

Expo touts owning homes

By Mary Bleier
Special to Sentinel-Voice

If you're renting, thinking about joining in on the real estate boom, aren't too sure if you should jump into the world of homeownership, here's something to ask yourself:

"Who do you want to make money — you or your landlord?" asked Ken LoBene, director for the Las Vegas office of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The majority of Americans would probably choose the latter.

"Home-owning is the number one way people create wealth," said LoBene.

To help many Las Vegans add the word "homeowner" to their names, HUD is holding a Homeownership Expo on Saturday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Cashman Center, 850 Las Vegas Blvd North.

Admission is free.

HUD has partnered up with local banks, mortgage companies, realtors, Mayor Oscar Goodman and the city of Las Vegas, Clark County, Univision television and radio and many other businesses and companies. The goal of the Homeownership Expo is to help minorities, first-time homebuyers and low-income families learn how to buy affordable homes.

HUD has been helping Americans buy affordable homes since the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 was passed. HUD, along with the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has insured well over 30 million home mortgages over the years. In 2002, Presi-

dent Bush declared June as national homeowner month. Because of the wide gap between minorities who owned homes and Whites that owned homes, the president issued a challenge to close that gap by increasing minority homeownership in America. Since that challenge was issued, HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson has significantly helped minorities achieve the American Dream.

"President Bush and I firmly believe that homeownership is the key to financial independence, the accumulation of wealth and stronger, healthier communities," Jackson said in a prepared statement. "Working closely with communities like Las Vegas, this administration hopes to build a record of homeownership and help Americans, particularly minority families, to share the American Dream."

As of May 2004, minority homeownership was over 50 percent.

"We are very excited to be here for the people of Las Vegas," said Dustee Tucker, a HUD spokesperson. "We really hope to help people so they can own a piece of the rock."

While many hope to own a piece of that rock, there are still some difficulties that lurk behind every corner, preventing them from buying their dream home. That's where HUD's new American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) comes in handy. Signed into law on Dec. 16, 2003, ADDI will help first-time homebuyers with some of the largest costs of purchasing a

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Former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry seeking council seat

WASHINGTON (AP) - Former Washington Mayor Marion Barry, whose political career survived a drug arrest and prison sentence, announced Saturday he is running for the city council.

He will seek the seat on the District of Columbia Council for the city's Ward 8, a southeastern Washington area of mostly poor people that long has served as Barry's political base.

Barry, 68, announced his new comeback effort before a crowd of about 30 supporters outside his campaign headquarters. Many of those on hand still called him "mayor."

During his third term as mayor, Barry was caught on an FBI video smoking crack cocaine in January 1990. He was convicted seven months later of misdemeanor drug possession in another incident, and sentenced to six months in prison.

After his release in April 1992, Barry ran for the Ward 8 Council seat and won. That helped propel him to a fourth term as mayor in 1994. Barry said Saturday he has no aspi-



Former Washington D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, center, watches as supporters donate money during the announcement of his campaign for the Ward 8 seat on the D.C. Council at his campaign headquarters on Saturday.

rations to try for a fifth term — although he added never to say never.

Barry had considered a run for council in 2002 but dropped those plans after U.S. Park Police said they found small amounts of marijuana and crack in his car. In a recent radio interview, Barry said the police planted the drugs. Park Police dismiss Barry's claim.

Barry was treated for prostate cancer in 1995 and suffers from diabetes and high

blood pressure, but he said Saturday he feels fine.

A Sept. 14 Democratic primary will pit Barry against Sandy Allen, a two-term incumbent, and five other candidates. Winning that primary all but assures victory in November in the overwhelmingly Democratic ward.

Washington Mayor Anthony Williams, who succeeded Barry in 1999, said of his candidacy, "It's American society. Everybody's got a right to run."

Powell: Terror report a mistake

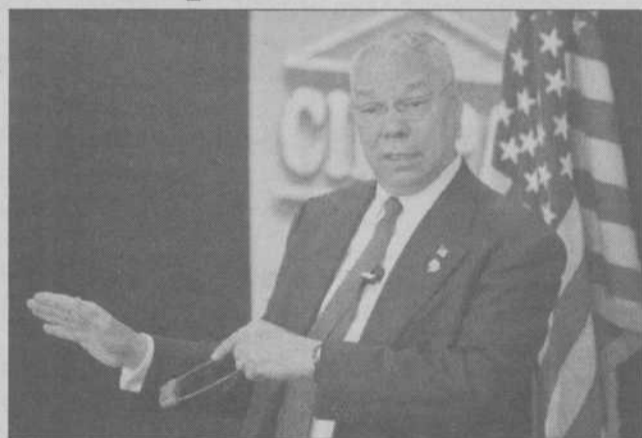
WASHINGTON (AP) - A State Department report that incorrectly showed a decline last year in terrorism worldwide was a "big mistake," Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sunday. "Very embarrassing. I am not a happy camper over this. We were wrong," the secretary told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Powell said he was working with the CIA, which helped to compile the data, to determine why the errors got into the report. He said he planned a meeting on the issue Monday and that the intelligence agency was working through the weekend in preparation.

"I'm not saying it is responsible until I sit down with all of the individuals who had something to do with this report: CIA, my department, other agencies that contributed to it," Powell said.

"It's a numbers error. It's not a political judgment that said, 'Let's see if we can cook the books.' We can't get away with that now. Nobody was out to cook the books. Errors crept in," he told ABC's "This Week."

He pledged to release a corrected report as quickly as



Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged that poor data in a terrorism report allowed an erroneous conclusion that global terrorism had decreased, but insisted the foul-up was unintentional. Powell is at odds with the White House.

possible.

"I am regretful that this has happened. And we're going to get it fixed, we're going to get it corrected, and that's the best I can do," Powell said.

A leading House Democrat, Rep. Henry Waxman of California, had challenged the findings, contending they were manipulated for political purposes. The conclusion that terrorism was on the decline was used to boost one of President Bush's chief foreign policy claims, success in countering terror.

Waxman asked Powell for an explanation and the secretary called last week to say

the mistakes were unintentional.

"He says it wasn't politically motivated so I will accept that," Waxman said after their conversation. Still, the lawmaker said, "We are still left with the fact that this report is useless until it is corrected."

The April report said attacks had declined last year to 190, down from 198 in 2002 and 346 in 2001. The 2003 figure would have been the lowest level in 34 years and a 45 percent drop since 2001, Bush's first year as president.

The report also showed (See Powell, Page 4)

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