

# Goodman

(Continued from Page 1) Weekly to keep him abreast of issues concerning the African-American community.

"Mayor Oscar Goodman's level of commitment is genuine," Hall said. "He has a strong desire to improve the quality of life for citizens in West Las Vegas. Economic development is on the top of his list of priorities. The mayor and his fellow council

members appointed two African-Americans to top posts — Lynette Boggs McDonald was appointed to the Las Vegas City Council and Dr. Barbara Jackson to director of Parks and Leisure Services. Mayor Goodman has an 'open door' policy and welcomes the community's input and ideas."

Said Weekly: "My dealings with the mayor always relate to city issues. I think he's effective, but he's

new and still learning. He's patient and he really listens to people. This is a totally new profession for him and he'll be more effective as he gets some time up under his belt."

Goodman said he's met twice with black elected officials in Las Vegas to gauge the needs of West Las Vegas.

"We were just talking about things. Progress and things we want done in our

community. We don't need to go into them," said Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates, adding that no agenda has been created. "We were just discussing the viability, the economic condition and the future of the black community."

North Las Vegas Sen. Joe Neal, who's known Goodman for years, praised the mayor, calling him a "winner" and saying "he loves to win."

"But in this arena, you have to satisfy folks. That's new to him. Before (as a lawyer), he only had to please the judge and the jury. Now, he has large groups to please," Neal said.

Adrienne Thompson, a political and union activist, isn't pleased with Goodman's performance thus far.

"Oscar Goodman's campaign office used to call me everyday before he was elected to push me to vote for him. Finally, I was feeling ornery one day, and I asked, 'What are you going to do once you're in office because the black community on the Westside is inept and the last administration just ignored it?' Well, they said they'd get back to me to answer the

questions I was asking," she said. "Anyway, Oscar called himself one day and he said he was about representing the people. After I told him my ideas, he told me to submit a proposal and he even offered me a job once he was in office."

Thompson said that once elected Goodman forgot who she was and she was treated rudely by staff when she tried to reach him.

She said she sent a cover letter and resume with a one-page proposal with ideas about changes to the housing authority, but was told no positions were open.

"It's not even about the job, though, because he brought that up," Thompson said. "They never mentioned my proposal. I don't even know if they read my suggestions."

Goodman admits to not remembering Thompson but said his monthly public meetings are the perfect forum for residents to talk to him. "I can't make everybody happy," he said.

A push to build a new FBI headquarters in West Las Vegas is certain to rankle even more people.

"The new FBI building will be prestigious and

symbolic," Goodman said. "Black people are very concerned about safety and I don't think that it will create friction at all. Firstly, the FBI is demonstrating confidence in the community because they believe it's a safe place (to be headquartered). Secondly, it's symbolic that the Westside respects law enforcement. It doesn't have the stigma of the old days where authorities were a threat to them."

Ultimately, Goodman said, "The Westside will be a better place," because of his tenure.

"There will be far less bigotry and I plan to do that through leadership. For example, I recently helped lead an anti-prejudice, anti-hate march with Minister (Mujahid) Ramadan (executive director of Nevada Partners)," he said.

"My experience with the black community has always been close. Del Guy, from the DA's office, was a mentor for me. My wife worked in the office of the economic opportunity board. She was the only White to go through the race riots and the fires of the 60s. She crossed those barriers. I am colorblind. I am a friend."

## DNC commends mayor for leading lawyers to pass measure opposing racial profiling

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Washington, D.C. — For taking a leadership role in passing a measure opposing racial profiling during the annual American Bar Association (ABA) meeting in Atlanta earlier this month, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) commended DNC General Co-Chair Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer.

Racial profiling is considered by minorities as the act of being routinely detained, frisked and even handcuffed by authorities for no apparent reason.

"Mayor Archer's determination and commitment to addressing the problem of racial profiling will help end discriminatory practices that are plaguing our society," said DNC General Chair Governor Roy

Romer.

As he described personal incidents that have affected him and his son, Mayor Archer initiated the ABA profiling resolution. The resolution, passed unanimously by the ABA, urges local state bar associates to press their local governments to collect data about traffic stops in efforts to determine whether minorities are being racially targeted.

"I highly commend Mayor Archer for taking a leadership role in addressing a national problem that is victimizing millions of innocent Americans," said DNC National Chair Joe Andrew. "Our nation's top attorneys are now united in battling a growing dilemma that could affect anyone we know."

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