

LAS VEGAS

# Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Hinson removed

By John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

By a 4-to-1 vote last week, the North Las Vegas City Council ruled not to renew Linda Hinson's contract, thus ending her tenure as manager for North Las Vegas.

Assistant City Manager Pat Importuna is serving as acting city manager.

"This is a very sad day in my life,"



LINDA HINSON

The Rev. Jesse Scott said, "I'm really ashamed to say that I'm a member of this community."

"I'm very disappointed," said Gwen Walker, captain of the Valley View Estates Neighborhood Watch program in North Las Vegas. "But (I was) not necessarily shocked by the city council's decision to remove Linda."

Hinson, 49, was the first woman and the first African-American city manager in state history. She began her career in North Las Vegas politics as a secretary working for a municipal judge. After becoming court administrator she was appointed assistant city manager in 1988 and then city manager in 1994.

"I think it was ludicrous in the process that it was handled," said North Las Vegas Mayor Pro Tem William Robinson, who cast the lone dissenting vote. "She really did not have due process."

Robinson, who has been on the

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## Say no to smoking

Judith P. Wilkenfeld, right, adviser to the Commissioner for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, joins Paul Borgos, Victoria Johnson and Nevada Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa during a kickoff to an awareness campaign to combat underage teen smoking.

Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

## City division designed to educate, empower residents

By John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

The least recognized component of the City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services Department is now getting publicity.

The Neighborhood Planning and Support Division is the third ingredient — joining the Neighborhood Response and Neighborhood Development divisions — in the City of Las Vegas' effort to empower residents and neighborhoods.

The 2-year-old planning and support division was created by Las Vegas Mayor Jan Jones and the City

Council to provide better support and resources to neighborhoods. Quarterly workshops give residents opportunities to sound off on problems and work with city officials to brainstorm solutions.

"We want neighborhoods to have a vision, a source of information and partnerships," said Kathy Somers, division manager of Neighborhood Planning and Support. "We want to create a true sense of community."

Stephen Harsin, the division's supervisor, said the division wants to empower residents and help neighborhood associations learn how to access resources, programs and

information that will help them tackle any issues that concern them.

The Neighborhood Partnership Program's workshops inform neighborhood groups on how to best approach city government about their needs.

Participating neighborhood association presidents will receive workshops, development notification, and a bi-monthly newsletter called 'Block by Block,' and will be able to apply for grants to improve their neighborhoods.

Sallie Fuller, a member of the West Las Vegas Neighborhood Executive Board, said the planning

and support division has been instrumental in the refurbishing of homes in Vegas Heights.

Low-income homeowners who qualify under the division's guidelines and agree to live in the homes for 10 years after the work is completed can get free home improvements including replacement carpet, air conditioners, ceiling tiles and more.

"We're looking at partnering with the city of Las Vegas," said Genie R. Sampson, program coordinator for the Las Vegas Urban Resources Partnership. "We (LVURP) have \$265,000 in grant money for

environmental projects."

The urban resources partnership is a quasi-governmental agency funded by the U.S. Agriculture Department and operates in 13 cities across the country. Sampson says her agency helps communities contact government entities like the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management that can help with changing a neighborhood's aesthetics.

The neighborhood partnership program is free to neighborhood associations only.

Those interested in more information can call the planning and support division at 229-6269.



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Jesse Scott speaks during last week's press conference.

## Church rallies around grieving family

By Deborah Kohen  
Sentinel-Voice

Second Baptist Church officials launched a fundraising drive during a press conference last Thursday for a family of parishioners injured in an auto accident.

Robert Ellison, his two step-daughters and six grandchildren were on their way to Little Rock, Ark., July 14 for the funeral of Ellison's wife Mary when they were involved in an accident outside Albuquerque, N. M.

Four of the children died. The adults were critically injured and are still being

treated at University Hospital in Albuquerque. The two surviving children were treated for serious injuries and have been released.

Ellison, his step-daughter Carla and son-in-law Craig Green, and the Greens' three children are members of Second Baptist Church.

Craig Green alerted Second Baptist officials when he received news of the accident. Pastor Willie Davis, youth pastor Charles McCall and other church members went with him to Albuquerque.

There, they kept a round-the-clock vigil for the survivors

and helped arrange for the preparation and shipment of the grandchildren's corpses; they were buried with their grandmother in Little Rock.

Second Baptist Church held a memorial service on July 20 for the Greens' deceased daughter LaMarian Perry, 13, and son Jeremy Hale, 12. Both children had been very active in the youth Ministries, where LaMarian had served as vice president of the Youth in Christ Choir.

Their sister Joelle Hale, 9, was released from the hospital on July 22. Her mother Carla, 31, was in a coma for more

than a week before she revived on July 24.

Ellison, 71, who was driving the sport-utility vehicle when it overturned along Highway 40, is still listed in serious condition. Doctors say he may have fallen asleep at the wheel or had a stroke.

As of last week, they were unable to perform any surgeries because his heart beat and blood pressure could not be stabilized.

His other step-daughter, Jackie Palmer, 35, is in satisfactory condition. Her son Michael Smith, 12, the first

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