

# NAACP

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John Wilcox, senior vice president and regional manager for U.S. Bank in Nevada.

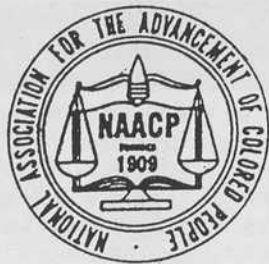
Wilcox said the bank never got a response on the one-year renewable agreement it submitted to the NAACP. The agreement would have given the bank the flexibility to examine the results of the partnership, he said.

"We were told several times that an agreement was forthcoming, but it never came," Wilcox said. After Fallen requested an extension on the group's time to respond, the bank sent a letter June 9 dissolving the relationship.

Fallen, who did not return repeated calls, said he would release the group's official statement Monday. It never came. He blamed the bank for the break up.

"The bank was prostituting the NAACP," he said Friday while in Las Vegas. He said the NAACP will try to establish a similar relationship with another major bank so that similar services can be continued. "The NAACP is committed to community and economic development."

Hawkins placed the onus of the broken relationship on Fallen. "His leadership and management skills are ineffective," he said. "We wanted to be a one-stop shop (for all financing needs) but I



guess he wanted to go in a new direction."

*"We were told several times that an agreement was forthcoming, but it never came."*

— John Wilcox  
U.S. Bank representative

"We were too progressive and aggressive for the Mfumes and Fallons of the world," LeGrande said.

Despite the disappointment, Hawkins, LeGrande and Wilcox said the center has much to be proud of. All of them promised to piggyback on what the center started.

"We were, by far, the most proactive of the centers," Hawkins said. "We were ready to take it to the next step. We were going to move into development and begin fulfilling the need for affordable housing in Las Vegas and Reno."

LeGrande said first-time homeowners often cried when thanking her for the center's help. "We were about information, transformation and inclusion," she said.

Wilcox said the bank was thrilled with the results of the collaboration. He said the bank will move forward and identify other partners who want to work in the same vein. "It's the right thing to do," he said.

# Townhall

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percent said they are against the proposed tax hike.

"I don't believe in polls," Atkinson-Gates said. "This water system is needed for the livelihood of this community."

Atkinson-Gates said her

primary goal is to get the public and the commissioners to understand every element involved in the massive project, then render a decision. She also wants to hear comments, concerns and suggestions on how to achieve proper growth management in Southern

Nevada.

"If you want a certain quality of life you must pay for it," she said. "Everyone is responsible for paying (for improvements) because everyone benefits from upgrades to the community and its infrastructure."



ATKINSON-GATES

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Published: Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — August 21, 1997

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# Diet

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bronze medalist to her list of figure skating achievements. Now a fourth year medical student, Thomas agrees that time demands are often at odds with healthy eating. She advocates an honest, realistic approach compatible with one's lifestyle. "Know where you are willing to change your eating habits and try to make changes gradually. A cold turkey change can make it more difficult than it needs to be," says Thomas.



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