

Gaming prosperity shares wealth with community

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Station Casinos Inc. has announced that it will donate more than \$1.2 million in the next six months to help Clark County charities and at-risk schools, and create more awareness among the public about how business can affect and be more involved in the community.

"Caring for our Community" is the program that will distribute the money to 76 needy Clark County schools and six charitable organizations, in conjunction with an advertising campaign that will include television spots and print advertisements.

"While Station Casinos has a long history of supporting many charitable organizations in southern Nevada, as our business has grown, so too (has) our commitment to our community's future and quality of life," said Frank Fertitta III, Chairman and CEO of Station Casinos Inc.

"This is to encourage others to step forward and help out." "I can only think of one

thing wrong with it - that is, I didn't think of it," said Governor Kenny Guinn, who was on hand for a special presentation of checks to the school district and the Assistance League of Las Vegas.

"I hope this expands to the rest of the great state of Nevada (and) hope this is a trend. We need more of that (which) helps us immensely in the private sector and the public sector."

The breakdown of school contributions is: an annual \$10,000 donation to eight existing elementary school partnerships, with \$5,000 donations going to the other 43 elementary schools that are in need.

Twenty-five middle and high schools have been deemed in need, and Station Casinos has initiated an attendance incentive program to donate money to these schools for the best attendance record during a semester.

Middle and high school cash prizes are \$25,000 for (See Stations, Page 3)

Racism

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the importance of the international fight against racism and the contribution that this conference could have made to it," the statement said.

This is the third world conference on racism, but the first the United States and Israel had attended. Both countries boycotted the 1978 and 1983 conferences in part because of similar anti-Israel language.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan called the U.S. withdrawal "unfortunate."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, attending as a member of the Black Leadership Forum, said he was disappointed President Bush allowed the debate over Israel to determine whether the United States would participate.

"The fact of the matter is there is no resolution yet," Jackson said on CBS' "The Early Show" on Tuesday. "We have worked diligently to raise the human rights agenda, to fight the racism and the intolerance, and the U.S. should be engaged in that process and it chose to disengage."

Jackson called the language of the draft document "inflammatory" but said the United States "as a tough democracy, can't react to words - we fight and we change words."

"We of all countries, who have known the impact of resolution by law, should negotiate a change, not withdraw and run," he said.

Human rights organizations at the conference also condemned the U.S. withdrawal.

Jewish delegations at the conference were pulling out as well, according to Shimon Samuels, an official with the Simon Wiesenthal Center and chair of the Jewish caucus.

The European Union said it had no current plans to leave the conference, but that if it did it would do so as a bloc along with the its 13 candidate states, Alsteens said.

Canada said it would stay for the time being but would not accept the current wording of the draft document. Australia was "considering all options," said delegation spokesman Bala Chettur.

The document recognized with "deep concern the increase of racist practices of Zionism" and said Zionism "is based on racial superiority." Zionism is the movement to establish and maintain a Jewish state.

Israel is the only country mentioned specifically in the document, which accuses the Jewish state of "practices of racial discrimination."

Norway and Canada had tried to mediate a compromise between the Arab states and Israel on the draft declaration. The United States was part of those talks.

Palestinian Ambassador Salman el Herfi said Arab delegations had been very reasonable but that the U.S. delegation had refused to compromise.

"It's sad they didn't leave room for dialogue, they didn't leave room for flexibility," he said.

Herfi claimed the United States pulled out to avoid responsibility for slavery and the injustices done to Native Americans.

Alan Baker, an Israeli delegate at the talks, said Norway had proposed "very general language" that would call on all parties in the Middle East to end the violence and return to negotiations.

Participants at the conference have complained that the Middle East dispute has overshadowed other important issues at the conference.

Outside the conference center Tuesday, chants of "Reparations Now" mixed with American Indian drumming and singing, as about 200 demonstrators from a wide range of groups tried to make their voices heard.

Activists for indigenous groups in the Americas protested a paragraph in the declaration they say would deny them special rights in their home countries. African-American groups demanded the declaration call for reparations for the slave trade. U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson said the conference had begun to produce tangible results, highlighting the plight of many groups and bringing concrete proposals.

"We must persist in our endeavors," she said.

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80
60
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