

Audit finds deficiencies, offers recommendations

City needs to improve internal functions

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

A recent audit of the City of North Las Vegas revealed several deficiencies.

The audit by Ralph Anderson & Associates made 92 recommendations to improve city function.

The audit examined city structure and measured operation, comparing city departments with similar departments in similar sized locales. The audit also reviewed city policies and procedures, measured customer and staff needs and outlined a 10-year plan for staffing and space needs for each department.

"This is the first time for a formal audit of the city," said 6-year North Las Vegas Councilman John Rhodes.

"The only way to find out what's going on is to have an audit — like (Mayor) Oscar Goodman (is doing within the city of Las Vegas)."

North Las Vegas has a full municipal government offering police, fire, detention, public works, parks, planning and development, library, city court and other administrative services.

The city has experienced tremendous growth in property development and population, boasting more than 110,000

residents and sporting a \$160 million annual budget.

"What's happening here is we (the mayor and council) are managing 15 percent growth," Rhodes said. "I don't think we are managing anything unusual. ... In no regards are we running behind."

The audit found city officials were struggling with growth, to keep up with demands for services, facilities and other infrastructure needs. The recommendations are meant to ease the growing pains.

"I think that's a pretty good ratio," Rhodes said of problems versus employees. "That's not even one problem for every 12,000 city employees."

Major recommendations concerned city restructuring, improving management and fiscal outlook, addressing growth's effect on city departments, properly redistributing fire department resources, building a second library, providing more parks and recreational activities and a beefing up of public works.

"This is a city that is looking at itself to make itself strong," Rhodes said. "I don't look at it (the audit) as being something negative. ... What can we do to make this a stronger community."

Davis-Hoggard appointed to national steering committee

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Washington, D.C. — Verlia Davis-Hoggard, county Director of Social Services, has been named vice chairwoman of the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Human Services and Education Steering Committee by NACo President C. Vernon Gray.

NACo's 13 steering committees form the policy-making arm of the association. Each committee is comprised of approximately 50 to 60 county officials who meet several times during the year to examine issues critical to local government.

The Human Services and Education Steering Committee focuses on immediate and long-range welfare reform, income maintenance, older Americans, community action, food stamps, rights of the handicapped, deinstitutionalization, low-income energy assistance, illegal aliens, refugees, domestic violence and administration of county welfare programs.

The steering committee's recommendations on legislative policies and goals are presented to NACo's membership during the association's Annual Conference.

If approved, the



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Verlia Davis-Hoggard will have a variety of responsibilities, including welfare reform, community action and catering to senators.

recommendations become part of the *American County Platform*, which is the basis of NACo's efforts in representing counties before Congress and the White House.

Davis-Hoggard was also appointed to serve on the NACo Board of Directors, which is the organization's primary governing body.

Goodman still mum on his selections for newest ward seats

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Some expected Mayor Oscar Goodman to make a startling announcement during his weekly press conference.

He didn't.

The mayor held steadfast to his belief that there should be a two-year cooling off period for city employees to resign and then serve on the

council. He delayed last week's appointment of Ward 5 and 6 appointees until Nov. 17

He said he will wait to hear from the Ethics Review Board on whether it's a conflict of interest for city employees to be appointed to council positions.

"I believe if someone is being appointed ... without a

cooling off period ... that could be a conflict of interest," he said. "I think that the people should vote for their official. I'm sad that the legislature didn't allow for a special election instead of an appointment."

Other issues on the mayor's agenda included luring the National Basketball Association to town with the

promise of a new downtown arena. The mayor said the arena will be built, but wouldn't say if the NBA would support a Las Vegas team without asking for restrictions that could hurt sports betting.

"If they're say that their (NBA) interested, but with conditions, we have to listen to their conditions and let the

community decide," said Goodman, adding that he expects an official decision from the league on Friday.

"We are not in the driver's seat on this one."

Goodman said he is also planning to meet with

African-American leaders about revitalizing Jackson Street.

"I want Jackson Street to be rejuvenated completely before I leave office," said Goodman. His term ends in

2003.

Abuse

(Continued from Page 1) diversity training for all officers including the chief of police and more officers on foot and bicycles instead of in vehicles.

"I understand and support our students' commitment to voicing their concerns about issues that effect everyone at UNLV," UNLV President Carol Harter said. "We will listen to seriously stated concerns and address them by developing solutions, actions and policies that work for the entire campus community."

"How do you have a first-class university when you have police treating people like third-class citizens? The two don't add up," said District 6 Assemblyman

Wendell P. Williams-D, who passed into law Assembly Bill 91 in the '93 legislation. "This is not for the bad of the university; it's for the good of the university."

Willimas championed legislation in 1993 that forced universities to release campus crime reports.

"(On) May 21 of this year my life took a major turn," hotel management student Leroy Hudson told the crowd, recalling two incidents in which he was stopped by police for supposedly fitting the description of a suspect. "I was called derogatory names, slammed against a car and had my arms outstretched before they arrested me and took me to the county detention center."

Hudson was charged with battery of a police officer, obstructing a police officer, resisting arrest and in a separate incident was charged with being a pedestrian on a highway.

"The university should be ashamed about the way Leroy was treated," American Civil Liberty Union Executive Director Gary Peck said. "Campus police have been a problem for a long time. This is nothing new."

Denise Jamarillo, a 25-year-old photojournalist with the Community College of Southern Nevada, was arrested by UNLV officers at the Sept. 23 Hootie and the Blowfish concert for taking pictures of the band. She filed a complaint with the

police campus advisory board for wrongful arrest and rough treatment. She claims officers pulled, shoved and jerked her around while she was handcuffed.

"I was arrested for taking pictures and trying to do a story," said Jamarillo, who is 5 feet tall and weighs 110 pounds. "I went to the meeting (campus police advisory board), but they seemed to have no power but to meet."

In response to the criticism, campus police will begin bike and foot patrols and focus on meeting people.

"Enough people came out to the rally to say we (campus police) must be doing something wrong," Drake said.

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