

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Obama taps local expert

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

WASHINGTON — Rose McKinney-James, a long-time Las Vegas business and political figure, lobbyist and renewable energy consultant, is part of President-elect Barack Obama's transition team.

McKinney-James is leading a group reviewing the operations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to help the Obama administration get off to a fast start after the inauguration, the office of the president-elect announced.

More than 100 agencies and federal departments are

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being scoured by transition advisers in the weeks leading to the Jan. 20 Obama swearing-in.

McKinney-James was among a dozen people an-

nounced by the Obama transition team to review energy and natural resource agencies.

The Nevadan, who has started on the transition job,

could not be reached for comment Monday night. A message on her answering machine suggested she would be on her job about a month.

An early Obama supporter in the state, McKinney-James is managing principal of Energy Works Consulting LLC, a renewable energy concern, and McKinney-James and Associates, a government affairs firm.

McKinney-James, 56, served a five-year tenure on the Nevada Public Service Commission during the administration of Gov. Bob Miller.

She ran for lieutenant governor in 1998 but lost to Republican Lorraine Hunt.

She has represented the Clark County School District, Barrick Gold and the Caucus of African-American Nevadans as a lobbyist at the Nevada Legislature.

She also serves on a number of boards, including those of MGM-Mirage, Employers Insurance Group, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy and the Nature Conservancy.

## Knight facing many charges

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

LAS VEGAS — The Clark County district attorney's office is seeking charges against Marion "Suge" Knight in the alleged beating of his girlfriend in August. A criminal complaint being processed in Las Vegas Justice Court charges Knight with two counts of felony drug possession and one count of misdemeanor battery.

Police say they arrested Knight, 43, after officers saw the founder of bankrupt Death Row Records beating the woman while brandishing a knife in a parking lot near the Las Vegas Strip. Authorities said the woman wasn't stabbed, but was treated at a hospital for injuries. The complaint alleges that Knight was carrying Ecstasy and hydrocodone when he was arrested.

Knight was later released after posting \$19,000 bail.

Court spokeswoman Esther McElhaney said the district attorney's complaint had been received by the court, which would process it, issue a summons for Knight and set an arraignment date.

"Whenever we have the opportunity to appear before the court and enter a not guilty plea, that's what we'll do," said Richard Schonfeld, one of Knight's attorneys in Las Vegas. "We're going to vigorously defend him against these charges."

Knight's Death Row Records was known for releasing seminal gangster rap albums by Tupac Shakur, Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg. It sold tens of millions of albums in the heyday of early 1990s rap.

In 2006, a federal judge ordered a bankruptcy trustee takeover of Death Row Records, saying the label had undergone gross mismanagement. Knight's decision to file for bankruptcy protection staved off a move by the court to appoint someone to take control of the record label and his assets.

The record company was auctioned for \$24 million to New York-based Global Music Group Inc. in June.

## Al-Qaida official derides Obama as 'house negro'

CAIRO, Egypt — Al-Qaida's No. 2 leader used a racial epithet to insult Barack Obama in a message posted Wednesday, describing the president-elect in demeaning terms that imply he does the bidding of Whites.

The message appeared chiefly aimed at persuading Muslims and Arabs that Obama does not represent a change in U.S. policies. Ayman al-Zawahri said in the message, which appeared on militant websites, that Obama is "the direct opposite of honorable Black Americans" like Malcolm X, the 1960s African-American rights leader.

In al-Qaida's first response to Obama's victory, al-Zawahri also called the president-elect — along with secretaries of state Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice — "house Negroes."

Speaking in Arabic, al-Zawahri uses the term "abeed al-beit," which literally translates as "house slaves." But al-Qaida supplied English subtitles of his speech that included the translation as "house Negroes."

The message also includes old footage of

speeches by Malcolm X in which he explains the term, saying Black slaves who worked in their White masters' house were more servile than those who worked in the fields. Malcolm X used the term to criticize Black leaders he accused of not standing up to Whites.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the latest message was just "more despicable comments from a terrorist."

The 11-minute 23-second video features the audio message by al-Zawahri, who appears only in a still image, along with other images, including one of Obama wearing a Jewish skullcap as he meets with Jewish leaders. In his speech, al-Zawahri refers to a Nov. 5 U.S. airstrike attack in Afghanistan, meaning the video was made after that date.

Al-Zawahri said Obama's election has not changed American policies he said are aimed at oppressing Muslims and others.

"America has put on a new face, but its heart full of hate, mind drowning in greed, and spirit which spreads evil, murder, repres-

sion and despotism continue to be the same as always," the deputy of al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden said.

He said Obama's plan to shift troops to Afghanistan is doomed to failure, because Afghans will resist.

"Be aware that the dogs of (See Muslims, Page 4)



### JONES-ING FOR GOSPEL

Regina Belle, left, electrifies the audience during her performance at Dr. Bobby Jones' International Gospel Industry Retreat Reunion last week at the MGM Grand Hotel And Casino. (See additional photos pages 6-7)

Sentinel-Voice photos by John Broussard