

Bolden Council seeks input on fighting crime

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

The Bolden Area Command Citizens Advisory Council would like to create a strategic plan to better help police fight crime in the West Las Vegas.

The Bolden Area Command Substation, 1851 Stella Lake Dr., is seeking input from residents in the patrol area to better assist officers.

"We are the eyes and ears of the community and bring concerns to the police that they may be unaware of," said Tanya Flanagan community liaison for District D Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates. "It's police and relations. We are not a government arm. A two way street (where crime is fought) with the support of resident input."

The Bolden Area Substation patrols from Cheyenne Avenue to Desert Inn Road and I-15 to Jones Blvd. Focus of the council, however, are neighborhoods bordered by Bo-



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— Tanya Flanagan, Clark County community liaison for District D

nanza Road, south to Rancho Dr., west to I-15, east to Cheyenne Avenue to the north.

Five subcommittees make up BACCAC, including business, education, housing, ministerial and politics. At least a dozen people from those committees make-up the advisory council that engages in dialog with police about prostitution, loitering, drugs, gangs and criminal activity.

The Bolden Area Command Substation operates around the clock with a staff of 110 officers. Flanagan said loitering and day laborers along Bonanza Road are a real concern for the council.

"The work is not here (in the West Las Vegas community), but they (day laborers) are picked up here," said Flanagan. "We want to see some changes in this."

Public forums will be held Thursday, April 15 at 10 a.m. at the Bolden Area Command Substation and Saturday, May 1 at 1 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. Comments will be limited to between two and five minutes for each person.

For more information, call (702) 455-7240 or (702) 455-7277.

Historic West Las Vegas Plan reviewed by residents

By Parker Philpot
Special to Sentinel-Voice

A public meeting was held earlier this month at the West Las Vegas Arts Center to allow residents to add input to the city of Las Vegas Planning and Development Department's master plan for land-use and zoning issue in Historic West Las Vegas.

Focus of the Thursday, April 1 meeting was land-use and zoning issues related to the so-called "West Las Vegas Plan." Laura Martin and Dan Perrigo, city planners, facilitated the 90-minute session before about 20 concerned citizens directly affected by the plan.

The next meeting on the West Las Vegas Plan is scheduled for May 6.

Councilman Lawrence Weekly and Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates attended the meeting, along with Chauncy Moore, chief operating officer of the New Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino Development Corp. City staffers from several departments were on hand to field questions.

Residents were notified in advance and 90 were provided with the draft containing a list of the primary action items selected for discussion. "We got three back," Perrigo said. All attendees were given copies of the "Action List Items" for their discussion and input.

The list contained 12 items, divided into categories. Headings were "Land Use," "Infrastructure," "Public Facilities," "Economic Development" and "Historical." Wording on some drafts was awkward or unclear. For example, does a "religious facility" refer only to churches or does it also include facilities they run? That's where the group worked in discussion style to suggest changes, combine items for clarity and eliminate any action items that were redundant or had lower priority.

Planners say they hope the West Las Vegas Plan, started

in 1994, can incorporate some residents' desires expressed in past meetings held regarding the newer "West Las Vegas Neighborhood Plan." The latter is different than the aforementioned plan. Similarly named, both plans have some relevance to the distinct Las Vegas "Downtown Redevelopment Plan." Then, there is a fourth plan, entirely different: "Master Plan for the City of Las Vegas."

Each plan has a particular focus with some overlapping. Perrigo acknowledged presence of multiple "plans" could lead to misunderstanding in residents' minds. In future sessions, he said, there would be efforts to make clear which plan is which and significance of each.

The facilitators emphasized parts of the overall plan that their agency could address. They helped the audi-

The primary objective of the meeting is to extract a more manageable set of goals to work on and to refine the "Action Item List," Martin and Perrigo said, answering, in part, the question why residents are encouraged to participate.

This is a main reason one interested resident, Ruth D'Hondt, came. "I'm here to learn all I can about these types of things," D'Hondt said. "I (now) understand that I need to be involved."

She wasn't totally in the know about all this "planning" talk, but D'Hondt said she got a lot out of the meeting. She raised several questions, provided input on the topics, suggested rewording, and got her viewpoint across. D'Hondt is a longtime resident of the area. She can see that "growth and opportunities" exist.

"I'm here to learn all I can about these types of things. I (now) understand that I need to be involved."

— Ruth D'Hondt

ence stay on point to discuss "land-use and zoning" focus, differing from other city and regional agencies that handle other concerns like sidewalks, safety and transportation. The plan is being revised to keep up with changes in West Las Vegas, Martin said.

So, what is the plan? Why are all these planning meetings going on about the Westside? More importantly, why is community participation crucial? Martin and Perrigo addressed these questions.

The West Las Vegas Plan would ultimately "set the tone" for what happens during any implementation and action phase, Martin said. "They are guides directing what the city does," she added. Plans can get "bogged down," Martin explained.

As many other areas "west" of downtown continue to develop, the definition of the area originally called the "Westside" is becoming less clear, especially to newcomers to Las Vegas. In particular, where is it? What is the history of the Westside? Why is it important? Maybe new residents need to know and others reminded. The meeting also provided answers to these questions.

It is essential to understand the significance of what the Westside was and what remains. The historic area is one of the mature communities in Las Vegas, which is located in the path of rapidly encroaching expansion. It has, perhaps, the most vital redevelopment needs of any neighborhood in the city.

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Youths urged to rally for prayer

By John T. Stephens III
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The Eighth Annual Youth Rally, which draws from the historical Day of Prayer, will be held Saturday, April 24 at Sunset Park.

Organizers say it promises to be a fun-filled day with wholesome entertainment and free food. Youths will mix with evangelists who want young people to turn to God. The Youth Rally will meet from noon to 6 p.m.

"The Eighth Annual Youth Rally is something for young people to acknowledge the Lord and participate in the Day of Prayer," said Kimberley "Sister Kimberley" Bethel. She is organizer of the rally and founder of The Informer Ministries Inc. Mission. "Our saved, Holy Ghost-filled young people

will share and fellowship with other young people who may not have the same faith."

Free transportation, entertainment and balloons will help make the day praiseworthy of the Lord.

The National Day of Prayer is usually observed the first Thursday in May. According to Bethel, the National Day of Prayer is as old as the U.S., dating back to around 1774 and the first Continental Congress. It was dropped until President Abraham Lincoln asked the nation in the 1860s to pray and fast to influence the outcome of the Civil War.

More recently, former President Ronald Reagan re-established the Day of Prayer on May 5, 1988.

"My purpose is to make a difference in their (youths)

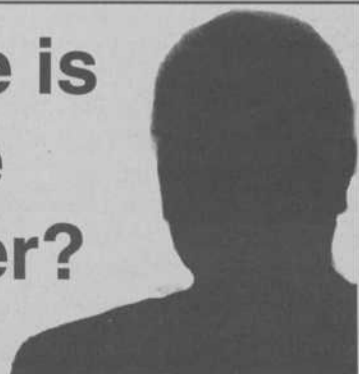
lives. Show them there is another way," said Bethel, wanting to draw children away from gangs, drugs and violence. "I want to teach them to pray and learn that prayer is the answer rather than vices."

IMIM was founded in 1991. Its rally is attended each year by 100 to 150 Clark County youths. Children are invited to sing, mime, rap, dance or play music to lift the name of Jesus.

A free bus will be provided at the Agassi Boys and Girls Club, Martin Luther King Blvd. and Washington Avenue, leaving at 11 a.m. for Sunset Park and returning about 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call (702) 796-1102.

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