



AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2006

SUBJECT:

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL. NO SUBJECT MATTER SELECTED UPON BY THE CITY COUNCIL UNLESS THAT SUBJECT IS ON THE AGENDA AND IS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, COME TO THE PODIUM AND GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE DURATION OF DISCUSSION ON ANY SINGLE SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at meeting held on 12/6/06 by Chris Christoff

Minutes:

TED RUSSELL, Las Vegas resident, stated that the most highly respected and loved individual is JACKIE GAUGHAN.

AL HESSER, retired Navy veteran and city resident, stated that 10 years ago he was homeless for two years living out of his car on the streets of Boston. It was the Veterans Administration that helped him. He indicated that 45 percent of the homeless are women and children; 15 percent are veterans; between one third and one fourth are mentally challenged. The City Council should be part of the solution, not part of the problem. He is appalled at the City Council's concern towards the homeless. He was an homeless advocate in Reno. He was upset about an article in the Review Journal about Catholic Charities giving a breath test to men seeking shelter.

TOM McGOWAN, Las Vegas resident, agreed with feelings expressed by the previous speaker. He asked the Council what date they have selected to recognize the homeless men who lifted the car off the nine-year old girl, victim of a car accident. He mentioned that several years ago he provided the Council with a solution to this problem. On the right-turn FAA path, he stated that the danger of air travel is on the ground, not in the air. The greatest consumption of oxygen in Southern Nevada is by the jet commercial aircrafts taking off and landing at McCarran Airport.

STEVE RYBOL suggested that the government buy condemned hotels and have the homeless help to rebuild them. Many homeless men are electricians and plumbers; in return for their expertise, they could be allowed to live in the refurbished homes free for a year and then charge them rent. The homeless deserve some dignity to stand up and be given a chance.

CHRIS CHRISTOFF distributed to the Council a cover letter and petition form requesting that Huntridge Circle Park be dedicated to all veterans and be renamed "Veterans Memorial Park". He asked that an item be placed on the agenda to discuss this issue.

ROSHAD JOSHUA COLLINS, homeless advocate, stated the Lord wants people to take care of those who are in need. He felt that children parks are built to keep out the homeless. He does

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: December 06, 2006

not see anything wrong with having the homeless camp out in a park. He asked that the Council be part of the solution. Many of the homeless are jailed for sleeping outdoors; they are not violent criminals.

DAVID HICKS addressed the mistreatment of the homeless, especially for being jailed for sleeping outside. He was embarrassed when he was arrested in public and did not understand why he was being arrested. On behalf of the City, MAYOR GOODMAN apologized to MR. HICKS for being wrongly arrested; The actions taken were under an ordinance that was not passed by the City Council. It was a mistake that the City made. He directed DEPUTY CITY MANAGER ORLANDO SANCHEZ to ask TRINA ROBINSON to place MR. HICKS into a facility. MR. HICKS was appalled at the conditions in the jail, to which the Mayor agreed.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:20 P.M.