

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 37

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

January 8, 2009

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Symbolic march targets street closure



Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

With signs in hand and loud voices echoing, marchers made their way through Downtown Las Vegas to protest the City's treatment of the predominant Black community of Historic West Las Vegas.

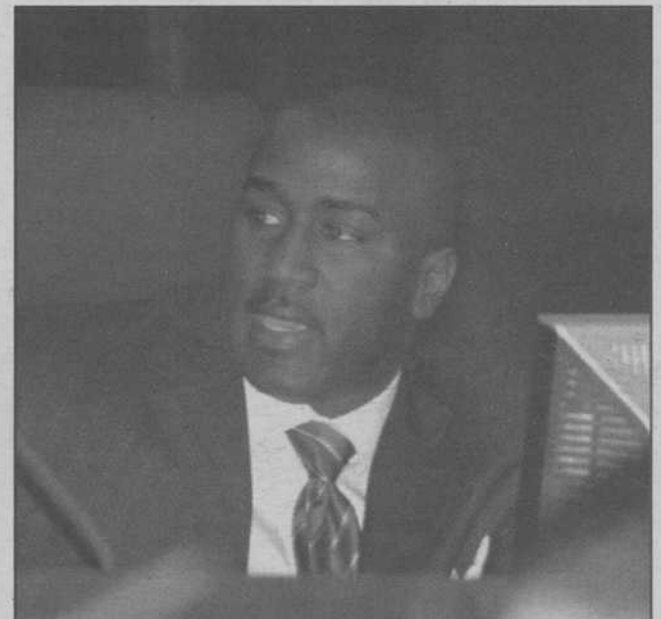
Special to Sentinel-Voice

In a march that was as poignant as it was symbolic, a group of West Las Vegas residents walked from F Street to City Hall to express frustration to the Las Vegas City Council over the possible permanent closure of F Street.

They claim the closure continues a decades-long

push by municipal leaders to effectively segregate predominantly Black West Las Vegas from Downtown, whose fortunes have dramatically improved with billions of dollars of investments made and planned in recent years.

Residents claim the Nevada Department of Transportation (See "F" Street, Page 3)



Sitting Ward 5 Councilman Ricki Barlow listens to a parade of public comments from citizens throughout the valley concerning F Street during the council meeting.

BART shooting video sparks controversy, suit

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The New Year's Day shooting death of Oscar Grant on an Oakland BART platform has been electronically re-enacted hundreds of thousands of times as videos of the incident are broadcast on television and spread over the Internet.

The videos now could play a critical role in the investigation into the shooting of Grant, 22, by BART police Officer Johannes Mehserle, 27.

Three videos made public so far show Grant's final moments from multiple angles in a way that could help investigators, attorneys and use-of-force experts determine whether the shooting was accidental, intentional or inexplicable.

The videos — taken by

onlookers — have been downloaded more than 450,000 times from KTVU-TV's website, said William Murray, the site's managing editor. That's tantamount to two months' worth of downloads in a few days, he said. An annotated version of one video uploaded to YouTube on Sunday was averaging more than 1,000 views an hour.

"It's taken on a life of its own," said Murray. "It's one of those phenomena of the Internet world."

BART spokesman Linton Johnson said the agency was troubled by the way the video footage had become a media sensation.

"It does a disservice to the integrity of the investigation because people form opinions, and then they can't give



These images from a cell phone video released by attorney John Burris show the dramatic moments before and immediately after BART police Officer Johannes Mehserle shot Oscar Grant. Grant, who appeared to be cooperating with police, died from the gunshot.

independent recollections of what they actually saw because they are tainted by the videos," Johnson said. "It's unfair to (Grant's) family, it's unfair to the police officer, and it's unfair to the public. But that's the world in which we live, and you have to adjust."

The Chronicle asked several use-of-force experts, many with years of experience training police officers and military personnel and several with decades of law enforcement experience, to analyze the videos — an endeavor several experts warned can be informative but also inconclusive.

Shooting in context

The videos begin with a chaotic scene: BART officers questioning and restraining

(See BART, Page 2)