

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice

Steven Horsford, a Nevada state senator and the chief executive officer of Nevada Partners, speaks during the 100 Black Men of Las Vegas' Stakeholders Luncheon.

## 100 Black Men say thank you

By Debbie Hall  
Sentinel-Voice

The 100 Black Men of Las Vegas Stakeholders Luncheon was held to introduce the new leadership team, address the state of affairs for African-Americans, promote youth mentoring programs, announce its holiday fundraiser and acknowledge its community supporters. The event was held last Thursday at Nevada Partners at 710 W. Lake Mead Blvd., catered by the Culinary Training Academy located there.

The 100 Black Men of America was formed in 1963 by prominent leaders, including Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame legend Jackie Robinson. The mission is to improve the quality of life and enhance educational opportunities for Blacks, through 103 chapters in several countries and over 10,000 combined members.

Locally, Founding President Larry Mosley, Randall Bacon and several others formed the chapter in 1999, became chartered in 2000 and operates as a 501c(3) non-profit. Membership exceeded 100 in 2004. While predominantly Black, membership is open to anyone meeting criteria. Women are involved, as well.

The organization has several focus areas and action programs: mentoring youth in academic and social skills and eliminating disparity and disadvantages for African-Americans in the legal system, healthcare and education.

Ted Watkins, outgoing chapter president, gave the State of the 100 Black Men of Las Vegas Address.

He opened with a bold statement: "Our youth is in crisis because we as adults are in crisis." He gave the example of listening to a contemporary FM radio deejay when, "the on-air announcer was saying how he loves to get high. My son is in the car with me, listening to this. So why is he [the announcer] allowed to say this? Ratings — and ratings mean money. I can guide my son, talk to him and find something else on the radio. But what about those without this guidance? This is why we

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## School performs better

By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

On Friday, staff and parents at Wendell P. Williams Elementary School celebrated the improvement made by students according to the school district's recently released progress report, which keeps the school safe from takeover by the Nevada State Department of Education.

The school, among others in the district, was at risk of intervention by the state, in accordance with provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act because of failure three years in a row to meet or exceed the progress standards measured annually by the AYP — Adequate Yearly Progress scores.

The State of Nevada Department of Education website addressing the NCLB Act states: "Schools that have not made state-defined AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) for two consecutive years must be identified as needing school improvement before the beginning of the next school year. Immediately, after a school is found to be in need of im-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Wendell P. Williams Elementary students have a lot to be proud of: Thanks to the hard work of faculty, teachers, parents and volunteers, the school achieved adequate yearly progress.

provement, school officials must receive help and technical assistance. These schools must develop a two-year plan to turn around the school."

School Principal Brenda McKinney, a 25-year veteran of the district, had a plan. She said parents and everyone at the school came together and accepted the challenge to achieve a positive turnaround

in academics during the 2005-2006 school to reverse the trend.

The mission statement of Williams Elementary, located at 1030 J Street in the Historic Westside community, states that the school "is dedicated to the development of individual strengths and talents and to the assurance of academic excellence for all students in a positive, car-

ing, and supportive environment."

The objective for the 2005-2006 school year was to increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed the standards in reading from 13.02 percent to 21.69 percent, and in math from 15.04 percent to 23.54 percent overall for all students at the school.

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## Minority companies get help in La.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - New Orleans' mayor signed an order Monday requiring that large businesses use as many local and minority-owned firms as possible when they seek millions of dollars in tax incentives and grants for Hurricane Katrina recovery.

Mayor Ray Nagin's executive order requires applicants for the incentives to involve 50 percent local businesses and 35 percent women- or minority-controlled businesses whenever possible.

A similar requirement has been in place for government contracts, but the mayor's order expands it to businesses applying for assistance promised by various federally funded recovery programs



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— Ray Nagin  
Mayor of New Orleans

administered by the city and the state.

"We just want to make sure we don't go back to a city of haves and have-nots," Nagin said at a news conference. "This is imperative, not only for us but for our kids and grandkids."

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, many lo-

cal firms complained that the main beneficiaries of large government contracts for emergency cleanup and recovery were out-of-state businesses and workers.

Nagin said his order should help ensure that local firms enjoy the benefits of the enormous federal rebuilding investment and help

them secure small-business loans and other financing.

He said his order should not slow the rebuilding or send more businesses to adjacent parishes that don't have similar requirements. "This is such a big pie. We just want to make sure this pie expands," he said.

City workers will examine projects seeking incentives or tax breaks and determine reasonable goals for local and women- or minority-controlled companies, said Judith Williams, co-chair of the mayor's 100-day commission, established at the start of Nagin's second term.

"We're not looking to make it impossible for folks to do business here," she said.