

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
July 19, 2006**

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT – ITEM 48

1 **Discussion and possible action concerning the proposed Auto Racing Agreement between**
2 **the City of Las Vegas Grand Prix, LLC (\$500,000 – Public Works General Fund) – Wards**
3 **1 and 5 (Tarkanian and Weekly)**

4

5 **Appearance List:**

6 OSCAR GOODMAN, Mayor

7 DOUG SELBY, City Manager

8 GARY REESE, Councilman

9 DALE JENSEN, DDB Ventures

10 BRAD YONOVER, DDB Ventures

11 STEVE JOHNSON, President and CEO, Champ Car World Series

12 JIM FREUDENBERG, Chief Operating Officer, Sutton Motor Sports Productions

13 MARC RISMAN, Attorney, 10120 South Eastern Avenue

14 LAWRENCE WEEKLY, Councilman

15 STEVEN ROSS, Councilman

16 BARBARA JO RONEMUS, City Clerk

17

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20 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

21 Item 48 is discussion and possible action concerning the proposed Auto Racing Agreement
22 between the City of Las Vegas and Vegas Grand Prix, LLC. This pertains to Wards 1 and 5, in
23 particular. Dr. Selby.

24

25 **DOUG SELBY**

26 Mayor and Council just a few highlights of this proposed agreement. You'll recall the Council
27 approved an exclusive negotiating agreement for the City to be the host city for an international
28 racing event: the Vegas Grand Prix. That event would occur April 6, 7th and 8th of 2007. The
29 agreement that you're considering today would be a five-year agreement that would obligate the
30 City to make its streets available once a year for five years to the racing event. Financial aspects
31 of this limit the City's investment in this race event to \$500,000, which is our contribution to
32 improving our own streets. The first year estimate of costs for those street improvements is 1.8
33 million dollars. Vegas Grand Prix is responsible for 1.3 million of that. So, their – investment in
34 – our City streets to put the race on is – significant. Subsequent years will involve investments of
35 one million dollars or more in street improvements. Again, those remain the obligation of Vegas
36 Grand Prix with no City – obligation under this agreement.

37 I need to call to your attention a clause in the agreement to regarding termination. In years two,
38 three and four, because of the investment of Vegas Grand Prix, if we terminate this contract for
39 reasons other than a breach of the agreement, a failure of Vegas Grand Prix to comply with the
40 terms of the agreement, we would reimburse them one million dollars for their prior years
41 investment. That is the kind, those would be the kind of terminations that are strictly at the

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42 discretion of the Council, that we feel, for whatever reason that the event is not conducive to
43 downtown Las Vegas or we have other issues that are not defined in the agreement that would be
44 our – obligation to reimburse that amount of money. The event itself will be open to the public,
45 except for the grandstand areas and the – pit areas where there will be an admission charge. So,
46 the public is able to find a vantage point from a building in downtown or – near the track.
47 They'll be able to just watch the race, that segment of the race.

48

49 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

50 Free –

51

52 **DOUG SELBY**

53 There'll be an operation –

54

55 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

56 – free –

57

58 **DOUG SELBY**

59 Pardon?

60

61 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

62 – free?

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63 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

64 Yes.

65

66 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

67 – without charge?

68

69 **DOUG SELBY**

70 Yes. Without charge, right, which is kind of unlike many other events that are hosted where

71 admission is – required to see the event. There will an operations manual so the agreement

72 doesn't take care of all the logistics of roads opening and closing and – access to particular

73 buildings and – mitigation of impacts on the rail and transportation commission bus routes.

74 That's all to be addressed in an operations manual that will be provided to the City by Vegas

75 Grand Prix.

76 The Council may be asked to entertain an ordinance to temporarily suspend speed limits on these

77 streets, so they'll be, understand that these vehicles go over one hundred and eighty miles an

78 hour, so, and that our obligation also is not to entertain any other road race proposals 60 days

79 before or after this event. It's, of course, through downtown. It would run from Grand Central

80 Parkway, counterclockwise, going down Bonneville through the underpass, turning left on Main

81 Street, turning right on Carson, right on 1st, left on Bridger, left on Casino Center, right back

82 onto Carson, left on 4th and then left again on Ogden back through the underpass and on to

83 Grand Central Parkway. Representatives of Vegas Grand Prix are here if you have any questions

84 for them.

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85 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

86 Okay. Thank you, Dr. Selby, and I appreciate that. I have a couple of questions. As I understand
87 it, the City would have to expend the \$500,000 regardless of whether or not the race was gonna
88 take place in order to bring the streets up to the condition that you believe they have to be.

89

90 **DOUG SELBY**

91 Actually our estimates are about half that for a 5 year period for maintenance and upgrades and
92 the normal investment we would make in that route are about \$250,000.

93

94 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

95 All right. So, we are increasing it by about \$250,000.

96

97 **DOUG SELBY**

98 Yes, Sir.

99

100 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

101 All right. That's the only question that I have of Dr. Selby. Folks, why don't you identify
102 yourselves for the record.

103

104 **DALE JENSEN**

105 Mayor, Council, I'm Dale Jensen, one of the two promoters. This is Brad Yonover.

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106 **BRAD YONOVER**

107 Mayor and Council, Brad Yonover, also one of the cup promoters of this event.

108

109 **STEVE JOHNSON**

110 I'm Steve Johnson, I'm the President/Chief Executive Officer of the Champ Car World Series.

111

112 **JIM FREUDENBERG**

113 Jim Freudenberg, President, Chief Executive Officer of the Vegas Grand Prix.

114

115 **MARC RISMAN**

116 Marc Risman, 10120 South Eastern Ave.

117

118 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

119 All right. Thank you very much. I'd like you to tell us what you're doing in order to make sure

120 that this is going to be a success. That's the most important thing as far as this Council is

121 concerned. I'm sure that we do not want to have an event of world-wide significance that is

122 going to be covered by the media, both as far as television is concerned and all other aspects of

123 the media. What are you doing to make this a world – class event, the first year in particular,

124 because it's only going to get better and better after that, I'm sure.

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125 **DALE JENSEN**

126 Absolutely. Well, one of the main things it's all about – the people and – we brought in, as you
127 hire professional consultants, et cetera, to help you do your job and gain information and –
128 execute your desires, we've done the same thing. With Jim Freudenberg, who's produced over
129 72 races, you know, throughout the United States, himself. He currently produces the Denver
130 Grand Prix, as well as will be producing the Grand Prix Arizona. In addition, he is, there's quite
131 a few other races. I'll let him speak to that particularly, but that, his bio is not as important as
132 that between Champ Car and – Jim Freudenberg, we have a cast of about probably four or 500
133 people that are already lined up to do this day in and day out. They do this every week and
134 throughout the United States, and not only throughout the United States, but worldwide. Safety
135 teams, people that lay out the tracks, et cetera, et cetera. And I can let, if we want to get down to
136 specific questions or more specific, I can let them address it either from a operational standpoint
137 or the league's standpoint.

138

139 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

140 Well, I know that this is going to be a three day affair.

141

142 **STEVE JOHNSON**

143 Correct.

144

145 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

146 And it's basically going to be a party for the City of Las Vegas.

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147 **STEVE JOHNSON**

148 Correct.

149

150 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

151 And the event will take place, the actual race will take place over three days, is that correct.

152

153 **STEVE JOHNSON**

154 Races.

155

156 **DALE JENSEN**

157 Races.

158

159 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

160 Races over three days. You'll also have a boxing match down on Fremont Street?

161

162 **DALE JENSEN**

163 In the area, yes, inside the track area somewhere down there we will have boxing we believe. If

164 we – (Inaudible due to technical difficulties)

165

166 **DALE JENSEN**

167 Mayor, it's – concerts, it's boxing, it's really more of a festival. It's not as much of a race as it is

168 a festival of speed for three days. The race just happens to be a big promotion. We intend to have

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169 a variety of different activities down there, for example, some of the BMX. If I step back, maybe
170 it won't bubble as much.

171

172 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

173 Let's have a recess. We'll return in about 10 minutes.

174

175 **END OF RELATED DISCUSSION**

176 **RESUMED RELATED DISCUSSION**

177

178 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

179 Sorry, fellas.

180

181 **DALE JENSEN**

182 No problem.

183

184 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

185 I think this is important, that we tell the public what's gonna be happening here.

186

187 **DALE JENSEN**

188 All right. Anyway, Mayor –

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189 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

190 All right.

191

192 **DALE JENSEN**

193 If, oh – I'm sorry.

194

195 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

196 Okay. We have everybody? We're all set? Wait, we need our Clerk. There we go. Okay. We'll

197 call the meeting back to order. And the question was, what may we expect, as far as the

198 promotion itself in order to guarantee us that the City will have a successful event.

199

200 **DALE JENSEN**

201 First of all, Mayor and Council, thank you. I – one of the things that Brad and I do a lot of

202 besides, I talked about Jim and his professional ability to actually execute a race is, over a

203 hundred twenty times a year I produce events in Phoenix based on my involvement with both the

204 – basketball team and the baseball team. In addition, Brad and I have produced – movies and

205 T.V. films and doing one of these things is producing an event. It is – just simply event

206 production, number one. Number two, I have the financial resources and – , as does the league,

207 to make sure and insure success on this – project that we – have no, you know, that we will not

208 let it fail, type thing. And these are one of those things that you just kinda have to go in and after

209 the first year, kinda feel your way around. After the first year, you've sorted out any – of the

210 small issues you've had and you just make it bigger and better for next year.

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211 One of the things I'd like to do is have Jim Freudenberg tell you a little bit of some about the
212 activities that – go on, in addition to just simply, you know, cars driving around the track, et
213 cetera, if you don't mind if he took over, at this point.

214

215 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

216 Mr. Freudenberg, please.

217

218 **JIM FREUDENBERG**

219 In addition to the Champ Car race, we'll also have a couple of support races as well. So, we'll
220 have practice and qualifying and racing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. One of the unique
221 things we're going to do in Las Vegas is open the track a couple hours every day at lunch so that
222 the hotel guests can get in and out and delivery vehicles can get in and out, which is very unique.
223 But that was one of the concerns of the casino owners.

224 During the three day festival we will have, in addition to racing, concerts, the boxing as you
225 talked about, we will have action sports, we'll have lifestyle expos, we will have music
226 festivals. We're going to encompass First Friday, since April 6th is First Friday of April and
227 encompass that, hopefully, within our event as well. So, we're also looking at a car show, a
228 concord elegance type car show, things that we feel fit in the festival in the downtown area that
229 will address all the needs of the local business owners downtown to generate more business.

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230 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

231 And you'll be appealing, not only to our visitors, but also to the folks who live in this
232 community.

233

234 **JIM FREUDENBERG**

235 Absolutely. That's a big – hope that we can bring all the local people out to this event as
236 well. That's one of the reason we're opening it up to be a free event, to a certain aspect.

237

238 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

239 I – would certainly hope that you work with our community centers and with our schools in
240 order to get the seniors, as well as the youngsters down there, is a good way to learn about the
241 sport, particularly if they don't have to pay for it and they'll be able to be up close to it. It can be
242 a lot of fun for them and it could also create a future base for you in -- years to come.

243

244 **JIM FREUDENBERG**

245 We will be actively in the school systems well ahead, not just promoting the race, but promoting
246 the sport within the school systems. And the celebrity board and the local board that we're
247 putting together, the board of directors for the event will be fairly impressive with Paul Newman
248 and Cedric the Entertainer and Rob Thomas from Matchbox 20.

249

250 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

251 Got me there. But, that just shows you.

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252 **DALE JENSEN**

253 You'll recognize the persons.

254

255 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

256 I'm a little dated, that's all.

257

258 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

259 Yeah.

260

261 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

262 I'm a little dated.

263

264 **JIM FREUDENBERG**

265 It'll be a very impressive board and –

266

267 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

268 Okay. Another question that I have, and I guess I ask this of Dr. Selby and Scott Adams. I want

269 to be sure that there won't be any interference with the development in that area, both of the

270 World Market Center, as well as on the 61 acres because I hope that there're gonna be

271 groundbreakings on the 61 acres within the five-year period, of course and a lot sooner than that

272 as far as the Ruvo Center and the Performance Arts. So, how can we be assured that that will not

273 be interfered with as a result of having this on an annual basis.

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274 **DOUG SELBY**

275 Mayor, I think that falls mostly to us to make sure that we coordinate the construction for those
276 three days out of year, so that there isn't a detrimental impact. We already are planning around
277 the – Molasky Corporate Headquarters construction. We're able to work the race with that
278 construction occurring. And I'm pretty confident we'll be able to work it out each year for – the
279 next five years.

280

281 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

282 All right. Any other questions or comments?

283

284 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

285 Yes, Your Honor.

286

287 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

288 Yes, Councilman Weekly.

289

290 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

291 Okay. A couple questions for you. First of all, thank you all very much. I apologize for
292 yesterday, of course. I was attending a celebration for Councilman Ross' parents. We have a few
293 questions that we'd like to ask and I'm sure you guys them on yesterday and left some notes for
294 you, but just for the record, have you all gotten, I guess, a complete sign off from our local law
295 enforcement, as well as our Fire and Rescue. If you could share that with the – viewing audience.

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296 **JIM FREUDENBERG**

297 Yes. We're working with Tom Page.

298

299 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

300 As it relates to safety. If you could address that for us, please.

301

302 **JIM FREUDENBERG**

303 Well, we've addressed safety obviously with all of them –

304

305 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

306 Yes.

307

308 **JIM FREUDENBERG**

309 – and addressed the concerns they have in every meeting that we've – had, said that they're very

310 comfortable with the plan that we've put together. We'll have a disaster plan as well. From a

311 safety perspective, from a temporary road course, with the concrete barriers and with the catch

312 fence and then the no-man land fence that is between the track and the spectators, there hasn't

313 been an issue in the 30 some odd on years that cart and champ car have been racing on

314 temporary road circuits. In fact, there've been numerous issues on permanent facilities. And I

315 think that's more do to the speeds than anything. When we go around on city streets, we don't go

316 obviously go as fast as we do when we're in permanent facilities. So, when accidents do happen,

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317 knock on wood, they're a lot less apt to – cause any injuries and certainly haven't caused any
318 deaths, which is – pretty phenomenal.

319

320 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

321 And then I guess the other concern or question that was given to me was dealing with local
322 vendors, be it fences, barricades, port-a-potties, you name it, is there something that we would
323 have in place, be a monies in escrow or some type of bond that we would look at, as far as
324 insuring that, when all else is said and done, everyone is taken care of and we have, making sure
325 we've taken care of our local vendors.

326

327 **DALE JENSEN**

328 Well, we don't see a need to go to extraordinary or extra-ordinary measures to do that. Champ
329 Car is – well financed. I'm well financed. I think my record and – the fact of who I am, where I
330 live, et cetera, you know, very close to Las Vegas, I mean, we want to just treat this as a normal
331 trade, you know, type operation. I mean, we're not, I don't know that we necessarily are what
332 we could do to, you know, to ensure that we're not going to walk around and leave a bunch of
333 unpaid bills, et cetera. Most of the money that is being spent on this is going to be spent locally.
334 And, you know, it's – no different than putting on a concert or productions. It's just on a
335 much bigger scale. I – don't know what we could do to bond or sure, but there's not going to be
336 a lot of vendors left, you know, holding the bag. And I think my record and Champ Car's record,
337 you know, personal record, et cetera, is, I've never left a bill unpaid. So –

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338 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

339 Yes Sir. Well I appreciate that and I've gotten a lot of e-mails from people around the country
340 who have attended some of your – events that you've had and have gotten some great
341 responses. But at the end of the day, again Dr. Selby, I guess my question is, are we putting some
342 assurances in place because, you know, we are responsible to our taxpayers and we are
343 responsible for our own gate-keeping, if you will.

344

345 **DOUG SELBY**

346 Yes, Sir. Councilman. Although we don't have a bond, they do have an obligation under the
347 contract to basically pay all their bills, to defend and indemnify the City from any claims for
348 those kinds of payments.

349

350 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

351 Okay. I can appreciate that and –

352

353 **DALE JENSEN**

354 We will also have contracts with all the local vendors that hold everybody harmless as well, so –

355

356 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

357 Thank you very much. And my last question is, are we going to get a show out of Cedric the
358 Entertainer doing this all week?

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359 **JIM FREUDENBERG**

360 Actually, Cedric – has accepted to be on our board, so, I'm sure we will, he will be entertaining.

361

362 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

363 Awesome. Thank you.

364

365 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

366 Yes, Mayor Pro Tem.

367

368 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

369 Which one of you has something to do with the Phoenix Suns?

370

371 **DALE JENSEN**

372 Me.

373

374 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

375 I just want to congratulate you. I think you have one of the best basketball players coming out of

376 the City of Las Vegas. I congratulate you. I – love watching.

377

378 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

379 Marcus, yeah.

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380 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

381 Pardon?

382

383 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

384 Marcus.

385

386 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

387 Yes.

388

389 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

390 Marcus is your Suns player.

391

392 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

393 I – really look forward to be at home watching the Phoenix Suns. I’ve always been kind of a

394 Pistons fan. I tell you what, because of Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks, you got a new fan.

395

396 **DALE JENSEN**

397 Great. Thank you.

398

399 **BRAD YONOVER**

400 So we can put you down for season tickets?

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401 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

402 Yeah.

403

404 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

405 Councilman Ross.

406

407 **COUNCILMAN ROSS**

408 Thank you, Your Honor. It's an exciting City that we live in and these are exciting times, but I
409 think we all recognize the – shot and injection into the vitality of Downtown Las Vegas and
410 that's what this Council has been working on for quite some time. Very important. But I also see
411 other benefits. Just the tax revenue benefits alone, the one thousand plus jobs that will be created
412 from this type of event over the next five years. The worldwide publicity that the City of Las
413 Vegas will receive because of this event. This puts us beyond parallel with other – international
414 destinations throughout this world. And I commend you, gentlemen, on bringing this to us and
415 giving us the opportunity to have this in our great City.

416

417 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

418 What, what's great, within a period of 60 days, we're going to have one-two punch, second to
419 none, really. We're going to have the NBA All Star game around February the 15th of next year.

420

421 **DALE JENSEN**

422 I can't watch that though.

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423 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

424 Excuse me?

425

426 **DALE JENSEN**

427 I can't watch that, except on –

428

429 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

430 Oh, right. Well, you're not allowed to go. That's correct. Right. You can watch it on TV.

431

432 **DALE JENSEN**

433 I can watch the race.

434

435 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

436 Right. And then we're going to have this, we'll have the race shortly thereafter. So, it's going to

437 be, it's good time for folks who live in Las Vegas.

438

439 **DALE JENSEN**

440 And Mayor, I may add one other point, I watched in interest with your redevelopment area and –

441 that's the very same thing we're doing in Phoenix, and I'm, it echoes exactly our findings and

442 everything else, and I applaud you for that. But one of the things I wanted to point out is, this

443 race, Champ Car race in Long Beach is credited with single-handedly redeveloping that area

444 down by the wharf. And their Mayor and Council will sing the praises of this type of – a festival

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445 to help energize that thing, and I think you might be surprised at the end of the day here in a
446 couple of years how things may actually accelerate, as far as the pace that you anticipated. So
447 (inaudible) –

448

449 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

450 Well, I spoke with Mayor O’Neill and she advised me that it had a terrific effect upon her
451 downtown, no question about it.

452

453 **DALE JENSEN**

454 Well, we look forward to this very much and we’re excited to be considered to be able to do it.

455

456 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

457 Very good. Thank you. Any other comments or questions?

458

459 **STEVE JOHNSON**

460 Mr. Mayor?

461

462 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

463 Yes.

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464 **STEVE JOHNSON**

465 And Council, on behalf of the Series, we're very excited to have the opportunity to be able to
466 come to one of the greatest cities in the world. We're gonna bring our opening race here to Las
467 Vegas, and it's always special when you're the opening race because everybody in our sport is a
468 type "A" personality with ADD. So, when – the race, our season ending race ends in Mexico
469 City in front of close to three hundred thousands people on November 4th, November 5th they
470 start working on next year and start promoting it. And it's in everybody's marketing plans and
471 everybody puts all their emphasis in that first race to really kick off the season well. So, we're
472 gonna bring you a great show. We're gonna make you very proud all of us, and you won't just
473 see us once a year, we'll have a presence in Las Vegas throughout the year. We have a number
474 of our drivers that live in Las Vegas. So, they'll be easy to use for promotions, to be able to
475 really get involved with the schools. It's very important for us where we bring cars because we
476 know that not everybody is privileged to be able to come to the Grand Prix. So, we take it to
477 them. So, it's very important to us, but being the inaugural and the opening race for the season,
478 will – really catapult it to one of the, I think, of the, a world-class activity.

479

480 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

481 Okay. I hope the million one, eight hundred thousand people who live in this Valley here are all
482 touched positively with this experience.

483

484 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

485 Your Honor.

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486 **COUNCILMAN ROSS**

487 Your Honor.

488

489 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

490 Yes.

491

492 **COUNCILMAN ROSS**

493 One more comment.

494

495 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

496 Certainly.

497

498 **COUNCILMAN ROSS**

499 Would you gentlemen consider putting the Mayor in the pace car?

500

501 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

502 I think I'd rather go to the moon.

503

504 **MARC RISMAN**

505 Before this goes to vote, the entire group wants to thank the Mayor, the entire City Council, Dr.

506 Selby, the entire staff, including, especially Scott Adams, in the second row, and we also wish to

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507 express our condolences and sympathies to Councilman Ross and we want to express that before
508 this went to vote.

509

510 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

511 We appreciate that. Thank you very much. Thank you. I, Mayor Pro Tem. Oh, Councilman
512 Weekly.

513

514 **COUNCILMAN WEEKLY**

515 Yes. Thank you very much, Your Honor. I'd also like to put on the record, I spoke with
516 Councilwoman's staff and she wanted to express her excitement and support about this, for this
517 event as well. And assure to all car enthusiasts out there who are looking forward to this, 07 it's
518 going to be an exciting time for us and it's going to be a fun year and looking forward to
519 participating in this. **With that, Your Honor, I would like to move for approval with all**
520 **conditions, please.**

521

522 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

523 Thank you. Let's vote, please. Post. Unanimous?

524

525 **BARBARA JO RONEMUS**

526 Yes, Sir.

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527 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

528 Motion carries. Good luck to you, gentlemen.

529

530 **DALE JENSEN**

531 Thank you very much.

532

533 **JIM FREUDENBERG**

534 Thank you very much. Thank you.

535

536 **(END OF DISCUSSION)**

537 /ac;cv