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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Enterprise Community Comes to Life

By Nichole Davis
Sentinel-Voice

In West Las Vegas 1993, there were no supermarkets and no banks. Save the occasional convenience store or restaurant, new businesses were a rarity. Economic development was stagnant.

In West Las Vegas 1995, the outlook is much different. Nucleus Plaza has been rebuilt. Vons anchors the Westland Plaza Shopping Center. Two casinos have been built. Developers are building single-family homes in the area, and several Windsor Park residents have had their homes rebuilt.

Those topical changes are just the beginning. The city is planning to break ground on a business incubator. The

Veteran's Administration is building a new hospital. The Clark County School District has even agreed to build the area's first middle school. These changes are due in part to something residents may know little about, the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community Program.

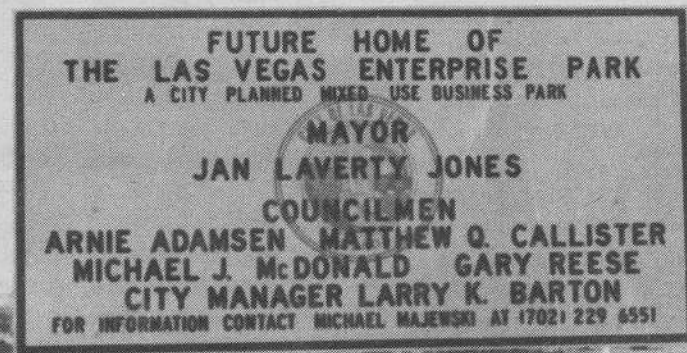
"Within the next five years, the whole area is going to look like another place," said Debbie Conway, program coordinator.

Here's why. West Las Vegas is one of ten census tracts that makes up the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community (SNEC). The SNEC was drawn up after President Clinton announced the release of nearly \$3.5 billion in enterprise zone funds in 1993.

In total, 218 communities would apply for that funding, but only 106 would receive it.

The winners received different amounts depending upon the level of poverty experienced in their area. The suburban and rural areas with the most poverty were designated empowerment zones. Los Angeles received \$125 million in economic development grants. Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit, New York and Philadelphia-Camden, N.J. each received \$100 million in flexible grants. They also received tax breaks for businesses.

Cleveland received \$90 million in economic development grants, and the Kentucky Highlands, Mid-Delta region (See *Enterprise*, Page 2)



Sign on Martin Luther King Blvd. and Owens indicates proposed area for the future growth in the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community Program.

Photo by Victor Ingram

Community Protestors Greet Reebok Holiday Prep Classic

By Nichole Davis
Sentinel-Voice

With loud chants and upraised signs, 45 members of the Westside Action Alliance Korps Uplifting People (WAAK-UP) protested at Durango High School Thursday on the last day of Reebok's Holiday Prep Classic basketball tournament.

Protestors chanted such slogans as, "LaRocque's Gotta Go! McKay's Gotta Go! Coles' Gotta Go! Reebok's Gotta Go!" They carried several signs each one with a different slogan: "Coach LaRocque must be stopped. Our children will not be used. We Won't Go Away if Coach LaRocque Stays."

LaDonna Gordon, the mother of Keenan Gordon, a senior, who was recently cut from the squad after two years of participation, carried a sign

reading "Our Kids Will Not be Exploited." Gordon believes LaRocque has recruited black players to Durango and dumped them when they're no longer the most useful.

Current hostilities started when Keenan Gordon was cut from the squad in mid-November. Since then, parents of Gordon and other parents of former players along with WAAK-UP have been meeting with Clark County School District officials trying to get an independent investigation of the program.

They feel school officials, in particular Principal Allen Coles and Athletic Director Larry McKay, are covering up improper behavior by Coach Alan LaRocque, including illegally housing a black player in his home and recruiting players from other schools.

Said Marzette Lewis, WAAK-UP founder and protest leader, "We're protesting Durango because of their coaching staff. The coaching staff has displayed blatant racism. They've been pimpin', hoein', illegally housing our kids in West Las Vegas. They've been housing them in the coach's home for three months out of the year like they're a commodity."

Said Gordon, "I'm here for all kids. I think it's about time we start addressing the problems which are plaguing the School District, one of which is athletics. We're tired of our kids being used and exploited."

Protestors arrived at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday with one purpose in mind: They wanted to create enough of a disruption that Reebok officials, who (See *PROTESTORS*, Page 2)

Harlem man sues city, mayor, cops for unlawful arrest, humiliation

By William Egyir

A West Harlem man has filed a multi-million dollar suit against the mayor, police commissioner and several police officers for violation of his civil rights during an incident in which he alleges he was severely beaten by arresting officers.

The incident, according to Raymond Wells, caused him to suffer head injuries that required eight stitches, concussions, neurological and brain damage, cuts and lacerations to his face and heels.

Wells said the humiliating incident "forced him to endure great physical and mental pain and suffering, and was deprived of his physical liberty, suffered great emotional damage, and damage to his reputation by being arrested and beaten by the police in the presence of his child, fiancée and neighbors, and was forced to incur monetary loss of wages."

The suit names Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Police Commissioner William Bratton, the New York Police Department, the Civilian Complaint Review Board and police officers Steven Gliner, Stanley and Ahern, all of the 33rd Precinct and other officers unknown.

The suit said New York City and the Police Department permitted, tolerated and encouraged a pattern and practice of unjustified, unreasonable and illegal arrests and assaults of Blacks and Hispanics by New York City police officers.

The incident that triggered the suit happened on March 13, 1995, when at approximately 7:55 a.m., Wells observed police just about to tow his car for illegal parking.

According to the complaint filed with the Manhattan District Attorney's office by Wells' attorney John Patrick Rudden, "The parking restriction took effect at 8 a.m., and since it was shortly before 8 a.m., the plaintiff asked the police not to tow his car. Police officer Gliner refused and wrongly issued him a summons for violating parking restrictions. The tow truck operator began to hook up the plaintiff's car and tow it away."

As Wells angrily took the summons and walked across the street to his residence, the suit said, Gliner, of the 33rd Precinct, followed him, screaming and threatening him with arrest. As other officers joined in, Wells "was unlawfully and without just cause knocked to the ground, handcuffed and hit several times on the back of his head with a blackjack or a flashlight."

Wells was taken to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital where his head was X-rayed and was given eight stitches. After about six hours, he was taken, under arrest, to the 33rd Precinct and later transported to Manhattan Central Booking.

After being detained for more than 16 hours, the plaintiff was issued a desk appearance ticket and given a summons for illegal parking, and was released.

On March 31, following a misdemeanor complaint sworn by Gliner, Wells was charged with obstructing governmental administration, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. However, Judge Ruth B. Pickholz, presiding over a City Criminal Court, dismissed the

(See *LAWSUIT*, Page 3)



Protest participants carry signs of different messages concerning the Durango High School basketball program.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice