

Rash of copper thefts upsets Detroit lawmakers

By Cornelius Fortune
Special to Sentinel-Voice

DETROIT (NNPA) — A recent hearing at the Northwest Activities Center by the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Regulatory Reform probed further the issue of copper theft in the city.

The panel included chairman Alan Sanborn and members Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac; Gilda Jacobs, D-Huntington Woods; and Buzz Thomas, D-Detroit.

Senate Bill 720, sponsored by Thomas, seeks to strengthen regulation of scrap metal processing establishments by requiring that business owners record and report all copper and metal-related business transactions to local law enforcement agencies.

The three-hour meeting provided a forum for people who have been affected by the theft of copper and other valuable metal fixtures to speak on the subject.

"This an issue of epidemic

proportions," Thomas said. "Property, public safety and lives are at risk."

Testimony came from scrap metal processors, AT&T of Michigan officials, area home realtors, the state's Department of Homeland Security and the Wayne County prosecutor and sheriff. Officials from the Detroit Police Department as well as prominent clergy leaders and area homeowners joined them.

The committee is expected over the next several weeks to give additional consideration to the bill. But copper theft will not be slowed until harsher penalties are enforced, says William L. Elson, senior vice president general counsel, Fritz Enterprises Inc.

His company has implemented a number of security measures to help solve the problem, but he can't do it alone. Elson is firmly committed to doing whatever is necessary to stop copper theft by starting with those who

are caught.

"You've got to get people put in jail who are doing this," he said. "If the task force gets started, that's great. We're willing to make a commitment. I was surprised that the big companies didn't step up right away and say, 'We're willing to do this.'"

He hopes that the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Regulatory Reform, will produce results.

The committee will hear testimony on Senate Bill 720. Sen. Buzz Thomas' bill's plan is to strengthen regulation and recording requirement on scrap metal processors throughout the state of Michigan. It requires that scrap metal processors record all transactions and provide them to local law enforcement officials. It will also address the epidemic of copper theft that is hurting the city.

Elson has set up safeguards at his business. "We take pictures, we take their

license and have them sign an announcement that it's not stolen, we do all of that," he said.

"I think the task force is a great idea. We've got to get the state police involved. We have to have a coordinated effort so that the intrastate transportation of this material is thwarted. You would think people would jump on this and help."

Unfortunately, there are no distinguishing features of an AT&T wire versus a DTE wire, which makes the problem more difficult to control when scrapyards can't identify where the scrap comes from.

"In my view, it has to be more than lip service, it needs to be more than just an ordinance; you need a coordinated effort with Oakland county and Genesee County and the state police, so that you have some control over the transportation of this material," Elson said.

"If these folks get the idea that someone is watching,

they'll slow down. That's why we've assisted the city and the county. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy told us she needed a half a million dollars to operate that task force for a year. You really need a two-year commitment to do it."

Elson noted that copper scrap has become a world market and as such, the lo-

cal, state and federal governments should take it seriously.

"This story's made national news, but you've got to convict them, you've got to put people in jail," he said. "If no one's getting arrested and put in jail, it's not a deterrent."

Cornelius Fortune writes for the Michigan Chronicle.

ESTATE SALE

The Estate of Albert Fennell

Albert Fennell
(1950-2002)

Celebrated Internationally Renowned Artist known for his beautiful depictions of women of color. Affordable, original artwork, sketches, figurines and more will be available for purchase, Saturday, March 8, 2008 11:00am - 6pm, Home of Attorney Arthur L. Williams, Jr., 3190 Westwind Road, Las Vegas, NV 89146, 702-873-6236.

Published Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — March 6, 2008

EMPLOYMENT



Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter school located at 950 W. Lake Mead, is now accepting student enrollments for the upcoming school year for full-day kindergarten through third grades.

Rainbow Dreams Academy is also hiring teachers for kindergarten through third grades. This is an opportunity to teach in a small, warm, nurturing and well-disciplined environment. Teachers must have a valid Nevada Teachers License in elementary education.

For information on enrollment and teaching opportunities please contact: Mrs. Carol Threats, Principal at 638-0222; send resume by fax to 638-0220, or e-mail to rdacharter@yahoo.com

LEGAL NOTICES

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CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**
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**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
IFB# 8035-0010
PIGEON CONTROL SERVICES**

HACC is requesting bids from qualified and experienced companies and/or individuals to perform Pigeon Control Services within HACC managed and/or owned developments. Respondents to this solicitation must have documented experience in pest control services, with a preference for companies and/or individuals that have performed similar work for governmental or public housing agencies. Minority- and women-owned businesses are encouraged to respond.

Sealed responses to this solicitation must be received by HACC on **April 4, 2008 at 10:00 AM** local time. The bids will then be publicly opened and read aloud. No bids received after the closing date and time will be considered.

A pre-bid conference meeting will be held on **March 21, 2008 at 9:00 AM** in the HACC Board Room. Site visits may be arranged at this conference.

To obtain a copy of this IFB visit the HACC website at www.haccnv.org to download all IFB documents in Portable Document Format (PDF); or contact the Contracts Department at 702-451-8041 Ext. 1424, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Published Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — March 6, 2008

Your Horoscope Says... March 6 - 12

ARIES

Be sharp! All of your needs will be met in indirect ways. Gifts will come from unexpected sources. They will be carefully packaged to go unnoticed. Unwrap everything and look inside. There will be empty boxes, but there will also be a prize in an unanticipated situation.

Soul Affirmation: I look for the good in all that comes to me this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 10, 41

TAURUS

Don't respond to situations in a hasty manner this week. Your impulsive side is strong. Suppress it. Play a game called self-control. You know that this is the kind of game that you can win easily. Smile as you play at not being emotionally affected by an important matter, and eventually you'll really won't be emotionally affected.

Soul Affirmation: I give my mind a holiday again this week.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 28, 50

GEMINI

Offer to help someone in your office who is struggling with a difficult project that you have mastered in the past. There will be several birthday celebrations that you are invited to. Attend them all! Celebrate!

Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for who I am this week.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 19, 22

CANCER

Think of who you like to have fun with. Give them a call. Plan something that diverts you from your unexciting tasks. Spend some money. Find a place that jumps. Jump with it. Flirt. Even serious people flirt once

in a while, especially if you've worked your buns off all week.

Soul Affirmation: The true path is mapped out by my impulses.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 27

LEO

You're likely to experience a blast from the past. An acquaintance will meet up with you again. Don't be shy in establishing a more solid friendship this time. It could lead to something important professionally or personally. Love sometimes works better the second time around.

Soul Affirmation: Smooth communications is the key to my success this week.

Lucky Numbers: 16, 17, 20

VIRGO

Who are the people who are empowered to assist you? The material objective you are focused on right now is very attainable. All you need is some assistance. Ask for it. It's coming soon.

Soul Affirmation: I let positive emotions carry me through the week.

Lucky Numbers: 33, 37, 42

LIBRA

Don't let worry put a strain on your relationships. Concentration is key, but be as lighthearted as possible. Open up to romantic feelings. Let love come to you. It may come from inside.

Soul Affirmation: Shining brightly is something that I can do even in shadows.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 40, 46

SCORPIO

The time has come to forgive and forget. Take the first step in reconciling a friendship. You thought no one knew, but you may be romantically attracted to an old pal.

Soul Affirmation: Helping others is

the true measure of my worth.

Lucky Numbers: 38, 45, 48

SAGITTARIUS

When you let go of pain and fear you are a force to be reckoned with. Use your talents for regeneration to create a new reality for yourself, one that is filled with joy and happiness. Turn away from inner thoughts that are anything less than positive.

Soul Affirmation: I enjoy living in my dream.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 42, 44

CAPRICORN

Treat yourself with kindness, and let love be your guiding light. The past few weeks have been rather hard on your personality, but you've come through a troubled time with flying colors.

Soul Affirmation: I am what I consistently do.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 4, 18

AQUARIUS

Critical voices should be tuned out this week. You are in the mood for a pleasant week and you shouldn't let anyone keep you from your just rewards. Relax with friends who you can share positive vibes with.

Soul Affirmation: I get because I give.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 23, 45

PISCES

Unexpected company may arrive, or an invitation may be extended. Use good judgement and set realistic boundaries to protect your valuable personal time. Drive carefully.

Soul Affirmation: I make the first step and the universe will come to my aid.

Lucky Numbers: 34, 41, 47