



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 MAY BE DISCUSSED UNLESS IT IS A SUBJECT 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 AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted for final agenda information by Palmer Christopher

Minutes:

JOE MAVIGLIA commented on economic restructuring and low income housing. He is in negotiations with the GATES Foundation and if their proposal is approved, approximately 30 acres of land in East Las Vegas given by the County will be refurbished to construct a mobile home park for low income housing. He felt that too many of the mobile home parks have been destroyed causing those residents to be displaced who cannot afford the average "affordable housing". He believed the primary objective is to come together as a body with a pilot project that will allow the lower income individual an opportunity to live a decent life. It would be a win-win situation for the City, as mobile homes would be the catalyst to re-introduce low income housing. Should his proposal go forward, he requested the Council's support.

CHRIS KRISTOFF stated he resides at two different properties. MR. KRISTOFF proposed giving the homeless plastic bags to carry their personal belongings when shopping carts are taken away. He noted other representatives who supported his request. He felt this would also help the homeless appreciate that they are not being stepped on and pushed around. He firmly believed his suggestion was not an expense but rather a solution.

PALMER CHRISTOPHER, 5231 North Durango Drive, gave a brief summarization of an ongoing sewer issue relative to an agenda item. The matter has no location within the City of Las Vegas; it is based on an interlocal agreement with the City of Las Vegas to provide sewer connections to her property. In essence, the other property owner has backed down and appears to be waiting for the work to be done by her, which could cause financial detriment. MRS. CHRISTOPHER would like assurance from the City that a permit will not be issued until the matter is resolved. She submitted documentation and noted the documentation was also submitted at a previous meeting. She will be contacting COUNCILMAN BROWN'S office to set up a meeting as directed by the Councilman.

DOROTHY BARNES, Las Vegas resident, expressed concern for her ongoing problems with individuals lying about her and keeping her name on a program.

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AL HESSER, Retired Navy veteran and City resident, was upset at the Mayor promoting the \$80 admittance fee to attend the New Year's Eve festivities on Fremont Street, which has doubled from last year's fee. He also showed displeasure for the homeless situation and felt the Mayor has played a part in what he calls "abusing the homeless".

DON DIHART, Clark County resident, commented on the recent arena task force project and its financial shortfall, as the total cost for the project is 800 million dollars, which does not include the land and the parking garages. In his opinion, hockey will not succeed here in Las Vegas, as history has proven sports has not done well from a local stance. He emphasized the site should be located on Las Vegas Boulevard/Russell Road, as tourism is greatly needed and will contribute 90 percent.

In response to MAYOR GOODMAN'S inquiry, five individuals in the audience raised their hands confirming they were homeless. The Mayor expressed disappointment and apologized for a recent event that took place involving a homeless person being arrested illegally. After confirming assistance was desired, staff made arrangements to accommodate the homeless person, who unfortunately, did not follow up. He stressed the resources available by the City that are prepared to house the homeless and give them an opportunity to become active again in the community. MAYOR GOODMAN pleaded to the homeless to take advantage of these resources and facilities.

JOE SACKO, 1807 South 8th Street, has been a Las Vegas resident for 13 years and has owned his home for the past four years. He believed that the recent closing of Circle Park was an attack on the homeless activities and their constitutional rights. He felt his research proved that there is twice as much illegal activity occurring in other parks. He also questioned when Circle Park will reopen; he is a taxpayer and is actively involved in his community and feels that his rights to utilize the park have been violated. He expressed frustration in failed attempts to meet with COUNCILMAN REESE, as he was informed discussions could not take place due to pending federal lawsuits against the City of Las Vegas. MR. SACKO pleaded with Council to be accountable for their decisions and open Circle Park as soon as possible. If not, he asked for the resignations of COUNCILMAN GARY REESE, CITY ATTORNEY BRAD JERBIC and CITY MANAGER DOUG SELBY. Regarding the homeless situation, MAYOR GOODMAN responded that instead of only feeding the homeless, citizens can assist by guiding them to facilities, such as Catholic Charities or the Salvation Army, for assistance.

RASHAND JOSHUA COLLINS, homeless advocate, informed the Mayor he was present to speak on behalf of the homeless and it is not his choice to be homeless. The homeless are silent and terrified, as they are being bullied by the police. He requested jail time and fines be reduced and keep parks open 24 hours so the homeless will have a place to sleep. He also stressed the need for low income and no income housing. He referenced a scripture in the Bible, James 2:5, and questioned if the events taking place were identical to that of the biblical text. The Mayor suggested MR. COLLINS assist the homeless by taking them to a shelter or facility rather than remaining outdoors in the cold weather. MR. COLLINS informed the Mayor that some of the homeless are sick with stomach cancer and questioned where funding would come from for treatment.

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MAX SPEARS commented that some of the aforementioned facilities turn the homeless away due to overcrowding, and those that are assisted are excused by 5 a.m. Some of the homeless cannot walk, and he would rather be taken to jail than remain outdoors. He has seen the Marshals chase away the homeless while taking away their personal belongings. MAYOR GOODMAN responded that staff is available to provide transportation to these facilities and assured MR. SPEARS that no one will be turned away. He added that feeding the homeless in the parks does not resolve the homeless issue. The Mayor urged MR. SPEARS and other homeless individuals to take advantage of the services available.

EDUARDO M. CASTILLO stated he had experienced theft and harassment when staying at one of the shelters. When asked by MAYOR GOODMAN, MR. CASTILLO accepted his offer to stay at a different shelter. The Mayor reiterated his desire to see all the homeless in attendance accept his offer.

TERRY ROZADA stated he is from New York and upon arriving in Las Vegas, he was robbed. His personal belongings, including his identification, was taken; whereby, he has been refused assistance by some shelters. The only assistance he has received has been from those that have been arrested for feeding the homeless; his opinion was that the homeless are afraid of the agencies and the Marshals, as they are the ones taking their personal belongings. He would like assistance to relocate to Florida for employment in roofing. MAYOR GOODMAN informed him that he must provide a contact person prior to receiving a bus ticket. MR. ROZADA accepted the Mayor's offer to stay in a shelter at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.