

City of Las Vegas

Agenda Item #



AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: NOVEMBER 1, 2006

DEPARTMENT: DETENTION AND ENFORCEMENT

DIRECTOR: KAREN COYNE

Consent Discussion

SUBJECT:

Discussion and possible action related to the report on the Department of Detention and Enforcement jail expansion at 3300 Stewart Avenue - Ward 3 (Reese)

Fiscal Impact

No Impact

Augmentation Required

Budget Funds Available

Amount: -3.5million dollars

Funding Source: Federal Inmate Housing Rental Revenue

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Inform the Council on status of Federal Inmate Bed Rental Contract, implications and impact on immediate and long-term inmate space needs

RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion and approval

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Space Needs Chronological Progression

Motion made by GARY REESE to Approve to follow staffs recommendation

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 1; Excused: 0

LOIS TARKANIAN, LAWRENCE WEEKLY, LARRY BROWN, OSCAR B.

GOODMAN, GARY REESE, STEVE WOLFSON; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-STEVEN D. ROSS); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

KAREN COYNE, Chief of Detention and Enforcement, outlined the challenges at the Stewart/Mojave Detention Center. As the City continues to grow, the detention center continues to exceed the available bed space. As a result, they were successfully funded to commission a study with a local architectural firm to determine what the existing space needs are to carry through the 15-year plan. The report was completed earlier this year and suggested that 1,800 beds are needed to house the misdemeanor offender population until the year 2020. While they were funded for a site need assessment, they were not funded in the five-year CIP construction plan. It would be irresponsible to plan a building without

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identifying a site nor have the construction funds to erect the structure. The options are limited. Within the next 30-45 days the Federal Marshal Service will exit the facility for the use of beds because this facility cannot continue to accommodate their needs. This will allow for an immediate expansion of the booking desk. Isolation space is needed and this would allow for an entire unit dedicated for isolation. Short term solution could involve the County who is currently locating a short term facility that the City could co-use.

COUNCILMAN REESE discussed with CHIEF COYNE that the City stands to lose 3.5 million dollars thru the fiscal year when the federal service leaves the detention facility.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSOHN thanked CHIEF COYNE for her very helpful and detailed briefing. He suggested the same be done with other briefings from other departments.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN verified with CHIEF COYNE that other possible alternatives have been explored and many do not fall within the timeframe. Something needs to be done about the conditions of confinement they are currently experiencing.

TOM McGOWAN, Las Vegas resident, commented about the seriousness of this situation. CHIEF COYNE is doing an excellent job. The need is increasing, and is not temporary.

ISAAC HENDERSON stated that funding for the Weed and Seed program could help develop this facility.

MAYOR GOODMAN expressed his thoughts when he toured the facility. Judicial intervention is needed. The City cannot enforce the laws on the streets and treat the criminals harshly in order to make Las Vegas safer, and not have the ability to incarcerate them, once found guilty. He thanked the people who work at the detention center.

COUNCILMAN REESE commented that what is being proposed is a tiny band-aid on a large cut. He and COUNCILMAN BROWN have worked with other entities to shorten the disparity. There has been discussion about adding onto the facility, but it costs money. He supports CHIEF COYNE and her staff for their hard work. He hopes the County realizes the importance of overcrowding of inmates because of its dangerous situation.

MAYOR GOODMAN added that it is not only a money issue, but also the fact that nobody wants this type of facility in their backyard. There are desolate places in Southern Nevada that would be appropriate. He indicated that a meeting will be held to discuss the release of inmates, which causes him great concern because the release takes place not at the institution, but at the downtown bus station, where they are left left without any money.

COUNCILMAN REESE emphasized this is a partial solution, but a long-term solution needs to be found. He applauded CHIEF COYNE for working with what little resources are available.