

GRAND OPENING

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que and get our greens for the Labor Day weekend. By the way,

for everybody who doesn't know we have a sale on greens in here," Johnson said jokingly.

Vons Grocery chain delivered on its commitment to build stores in neglected urban areas, says

Vons Chief Operating Officer Dick Goodspeed. The company committed 100 million dollars

following the urban unrest after the 1992 acquittal of 3 L.A. police officers accused of beating

motorist Rodney King. Critics claimed the facility would suffer insurmountable theft and vandalism. A claim which Goodspeed says is a complete over-exaggeration. "I think that (the theft issue) is terribly over-played. "You might lose alcohol and beer in this area while you might lose high-end cosmetics in another area. It's all theft just of another kind," says Goodspeed.

"We have 4 stores in urban areas and we're very please with our entry." "We saw that there was a need to provide jobs in the community plus a lot of people in these types of communities were under-served," he adds.

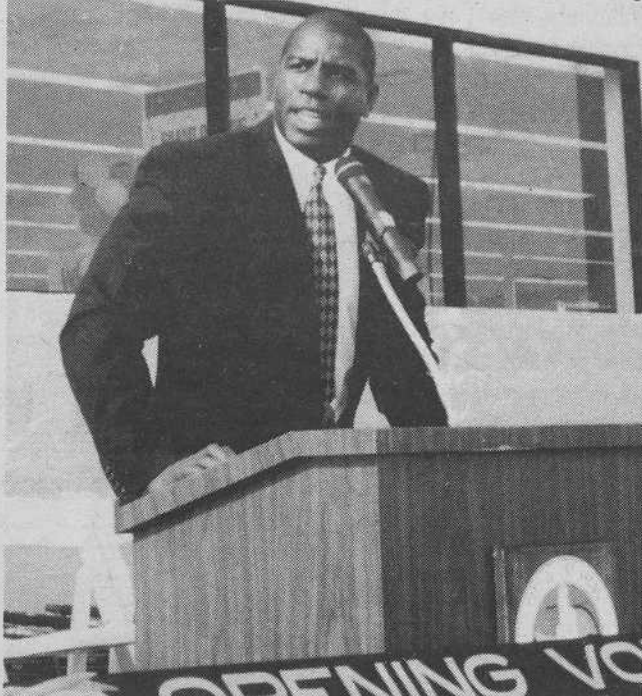
Another controversy, however, involved the aesthetics of the West Las Vegas store. A wrought iron fence installed around the perimeter just prior the completion of construction caused some detractors to complain that the chain wanted to fortify the store from the community. "The fence is to protect our customers, not the store," replies Goodspeed to the accusation.

The store will employ nearly 100 persons with a portion of those employed coming directly from the local community. Local job placement agency Nevada Business Service was responsible for training and placing 17 employees for the store. Their jobs vary from department managers, general clerks, cashiers, and produce workers.

The 3-month long training program ran from February to May with graduates being placed at other Vons locations until the completion of the new store, says NBS director Kabil Tayari. Tayari credits Vons for their community outreach and attempts at hiring from the local neighborhood.

Also present during opening ceremonies, Clark County Commission Chairman Yvonne Atkinson Gates. Gates recalled the last full-service grocery store located in the area. "Do you all remember the last time we had a grocery store in West Las Vegas?" she asked a crowd of nearly 500. "Well, I do. It was Food Fair 28-years ago."

In an inspirational address, the commission chairman advocated business ownership for those in the community. "It is our hope that we will become owners of grocery stores and businesses in our community," she says. Gates provided a special thanks to former Ward 1 Councilman Frank Hawkins, who she credited as being instrumental in the planning and development of the store.



PHOTOS BY VICTOR INGRAM



SPRINT

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WAAK-UP president Marzette Lewis says the issue is currently under negotiation and declined to comment on the matter. Sprint officials were also unavailable for comment. Those close to the matter claim a list of demands submitted by a group inclusive of WAAK-UP and other community activists included full college scholarships for community children and computer equipment for Prime 6 schools. Additionally, requests were made for racial sensitivity training for Sprint employees and decision making input into future phone book covers.

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CIVIL RIGHTS

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to implement their creative ideas for improving their communities. It also provides leadership training for young people to build their skills and community knowledge.

The brainchild of Michael Sanchez and actor Andrew Shue, Do Something was formed after both attended a Clinton rally where the presidential candidate commented on a button which

simply said "Do Something". Do Something has worked with young people in Newark, Boston and Selma, Alabama.

In each case a local board of directors, composed of young people under 30 makes the decisions about what programs to fund in their own community. For example, the Newark Do Something Fund makes grants to Ana Cruz, a 17 year-old who held an environmental fair in the

Ironbound district, which faces high rates of lead poisoning and has several toxic waste sites; to Markutia Simmons, a 23 year-old who wanted to start a program to teach kids to shot pool, not guns in Newark Central Ward. Funds for the program come from corporate sponsors, foundations and private donations.

Do Something takes (See Civil Rights, Page 11)

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