

# Store

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ing the community together demanding for a new grocery store," Dunn-Jones stated.

The mayor's office was contacted last Friday, and his spokesperson Diane Paul indicated that a response would be forthcoming. That response is still pending. Calls were also made to that area's Ward 5 City Councilman Lawrence Weekly (Dem) and District D Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates (Dem), with a similar outcome of a promised response, still pending.

There has been random speculation by community members as to why the chain closed its doors since the sudden closing of the store last year on August 22. What is certain is that many area residents feel there is a void left by the departure that has resulted in inconvenience for them and raises their concerns.

A neighborhood survey was conducted locally by ACORN over a three-week period this year beginning in mid-March. Organization representatives knocked on doors in the community surrounding the closed store and spoke to residents about their needs for a new grocery store.

Over 250 residents responded to the survey's five questions:

- 1). Are you concerned about the lack of a grocery store in your neighborhood? (Yes-252, No-6)
- 2). Do you have problems getting to the grocery store? (Yes-153, No-101, No response-4)
- 3). Did you shop at the Vons on Owens Avenue before it closed? (Yes-238, No-16, No response-4)
- 4). If another grocery store opened in the same location, would you shop there? (Yes-237, No-8, Maybe-8, No response-5)
- 5). If a grocery store relocates to the neigh-



Civil rights activist Marzette Lewis was among the voices clamoring for city leaders to lure a grocery store to West Las Vegas. The area has been without one for months, forcing residents to trek miles to shop.

Sentinel-Voice by Les Pierres Streater

borhood, do you feel it's important that new jobs go to neighborhood residents? (Yes-207, No-16, No response-35)

Elmer Webb, a 45-year resident of West Las Vegas shared his thoughts about getting a new grocery store for this community. He said, "Getting a new grocery store here would be great because it would enhance the availability for residents, especially senior citizens, to shop here, get their prescriptions filled at the pharmacy, [without] having to travel miles out of their neighborhood."

Rhonda Burney, a 3-year resident of the historic West Las Vegas area, and living in Las Vegas since 1963 offered her remarks about the rally stating, "I think that we have the same concerns as others do who vote and pay their taxes here in Las Vegas. We need access to a grocery store in our neighborhood where we don't have to drive miles to in-

der to shop. In a lot of the newer developments in Las Vegas, the stores are automatically put in as a part of the plan, along with parks, landscaping and schools. We are an older neighborhood, and it appears that we are forgotten about. So, they need to come back to our community and redevelop our neighborhoods, instead of letting it die out."

Marzette Lewis, President of Westside Action Alliance Korps-Uplifting People known as WAAK-UP, spoke about the need for getting a new grocery store in West Las Vegas:

"What's going on here today is that we are trying to make sure that we get a new grocery store here in West Las Vegas. Vons has closed down, and we have nowhere else

to shop. We originally fought against having this store locate here years ago, because Vons was one of the highest priced and expensive stores in Nevada. We do not need [small, corner Mom and Pop shops] selling us a can of beans [for much higher than supermarkets], and spending all [our] money there for groceries because [we] don't have transportation to go elsewhere. We need a grocery store that's affordable and accessible to the residents living here. It's a disgrace that in 2005 we don't have a grocery store that people can shop at in West Las Vegas."

Vons' parent company Safeway Inc.'s 2003 Annual Report presented by Steven A. Burd, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer on March 17, 2004, on page two states: "Total sales last year rose 2 percent to \$35.6 billion, primarily due to the additional week in 2003, new store openings and additional fuel sales. Excluding strike-affected stores, comparable-store sales increased 0.6 percent, while identical-store sales (which exclude replacement stores) rose 0.1 percent."

On page 13 of the 2003 annual report it states: "Safeway continues to operate a number of smaller stores... these stores remain an important part of the company's store network in smaller communities and certain locations where larger stores may not be feasible because of space limitations and/or community needs or restrictions."

Some of the community residents' speculation is about how much consideration their neighborhood is being given by grocery chains that they hope will choose to locate in, or perhaps one will even return to, the well-established area to fill their needs.

# Jackson

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attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. did not make a single objection. The woman was to return to the stand Thursday.

Before court recessed, Zonen played tape-recorded phone conversations between the woman and Jackson aide Frank Tyson, an unindicted co-conspirator.

"Let us take care of you. Let us protect you," he is heard saying. "Trust me. ... Now is not the time to be out there alone."

"I thought he was a good guy," the woman said of Tyson, "and he ended up being the worst of all of them."

She said she eventually returned to Jackson's Neverland ranch, gave an interview to a private investigator and appeared on a rebuttal video in which she lav-

ishly praised Jackson. "Everything I said, I said it with my heart," she said.

In the February 2003 documentary, Jackson had said he let children sleep in his bed but characterized it as innocent.

Earlier, the woman described how she had lived from 1998 to 2003 in a small bachelor-style apartment with only one main room. She said her son and husband sometimes stayed at her mother's house because the boy had a special sterile room there.

Defense attorneys contend the family kept the bachelor apartment to make celebrities believe they were poor, but actually spent much of their time at the home of the boy's grandmother.

They also have raised

questions about the woman's credibility by accusing her of bilking celebrities and committing welfare fraud. District Attorney Thomas Sneddon said in opening statements the woman would admit she took welfare payments to which she wasn't entitled.

But in taking the stand outside the presence of jurors earlier in the day, the woman took the Fifth, and refused to discuss "everything to do with the welfare application."

Melville allowed her to testify, despite vehement arguments from defense attorney Robert Sanger. The judge rejected a request for a mistrial, saying the defense could raise questions about the woman's credibility through other testimony.

# Sharpton

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there is no crime to do that. The FBI found there is no wrongdoing in that."

Hawkins is currently on trial in Philadelphia on charges of helping White to funnel a \$10,000 payment to Philadelphia's ex-treasurer Corey Kemp in an attempt to influence government contracts. White was indicted

and died last November awaiting trial.

Questions about finances have recurred throughout Sharpton's career as an activist and leader of the Harlem-based National Action Network. He once pleaded guilty to not filing a state income tax return, and he has been cited by federal regulators in the past for mistakes in campaign reporting.



## Potential Transportation Improvements to the I-15 Corridor from Tropicana Avenue to Sloan Road

### Purpose of Meeting:

The Nevada Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, is studying potential transportation improvements to the Interstate 15 (I-15) corridor from Tropicana Avenue to the Sloan Road interchange, in addition to conducting an assessment of the proposed project's impacts in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. A public meeting will be held to provide project information and receive public comments concerning the environmental and engineering studies for the proposed project. Some current alternatives to be studied include the addition of general-purpose lanes, High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, collector-distributor roads, frontage roads and alternate route and transit solutions. Environmental impact studies regarding noise and air quality also will be completed.

### When and Where:

May 5, 2005  
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Enterprise Library  
25 E. Shelbourne Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV

### Where You Come In:

Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting at their convenience anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to submit comments verbally to a court reporter or in writing on a comment sheet provided at the meeting. A formal presentation will not be held as this open format increases the opportunity to submit public comments while providing a venue for one-on-one discussions with project staff. In addition to any comments received at the Public Information Meeting, written comments also will be accepted until 5 p.m., Friday, May 20, 2005. Please submit your comments to: Daryl N. James, P.E., Chief Environmental Services Division, Nevada Department of Transportation, 1263 South Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89712 or via telephone at (775) 888-7013. General information about the Public Information Meeting can be obtained from the NDOT I-15 South Project Office, 840 Grier Drive, Ste. 140, Las Vegas, NV 89119, telephone (702) 387-2854. Certain project materials are available in alternative formats upon request.