees or held town forums to address bias in the judicial branch. The conference will explore these various approaches, what they have accomplished and encourage strategies for the future," said Grandy.

The conference has been endorsed by the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators, the National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts, The National Association for Court Management, the National Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association and the Asian Pacific

Sponsored by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) under a grant from the State Judicial Institute, the conference will bring together teams from the judicial branch of all 50 states and all U.S. territories. They will be joined by representatives from many national bench and bar organizations and other interested persons.

SAFETY REMINDER FROM NEVADA POWER COMPANY

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More importantly, they pose a safety hazard for the linemen who must remove them or for children who try to retrieve them.

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federal law is a means of effecting a national policy that was adopted by Congress and supported by Presidents of both parties and that the federal government can engage more freely in affirmative action that states and localities, which in the past have not been allowed by the Supreme Court to use set-aside programs for racial/ethnic businesses. It also pointed out that this program was based on disadvantaged business categories, which also can include businesses owned by white men.

Thousands of those businesses owned by people of color which are new doing so

well are watching this case with fear and trepidation. They are fearful because the Department of Transportation alone set aside \$2.2 billion in 1993 for disadvantaged businesses. They are fearful because private industry watched government policies carefully and adjusts their policies accordingly. So, not only could minority-owned businesses' government contracts be jeopardized, so too could their contracts with private industry.

But these businesses are fearful for another reason as well. They remember the days of "old boy networks" which excluded people of color for generations.

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