



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Linda Goodman claims that Metro cited her for jaywalking on the corner of "G" St. While detained, Goodman says cops called her names, denigrated her intelligence and demeaned her, eventually issuing a citation for the alleged offense.

## Jaywalking

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she said, "He put his hands between my legs and around my bosom."

She continued, "I told him that I was renovating my house, that I was a property owner and not a gangbanger, but it made no difference to the cop."

After the physical contact, Goodman describes the end of the encounter: "He wanted me to sign the jaywalking ticket or I was going to jail. If I had given them any grief, I'm sure they would've handcuffed my hands behind my back and took me to jail."

Goodman continued, "I signed the ticket and he asked me for my social security number. He then talked on the police car radio, while I was still standing with my hands on the hood of the police car."

After the incident, Goodman said she went the next morning to the area Metro substation on Stella Lake near Lake Mead Boulevard.

She said she spoke to the watch commander—the officer on duty for a particular shift. She said of Watch Commander Sgt. Gregory Schultz, Badge #40132, "At first, he was cold, indifferent." Schultz took the jaywalking ticket she was issued



*"I was walking across a vacant lot, between my two properties... and one of the two police officers yelled out, 'Hey you with the bandanna, come here.'"*

— Linda Goodman

and, according to her, he stated: "I'll take care of it."

As a follow-up, she called on the phone about the March 27 date written on the ticket indicating when she is to appear in court, she was advised, "It's in the system."

Goodman said she concluded that although Schultz said he would "take of it," the computerized database indicates the jaywalking ticket issued to her was in the computer.

Goodman said she intends to hire an attorney.

Schultz was called by the *Sentinel-Voice* this week on Tuesday for comment.

"It's an ongoing situation." He said he was "going to call Metro Public Information Office," and ended the call saying he "[won't] talk about it."

Goodman said Schultz

called her afterwards.

"He said 'It's an unfortunate situation.' Schultz said he 'was out of town,'" and he's 'checking [on the 2 police officers in question]' to see 'if their behavior is ongoing.'"

The *Sentinel-Voice* called the Las Vegas Municipal Court about the appearance date and the ticket but was told there was nothing found in the system by the ticket number or Goodman's name on the reported date of issuance.

Goodman said after the incident she seriously considered leaving West Las Vegas.

"I thought about leaving, but I have a job to do."

Goodman tells herself, "Do something good — do it!" and "See it through."

She said she concluded: "I choose to stay."

## Locals indicted in Katrina fraud

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Two Nevada residents were arrested recently, and a third person was named as a fugitive on charges they fraudulently obtained federal funds designated for victims of Hurricane Katrina, a prosecutor said.

Wilbert J. Bennett Jr., 31, of Henderson, and Sheila Ritter, 47, of Las Vegas, pleaded not guilty in initial appearances before a U.S. District Court magistrate judge following their arrests on charges of theft of government funds, U.S. Attorney Daniel Bogden said in a statement.

Renee Bellinger, 42, was indicted on charges of theft of government funds, identity theft and misuse of a Social Security number. She remained a fugitive, Bogden said.

Bellinger, who also used the name Renee McLoughlin, was identified in the statement as a secretary with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. Union officials at the Las Vegas local and at international offices in New York City did not immediately confirm that account.

The indictment handed up Feb. 14 accuses Bennett of obtaining about \$15,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief funds and Ritter of obtaining almost \$21,000 in FEMA funds following Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, although both lived in Nevada.

Ritter and Bennett were released last Thursday on personal recognizance bonds. They had not yet been assigned public defenders.

Each faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted, Bogden said.

Bellinger was accused of using her mother's identification as part of a scheme to obtain more than \$23,000 in FEMA disaster relief money. If convicted, Bellinger faces up to 25 years in prison and \$750,000 in fines, Bogden said.

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