

Grocery

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Weekly said a common reason given by many who pulled out of the bidding involved plans for a new discount chain store opening nearby on West Carey, which made locating close to that area, at such a nearby corner, undesirable for most.

"Super Wal-mart is about to break ground behind the Fiesta [hotel and casino near Carey and North Rancho Drive]," Weekly advised. "And when [that became public]... everybody pulled their application out but two," he said, adding that many of the developers said they "cannot compete (prices)" with Wal-mart.

This was the outcome, despite generous incentives that Weekly said the city has offered — lease rebates, reduced purchase price for the land, tax incentives and other incentives with potential immediate savings in the tens of thousand of dollars.

ACORN's leadership called the forum, primarily, because they said, "City officials have said several proposals where received, but they have been tight lipped on how many proposals were submitted or from whom they where received," according to the organization's news release.

Will Ward, organizer for ACORN, said in advance of the meeting, "Since we began this effort back in April, not once has the city contacted us [first]... They've responded to our letters, but never once have they initiated." Ward also said, "They refuse to give us any information." In particular, he was

referring to the rejection by the city when his group asked for the names of prospective developers who inquired or bid on the corner site.

At the forum, Weekly explained that state law prevents the City of Las Vegas from disclosing information about the non-winning bidder or those who withdrew proposals or chose not to bid after attending the initial RFP informational meeting.

He further explained that the next step was for any acceptable bid(s) to be advanced by the city's technical selection committee. Then, the city will provide the opportunity for some community members, including ACORN representatives to be brought to the discussion table as the final plans by the qualified developer(s) are detailed for approval.

"The technical committee narrowed the applications down to one. That [information] will be available next month," Weekly reported.

"If, in fact, they can't deliver on what was promised, I have no problem [re-opening] the RFP," Weekly responded when questioned by an audience member.

ACORN's West Las Vegas Chapter Chair Veronica Dunn-Jones feels that finding out which bid is accepted by the city's committee could be too little, too late. She said, "Selected people from the city will sit together and decide what is best for our community. What that means is that we will not be able to know who the other [developers and bidders] are."

Weekly responded sternly

to the group's demand for full disclosure and participation in the selection process, "That's not how it goes."

Another prime objective of ACORN's initiative for a local grocery store is to obtain jobs in the area for residents, and particularly jobs "that pay living wages," according to coordinators. Dunn-Jones punctuated that point by using examples of major chain grocers that pay union-scale wages as opposed to the practices of some non-union stores that would bring jobs, but, perhaps, not the pay rates the organization advocates.

One provision ACORN wanted in the RFP would have required a grocery store to hire a set minimum percentage of its workers from the immediate neighborhood. That provision was not a part of the conditions the city included.

There was no debate, however, on the need for a store to serve the community, estimated at over 10,000 residents who now travel up to five miles outside their neighborhood for their primary food and household supplies shopping.

Weekly, Dunn-Jones and many residents in attendance said they would continue to work together toward getting the needed neighborhood resource—a grocery store, as soon as possible.

Both Dunn-Jones and Weekly live in the affected area. "I clearly understand," Weekly said agreeing, in spirit, with the efforts of ACORN and residents in the community. "I live right here, too."

Veterans

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big surprise. We were invited to this event, and that was very nice. We came because we wanted to honor all of the veterans along with our son, and it was a big surprise to know that our son was receiving the Unsung Hero Award. He made a tremendous sacrifice for this country and we are the ultimate losers. His loss cannot be replaced, but we sincerely thank Commis-

sioner McDonald for her compliment to our son and we hope that everyone truly appreciates the freedom that we have."

In introducing the keynote speaker, Brigadier General Cynthia Kirkland, the Adjutant General of the Nevada National Guard, Boggs-McDonald said, "I was very delighted one day while sitting in the county commission meeting, I saw a very striking young woman walk through the door to make a presentation before the county commissioners, and it was exciting because this young woman had a star on her shoulder. When I was growing up, I met many generals who had stars on their shoulders, but it was rare to see a woman with a star on her shoulder, so I was honored to make her acquaintance."

Addressing the audience, Kirkland re-

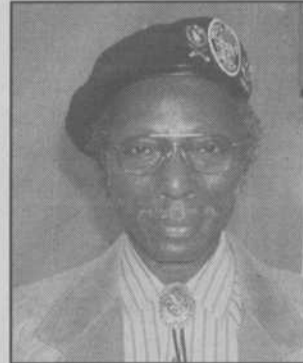
called, "The day that I was leaving to enlist in the service... my mother stood at the door and stated that she wasn't going because she felt that I wasn't going to do it. She said that I was a girl, and that, truly, was the attitude back then. But I had done my research and I knew the educational benefits that were available to those in the military weren't bad," Kirkland said, adding, "So, I wanted to see where it would

take me. That set the stage for my career in the military."

She continued, "The great sacrifices that many of you made previously in your lives to

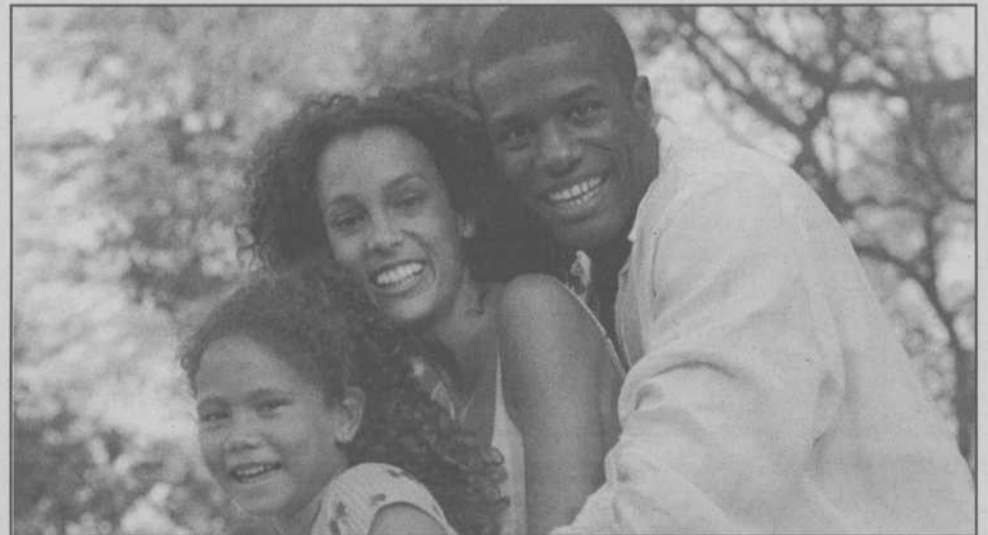
"I'm glad to be here today, and I'm sorry that some of my other brethren aren't here... I live my life in memory of them."

— Virgie Hibbler
Nevada State Council
President for the Vietnam
Veterans of America
Organization



allow me the opportunity to serve in the military is greatly appreciated, and you should be commended for your efforts. You recognized the importance of serving in the armed services of one of the greatest nations in the world, and we give thanks to having the privilege of following after you and having the responsibility that we now hold in our hands."

Another attendee at the event, Virgie Hibbler, the Nevada State Council President for the Vietnam Veterans of America organization said, "I'm glad to be here today, and I'm sorry that some of my other brethren aren't here... I live my life in memory of them."



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CORPORATE SUPPORT

Station Casinos recently awarded \$10,000 to the Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League for various educational programs in the valley. Left to right: Urban League executive assistant Marlena Monteolivo, Valerie Murzl, Station Casinos vice president of human resources, and Dr. Wilma Carter Gaines, interim CEO of the urban league.