

Board

(Continued from Page 1)

and Michael Campbell of any wrongdoing. A criminal trial ended with a hung jury voting 11-1 for acquittal. Amerson retired shortly after the District Court trial. Chasey and Campbell remained with the department.

The police department settled with the Bush family for \$475,000. The legal bills cost \$1 million.

Officer George Pease was connected to three deaths in five years, but was exonerated of any culpability during the incidents that occurred during his arrests. Pease is now a special investigator.

According to records from the Clark County coroner's office, on-duty police officers have killed 85 people in Clark County. Twenty-six victims, or 30 percent, were black. Las Vegas police have killed 21 black men, North Las Vegas police killed three black men, Henderson police have killed one and a black man was killed by a security guard of a private company.

Officers were found criminally negligent in only one of the 85 cases; that of Darryl Taylor in 1976, in which an officer was held criminally negligent. That decision was overturned by a Clark County grand jury, leading some to decry the Internal Affairs Bureau, the police department's investigative arm, as partial.

According to Las Vegas police, its Internal Affairs Division received 1,486 complaints last year. The caseload is expected to increase once the review board is up and running.

According to the most recent revision of Bill No. 3-16-99-1 (A), Ordinance No. 2295, which formerly creates the board, the members will be appointed by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Committee on Fiscal Affairs; 13 members will represent the county and 12 will serve for the city. The county will hire the director.

The fiscal affairs committee presently has 5 members — two county commissioners, Dario Herrera and Lance Malone — two city council members, Gary Reese and Lynette Boggs-McDonald — and one citizen, local businessman Peter Thomas.

Appointed members must be city or county residents and can't be police officers, former officers, police department employees, family members of an employee, or an elected official. Citizens with felony convictions are disqualified as are those in litigation against Las Vegas police, the city or county with regard to a jailing issue. The city and county will announce the opening of the application process via the media. Applicants will be subject to a background check of his or her criminal records and employment history.

The director chooses eligible applicants and the fiscal affairs committee appoints representatives.

The board will undergo training before issuing its non-binding decisions. Board members will be placed into five-member screening panels to review complaints.

The screening panels will decide valid cases and decide within 15 days whether investigations are warranted. The panels will not have access to personnel records and can't subpoena witnesses.

In Internal Affairs cases, if the panel finds cause for further investigation, a hearing panel of five more board members will be chosen by the director. That group will only be able to review, advise and make recommendations and can't issue decisions in cases of officer misconduct. The hearing panel has 90 days to review cases.

The entire 25-member board will convene only for administrative business. The positions are unpaid, but the county commission and city council can reimburse members for expenses.

"The county didn't like the changes that were made," said Clark County Commissioner Dario Herrera of the delay in getting the board started. "The city wanted more of a say in who would be the executive director. Rather than voting on the details, though, it's being handled administratively. The city manager is coming up with the language."

Herrera said at issue was who controls the director. Barring changes, the city will recommend candidates and the county manager will handle hiring and firing, if agreed to by the county commission.

"The first meeting should be in September," Herrera said.

"We will probably see more of these types of agencies once this one is up and running," said Elgin Simpson,

(See Board, Page 4)

Redistricting

(Continued from Page 1)

NAACP President Gene Collins, among others, to discuss the impact of redistricting for African-Americans.

According to the judge's plan, Ward 1 would have a black population of 6.6 percent. Blacks would make up 6.1 percent of Ward 2. Ward 3 would be 11.1 percent black. Ward 4 would be six percent African-American. Ward 5 would have the highest black population at 29.8 percent and Ward 6 would be 5.6 percent black.

"I think I'm doing God's work," said Kessler, "helping poor people have a voice on the council."

He said the Hispanic population poses a peculiar challenge in that its concentrated in two areas, both bordering Interstate-15.

Kessler could not lump Hispanics together to create a majority-minority district because there are more than 70,000 residents — ward growth is capped near that number. He put the northernmost majority

Hispanic area in Ward 5 and the other primarily Hispanic area in Ward 3.

"I took the neighborhood with the highest number of blacks, but still predominantly Hispanic, and placed it in Ward 5. That enhances the possibility of a black candidate winning in that ward," Kessler said.

He speculated that although there is no majority black district in his plan, a black candidate would have an easier time getting the support of white voters because Nevada doesn't have a history of divisive ethnic tensions, like in New York or Chicago.

"There has to be fairness and parity in redistricting," said Collins, doubtful that a black candidate would win in a predominantly white district. "We need an opportunity to elect an African-American to the city council. Judge Kessler should be commended for what he did do, but it still did not reach its mark. Right now, African-Americans can easily be voted out of office

Collins said that he plans to mobilize the NAACP to add two to three more council seats...



because of the racial dynamics."

Collins said that he plans to mobilize the NAACP to add two to three more council seats, forcing the wards to be divided into ethnic majority enclaves. Another extension would have to again be decided by the ballot.

Mayor Oscar Goodman said that there are three more stages left before this redistricting takes effect.

"We've completed the first stage," he said. "The second stage is to take input by citizens."

Maps of the proposed new wards are available at various locations, including the Neighborhood Preservation Office, Nucleus Plaza, 914 Owens Ave., and Doolittle Senior Center, 1950 N. J St.

and on the city's website at www.ci.las-vegas.nv.us

Kessler will also hold a community forum in City Council Chambers Aug. 31 at 6 p.m. to take suggestions on how to redraw the proposed boundaries. The City Clerk's Office, 1 Floor City Hall, 400 E. Stewart Ave., is also accepting letters for those who cannot attend the public meeting.

The final two stages will be to adopt an ordinance putting the new boundaries into effect. Goodman and the city council will then appoint two new council members.

The process, however, will have to be rehashed once the year 2000 census is completed. The wards will once again be reorganized to reflect population changes.



Heart

(Continued from Page 1)

community seemed excited to participate.

"I think it's wonderful," Angela Flowers said after getting her blood pressure checked. "We should have more of these medical fairs. If we don't utilize it, they won't come."

Las Vegas NAACP President Gene Collins grilled the Bayer representatives on ways people can get good,



(Above) Dianne Marshall applies pressure to Angela Flower's arm so she can get a blood pressure reading during Sunday's free community clinic. (Left) Dr. Robert Wesley addresses a question during the forum at the Doolittle Center.

affordable health insurance. "The NAACP is trying to show the community that we're out and about and we're concerned about our people's health," he said.

Local physician Dr. John Crear was happy with the turnout and encouraged more events like it.

Dr. Iris Keys, Take It To Heart's national medical

director, said she loves bringing out the health issues in the black community.

"Health in the African-American community was

recently brought to the forefront by President Clinton," she said. "The bottom line, however, is that (See Health, Page 17)



Glamour Hair Extensions

- NO GLUING • NO SEWING
- NO BRAIDING

"Do-It-Yourself" Add-on Hair

Longer, Fuller Hair in Minutes!

FREE Demonstration (702) 837-6066, Glenda

ABC Insurance Agency

High Risk? Accidents?

DWI? Cancelled?

Low Down Payment • Low Monthly Payments

IMMEDIATE SR-22's

FREE QUOTES • SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Aubrey Branch
Broker/Agent

Quincy Branch
Consultant

**1700 Civic Center Drive
N. Las Vegas 649-1029**

BUSINESS • HOME • HEALTH • LIFE 310-6055