

Group targets character of Ward 5 candidate

By Frank Armand Albano
Sentinel-Voice

One faction in opposition to Ricki Barlow, one of two candidates vying for the City of Las Vegas Council open seat representing Ward 5, held a press conference Friday to tell of Barlow's arrest for a near decade-old alleged domestic violence incident involving his then-spouse and the subsequent dismissed charges.

Barlow is contending with Stacie Truesdell in a run-off race for the seat left vacant when former Councilman Lawrence Weekly resigned to accept appointment earlier this year to his new Clark County Commission seat. Barlow worked as Weekly's liaison but is now on a leave of absence.

The other contender for Ward 5, Truesdell, is a local corporate attorney.

Beatrice Turner, a former candidate defeated in an unrelated race, read from a prepared statement covering several points relating to the widespread incidents of domestic violence against women of all races, "and that by remaining silent," said Turner, "domestic violence



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Deborah Jackson, left, joined others in lambasting Ward 5 Las Vegas City Council candidate Ricki Barlow. Citing incidents like a 1998 arrest, they question if Barlow is fit to serve.

will remain a problem."

Turner emphasized: "We will not remain silent."

According to a document organizers presented from Family Division of District Court, Clark County, Nevada, describing the plaintiff's [Vanessa Barbut Barlow's] 1998 complaint, it stated: "Defendant slapped plaintiff in the face, he shook her by the shoulders and ripped her shirt. He was arrested on charges on battery/

DV."

In a later District Court document on June 5, the plaintiff filed an application and was granted an Extended Protective Order Against Domestic Violence against Barlow. The two divorced shortly thereafter.

That incident and other alleged, undocumented incidents were the topic of the press conference called by Turner and others last Friday at Las Vegas City Hall.

Pinpointing Barlow's 1998 arrest — no subsequent legal incidents were introduced — Turner launched into questioning Barlow's leadership.

"Our leaders must be role models for the entire community. We cannot let young men believe that domestic violence is tolerated because elected leaders have committed it."

Barlow was not an elected official at that time.

Turner also lashed out at what she termed "intimidation" by Barlow supporters for her not backing his election bid, as well as allegations that she is paid by the Truesdell camp.

"Just because I'm Black, I'm expected to support a Black. I will only support the best candidate. I don't support Ricki Barlow," Turner said.

She is a Truesdell supporter. "Yes, I've said it over and over," Turner confirmed.

Barlow, an African-American Democratic, is running against White Republican Truesdell in the June 5 general election. In the primary field of ten candidates, none received fifty percent of the vote plus one for a victory, resulting in the run-off.

Regarding whether Turner is paid to support Truesdell's campaign headed by the political consulting firm of Gray and Associates, she replied, "If they want my walkers, they'll have to pay the walkers," Turner said. "So far, they haven't asked."

Turner said "No," when asked if she was being paid to support Truesdell, adding

that she had refused payment by Barlow's representatives, too.

Turner was joined in the conference by local residents Deborah Jackson and Jerry Neal, in opposition to Barlow for City Council, alleging he has shown behavior that both called "erratic."

Jackson spoke of a verbal incident she says she witnessed between Barlow and a former Las Vegas resident following a heated meeting on a political community issue. Neal speaking of cross words he and Barlow had during the primary, said he felt Barlow tried to "intimidate" him.

Neither Turner nor the others presented documentation. Apparently, no charges or police reports were ever filed in those or any other incidents.

Jackson stated her opinion and concerns about Barlow; she said it is based on her experience years ago. "The Police Dept. has endorsed Barlow. As a result, now women who are victims of domestic violence can't even call the police."

In addition to behavior, (See Barlow, Page 3)

Clinton leading Dems in Nevada; GOP slate split

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Hillary Rodham Clinton has a large lead over other candidates to be Nevada Democrats' choice for presidential nominee, while the Republican field is practically a four-way tie, according to a poll published Sunday.

Clinton would get 37 percent of the vote if a Democratic caucus were held in Nevada today, holding a healthy lead over John Edwards (13 percent) and Barack Obama (12 percent), according to the poll by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc.

John McCain held a slim lead on the Republican side with 19 percent. But Mitt Romney (15 percent), Fred Thompson (13 percent) and Rudy Giuliani (12 percent) were close behind.

"Hillary is the clear front runner on the Democratic side," said Brad Coker, managing partner of Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc., which conducted the survey for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

"The Republican race is just wide open. There's no

clear favorite."

The poll, conducted Monday to Wednesday statewide, surveyed Republican and Democratic partisans who said they planned to participate in the 2008 presidential nominating caucuses. Three hundred voters were surveyed on each side. The poll carries a margin of error of plus or minus 6 percentage points.

On the Democratic side, Clinton has a more formidable lead in Nevada than in most national polls, many of which have shown Obama gaining on the New York senator. For example, an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll in late April put Clinton at 36 percent, Obama at 31 percent and Edwards at 20 percent.

That may reflect the fact that Obama has made few trips to Nevada and hasn't seemed to focus on the state, said University of Nevada, Reno, political scientist Eric Herzik.

Obama traveled to Las Vegas in February and March, but he has not been to Northern Nevada. Clinton

and Edwards, the former vice presidential candidate, have both made multiple trips to Northern and Southern Nevada, most recently last weekend.

Clinton also boasts the support of influential Nevada figures, including Clark County Commission Chairman Rory Reid and former Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa.

"Hillary Clinton was the favorite going in, and she's done nothing to hurt herself, particularly in Nevada," Herzik said. "She's been here a few times, and she has a strong organization."

Edwards, however, can't be happy about his low level of support in Nevada, a state where his aggressive pitch to organized labor ought to be an advantage, said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia.

"This is really bad news for Edwards," Sabato said.

"Nevada is supposed to be one of his stronger states because of labor. That's remarkably low for him."

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