

# Frank Hawkins' proposal passes authority's muster

By Nicole Meoli  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas Housing Authority voted 3-1 Tuesday in favor of selling the dilapidated Gerson Park development to nonprofit group headed by a former Las Vegas City Councilman.

The authority sided with Frank Hawkins who wants to raze the 301-unit development, located on a 40-acre parcel at the corner of Lake Mead and Martin Luther King boulevards, replacing it with 60 multifamily units, 60 senior-

living units, 120 single-family homes and 100 townhomes.

Hawkins' proposal will now be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The authority sided with Hawkins over Las Vegas millionaire Bart Maybie, who submitted a separate proposal offering to renovate the complex. In March, the real estate investor purchased the Moulin Rouge hotel and casino for \$3 million and is spending another \$3 million refurbishing it and its adjoining retail center and

apartments.

Hawkins was thrilled. "This project will make everyone proud," said Hawkins. "It will show HUD, the City of Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Housing Authority, that partnerships work and nonprofits can bring the necessary resources to build a project like this one."

"What we'll do from here is send off the proposal to Washington D.C. for a signature," Hawkins said. "If we see a sign-off within the (See Hawkins, Page 14)



Anthony Snowden, seated, points out to the commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas that Bart Maybie's representative Robert Howarth is out of order for trying to submit a counter offer for the Gerson Park development to the board at Tuesday's meeting held at the authorities building. Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

# Gaffe could derail nominee for U.S. judgeship

Special to Sentinel-Voice  
WASHINGTON — Flustered by prosecutor Barbara McDermott who repeatedly ignored her admonitions to "keep quiet," Philadelphia City Judge Frederica Massiah-Jackson blurted out: "Ms. McDermott, will you shut your (expletive) mouth?"

The gaffe, which came 18 months into her tenure and which she attributed to inexperience, has smudged Massiah-Jackson's chance to become the first black woman to sit on the U.S. District Court in Philadelphia.

Vowing to derail her nomination when the Senate returns from recess this month, critics said the June 25,

1985, outburst typifies Massiah-Jackson's lack of judicial temperament.

They also said she is soft on crime. Just this month, Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham broke her customary silence over judicial nominees and denounced the judge's service.

It is "replete with instances of leniency toward criminals, an adversarial attitude toward police and a hostile attitude toward prosecutors."

Massiah-Jackson's detractors also cite one other case in which she used vulgar language, and the judge admitted she might have mumbled the remark under her breath.

Opponents also point to about a dozen rulings in which she disqualified important evidence, dismissed criminal charges or took other action they consider unfair to prosecutors.

The Massiah-Jackson affair comes at a time when senators are being criticized for failing to approve President Clinton's judicial choices more rapidly.

In his year-end report, Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist rebuked fellow conservatives and warned that the nation's "quality of justice" may be threatened by Senate delays in filling vacancies on the federal bench.

Rehnquist noted that almost one of every 10 federal judgeships is vacant and 26 of the 82 vacancies have existed for at least 18 months.

Philadelphia Mayor Edward G. Rendell, a Democrat and former city prosecutor who supports Ms. Massiah-Jackson's nomination, said, "At least part of this is a Republican agenda to block Clinton nominees."

Ms. Massiah-Jackson, a Democrat, has the strong backing of Republican Sen. Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania's senior senator. Her supporters say her critics distort a record that includes 4,000 cases since 1984.

"They cited six, eight, 10 cases. So what?" said Mark A. Aronchick,

chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, which represents 14,000 city lawyers.

"That was years ago. It's easy to switch the debate to five, six or 10 cases rather than the thousands a person handles."

He said her use of vulgar language from the bench has made her an easy target, but one or two such occurrences ought not disqualify her.

"There isn't a human being that has served in public life who hasn't used intemperate language at some point in their public life," he said. "The question is whether or not there is a pattern."

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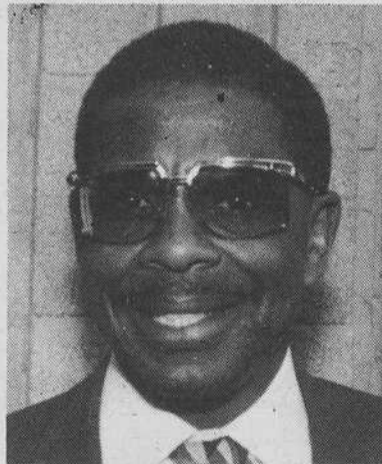
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## Joyner-Kersey jumping into sports agent field

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK — Jackie Joyner-Kersey's next jump is into the sports agency field.

The three-time Olympic gold medalist said her final track and field competition will be at the Goodwill Games in July. She and her agent, Reggie Smith, already have formed Elite International Sports Marketing.

"I've been looking for another challenge," Joyner-Kersey said Monday. "With all my

activities on and off the field, I've learned from a lot of people, and I've wanted to pursue it. It's a great diversion." Joyner-Kersey, recently approved by the National Football League to be an agent, has signed up four senior college football players. She also has applied to the National Basketball Association to be an agent.

Joyner-Kersey, 35, has won six Olympic medals, including golds in the heptathlon in 1988 and 1992 and the long jump in 1988.

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