

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF
June 21, 2006**

VERBATIM EXCERPT – ITEM 77

1 **NOT TO BE HEARD BEFORE 5:00 P.M. – Discussion and possible action regarding the**
2 **status, uses and other related matters of Huntridge Circle Park located at 1251 South**
3 **Maryland Parkway – Ward 3 (Reese)**

4
5 **Appearance List:**

6 OSCAR GOODMAN, Mayor
7 ORLANDO SANCHEZ, Deputy City Manager
8 TIMOTHY SHATTLER, Deputy Chief, City of Las Vegas Marshals
9 GARY REESE, Councilman
10 PAT CHAROEN, Lieutenant, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Downtown Area
11 Command
12 LOIS TARKANIAN, Councilwoman
13 STEVE WOLFSON, Councilman
14 SHANNON WEST, Regional Homeless Coordinator for Southern Nevada
15 BEATRICE TURNER
16 CHRIS CHRISTOFF, 327 Cincinnati Avenue
17 BRAD JERBIC, City Attorney
18 DAVID SHAKESPEARE, appeared on behalf of Father Flanigan, Ltd.
19 JERRY NEAL, West Las Vegas
20 BETTY MATTHEWS, 7th Street and Griffith
21 CHRIS SALM, 1047 E. Oakey Boulevard, President of the West Circle Neighborhood
22 Association
23 BEN CONTINE, 553 Barbara Way, former Chairman of the Circle Park Renovation Committee
24 TINA WILSON
25 CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI, Assemblywoman, 706 Bracken Avenue
26 GREGORY BROWN, 606 Bonita Avenue, President South Ridge Neighborhood Association
27 DOROTHY BARNES, Las Vegas resident
28 KAREN VELJKOVIC, 807 East Oakey Boulevard
29 DAWN TATE resides on Sweeney Avenue

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30 KIM VELTE, resident of John S. Park Neighborhood
31 JACK LEVINE, resides on 8th Place
32 DIANE SAMUEL, 1311 Jackson Avenue
33 BILL GIBBS, Officer, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Downtown Area Command
34 LARRY BROWN, Councilman
35 TERRY ROBERTS, Officer, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Downtown Area
36 Command
37 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER
38 DUANE SONNENBERG, Director of Grants and Special Projects for the Salvation Army
39 CAROLE CARPENTER
40 PAMELA VALENCIA, Lutheran Social Services of Nevada, 800 North Bruce Street
41 NICOLE ROGERS, resident and Las Vegas Outreach Team Member
42 ARTHUR KELLY, resident on Franklin Avenue
43 ANNIE WILSON, Homeless Liaison for Metro
44 STEVE FRANKLIN, 1704 South Seventh Street
45 TRINA ROBINSON, Neighborhood Services Department
46 BARBARA JO RONEMUS, City Clerk
47
48 (5:00 - 7:14)
49 4-178/5-1
50
51 Typed by: Ydoleena Yturralde
52 Proofed by: Angela Crolli

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53 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

54 Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for being present. I'm gonna make a brief
55 announcement. This is a new policy on our part, not that we have any reason to suspect that
56 there might ever be an issue as far as fire is concerned, but we should familiarize ourselves with
57 the various exits in the building here just in case an emergency comes up. We have no reason to
58 believe that will ever happen, but in an abundance of caution, I've been asked to make that
59 announcement particularly when we have many people in the room here.

60 Okay. Well thank you for being here. This is item Number 77. It was not to be heard before 5
61 p.m. and my watch reflects a little after 5 so we'll call it. This is discussion and possible action
62 regarding the status, uses and other related matters of Huntridge Circle Park located, located at
63 1251 South Maryland Parkway, which is in Ward 3. Basically, we have a presentation outline
64 which we're going to follow, but I'd like to briefly state how this came about as far as calling for
65 this Council session in order for the community to be heard. We had had reports that there were
66 activities taking place at the Huntridge Circle Park, which is in an established residential area,
67 which would suggest that the folks who were utilizing the park were involved in some kind of
68 activities which were affecting the quality of life of the residents who lived in the surrounding
69 area.

70 And Mayor Pro Tem Councilman, Gary Reese, called for a neighborhood meeting for folks who
71 wanted to express themselves concerning the Huntridge Circle Park and we had about, I'd say a
72 hundred people out there; a very hot day. They attended, had expressions from folks who lived
73 in the community, expression from folks who were utilizing the park who would be, could be
74 characterized as quote homeless end quote, and got their input and we were hearing the same
75 thing over and over again. And I – felt that it was time that the City Council have the
76 opportunity to have a public discussion to get public input, to make this a matter of record and
77 then to suggest certain action that could be taken in order to ameliorate the issues that were
78 affecting the neighborhood and at the same time address the social issues attendant with
79 problems of homelessness and that's what brings us here today.

80 I'm going to ask Orlando Sanchez, our Deputy City Manager, to please come up to the podium
81 and give us a brief – background of the history of the park and some statistics which I think
82 you'll find not only interesting but surprising.

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83

84 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

85 Good afternoon Mayor and City Council, Orlando Sanchez, Deputy City Manager. I will give a
86 brief background and history in Circle Park and following my presentation, Shannon west,
87 Regional Homeless Coordinator, will give an overview of our regional outreach and service
88 efforts that are taking place in the Valley.

89 In the late 1930s Las Vegas had little going for it. The Hoover Dam construction was a recent
90 memory and City sank with the rest of the nation into economic dwell drums of the Great
91 Depression. Through the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, local gambling operators and
92 businesses they were able to fund a public campaign selling Las Vegas. The slick brochures
93 portray Las Vegas as a last outpost of the old west and sought to capitalize in the considerable
94 tourist draw to the Dam. The event of the early '40s such as the Las Vegas Armory Gunnery
95 School and the construction of the enormous basic magnesium plant that employed 13,000
96 individuals during this construction period and went complete into 1942 when a full production
97 employed 10,000 workers led to the explicit – explosive growth of the Las Vegas Valley. At the
98 time Las Vegas had a base population of just 8, over 8,000.

99 The explosive growth led to the development of Huntridge subdivision in 1941 as one of the first
100 residential neighborhoods in Las Vegas with a central three-acre park constructed to serve the
101 neighborhood residents, known as Huntridge Circle Park, a large oval median at the center of the
102 divided Maryland Parkway was deeded to the City of Las Vegas in 1942.

103 In 1942 an irrigation system was installed to accommodate the planting of trees and in 1967 the
104 City added parking spaces, lights and trees. Circle Park at the peak of its usage and popularity
105 during the 1960 was never much more than a large grassy area fringed by trees. For the most
106 part, it was attracted to people who just wanted to sit or walk in a public place and felt a
107 communal and conducted – connected with the environment. Here's a picture of the park what it
108 looked like prior to the renovation.

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109 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

110 Overhead, please.

111

112 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

113 Over the years, the use and enjoyment of the park by the community decreased as a result of
114 heavy traffic and other issues. In December 2001, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese held a series of
115 neighborhood meetings to address the neighbors' concerns, which resulted in the creation of
116 Circle Park Steering Committee who was charged to plan for the park's renovation. The
117 committee of 20 consisted of neighborhood leaders, residents and business owners. The Steering
118 Committee commissioned a report by Landus Doris titled, Another Way of Looking at it.

119 The 2002 report identified two problems that reduced Huntridge Circle Park (inaudible) to little
120 more than a particularly wide decorative median. They were safety and vagrancy. In addition,
121 traffic in both directions on Maryland Parkway was heavy enough to discourage people trying to
122 get to it with the tendency of people to cross at what ever points they felt was the nearest safe
123 points. Parents to younger children were hesitant to use the park for fear that they might
124 knowingly run into traffic while being chased or attempt to retrieve a ball.

125 The park had also become more of allowance for homeless vagrants than a neighborhood
126 amenity. The committee also conducted a survey in English and Spanish to gather community
127 input regarding the future of Circle Park. On February 18, 2002, one thousand six hundred
128 ninety-eight surveys were mailed to residents and businesses within 1 half mile radius of Circle
129 Park.

130

131 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

132 Little slower now.

133

134 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

135 Oops.

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136 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

137 Little slower. We can, you know, the background we don't really care about. But no, I'm just
138 kidding.

139

140 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

141 Okay.

142

143 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

144 But as far as the statistics, go slowly –

145

146 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

147 Okay.

148

149 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

150 – so we can

151

152 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

153 I will.

154

155 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

156 – listen to them carefully.

157

158 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

159 Yes sir. A total of 336 completed surveys were returned. This impressive 20 percent response
160 rate revealed the following issues and concerns. Homeless sleeping in the park and related
161 criminal activities, safety due to vehicle traffic, landscaping more trees and shrubs with less
162 grass, lack of activities for children. Based on the feedback received from the residents and the
163 Steering Committee, a massive renovation of the park began on April 21, 2003 which included
164 an addition of a grass amphitheater, a shaded outdoor stage –

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165 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

166 Two thousand three.

167

168 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

169 A large central grass seating area, a community garden, children play areas with water features
170 and safety barriers, a jogging path, restrooms and landscaping. And if you'll go to the overhead
171 this is the finished product. An important component to increase safety for the residents crossing
172 busy Maryland Parkway was the installation of newly of new traffic control pedestrian
173 walkways. The renovated park was dedicated on November 15, 2003. Originally, the renovated
174 park was enjoyed on a daily basis by residents of Huntridge subdivision who enjoyed the new
175 features; landscaping and the other amenities the park had to offer.

176 However, with the passage of time vacant, vagrants have overtaken the park and less and less
177 residents utilize the park fearing for the safety of their children and themselves. The residents
178 are also concerned with the impact the vagrants are having in the neighborhoods. The following
179 charts illustrate the level of criminal activity prior, during and after the renovation of Circle Park.
180 The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department crime data, collected nine months prior to the
181 close of Circle Park show a monthly average of criminal activity within a half mile radius of
182 Circle Park to be just below three hundred and fifty.

183 During the nine month-period the park was closed for renovation, the crime data indicates a drop
184 in crime of 25 percent or just above two hundred and fifty. During the nine months period after
185 completion of the renovation of the park the crime rate rose by 25 percent to over 300.

186

187 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

188 Do you have any data as to the type of crimes?

189

190 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

191 I'm sorry.

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192 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

193 Do you have any data as to the type of crimes?
194

195 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

196 Ah, yes sir. They're coming up right now.
197

198 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

199 All right. Good.
200

201 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

202 This – chart shows the trends of the categories of assault and battery, auto burglary, burglary,
203 illegal shootings, narcotics, robbery and stolen vehicles. And you will notice that in 2003, 2004
204 when the park was closed for a period of time for renovation, those are the lower of your score
205 for crimes to occur in the area.

206 This chart is a bar graph; it just shows the same information except in bar graph. It shows the
207 number of incidents for battery. You will also notice in 2003/2004, they're the lowest periods of
208 time for crime occurred during the time the park was closed for renovation.

209 This next map is a neighborhood indicators. It shows a half mile radius where the crimes
210 occurred and also the type of crime by color code. You really can't see them, but there's a
211 bunch of dots all over showing where the crimes occurred.
212

213 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

214 So, basically the inference that is to be created is a result of this empirical data is that when the
215 park is closed crime is down in the area, which would suggest that the people who are occupying
216 the park are not committing crimes while they're not in the park. And when the park is open, it
217 would suggest that there's more crime in the neighborhood and therefore it would be the people
218 who are in the park committing those crimes. Is that a fair inference?

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219 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

220 I would say that would be a good conclusion. Yes, Sir.

221

222 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

223 All right, 'cause I'm gonna ask Metro if that's a fair inference. I'm gonna ask our Marshals
224 whether that's a fair – why don't you tell me right now. Marshal Dufrene or is it Marshal
225 Shattler? Who would like to address that? I wanna know whether that's a fair inference.

226

227 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

228 (Inaudible) statistics.

229

230 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

231 Okay. Basically I wanna find out whether it's a fair inference to say that when the homeless are
232 allowed in the park, there's more crime in the neighborhood than when they're not allowed in
233 the park.

234

235 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

236 It's a fair inference.

237

238 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

239 All right. Thank you.

240

241 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

242 We looked, when we looked at, in our statistics, yes, it is.

243

244 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

245 All right. Does metro agree? All right, then. Who's met, who's saying yes?

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246 **PAT CHAROEN**

247 Lieutenant Charoen.

248

249 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

250 Thank you very much, I appreciate that. Okay. Please continue.

251

252 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

253 This next chart will show the arrest and citations. This chart is important information that was
254 provided by Detention and Enforcement. It compares the number of arrests and citations at
255 Circle Park as compared to other similar size parks within the City. The period indicating on this
256 chart is for the five-month period, and as you can see on the chart, it shows from January 2004 to
257 May 2004, Huntridge Park prostituted (sic) 32 percent of all activities compared to the other
258 parks that are listed here to your right. In January 2004 to May 2005, 51 percent of activity was
259 a result of, at Huntridge Park, and 2006, January 2006 to May 2006 is 80 percent.

260 The cumulative for those years, for those six, for that five-month period, the activities were 59
261 percent were related to – Huntridge Circle Park as compared to the other parks.

262

263 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

264 All right. So, it's a fair inference that crime is growing in Huntridge Park –

265

266 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

267 Yes, Sir.

268

269 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

270 – as time goes on.

271

272 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

273 Yes, Sir.

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274 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

275 All right.

276

277 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

278 And this last chart is an annual citations and arrest from Detention and Enforcement. Two
279 thousand four you'll see the 46 percent of the activities were related to Circle Park as compared
280 to the other parks with, that are listed here to your right. In 2005, it was 50 percent and so far
281 this year it's 80 percent. The cumulative for those years from 2004 to 2006, Huntridge Park
282 constitutes 60, 53 percent of all activity as compared to the other park. So, we're spending a lot
283 more time and a lot more resources on Circle Park as compared to the other parks that we have
284 within the City of similar size.

285 With that, I finished my presentations and if you have any questions, if not I'd like to turn it over
286 to Shannon West.

287

288 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

289 Okay, I appreciate that. Are there any questions of Mr. Sanchez or comments?

290

291 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

292 Mr. Mayor, I just wonder if, could we get a copy of those charts, it was hard to read on the, I
293 don't mean I need to have them today, but if I could have them some time.

294

295 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

296 Are they available today?

297

298 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

299 Yes. I could get some printed out for you. They're up in my office.

300

301 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

302 I think that'll be helpful.

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303 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

304 Okay.

305

306 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

307 I wanna make that part of the record.

308

309 **ORLANDO SANCHEZ**

310 Yes, Sir.

311

312 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

313 Very good.

314

315 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

316 Mayor Goodman?

317

318 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

319 Yes, Councilman Wolfson.

320

321 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

322 I have a question.

323

324 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

325 Sure.

326

327 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

328 What distinguishes between whether our Marshals respond and cite and Metro responding and
329 citing?

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330 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

331 Mr. Shattler, please identify yourself.

332

333 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

334 Deputy Chief Shattler, City of Las Vegas Marshals. Yeah, we have concurrent jurisdiction with
335 met Metro in that park, so, either one of us could respond to that park or patrol the park.

336

337 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

338 In the neighborhood?

339

340 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

341 And, well yeah, the neighborhood the, you know, we don't spend as much time in the
342 neighborhood as we do on the park. Metro would be more the neighborhood area.

343

344 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

345 All right. Well I'd like to hear before we hear from Ms. West, what type of offenses are you
346 citing people for in the park.

347

348 **TINOTHY SHATTLER**

349 The main ones are park closure or alcohol prohibited in the park. It's within a thousand feet of
350 where you can purchase alcohol and you can't drink alcohol within that 1,000-foot and so we
351 cite for a lot for that.

352

353 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

354 Those are City misdemeanors?

355

356 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

357 Yes.

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358 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

359 All right. And Metro, when you're citing people in the park, what type of offenses are you citing
360 them for?

361

362 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

363 In the neighborhood too?

364

365 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

366 And the neighborhood.

367

368 **PATRICK CHAROEN**

369 Good evening ladies and gentlemen, Lieutenant Charoen, Metro Police. We enforce NRSs,
370 Mayor. We don't enforce any regulations or Rules pertaining to park regulations.

371

372 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

373 So, they, they're probably felonies from which you're citing them.

374

375 **PATRICK CHAROEN**

376 If there is felony, both felony and misdemeanor.

377

378 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

379 All right. And, outside of the park, what – type of crimes are you arresting people for?

380

381 **PATRICK CHAROEN**

382 Various park –

383

384 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

385 Or let me ask in several ways. Outside of the park itself, what type of crimes have been reported
386 to you?

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387 **PATRICK CHAROEN**

388 All the way from minor misdemeanor trespassing to sexual assault and attempted murder.

389

390 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

391 All right.

392

393 **PATROCK CHAROEN**

394 Mostly are property crimes within the area off Charleston and Maryland Parkway. We have
395 several law offices in the area and a lot of burglaries is happening in the area.

396

397 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

398 Have you arrested any people for those offenses?

399

400 **PATRICK CHAROEN**

401 I don't have that concrete information with me, Mayor.

402

403 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

404 Are you able to tell us whether or not the folks who are committing the crimes are the folks who
405 are occupying the parks when they're not committing the crimes?

406

407 **PATRICK CHAROEN**

408 I don't have that information.

409

410 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

411 All right. Does anybody have that information? Is there any correlation that we can make other
412 than the fact that the, that there are inferences that could be drawn based on park being closed,
413 the park being open and crimes taking place. Do we have any information at all whether or not
414 the folks who are, quote homeless end quote, in the park are committing the crimes in the
415 neighborhood?

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416 **PATRICK CHAROEN**

417 I don't have the answer for that question, Mayor, but, however I can interject that, we do have
418 significant of calls about suspicious person in the neighborhood and that could be and will
419 correlate to the people that may be camping out at the park itself.

420

421 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

422 Okay. Is that hypothetical or is that a fact?

423

424 **PATRICK CHAROEN**

425 Actually, we have, I did not bring the data with me, Mayor. I do have a print out of a number of
426 suspicious persons call from the month of January through May of this year.

427

428 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

429 I'd like to have that information.

430

431 **PATRICK CHAROEN**

432 Absolutely. I'll –

433

434 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

435 I think it's important because if we're going to point a finger at the particular group in our
436 community, we better have some evidence in fact the finger is being pointed correctly. Okay.
437 So inferentially, I have a feeling right now that when the park is open, the people in the area are
438 committing offenses and are disturbing the quality of life, but we don't have any empirical data.
439 It's mostly anecdotal at this point in time. Is that a fair statement? All right. Well, try to get us
440 some empirical data so we know what to do. Thank you gentlemen.

441 Okay. Any other questions of Mr. Sanchez who retreated to his safe haven of his seat? All right.

442 Ms. West, before you address us, I have to say that I was very impressed at the regional Planning
443 Coalition when we were hearing of your efforts to address issues as to homelessness. And it
444 appeared based on your presentation to Councilman Weekly and myself as members of the

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445 Regional Planning Coalition that you are making some strides in the community and your
446 outreach efforts in order to get folks into treatment-type facilities and into counseling and into
447 charitable facilities that would assist them in getting back to the main stream. And as a result of
448 that presentation, you indicated that there were certain folks who were treatment resistant I
449 believe that's a phrase that we used. And I asked you to please, between that time and today in
450 effect, to go out to Circle Park in particular and see what the situation was there, whether you
451 were able to make an impact, whether you were able to get those folks who were in that park into
452 these kind of 501C3 charitable facilities and make some progress and that's what I'd really like
453 to hear from you.

454

455 **SHANNON WEST**

456 Okay. I have a little information I wanted to share from background to kind of help paint the
457 context for those statistics if I could kind of start there –

458

459 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

460 Please.

461

462 **SHANNON WEST**

463 – and what my role is.

464

465 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

466 Please.

467

468 **SHANNON WEST**

469 I am the Regional Homeless Coordinator for Southern Nevada. The southern Nevada Regional
470 Planning Coalition, which the Mayor and Councilman Weekly sit on, is made up of elected
471 officials of all the jurisdictions. A couple of years ago, usually that, coalition really addresses
472 infrastructure issues like planning and environmental issues and water and transportation, but felt
473 that homelessness was such a significant issue that they created its first committee around a

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474 social issue and that is the committee on homelessness and that is the committee that I service
475 staff to.

476 As a part of this regional approach, and this regional approach is unlike any other in the country,
477 all of the cities, City of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, Clark County,
478 some business members from the community, the Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition and
479 Clark County are all members of this – team and this approach and responsible for developing a
480 plan, which we call our 10 point plan and then ultimately implementing that. All of those
481 partners also steward over their own programs. You, at the City of Las Vegas, have Evolve for
482 ex-felons, you have your Emergency Housing Assistance Program that you run here as well as
483 the Chronic Inebriate Program contributing to the overall program that we have. You also
484 contribute funds and resources to the implementation of that plan to the inclement weather
485 program, which actually offers day shelter and nighttime winter shelter over and above what’s
486 already available through non-profits in our coldest and our hottest times of the year.

487 You also contribute to an off-site lodging program that allows us to place those families and
488 individuals who are inappropriate for mass shelter some place during emergency situations until
489 we can help to get them into some type of transitional housing. And you also contribute to our
490 evaluation systems, which include our Homeless Management Information System that I helped
491 to steward over. Last year the regional partners were all responsible for lobbying the State to
492 give four million dollars to come to Southern Nevada so we could really pilot a program to
493 address chronic inebriates. Those are chronic, chronically homeless individuals. Those are
494 people that have been homeless for longer than a year or have had four episodes of homelessness
495 in a three-year period, kind of our most difficult population to work with. And usually moneys
496 received from the legislator go to fund capital items.

497 As a lobbying group, we were able to convince them to let us pilot Direct Service Programs and
498 have invested over this last two-year, over this two-year period about 3.5 million around that.
499 So, we received our first kind of quarterly reports talking about the stats that we’ve been able to
500 – make. We funded for the first time ever in this community a consortium of seven providers
501 who were able to go out and do mobile crisis intervention together and also as another program
502 have a case management component for our chronic, chronically homeless individuals. The

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503 consortiums made up of Health of Southern Nevada, U.S. Vets, Jewish Family Services, Straight
504 from the Streets, Mojave Mental Health, Salvation Army and the Center for Independent Living.
505 The approach that they use is housing first, helping people move into housing so that we can
506 then help them straighten out the other things that are going on with them and help reduce the
507 harm that they're inflicting on themselves. Since we have started that, two hundred and twenty-
508 one clients in the chronic case management portion have accessed services.

509

510 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

511 When did you start it?

512

513 **SHANNON WEST**

514 It would be right around January.

515

516 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

517 Of this year?

518

519 **SHANNON WEST**

520 December, right –

521

522 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

523 Two thousand and six

524

525 **SHANNON WEST**

526 December to January with a start up time.

527

528 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

529 And how many folks have accessed –

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530 **SHANNON WEST**

531 Two hundred, two hundred and twenty-one accessed, now you have to meet the definition of
532 chronically homeless, so we have to make sure that that's at peace. A hundred and forty-nine of
533 those individuals are still active, meaning that only 33 percent have actually left the program, we
534 can't find them. Those are pretty astonishing numbers for a transitional population. A hundred
535 and nine of those individuals are in short-term housing. Sixteen have already moved into long
536 term or permanent housing. Eight are in residential substance abuse facilities and two are
537 housed in Silver Living facilities.

538 So, this is just of the individuals that met the criterion that we have on case management. So our
539 – initial numbers are showing that investing that kind of time and working with people that way
540 is helping. The other piece I wanna talk about—

541

542 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

543 Can you, define chronically homeless?

544

545 **SHANNON WEST**

546 Right. It would be someone who would have been homeless for a year or more or someone who
547 had had four episodes of homelessness in a three-year period, so in and out.

548

549 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

550 Okay.

551

552 **SHANNON WEST**

553 The other piece of that is Mobile Crisis Intervention. So, the same provider actually was
554 awarded that contract so some of the people that they meet out in the field they have actually
555 moved on to their case management, others they actually make referrals to other programs.
556 Since that started they're out in the streets every day, and I'll talk specifically about Circle Park
557 as I wrap up, but part of what they do is out in the streets every day, work very closely with law
558 enforcement. One of the issues that we've addressed as a community is how we go in and do

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559 health and safety interventions where we've gotten large encampments developing protocols,
560 just through the efforts of working those encampments with law enforcement. They've assisted
561 over a hundred and fifty people; forty-five of those were the ones who were placed in housing,
562 straight out of those encampments. So those – efforts together are really working, those
563 protocols are set up.

564 Specifically out of Circle Park, since the beginning of the project, those mobile outreach teams
565 have probably met and talked with over a hundred unique individuals. Doesn't mean they didn't
566 talk to the same person on a different day, but over a hundred unique individuals. Provided some
567 type of a services to approximately thirty-five people, and let me tell you exactly what was
568 provided to those. Ten were, actually met the criterion of the chronically homeless and were
569 placed in that program. One just graduated from Harrah Springs Ranch this past month and has
570 moved and been reunited with his family. Nine others are currently living in sober housing and
571 other housing facilities. Ten people returned to their home state where they're on their own or
572 with assistance with out-of-state transportation. And another fifteen were assisted and placed
573 into housing through other programs, whether that be vouchers services or the assistance of
574 Clark County Social Service.

575 Now, you shared that you, when we had the last meeting with the last SNRPC asked me to
576 specifically take a look at Circle Park in the first couple weeks of this past month and Clark
577 County Social Service assisted and did a stronger push that they normally do in Circle Park.

578 Just in the last two weeks, and they're out there all the time, but concentrated efforts. Twenty-
579 nine people were moved into housing and provided medical benefits. We assisted two with out-
580 of-state transportation and that doesn't mean sending people to another state. We actually make
581 contact to make sure that there's a place where someone can live there, that there's an employer
582 that's going to greet them. Four were transported to Mental Health Services. Seven were
583 transported to detox. One to Senior Protective Services. Twenty-two were provided funds
584 known as We Set Funds that help to prevent impending homelessness to help pay gaps in rents or
585 mortgages, if that be the case. And fifty-seven of the individuals who were approached during
586 the last couple of weeks were just not reedy to accept services that day.

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587 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

588 What does that mean?

589

590 **SHANNON WEST**

591 That means that that day they weren't interested in accepting services and part of what we like to
592 talk about is the issue of service resistant. That's a way one piece of it, but also sometimes you
593 need to go talk to someone a couple different times and really develop the kind of rapport that
594 helps people to move in and that's why we use outreach workers. But in that park, fifty-seven, I
595 guess, those are the numbers I just said, were not ready to receive services the last couple weeks.

596

597 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

598 All right. And you went back the next day and talked to them again and the next day you talked
599 to them again?

600

601 **SHANNON WEST**

602 If they were there, that would have been the case.

603

604 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

605 Right. And how many of the fifty-seven became service compliant?

606

607 **SHANNON WEST**

608 You know, Sir, I don't have those – numbers. I know that over that time period that there were
609 fifty-seven that we documented that we were not able to provide services on the day we asked
610 them.

611

612 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

613 Are they still in the park?

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614 **SHANNON WEST**

615 Very possibly.

616

617 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

618 Were these people, are you able to tell us, under the influence of any kind of alcohol or drugs,
619 when you were trying to talk to them.

620

621 **SHANNON WEST**

622 I would say a good per, and I wasn't out there –

623

624 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

625 Yes.

626

627 **SHANNON WEST**

628 – I'd be getting the feedback from the outreach workers.

629

630 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

631 Right.

632

633 **SHANNON WEST**

634 I would say that there's a percentage that definitely are and there are a percentage that are
635 definitely mentally ill and presenting with possibly both of those – issues.

636

637 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

638 And, for the record, why in your capacity, you are a social worker, correct?

639

640 **SHANNON WEST**

641 I am a social worker.

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642 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

643 Why, in your capacity, did you not take those who are mentally ill and place them in some kind
644 of facility?

645

646 **SHANNON WEST**

647 When we go out and talk to people they have the ability to determine whether or not they're
648 going to seek services on their own.

649

650 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

651 Yeah, I know but, so you do not force –

652

653 **SHANNON WEST**

654 That is true.

655

656 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

657 – the wonderful services which we have available in this community, that apparently a lot of
658 people are taking advantage of in getting back into society when those who are resistant.

659

660 **SHANNON WEST**

661 That is true

662

663 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

664 Okay. We're gonna address that too. But, I thank you for that. Are there any questions for Ms.
665 West? Okay. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. I'd like to find out from the Marshal, once
666 again, if I may. I have been told that in the park, there are syringes and hypodermic needles.
667 Are you able to verify that?

668

669 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

670 Yeah, we have found some of those.

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671 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

672 I hear there are condoms in the park.

673

674 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

675 I think there's been reports of those as well. I mean, not first hand I haven't found those, no.

676

677 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

678 All right. But you have found syringes?

679

680 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

681 Not personally. It's just from officers.

682

683 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

684 Officers have told you, right?

685

686 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

687 Yes.

688

689 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

690 And you, of course you rely on what the officers tell you.

691

692 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

693 Yes.

694

695 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

696 No reason for them to make that up.

697

698 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

699 No.

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700 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

701 Same thing as far as the condoms?

702

703 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

704 Yes, Sir.

705

706 **BEATRICE TURNER**

707 (Inaudible)

708

709 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

710 Okay. Thank you. All right. Does anybody want to speak on behalf of the ACLU. Mr.

711 Christoff, are you a member of the ACLU?

712

713 **CHRIS CHRISTOFF**

714 No, but I'll be close to it.

715

716 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

717 Okay. But wait, let's do it in order here. I'm gonna – give everybody a chance to talk, but

718 anybody from the ACLU here? All right. They were certainly made aware, were they not Mr. –

719

720 **CHRIS CHRISTOFF**

721 They were here, Your Honor, and left.

722

723 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

724 They left?

725

726 **CHRIS CHRISTOFF**

727 Yeah.

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728 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

729 Okay. They were advised, Mr. Jerbic, were they not, that that we were gonna have this meeting?

730

731 **BRAD JERBIC**

732 I don't know of any specific invite list that went out but it was publicly noticed and posted and

733 it's been –

734

735 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

736 All right.

737

738 **BRAD JERBIC**

739 – (inaudible)

740

741 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

742 Are there any members of the, why don't you have a seat, I'll recognize you in a moment. Food

743 Not Bombs group here? Any members of Food Not Bombs who wanna tell ME why they're

744 anarchistic and atheistic? All right. Certainly they would have known that we're doing this

745 today.

746

747 **BRAD JERBIC**

748 I know through personal experience, Your Honor, that both groups were in the park when this,

749 when it was announced that you would have a special hearing to discuss park issues.

750

751 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

752 How was a hearing, how did we notify the public that the hearing was going to take place at this

753 time today.

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754 **BRAD JERBIC**

755 I think the date was set after the meeting with the park last month and was set for this date and I
756 know it was covered in the press, but that's all I'm aware of, Your Honor.

757

758 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

759 Okay. Thank you I appreciate that. All right, I'll be happy to hear at this point in time from
760 folks who would like to advocate for the homeless. Please come up here and give us your name.
761 We'll put a three-minute timer on, please. And when I say advocate for the homeless, I'm
762 limiting this to the homeless in the park, which is in this neighborhood.

763

764 **DAVID SHAKESPEARE**

765 (Inaudible)

766

767 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

768 The homeless.

769

770 **DAVID SHAKESPEARE**

771 Oh, I'm not homeless.

772

773 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

774 Well if you like to say something about the homeless that are in the park that are destroying the
775 quality of life of the residents, I'd be happy to hear from you.

776

777 **DAVID SKAKESPEARE**

778 I'm David Shakespeare and we used to go down there at 2:30 every afternoon and feed those
779 poor kids, and since the meeting that you had down there, we have seen a lot of activity down
780 there. One – day there was nine people from social services at one time there, and they was
781 taking those people off the park right and left, and I think they're doing a great job.

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782 And yes, there's a few down there that don't want any help and we're trying to figure out how to
783 get them out and get them outta there. We're all working for the same thing, that is to bring us
784 up to speed with the homeless thing.

785 Personally, I've got people, I represent Father Flanigan, Limited and with our group we have
786 people that go out there and meet with those people. We do it did it there every morning for a
787 while, and we've also taken people off the streets and given them places to stay and work. In
788 fact, we've got 300 jobs down there if there's any of them that wanna work. Why we've, they
789 do need I.D. and cards, but we've got ways of getting that as well, but –

790

791 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

792 Well, if anybody's, Mr. Shakespeare, if anybody's passing by MLK and Charleston tonight on
793 the, be the northwest corner, there's a woman who I see at Catholic Charities every day, pretty
794 good, she eats pretty good –

795

796 **DAVID SHAKESPEARE**

797 Yeah.

798

799 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

800 But at night, when I'm driving home, she's very hungry, and she's got her sign and she's all
801 humped (sic) over and crying every night.

802

803 **DAVID SHAKESPEARE**

804 Well, there's certain days during the week like on Sunday that they get so much food they almost
805 need to join Weight Watchers.

806

807 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

808 I understand that. It's a good place to live.

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809 **DAVID SHAKESPEARE**

810 But I would – suggest that we proceed with what we’re doing. I think you’re doing a great job
811 and that there’s a lot of them that are being helped and –

812

813 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

814 Apparently there are and that’s wonderful—

815

816 **DAVID SHAKESPEARE**

817 And we’re with you.

818

819 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

820 And I appreciate that. I think Ms. West offers us great hope, as far as what she’s told us. Okay,
821 are there any folks who live in the area that would like to express themselves today?

822

823 **BEATRICE TURNER**

824 What if I work in the area?

825

826 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

827 That’s fine. Timer, please. Please give us your name.

828

829 **BEATRICE TURNER**

830 Beatrice Turner, West Las Vegas, I work in the area. I have two patients; one on Charleston and
831 one on Maryland Parkway. The one on Charleston, she rides her little motor scooter up there to
832 that park. Now she won’t because it’s, because you got all the homeless out there. And the one
833 on Maryland Parkway, I suppose to take her and walk her around the park three times for her
834 exercise at least twice a week. We went out there, it was last week, when we had, it was about,
835 1:00 o’clock, this man done pulled his pants off, done washed them in, I guess in the bathroom,
836 and hung them on the brick wall that they got out there and he laying out in this, and he laying
837 out in the park with no pants on, no nothing. And I’m like, what. And I told her, I says look, I

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838 know I need to put both of ya'll together, I said, but we're gonna have to find another park where
839 ya'll can meet up and we can go around the park three times, I said, ;cause this right here will
840 give me a murder case.

841

842 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

843 Okay. Anybody – else like to be heard regarding living or working around –. Certainly, we'll
844 give everybody a chance. This is why we're here today.

845

846 **JERRY NEAL**

847 Jerry Neal, West Las Vegas. I'm sitting here and I'm listening and I just can't help to think that
848 I watch Housing Authority just waste millions of dollars in a period of nine months, and I would
849 advise the City to take a closer look if you're gonna try to fix this types of issue. You need to
850 take a closer look of what's going on with some of your moneys that's coming into the City and
851 when you find these countless situations where Housing Authority come up short 3.9 million
852 dollars, 9.9 million dollars, I think you just gonna have to be more attentive to what's going on
853 with these kinds of issues. And if they're wanna act a fool, put a charge on them and then you
854 can control the money, then you can find a place where you can spend some of this money and
855 cure some of these evils or sicknesses. Thank you.

856

857 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

858 Thank you. All right folks. I see a lot of folks from the neighborhood. I'd be happy to hear
859 from you. Just give us your name, please.

860

861 **BETTY MATTHEWS**

862 Betty Matthews, 7th and Griffith. I live in that area. I was on the so called Steering Committee.
863 At the time they weren't even going to let us have a bathroom here, and I said, come on, we can
864 solve these problems because there was a lady who had attended meetings at the school that had
865 been terrified at the idea of having a way that a woman or child could be harmed. We'll put it
866 that way. And, so I said, look, we can have, we have to have a bathroom. You can't have a park

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867 without a bathroom, and for any age, and so let's have bathrooms that are like on every beach in
868 the entire world, not just in our country, that the floor, the walls don't go all the way to the
869 ground. You've got a little bit of space where anybody could see legs, but the to the private
870 parts of the body, man, woman, or child, are not going to show and so if anything crazy is going
871 on inside that bathroom it's not totally unobserved. So we got a bathroom.

872 I said we need fences. That area, nobody can play any kind of a ball, man woman or child, that a
873 ball can't go out into the traffic and it's a natural reaction to, perhaps, try and retrieve that ball.
874 And so eventually, we're gonna have injured people. We need fences that are fairly high. Well,
875 the Mayor – Pro Tem said, we're building some parks in the City and we can build fences that
876 are really very tall but that you can see through so that in case of this situation with the
877 homeless. There again, people are protected that are within the park and we have openings quite
878 often like every 12 feet or something like that with a crossover pattern like this that allow people
879 to enter and exit, no gates, but if someone was running, supposedly, for their protection or their
880 life, there is an exit, but we can build high fencing that you can see through. And so that seemed
881 like a heck of a good idea. What we got was, at first, fencing that was built out of old rubber
882 tires and somebody was really watching the budget there and these tires were, could not have
883 been more than three and a half feet tall piled on top of each other. Well, there must have been a
884 lot of squawking about that because that existed for about the first year, year and a half and then
885 somebody came along and poured some cement over those tires in the hopes that it would fancy
886 things a little bit and it would look a little bit better. Well, it still looks pretty ridiculous, but the
887 important point I'm bringing across is that we have fences that are too short.

888 But we built a park that we thought would have, the Steering Committee, that would have child
889 equipment because we really, somebody said, oh, there is no children in the neighborhood any
890 more. Well, au contraire, there are lots of children and the nice thing is, is that most of these
891 immigrant families that are using the park, parents are always accompanying those children. But
892 there isn't one piece of playground equipment on that, in that park. Well, it doesn't cost a
893 fortune to build a, to put a pole up with a rope and a ball and that's called tether ball and that's
894 fun.

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895 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

896 Okay. I'm gonna have to –

897

898 **BETTY MATTHEWS**

899 Everybody can play it, at any age.

900

901 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

902 I'm gonna have to cut you short here.

903

904 **BETTY MATTHEWS**

905 Pardon?

906

907 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

908 I'm gonna have to cut you short so the other people can be heard.

909

910 **BETTY MATTHEWS**

911 Wind up?

912

913 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

914 Please.

915

916 **BETTY MATTHEWS**

917 Well, okay. So that's – my squawks is that, perhaps if we had some playground equipment,

918 swings that nobody can walk off with, we would have more children running around these

919 people that are lying on the ground.

920

921 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

922 Right, I get –

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923 **BETTY MATTHEWS**

924 I don't know if it's a solution but it might help.

925

926 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

927 I appreciate that. Maybe the guy that Ms. Turner was talking about who's lying there naked,
928 maybe he would take a tether ball and throw it around his head. Okay. Anybody else from the
929 neighborhood wanna talk about naked people or tether ball? Yes.

930

931 **CHRIS SALM**

932 My name is Chris Salm and I'm the, I live at 1047 East Oakey Boulevard and I'm the President
933 of the West Circle Neighborhood Association, which is the association to the immediate west of
934 the park. And, no, I'm not gonna talk about naked people. I think what's happened at the park
935 is, has a greater symptom of a problem with our community. I mean, we've seen that when we –
936 have the services and we use them that we – sign twenty-nine people to move them into housing,
937 you get a lot of people off drugs and alcohol. So, I think we need to look at this in a – bigger
938 way than just kicking everybody out of the park or closing the park down. So, kind of towards
939 this goal, I have just a few suggestions to make.

940

941 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

942 Good.

943

944 **CHRIS SALM**

945 One is, I mean possible to create a Marshal substation in the – area. We have, we got three parks
946 in the area where we have somebody there making – sure our children are safe or people aren't
947 using hypodermic needles and aren't doing things they're not supposed to do.

948 I was born and raised in Buffalo New York and every summer during college I spent my
949 summers as a park attendant for the city parks. And I was there to make sure no one bothered
950 the kids. We ran a little city program; it was great. And is something that I'd like to suggest that
951 we do – here. Have somebody there keeping an eye on things.

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952 Second, I think we really need to create a viable alternative to – feeding the homeless in our –
953 park. I don't believe the park is an appropriate place to feed the homeless, but then again I don't
954 think we can necessarily throw them out. One – of our neighbors suggested, apparently there's
955 two trailers that used to be used for overflow for muni court, it might be a good place to actually
956 provide telephones, food, maybe a place to wash clothes, a place to kind of, where people can
957 access services a little more when they're ready. Let's see what else here.

958 And I think that, you know, with that I know that one of the things proposed to do was, put some
959 restriction on actually feeding the homeless at the park. I think if that, happens, we, if it doesn't
960 go through, we have to make sure that whoever's doing it needs to coordinate with social
961 services to make sure that people can get enrolled in the programs if they want the help. And we
962 have to keep existing – doing that.

963 And then another – option would also be to, like in the last two weeks as social services has done
964 more coordination, we've seen – I mean, people actually enrolling in programs and getting out of
965 the park, according to the data provided today, so I think it's a good idea.

966 Lastly is, we need to draw neighbors back to the park again and I think this may, might need
967 more programming in coordination with Leisure Services and also maybe some more park
968 equipment and amenities to get people there because I think we, need to, kind of reclaim it again.

969 And then lastly, our neighborhood association met back in April to talk about this issue and I
970 was really surprised to find out that the dozen or so people that showed up on the west side did
971 not raise this as a number one issue. I was really surprised. The only thing that people really
972 didn't want to do was make it a children's only park or to close it down. So, those are my
973 consider, those are my suggestions and thank you for your time.

974

975 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

976 Very good. We thank you for being here today.

977

978 **BEN CONTINE**

979 Good evening, my name is Ben Contine. I live at 5-5-3 Barbara Way. I actually served as the
980 Chairman of the Circle – Park Renovation Committee and while, you know, like any process, we

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981 had debates and, you know, some people got some of the things they wanted, nobody got
982 everything they wanted. So, it was a process that – went forward and, you know, in a very fair
983 way.

984 The problem that we have, you know, we have now with homeless in the Circle Park, I think it's
985 important to first understand that it's not a problem we can simply ignore and it's just gonna go
986 away. So, I'm happy that, at least, we're calling this meeting. The second thing I just, you
987 know, wanted to set straight is, you know, you said is there, are there any advocates for – the
988 homeless. I believe many in our neighborhood would fit that bill, frankly. We – have, I would
989 say, disproportionately a high number of people who have been involved in – delivering services
990 to the homeless, who have been involved in helping people get off the streets. But the bottom
991 line is that – delivering, simply delivering food in our park is not – it's not an appropriate place
992 to deliver those types of services. That those types of services without some kind of support
993 system to get people off the streets is, you know, is just wrong.

994 So I think, you know, I'm gonna support everything the neighborhood association president said
995 from the immediate area and just say that we're willing to help, and, you know support this
996 process as it goes forward.

997

998 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

999 Thank you very much. Next, please.

1000

1001 **TINA WILSON**

1002 Good evening. My name's Tina Wilson and I live very close to the park, I can see it out my
1003 kitchen window. I've lived in my house for 15 years. My last experience at the park was just
1004 this week and when I left I was saying to myself, never again will I come back. Why? There
1005 were 42 homeless people in the park. The City of Las Vegas has got to do more. The programs
1006 we have now are working but we've got to do more. There were 42 homeless people in the park
1007 that day, it must have been the same day that that lady was there because when I was there, there
1008 was a man who was practically disrobed, shaving his head.

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1009 **BEATRICE TURNER**

1010 Yeah, I was there.

1011

1012 **TINA WILSON**

1013 Yeah, on that same day I went back at another time later in the day, another man was washing
1014 his clothes in the drinking fountain and we took the kids up there to maybe to play in the water
1015 area. There were so many broken beer bottles we couldn't – let the children out of our sight
1016 because there was too much glass. We've got to do more.

1017 At night when they're leaving the park they're going into our neighborhoods, they're going
1018 through our garbage, they're stealing things, they're defecating in our – property, they're
1019 sleeping there. The City has got to do more, please because I don't want to think that I'm not
1020 going to go back to that park so that's all. Thank you.

1021

1022 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1023 Thank you. Next, please.

1024

1025 **CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI**

1026 Good evening, Chris Giunchigliani, 706 Bracken Avenue. I think, I also was a member of the
1027 Circle Park Steering Committee and first I'd like to thank the Council for the half, \$600,000 you
1028 gave, as well as the County, in order to be able to redo this. And we tried to work with the
1029 neighborhood, with Metro, with the, we worked with, I went blank here, thank you, but what we
1030 did at that time is we had suggested fences as this lady did and Metro advised us not to do that.
1031 The Marshals advised, because they were worried about people being enclosed 'cause we knew,
1032 there – was a situation. We're close to down town and we have a problem because of that
1033 proximity.

1034 We talked about a community garden. That part has not come back into play yet and that might
1035 be something because then that draws people in on a daily basis in order to up keep and put those
1036 into place, which again helps with keeping just the homeless in there. It's a public park.
1037 Anybody's available to use it and we totally respect that part of it, but social services do not

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1038 belong being delivered in a public park. And what we would like to work with you on, and I
1039 think part of this discussion today is going to be, where else do we expand those services such as
1040 Shannon was talking about. What's working and what isn't working.

1041 I mentioned to someone today, I said, you know, the old Home Base has been sitting there empty
1042 for ever on Charleston. That could be a possible day shelter site that we maybe could look, take
1043 a look at. I don't even know who owns that any more. It wasn't the City; it was in a
1044 redevelopment area at one point. We're trying to look out for outreach services but not there.
1045 When you came to the park when you had the meeting, Mayor and Councilman Reese, we had
1046 fliers that had been distributed by whomever for condominiums, needles, –

1047

1048 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1049 Not condominiums.

1050

1051 **CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI**

1052 – bleaching kits –

1053

1054 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1055 Not condominiums.

1056

1057 **CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI**

1058 Sorry that was the last, that was the earlier debate, wasn't it?

1059

1060 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1061 I don't know, whether you –

1062

1063 **CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI**

1064 Just checking to see if you were listening.

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1065 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1066 Yeah. I don't know whether you've ever seen a condominium.

1067

1068 **CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI**

1069 Actually, I see condoms every morning when I walk. My husband and I walk every morning and
1070 every morning there are a batch of condoms on the, in the street. There are needles in the street.
1071 We try to pick them up because the kids walk to John S. Park for that part of it's improper. We –
1072 wanna be a neighborhood and we have been a neighborhood that is supportive, but we also
1073 believe that, you'll hear from some of the Maycrest people because they're even be, they're
1074 being more impacted at this point on the west side of Maryland Parkway than we are on the east
1075 side of Maryland, or I'm sorry, opposite. They're being more affected on the east side than we
1076 are on the west side. And there are some.

1077 We don't have an answer to everything but we're willing to work with you. I do think public
1078 outreach has to be there, I think more triaging. The State kindly, we got some money for you,
1079 it's not enough in order to be able to do it. But we do think that we need to work on getting the
1080 services out of the park so that we can benefit the homeless in the proper place that they need to
1081 be taken care of. Thank you.

1082

1083 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1084 Thank you very much. Yes, Sir.

1085

1086 **GREGORY BROWN**

1087 I'm Gregory Brown. I live at 606 Bonita Avenue. I'm President of the South Ridge
1088 Neighborhood Association, which is the area a bit to the south of the park. I'd like to first
1089 preference my remarks by agreeing with what Ben said, that we don't consider ourselves to be
1090 opposing the homeless and – some of us, we've been meeting to talk about this and speaking to
1091 the press. We've been trying hard to present this as something other than the residents versus the
1092 homeless.

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1093 I wanna just tell you briefly what was discussed when our neighborhood association met a
1094 couple of months ago and we talked about this. We had a couple dozen people. There was a
1095 minority who expressed some of the concerns that we've heard in wanting the park limited, in
1096 terms of access, by making it is children's park, but the clear majority wants to use this park and
1097 other downtown parks. And in fact there was a great deal of concern about any solution for
1098 Circle Park what the impact would be on Baker Park down on Saint Louis Parkway. This is
1099 another park that was recently renovated and which is greatly used by all kinds of people for
1100 soccer games, kids playing in the playground, the swimming pool in the summer. And there was
1101 a great deal of concern during the period when Circle Park was renovated, during the period that
1102 we saw some of the statistics for earlier, about increases in vagrancy in crime in Baker Park.
1103 This is entirely anecdotal but when you look at the statistics that ask you to look at what impact
1104 there was on Baker Park. I know that the Principal of Fremont Middle School, Mr. Metoya,
1105 asked the school district to increase its patrols of Baker Park during that period because he felt
1106 there was a greater incidence of transients and of crime, and a lot of the middle school students
1107 walk across that park to get there. But the most general comment that I want to make is that first
1108 and foremost our participants at our neighborhood meeting really want to see the park preserved,
1109 they want to see access preserved and even expanded and we're very pleased that the City in
1110 other moments is looking at increasing park presence in the downtown area.
1111 And we therefore urge you to look at solutions that are going to be comprehensive, meaning that
1112 will not simply sweep the problem down Maryland Parkway to Baker Park or to Jaycee Park.
1113 This would also, we hope, involve some longer term thinking along the lines of which we've
1114 heard that the short term, I think, concerns are very real; about trespassing, about property
1115 crimes, about defecation, other behavior. And, I know, because I'm out there in the morning that
1116 the Metro police and the Marshals are there and we appreciate that very much. And we'd like to
1117 see more police, in particular to protect the homes and businesses that are right near by.
1118 One suggestion that we're aware of living near Baker Park is that there was a period of time
1119 when there was a mobile trailer in the Community School in Baker Park. And that meant that
1120 there was a City employee there and a lot of people came, and I don't know why that was
1121 relocated, but I think it is an example of what Chris Salm was talking about, having some sort of
1122 presence, that not only puts a City employee there who can keep an eye on what's going on, but
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1123 also draws people in for use. And I think that and similar uses of the parks are one of the
1124 ingredients in improving the quality of life there. Thanks for your time.

1125

1126 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1127 Thank you, very much. Next, please.

1128

1129 **DOROTHY BARNES**

1130 Dorothy Barnes, homeless resident, been here since 1999 and complaining. It's, I want a
1131 solution. I sympathize with the people that live in these homes and things here, but I have a
1132 problem even when I lived in the shelters of them stifling off people and lying on them. It's
1133 okay, you know, if they need a little money but I'm sure the police department have some that
1134 assist these homeowners and these residents with money without them lying on homeless people,
1135 stifling off of them and some of them know what I'm talking about. I'm not accusing anyone in
1136 particular, but I have been victimized with this, people stick my name on Nellis and gamble on
1137 my ticket, they stifle on me, they're stealing. That's just like breaking in somebody's house or
1138 going in somebody's purse when they're doing it without your permission or the police
1139 department permission. And I do know they need either my permission or the police department
1140 permission because when they stick my name over there and lie on me, that's one thing they
1141 steal the money, but they put me in distress telling the lies to cover up for the theft.

1142 And that's, I don't know if any other homeless person has experienced theft but it's a no-no to
1143 lie on a homeless person and stifling off of them when they already in distress and living in a
1144 homeless shelter. And they are doing it. I don't know who all are doing it, but the ones that's
1145 doing it, that's one of the solutions to these problem. Don't stick the people name up in there
1146 and gamble on their ticket, don't put them on a program and play with them unless you're gonna
1147 get them organized and make sure they understand that they been used and then you are helping
1148 them in the process of stealing from them, the ones that are doing this. They do it in my home
1149 town. They lie, steal and cheat; these masons and elks know how they got these programs and
1150 these Rotarians and Knights of Columbus. They got these people on programs where they're
1151 playing with them, getting to commit sex because they tried to have sex with me on their

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1152 program and I'm not knocking it, if it's helping the people. I'm saying don't hurt the people and
1153 then lie and blame it all on them. Thank you.

1154

1155 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1156 Okay. Thank you. Next, please.

1157

1158 **KAREN VELJKOVIC**

1159 Afternoon, Karen Veljkovic, 807 East Oakey Boulevard. I have been a member of this
1160 community since 1962 and I have grown up with Circle Park. I used to take my grandson and
1161 granddaughter over there when the park first was redeveloped. I was very happy to see it there.
1162 I was disappointed there weren't toys but they still liked the tables and the water area. After a
1163 couple of months we had to stop going there because of the problems with the condoms and the
1164 syringes, the drinking, the homeless people. I just recently –

1165

1166 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1167 Did you actually see those, ma'am?

1168

1169 **KAREN VELJKOVIC**

1170 Yes, I did. Yes. I just recently decided I'd take my grandson over to Baker Park because maybe
1171 we could, it would be a little easier over there for him to play. They have the nice toys over
1172 there and we got over there and there were nine homeless people there all around the toy area.
1173 He's three years old, he's very friendly, and he was walking up to all of them trying to say hello
1174 and shake their hands and it took all of my effort to keep him away from those people. We
1175 found broken bottles over there, in the sand of the play area so we couldn't play there. Not to
1176 mention the fact that the toys were so hot that he couldn't slide down the slide because there is
1177 no protective cover over there.

1178 But the point is that we all were very happy to see the park redeveloped. We all hoped in the
1179 neighborhood that we could use it. I have five different family members who own homes in the
1180 neighborhood and another three different family members who are homeless and are living with

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1181 various family members in that area because they can't find a place to live or a job. So, I know a
1182 little bit about the homeless situation, I also know about the drug situation 'cause they affect my
1183 family personally.

1184 I know something has to be done and I know that there aren't enough programs out there to
1185 accommodate most of them or they don't want help, but in a way, basically, as far as I'm
1186 concerned, I've lost two neighborhood parks. I'm now gonna take my grandson all the way out
1187 to Summerlin because when I've been out there a few times for other family functions there have
1188 not been homeless people there. It just seems like because we're so close to downtown, we get a
1189 lot more than we normally would in other areas 'cause I have family and friends who live way
1190 out in the northwest and also out in Henderson and they don't have those problems in their parks.
1191 I'm really not quite sure what we have to do, but it just seems like they're all down here and we
1192 need to figure out a way to get our parks back and help them at the same time. Thank you.

1193

1194 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1195 Thank you.

1196

1197 **DAWN TATE**

1198 I didn't come to rant and rave. I came to see if I could offer up a solution.

1199

1200 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1201 Okay. How about your name first?

1202

1203 **DAWN TATE**

1204 Oh, Dawn Tate, I live on Sweeney Avenue. When I lived in Puerto Rico, there's rather large
1205 parks and they had a very similar problem, not with homelessness but young people and gangs
1206 and so on, and the police department at the time was out stretched because it's a small island.
1207 So, what they decided to do was have men who volunteer on mounted horseback to go through
1208 the park every day into the night and what it would prevent was a lot of people hanging around
1209 committing a crime and doing things they shouldn't be doing. And yes, it's true that because

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1210 Las Vegas is growing our police department is out stretched, committed to other crimes that are
1211 more important.

1212 So in a sense, maybe if you could use that tactic and have men or women who may not be police
1213 officers but could be entrusted to stop you or question you, whether they be on horseback or
1214 motorcycle, to go to the different parks where the problem exists and people would feel a little
1215 safer coming to the park because they would feel there was someone for them to speak to in case
1216 a problem arises.

1217 The second thing I was curious about was, we have a lady who feeds the homeless people, who
1218 lives obviously across from our park and she seems to be, I don't know much about the ACLU,
1219 but obviously they like to be involved in lawsuits, I was wondering, would it be wrong of the
1220 people who live in the area to put a class action lawsuit against them for invading our own
1221 privacy by allowing her to continue to do something which is not really healthy, so to speak,
1222 because if people eat something and get sick, technically it's – unhealthy. So, would it be wrong
1223 of the neighborhood to put a suit against the ACLU and this woman to prevent her from doing
1224 that.

1225 I don't know if these are suggestion that are viable, all I do know is since we had the meeting,
1226 from my own visual observation, when the Mayor Pro Tem said he would have more police,
1227 we've had it. We've had less young people with the spray paint, we've had less people parking
1228 and dealing the dope. So, all I do know is, if one of these solutions for the park could be
1229 enacted, it's not as much the homeless people that are of concern, it's the people that hide among
1230 the homeless population to commit a crime, which spans from that park. And that's all.

1231

1232 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1233 Thank you very much.

1234

1235 **KIM VELTE**

1236 Good evening my name is Kim Velte and I live in John S. Park. As a resident, my family, we've
1237 suffered some of the ill effects of the situation, such as having our car burglarized, having our
1238 home broken into and slept in. And most recently the last time I took my son to the park to play

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1239 in the water feature, which he loves, we had someone come and start bathing, literally, while he
1240 was playing. I love the park, we want it there, we're a growing family, we need resources like
1241 this to stay in that neighborhood. And some suggestion I'd like to, you know, suggest are what's
1242 already been discussed; maybe some secured fencing at least in part of the park where there's
1243 children's play area. I think it's important to have something there that bring the residents back
1244 in to use. A lot of residents in our neighborhood are huge dog enthusiasts so maybe a small dog
1245 park where people could come gather in the evenings.

1246 And another portion that I'd really like personally is the community garden. There are many,
1247 many, many gardeners in the area. And personally, I work for an organization that's a
1248 subdivision of the State called the Conservation District of Southern Nevada and we offer all of
1249 our services free of charge. We are on a mission by NRS and what we do is try and use
1250 conservation to promote community. So, something like a community garden, a demonstration
1251 garden, increasing the open space, the play areas in the park, this is what we do. And we've
1252 done is throughout Clark County most recently in the City of Henderson. We raised over
1253 \$600,000 in grant funds and matching community funds and coordinated volunteer services and
1254 programs to develop the Acacia Demonstration Gardens, which is a 2.8-acre gardens at their
1255 Acacia Park. We work with the city to do this. We continue to work with them to develop
1256 programs, seasonal classes where the community had come and learn about backyard
1257 composting, gardening.

1258 And I think having a community garden at Circle Park would be a great opportunity to do this,
1259 and we can bring our partnerships in from the master gardeners, from the cooperative extension.
1260 And it might be a good opportunity, not only for residents, but for the Circle Park Elementary
1261 School to bring them in and get them involved. And I think those might be legitimate uses to
1262 help get people using the park again.

1263

1264 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1265 Let me ask, go ahead, Mayor Pro Tem.

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1266 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

1267 I just want to ask her, what's the best variety tomato to plant in Las Vegas?

1268

1269 **KIM VELTE**

1270 Right now I'm having really good luck with Heartland and Hawaiian Tropic.

1271

1272 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

1273 I've got some Hawaiian Tropic and they're not doing too good.

1274

1275 **KIM VELTE**

1276 We'll talk later.

1277

1278 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

1279 My – Heartlands – didn't do nothing.

1280

1281 **KIM VELTE**

1282 I just picked two huge handfuls of black cherries this morning.

1283

1284 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

1285 You know, the Council really likes those.

1286

1287 **KIM VELTE**

1288 I'll keep that in mind.

1289

1290 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1291 I don't know where Henderson is but, with the park out there do they have homeless in that
1292 park?

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1293 **KIM VELTE**

1294 We don't and I'm not saying it would be an easy issue to put in a community gardens but places
1295 like Detroit, Crenchen High School has an amazing program that they started with their students
1296 for gardening and they have an entire line of products, Food from the Hood, that's in grocery
1297 stores of salad dressings and products that they sell. This has been done in major, you know,
1298 inner cities. It would take security, fencing, some kind of program where people apply for every
1299 year for a plot to use in that garden and had a key to get in. But there are grants, like the Land
1300 and Water Conservation Fund, which is administered through the Nevada Division of State
1301 Parks, which funds fencing for these kinds of projects.

1302

1303 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1304 Well, ma'am, afterwards if you'd be kind enough to give our City Manager your name and
1305 address, we'll get some of this information and follow up –

1306

1307 **KIM VELTE**

1308 I'll follow up with a letter to Councilman Reese's office as well.

1309

1310 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1311 Oh, that's even better. That's terrific. Thank you.

1312

1313 **KIM VELTE**

1314 Thank you.

1315

1316 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1317 Good. Yes, sir.

1318

1319 **JACK LEVINE**

1320 My name is Jack Levine, from 8th Place. One of the function, one of the things missing for the
1321 homeless, that I see, is a place where they can take a shower and a place where they can, maybe

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1322 do a load of laundry or trade in a dirty set of clothes for a clean set of clothes. Maybe even a
1323 place where they could have a little private locker with – a key then they come back to.
1324 The ones that I've talked to, and I try to talk to lots of people and – I talked to people in the park,
1325 that's one of their biggest complaints, is, I'd go get a job, but I, but nobody let me in their door
1326 because I stink.

1327

1328 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1329 That's funk.

1330

1331 **JACK LEVINE**

1332 And I don't know that that's true or not true or if there isn't something like that, but it would
1333 seem to me that that's the kind of facility that we could find.

1334

1335 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1336 They go plenty of them, my friend.

1337

1338 **JACK LEVINE**

1339 Is there plenty? They don't think –

1340

1341 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1342 They go to the Salvation Army, they could clean up. They go to Catholic Charities, they could
1343 clean up.

1344

1345 **JACK LEVINE**

1346 But then they have to be back out in the morning, don't they?

1347

1348 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1349 Well, get cleaned up and get a job.

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1350 **JACK LEVINE**

1351 Okay.

1352

1353 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1354 I got a job.

1355

1356 **JACK LEVINE**

1357 All right. Well, I do too, but I'd like to help them. All right. Anyway, that seems to me one of
1358 the services that are missing.

1359

1360 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1361 Sorry. I'm sorry, Mr. Lee, Mr. Levine? Mr. Levine, I was not killing the messenger, believe
1362 me.

1363

1364 **JACK LEVINE**

1365 Thank you.

1366

1367 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1368 You're welcome.

1369

1370 **DIANE SAMUEL**

1371 Hello, my name is Diane Samuel. I've been in the area, live at 1311 Jackson for 44 years. I've
1372 seen a lot of changes. My big question here is this, as to this young lady's statistics, 58 people
1373 denied help. That's 58 too many in Circle Park. Now, it's a small park, 58 people lying around
1374 that grass is intimidating. We don't want to bring our children and I don't wanna discuss all of
1375 what other – people had already discussed. What I'd like to know is leg, legalities, of, she even
1376 mentioned, these are people did – not want the help. These are mental people. What are, can we
1377 do something about mental people walking the streets and endangering themselves, as well as
1378 surrounding neighborhoods.

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1379 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1380 We're going – answer that.

1381

1382 **DIANE SAMUEL**

1383 Thank you.

1384

1385 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1386 That, I assure you. Okay. Anybody else, please. This is your chance. Yes, Mr. Christoff.

1387

1388 **CHRIS CHRISTOFF**

1389 Good evening, Your – Honor, City Council and the City Manager. Name is Christoff. I still
1390 have property at 327 Cincinnati, as well as other locations in Las Vegas and – the County. I
1391 want to give you some diagrams of your August 2nd 2002, and plus I would like to have the
1392 Council have a copy of this, Roni? If you don't have enough, I got some more.

1393

1394 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1395 Ms. West, you're not leaving, are you?

1396

1397 **SHANNON WEST**

1398 No, Sir.

1399

1400 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1401 Okay.

1402

1403 **CHRIS CHRISTOFF**

1404 Already disappeared. You know, Your Honor and Pro Tem Mayor and the Council, I think the
1405 people who live in these areas learn more about the area than the ones who plan it. Planning is
1406 great, as I know the Pro Tem Mayor had the Deputy Public Works rush and put this together
1407 from 2002 to 203 (sic), as I have documents saying that. But when they enhance the other old

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1408 park that was, at that time still home to a lot of homeless and other different types of people who
1409 attended that area for 12 years, they upgraded like you upgrade a hotel or a casino for better
1410 facilities and then they put in the bathroom and other facilities. Who would not be tempted to use
1411 that. Anybody that walks through there knowing the park is open to everybody.

1412 But what really made me look at something that I believe was overlooked, that says children
1413 area. Well, to me, that was a slap in the face to the – mother and father and to the residents of
1414 having a token of 10 percent of that facility stuck way up in front where the multitude of traffic
1415 goes north and south. I believe that if that facility was up put together with a facilities of
1416 recreation, like we have in other areas, like Oakey, up towards Rainbow, the Fire Memorial, that
1417 nobody ever uses because they don't have that need for it. But for the area, the low area that a
1418 lot of these people, and I notice because I go over there quite a bit through that area, there is a lot
1419 low, low income people living in that area, mixture of ethnic different types of nationality. So,
1420 it's closer for a couple of hours.

1421 But what I see, Your Honor, is something that was imbedded 12 years ago has increased multi a
1422 time, four times over with crime. I believe, and I heard a couple of people say it very nicely, and
1423 knowing that the Marshals do not have a substation in that area, a multi small one, that can be,
1424 what we call, in and out, would interrent, deterrent this problem very, very rapidly. And I should
1425 say on a 120-day trial, that I think it would enhance and solve the problem.

1426 Many people have good ideas, Your Honor, but the presence of volunteers, yes, I see it in other
1427 cities, but the presence of people who are not in Metro or in the Marshals, do you have an
1428 attitude of some of these people sort of arrogant and under defense and it would cause problems.
1429 So, I give you this thought. Plus, if you notice with the child area, there's no canopy. In the
1430 middle, Your Honor, is a \$75,000 canopy that to me is the most useless thing and it does not
1431 protect the children. Thank you very much.

1432

1433 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1434 Anybody else like to be heard? Yes, Sir.

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1435 **BILL GIBBS**

1436 Mayor, Council, I'm Officer Bill Gibbs with the Downtown Area Command. This is Officer
1437 Terry Roberts, my partner. First I'll let you know what we do with the police department.
1438 Specifically our assignment is with the HELP Team, the Homeless Evaluation Liaison Program.
1439 We're essentially the homeless cops for Metro, the two of us we deal with these folks everyday.
1440 We have been down to Circle Park on our own with doing outreach with Southern Nevada
1441 Mental Health trying to reach out to some of the, some of those with some mental problems that
1442 maybe need help. We're, what you call, this after side of police work. We do enforce laws, but
1443 we try to get these people an opportunity to get treatment where at just doing enforcement on
1444 them.

1445 Terry and I are out there everyday. Like I said, we work with Southern Nevada Mental Health.
1446 We've gone out at the request of City Marshals to do outreach out there 'cause Terry and I, we,
1447 we're pretty much a subject matter experts, as far as what set, what services are available to
1448 these people out there and we help direct them to them.

1449 Our – outreach at Circle Park has not been too successful. We have, what you call, the resistant,
1450 the service resistant folks. Many of them are happy to be in the park because they have a
1451 substance abuse problem that they can't continue at the shelters. The shelters don't tolerate
1452 drinking, they don't tolerate drug use. Getting on to the shelters saying, I've heard leading up to
1453 this point, that there are no services available for these people out there, that in the daytime they
1454 have no place to go. You know and I know that's not true. We work daily with Salvation Army,
1455 Catholic Charities. These shelters, while they put them out at five thirty in the morning so they
1456 can clean, they are giving them coffee and donuts while the shelter is being cleaned out. Once
1457 it's cleaned, at about seven thirty in the morning, they're allowed back in. They can stay out of
1458 the heat, they can shower, towels are provided, shaving supplies, other toiletries. They can
1459 shower there, they can make phone calls, they can do laundry at Salvation Army. So, to say that
1460 services aren't available for these, someone suggested getting trailers for them. You can have a
1461 million trailers, but if these people won't go to those trailers, those trailers are a waste. So,
1462 services are available up there.

1463 The Salvation Army, like I said, we work daily with these folks. Not one person has ever been
1464 turned away for a lack of space in Salvation Army or in Catholic Charities summer inclement
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1465 shelter this year. Not one. So, if these people are not going to the shelters, they don't want to be
1466 at the shelters. And probably shouldn't be saying that, that's my personal opinion working as a
1467 police officer, but those are my daily interaction with these people and that's what I see when
1468 I'm out there.

1469

1470 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1471 Well, I appreciate that and that's what I've been saying for seven years now, you know. This
1472 City is able to provide services for those who want to be helped. We've got our 10-year plan,
1473 our 10-program plan, we got people like Ms. West out there who are able to reach out and say, if
1474 you need help we have the services to help you. And then we've got those who are the service
1475 resistant who don't know better in many of the time as to how help could be provided and how
1476 they could benefit from that help. And that's something that we're going have to address here
1477 today. Where I take offense, I take offense with those who choose that lifestyle to the detriment
1478 of the neighborhood who don't have the mental problems, who don't have the physical
1479 problems, who just like to live that life non responsibility and defecate and urinate in people's
1480 yards and ruin their quality of life. I got no tolerance for those people. They're the ones who I
1481 would like to see shipped out of here, to be quite frank with you.

1482 But, but folks, the reason that we are unable to accomplish this, and there'll be some very smug
1483 members of those who are going to criticize us tomorrow morning for even trying to get an
1484 answer because those folks who will write about this, they never give you a solution, they just
1485 like to criticize you. They don't do anything constructive. And they're going to say that the
1486 Mayor made this big speech, but the truth of the matter is they don't help us because they give
1487 support to, with the enablers to allow these problems to continue out there instead of getting
1488 solutions to the problems that we're trying to arrive at today. So, I appreciate your honesty,
1489 Officer, not only you are big tipper when you drink, but you are, you're – one of the few really
1490 honest cops that I've come across in my life.

1491 Okay. I'm happy to hear from the public before I, yes.

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1492 **BILL GIBBS**

1493 Councilman Brown, I think he has a question.

1494

1495 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1496 Yes, certainly.

1497

1498 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1499 Please.

1500

1501 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1502 Yes, please.

1503

1504 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1505 Thank you, Your Honor. Officer Gibbs, two questions. One deals with the issue of this service,
1506 food service that's provided. I don't know enough about the background; who they are, but what
1507 – is your opinion in your role as the Metro homeless group of these type services, the satellite
1508 food service.

1509

1510 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1511 I'm also, in response to your question, we have, Mr. Sonnenberg, from Salvation Army who's
1512 ready to address that issue as well.

1513

1514 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1515 Oh, I'm sorry.

1516

1517 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1518 No, it's fine, it's great. Both are terrific.

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1519 **TERRY ROBERTS**

1520 Councilman Brown, Officer Roberts, I'm also, Mike Dillon mentioned part of the HELP Team.
1521 What we notice as the folks that are out there feeding, we consider that to be very unhealthy. It
1522 will get you, maybe eight, ten hours away from your job could give these folks a week, a month,
1523 maybe even death. So, trying to – tell these people, please don't go out and feed, maybe go take
1524 your money, your time to the shelters, they don't want hear that. They want to do it because they
1525 feel like they're doing something really good.

1526

1527 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1528 And is it, in your opinion, have you seen a history of when these satellite food service groups or
1529 individuals, is that become an attraction –

1530

1531 **BILL GIBBS**

1532 Absolutely.

1533

1534 **TERRY ROBERTS**

1535 Absolutely.

1536

1537 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1538 – for the homeless. Is there a homeless network that they know what parks, what times –

1539

1540 **TERRY ROBERTS**

1541 The words – the words get out.

1542

1543 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1544 – what dates.

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1545 **TERRY ROBERTS**

1546 And if – we’re not enforcing it, they’ll be there. It’s kind like if – you build it they’ll come. It’s
1547 the same type of scenario. If we allow them to continue to feed more and more people will
1548 come; once it’s 58, it’ll be a hundred and sixteen and it becomes a law enforcement issue.

1549

1550 **BILL GIBBS**

1551 Well it’s not – against the law to be homeless. There are acts that people commit that are illegal
1552 in the course of their homelessness and some of those who enable the homelessness, I mean, if –
1553 you had to go to the shelter where services are available to maybe hook you up with Clark
1554 County Social Services or get yourself benefits or get yourself some mental health help at the
1555 shelters where the feeding takes place or I can continue to drink, use my drugs and feed at a
1556 satellite area where I don’t have to go to those places, I’m never, I’m not going to have the
1557 motivation, I’m not going to be exposed to these services that might help me if I’m eating out in
1558 the middle of a field somewhere. If I have to go to the shelter and I have to go eat at a shelter, I
1559 might just bump into somebody who might get me out of homelessness.

1560

1561 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1562 The travel habit of a – homeless person is the downtown corridor where Salvation Army and
1563 Catholic Charities, is that too far of a distance to Circle Park for them to make, do they usually
1564 try to stay in one place as long as they can or they actually move around?

1565

1566 **BILL GIBBS**

1567 Some are nomadic, some will stay and you can – find them in the same place all the time, but
1568 several are nomadic. Is it too far? It’s not.

1569

1570 **TERRY ROBERTS**

1571 Absolutely not.

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1572 **BILL GIBBS**

1573 It's not at all. In fact, not just as far as getting up to the – services, important to know that we
1574 also have another service with the Metropolitan Police Department that we oversee, which is
1575 PATH, Police Assisting Travelers Home. There are people that claim to be stranded here in Las
1576 Vegas and we'll help those people with a bus ticket to get back home, if that's your problem. As
1577 long as they have someone to go back to in that town, we won't let somebody go to another town
1578 to be homeless, but if they have somebody willing to take them in, and we've offered this up to
1579 the people at Circle Park as well and we've had no takers on it.

1580

1581 **COUCILMAN BROWN**

1582 And the last question, thank you, is what creates the comfort level for a designated park, like
1583 Circle Park? I can understand if someone it's feeding them, they'll go there. But is it, you – talk
1584 about 50 becomes, a hundred becomes 200, do they find that security in numbers? Is it – a
1585 situation where they continue to gather as long as there aren't police presence or Marshals
1586 presence.

1587

1588 **BILL GIBBS**

1589 Even our experience, it's been (inaudible) resistance, is what it is.

1590

1591 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

1592 Your Honor?

1593

1594 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1595 Yes.

1596

1597 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1598 Thank you, Your Honor.

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1599 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1600 Thank you.

1601

1602 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

1603 Along the same – questions that Councilman Brown he was, the road he was going down, I think
1604 what I've seen in my – experiences, is when we start feeding the homeless away from providers,
1605 that once they get over there they find a comfort level, then they don't have to go back over there
1606 where they have to give up their drugs and alcohol. So, we are taking them away from potential
1607 help and we're – putting them, they feed them once a day and so they will lounge in the park for
1608 a couple of hours. When they get out of the park then they dissipate into the neighborhood.
1609 That's where we have our problems. And I – think the farther you – get these individuals away
1610 from service providers, the worse, we're making – the problem worse. And I – think that we
1611 have to keep them close to the service – providers if they want to get the help.

1612 And I'm going let the Mayor continue 'cause he's going down the right path.

1613

1614 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1615 Mayor Goodman?

1616

1617 **BILL GIBBS**

1618 And I think it's important to note that, you know, Metro is not anti-homeless that's why they
1619 have Terry and myself out doing this. And we do a good job for those who are willing to take
1620 the help.

1621

1622 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1623 And the truth of the matter is, the comment that we heard when we were out there that day, the
1624 Mayor Pro Tem and myself, we heard that law enforcement was too gentle with the homeless,
1625 and that was from the homeless. Okay?

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1626 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

1627 Mr. Mayor?

1628

1629 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1630 I want that part – of the record too.

1631

1632 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

1633 Mr. Mayor?

1634

1635 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1636 Yes.

1637

1638 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

1639 And I spoke with the directors straight from the streets and you know what a strong advocate she
1640 is for the homeless and how she's battle for them for years. And she just told me last week, she
1641 feels this is the wrong way to go. She said you're – offering a crutch and you're not getting
1642 them the help that they need. And when you get it from someone that's been that strong an
1643 advocate, I think it indicates to us that we have to go in a different direction.

1644

1645 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1646 Thank you. Councilman Wolfson?

1647

1648 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1649 The – two types of categories of problems that we're talking, and I'll label them, invasion of
1650 property rights; the defecation, the urination, the rummaging through trash cans and those kind
1651 of things, then we got the crime; the people that are committing the burglaries and the assaults
1652 and the batteries. And actually that one chart that we were provided, I think by Mr. Sanchez,
1653 with the color codes of what – crimes are committed where, it is – very telling. My question is
1654 this, is there any information as to the times that most of these things are occurring. Now, I

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1655 know I've lumped it into one category, but are most of the things we're talking about, the things
1656 that are problematic, occur in the daytime hours, the nighttime hours? Is there a difference
1657 between when most of these things are occurring?

1658

1659 **BILL GIBBS**

1660 The thing of the Circle Park specifically or the homeless population in general?

1661

1662 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1663 Well, I'm talking about the Circle Park neighborhood and the homeless people who I think were
1664 inferring the cause of these problems.

1665

1666 **BILL GIBBS**

1667 Our – crime statistic analyst would be the ones who would better answer that question for you.
1668 In fact, Lieutenant Charoen, I know, that does have some, the – statistics he didn't have earlier
1669 regarding what crimes are taking place down there, who is being arrested for those crimes, we
1670 have that for you now.

1671

1672 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1673 Ah, terrific.

1674

1675 **BILL GIBBS**

1676 I don't know if it's time specific.

1677

1678 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1679 Well, and the reason, and I'd like to hear from the Lieutenant, but the reason I'm – focusing on
1680 this is that I'm wondering if part of the issue is the timeframe. In other words, should we
1681 increase law enforcement at certain times of the day or night or should we except certain services
1682 to be offered only in certain times. Lieutenant, do you have some insight into that?

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1683 **PAT CHAROEN**

1684 We have the capability of pulling all the information that you have asked for. With increasing
1685 law enforcement in certain time of day, our day shift which work from seven o'clock to four
1686 o'clock in the afternoon, on any good given day, we have about 14 officers out in Downtown
1687 Area Command, which covers about 10 square miles radius downtown.

1688 On swing shift, on a good night, we have 21 police officer, that's on Friday and Saturday night.

1689 On grave shift, if we're lucky, they're 12. Regardless of what time all these crimes happening,
1690 we attempt to put our personnel and or resources into the problem that we have. Couple of years
1691 ago when downtown started the initiative, we have established the business council and resident
1692 councils and we hear from our resident councils and business members who bring all the
1693 questions and all concerns that they have within their neighborhood, the Downtown Area
1694 Command, and we address it.

1695 The John S. Park Neighborhood Association, for example, have (inaudible) concerns to
1696 downtown. Then, Captain Ted Muddy, have addressed issues that we have with major problem
1697 that we have on Fremont Street, two, three years back. When we do concentrate law
1698 enforcement on Fremont, we do have a little bit of displacement. Once those occurred, we
1699 tackled those small displacements into the neighborhood and we take care of those problems.

1700 Several times we have neighborhood association meeting, Councilman – Reese himself had led
1701 some of those meetings to share the concerns with the citizens. Again, the limited law
1702 enforcement personnel that we have, not saying we're not doing anything, how we put our
1703 resources where it needed the most.

1704 And I do have some statistics to show you, if we can bring this up really quick. I don't know if
1705 this is the –

1706

1707 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1708 Overhead, please.

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1709 **PAT CHAROEN**

1710 This is the six months period stemming from January 1 of this year to June 18th. You see the
1711 highlighted areas or the asterisks on some of those, I can't see the numbers in there. Can you see
1712 the numbers and all?

1713

1714 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1715 No, we can't.

1716

1717 **PAT CHAROEN**

1718 Let me read off some of these to you.

1719

1720 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1721 All right. Please.

1722

1723 **PAT CHAROEN**

1724 All crime ranges from misdemeanors, such as petty larceny, we have between seven in January
1725 and three of those last month, May of two thousand and six. That's a whole month. Other
1726 nuisance crime; anything from people calling in to see that, they may see such a thing I
1727 mentioned in the past; condoms or syringes and things like that. In January of '06 we have 50 of
1728 those calls. May of this year; 39. Not much of a difference. And some of those that I mentioned
1729 earlier, suspicious person, is always in the teens. But in February we had 22. That's means that
1730 any of these persons that may have go into the neighborhood and concerned citizen call the
1731 police department. These 911 calls that go into the police department does not include what the
1732 City Marshals responded to. This is just Metro police.

1733 And our statistical data was pulled from Charleston, Oakey and Las Vegas Boulevard and
1734 Spencer, which is approximately a mile and a half radius over Circle Park itself. Did I answer
1735 your question, Councilman?

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1736 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1737 In part. As a quick follow up, is the park open 24 hours?

1738

1739 **PAT CHAROEN**

1740 No.

1741

1742 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1743 So, it closes at night.

1744

1745 **PAT CHAROEN**

1746 I believe is close at eleven o'clock.

1747

1748 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER**

1749 Ten o'clock.

1750

1751 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1752 Oh, is ten p.m. and then opens at –

1753

1754 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER**

1755 Seven.

1756

1757 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1758 Now does that – mean that nobody is allowed in the park during those closed hours? Do we

1759 have people there patrolling on a – daily basis or nightly basis?

1760

1761 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

1762 I can't speak for (inaudible) for the Marshals.

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1763 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1764 I mean, is the problem, 'cause I'll be willing to bet that most of the crimes are occurring in the
1765 evening hours versus the daytime hours.

1766

1767 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

1768 We have very few closure-hour crimes occurring there. We've come in, we stay after two
1769 o'clock, 'cause we get off at two o'clock. We've had Marshals stay after two o'clock till four
1770 o'clock in the morning or so to see if we've had people in there then. We've had marshals come
1771 in around four o'clock to see if we have people in the park, but generally the park is empty at
1772 night.

1773

1774 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1775 Okay. So, and during the closed hours, generally, there – are no people in the park?

1776

1777 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

1778 No. Gen – the, park closure, we'll get park closure offenses but they'll be right after park closure
1779 so it'll be just after ten o'clock. The officers will go through there to see that everybody's out
1780 and that's when they'll get most of the park closure. Or just before the park opens, they start
1781 filtering back in there just before the park opens as well, and that's when we'll get some too.

1782

1783 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1784 Okay. So, then I'm wrong. Then – most of the, either criminal activity or, as I'm calling it,
1785 invasion of property rights activity, is occurring during the hours that the park is open.

1786

1787 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

1788 Correct.

1789

1790 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1791 When the – people who gather in the park are – in the park.

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1792 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

1793 Or just after the park –

1794

1795 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1796 Just before or just after.

1797

1798 **TIMOTHY SHATTLER**

1799 – or after. Yes.

1800

1801 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

1802 Okay.

1803

1804 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1805 All right. Thank you. Thank you, gentlemen. Mr. Sonnenberg would you be kind enough to tell
1806 us your opinion as far as feeding the homeless in the park. First identify yourself and tell us your
1807 position with Salvation Army, please.

1808

1809 **DUANE SONNENBERG**

1810 I'm Duane Sonnenberg, currently I'm the director of Grants and Special Projects. For the past
1811 19 years I've worked with Salvation Army, primarily with the homeless population. The
1812 Salvation Army and Catholic Charities, Las Vegas Rescue Mission, Lutheran Social Services, all
1813 have significant effort going into providing food, not only for housed families through our family
1814 services, but particularly for the homeless. We feed over a thousand meals a day at the Salvation
1815 Army, probably 400 of those go directly to homeless individuals in the afternoon. Catholic
1816 Charities will do the same thing in a – morning meal, and the Las Vegas Rescue Mission will do
1817 the same thing in the evening. Both Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army have recently
1818 built new state of the art kitchens. We could easily triple our capacity on our campus with the
1819 new facility, not only in the preparation of meals but also in the feeding of individuals using our

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1820 dining facilities in a, you know, just a sequential manner. So, we have no problem with
1821 significant increases in our ability to meet the need of feeding homeless people.

1822 In the past, we have invited community individuals and other faith-based groups if they want to
1823 feed to come onto our property. We had a number that would feed over on Stocker across the
1824 street and the result was, or several results, one is when they showed up it was very dangerous
1825 crossing the street because those individuals who saw the food wanted to be first in line, and
1826 without regard to traffic or safety, immediately charged across the street. After they fed the
1827 homeless, there – was a significant amount of debris and residue left that cluttered up the
1828 neighborhood because they did not have adequate trash bags or trash cans to collect the food.
1829 Oftentimes they were in Styrofoam containers so the people would walk down the street eating
1830 as they walked and unfortunately wherever they stopped is where the container was left. And
1831 even when we invited them onto our property, we found that it became more problematic for us
1832 because we did have to clean up after they assisted us in – serving the homeless.

1833 So, the best solution for us is to pull their resources and allow us to feed through our kitchen
1834 rather than bringing food, prepared food, onto the property. Someone earlier mentioned the –
1835 health issues. If you prepare meals at home, you put'em in your car; if you've got tuna fish and
1836 you don't keep it cold, it's not gonna be safe. If you have hot meals and you don't keep it warm,
1837 it's not gonna be safe. So those – feedings in the parks and – on the street, from my perspective,
1838 are more problematic than they are helpful.

1839 Another factor that needs to be figured in with serving out in the community is that generally
1840 they, there is no access to resources there. Both Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, and Rescue
1841 Mission, Lutheran Social Services and others, we have staff available, probably 12 to 14 hours a
1842 day. Both at our Safe Haven, at the shelter, at our new Lied vocational training center, Pathways
1843 and other groups. So we have individuals who know the available resources to the homeless and
1844 those individuals can be steered toward appropriate resources if we can't provide them for
1845 ourselves.

1846

1847 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1848 Thank you, very much. That's very helpful. All right. Anybody else?

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1849 **CAROLE CARPENTER**

1850 My name is Carole Carpenter. I've lived in the area for 45 years. I've seen our quality of life
1851 deteriorate extensively over those years. We've gotten, they've come and they've gone.
1852 There've been problems in the '70s, I believe. I too wanna thank our police officers for their
1853 honesty. I believe they were being honest, but I wanna speak tonight as a taxpayer. We've been
1854 paying taxes in this area for as many years as I've lived here and I, all the people that I know,
1855 have too. Our benefits have been very little, actually, from the City. We get, we had to put in
1856 our own lights, our own sidewalks, everything. The City, we paid for the lights, they put the
1857 lights in the middle of the sidewalk so that the – wheelchairs couldn't go on. Oh, okay. I don't
1858 wanna complain about that because, unfortunately, if they change those, I'll have to pay to have
1859 them reinstalled a second time. We've heard a lot tonight about the problems of the homeless
1860 and the problems of the people, their problems, their needs, but we don't hear a whole lot about
1861 the problems of those of us who have lived there as long as we have and paid the money that
1862 finances all of this. And I'd like to see something done, just like everybody else would.

1863

1864 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1865 That's why we're here.

1866

1867 **CAROLE CARPENTER**

1868 That's good. I'm glad to hear it.

1869

1870 **PAMELA VALENCIA**

1871 Pamela Valencia from Lutheran Social Services of Nevada. We're located on the campus of the
1872 Calvary Lutheran Church, 800 North Bruce Street, we're about two miles or less from Circle
1873 Park. We do offer services to the homeless at our agency Monday through Friday. We offer
1874 food kits to the homeless that are non, consist of non-perishable food items that they could take
1875 with them as snacks or whatever that they need to supplement meals that are provided to the
1876 homeless throughout the community. Also, we have other services that we provide to the
1877 homeless and we would really encourage individuals who would provide services to the

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1878 homeless to direct the homeless to agencies such as ours where, in addition to giving out food to
1879 individuals, we can also connect them with other services that are available. For example, we
1880 have a birth certificate project where over the past 12 months we have served over 400
1881 chronically homeless individuals with obtaining a certified copy of their birth certificate from
1882 wherever they were born, and then following that up with helping them to obtain a Nevada State
1883 ID card. So, we – really like to encourage individuals who are out in the community helping the
1884 homeless to – direct them to the agencies that have other services to provide.

1885

1886 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1887 Very good. Thank you.

1888

1889 **PAMELA VALENCIA**

1890 Thank you, sir.

1891

1892 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1893 Your Honor.

1894

1895 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1896 Yes.

1897

1898 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1899 If I could ask a question or two.

1900

1901 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1902 Yes. Excuse me. Ma'am, ma'am, Councilman Brown has a question.

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1903 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1904 Or Ms. West, do – we have, with all the good work that, not only your group and Catholic
1905 Charities and Salvation Army, does the coalition share data as far as the homeless person and
1906 services? I'm not sure if we can track people –

1907

1908 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1909 Yeah, we do.

1910

1911 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

1912 So, you're not independent of the good that's being done down the street. There's –

1913

1914 **SHANNON WEST**

1915 Right. There – is networks that are setup so the homeless providers can work together to kind of
1916 network their programs and I think what we're doing a better job of as a region is building then
1917 the capacity of those agencies to serve more in targeted areas. And then we also, HUD demands,
1918 if we're using their money, that we use a homeless management information system that helps us
1919 to actually enter our homeless folks into a computer so we can see the kind of services that we're
1920 delivering and track that as well.

1921

1922 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1923 Thank you, very much.

1924

1925 **PAMELA VALENCIA**

1926 Absolutely. Each individual has their preference of social service agency that they would like to
1927 choose for us. We're a faith based social service agency, so we probably attract a lot of
1928 individuals that might not go to a public organization, but they may come to a faith-based
1929 organization because they feel more comfortable. But, nevertheless, we all collaborate together
1930 and working together to serve the same purpose.

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1931 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1932 Thank you. Yes, ma'am.

1933

1934 **NICOLE ROGERS**

1935 My name is Nicole Rogers and I'm both a resident at the neighborhood and I also work with the
1936 Las Vegas Outreach Team and we are actually a collaboration of outreach workers from various
1937 agencies among the City. We have a – I'm a representative from West Care, Rape Crisis Center,
1938 and Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youths, Street Teens and we work with all the various
1939 social services in town. And what our goal is as an Outreach Team is to convent, to connect the
1940 homeless and other people on the streets with social services.

1941 Quickly, I would just like to speak to the service resistant that we've been talking about a lot. It
1942 is my experience, and I don't have any research or data with me, unfortunately, I don't know that
1943 there's any out there, but my experience with home, homeless that are resistant to services are
1944 those that do have an addiction problem. And, as anybody here knows, anybody with an
1945 addiction, it's very hard to go into a service and to give it up cold turkey. And, what I would like
1946 to say, is we have one detox center in town and that's West Care and they do, they provide a
1947 wonderful service. And when I'm out there on the streets working with folks, it is very hard
1948 sometimes to get people into a detox center when there's only one and there's unlimited beds.
1949 And we do our best to do that and they're a wonderful facility and there is that option. But I
1950 would just like to state that there is only one and I – think that – would be something that maybe
1951 we could look at is a better detox program, because once we could get people in and get over the
1952 initial, you know, body detoxing from alcohol or drugs then we can maybe become, you know,
1953 more successful in getting them into services that they would be resistant to.

1954

1955 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1956 All right. Thank you, very much. Okay. But I want to get on so –

1957

1958 **ARTHUR KELLY**

1959 I'll keep it brief.

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1960 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1961 Thank you.

1962

1963 **ARTHUR KELLY**

1964 I'm Arthur Kelly, I live on Franklin Avenue, just four houses up. I teach at Fremont Middle
1965 School and work with the family writing project over there at Fremont. And, I guess the first
1966 thing I'd like to say as – a community member who lives very close to the park, teaches right
1967 there in the neighborhood and I work with so many people in the community. There is definitely
1968 some, a lot of compassion, a lot of feeling. Our Family Writing Project did a clothing drive last
1969 Christmas where we gave the clothes to the shelter behind our school at the church where people
1970 line up and pick things up during the day. We didn't go the park and distribute it although that
1971 was brought up. The family members, at first, said could we do that. We decided that wasn't a
1972 good idea. Now, I think our community really lost something when Baker Community Park left.
1973 That community park, our Family Writing Project partnered with the community park and it
1974 provided services right there in the neighborhood; it was structured, it was represented to the
1975 City, Parks and Recreation Department. And when Circle Park opened up I was really excited
1976 'cause I've been doing community gardening in conjunction with YNAPP for six years at
1977 Fremont Middle School and we thought, hey, this is gonna be our chance, put our community
1978 garden, now, where people can see it instead of on the school campus, but nothing ever
1979 materialized. And I just would like to put a, sort of seconding what other people had said with
1980 the idea of community gardening, maybe establishing a community park there where there's
1981 classes taught, where there's a reason for people in the neighborhood to go there regularly. I
1982 think it would be great. Thank you.

1983

1984 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1985 Okay.

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1986 **ANNIE WILSON**

1987 Hello, my name is Annie Wilson. I was recently hired by Metro as the Homes Liaison person. I
1988 work with the health team officers over here. When social services did their Outreach program
1989 at the, at Circle Park, I was there too. The ones that they couldn't place, I was able to replace a
1990 lot, to place a lot of those people in placement. Now, we did help some people out there, they
1991 were under the influence. At that time, we did, they were transported to West Care detox, but
1992 what I found is that a lot of the problems from Circle Park stems from the jail. A lot of the
1993 people there, they were recently released from the jail. So, what I did I made a call to Georgene,
1994 who's over the social workers at the jail maybe to set up a discharge planner at the jail to where
1995 she could help when these people are released from – jail. Maybe she can find placement for
1996 them. They have six social workers over there.

1997

1998 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

1999 Thank you, very much. I didn't know that. That's a real good point. Let's keep that in mind
2000 when we start talking about the big jail that everybody wants to put down in the heart of the City.
2001 Okay. Let's remember that. Yes.

2002

2003 **STEVE FRANKLIN**

2004 Hi, I'm Steve Franklin. I live at 1704 South Seventh Street and just wanted to take a moment to
2005 thank you, Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem Reese for, and also the City staff for coming down to City
2006 (sic) Park a couple weeks ago to listen to concerns of the residents. A couple of people said that
2007 the area is getting worse and I believe that the area is actually getting better. There's a lot of
2008 people that are moving into the area; they're fixing up their homes and I think it's the most
2009 exciting place to live in Las Vegas, and I love living in the area and I just wanted to say that I
2010 appreciate you guy's concern and attention. There's some great minds here to help deal with this
2011 situation and you've got access to some great minds as well and I just look forward to a really
2012 good solution that will also keep the ACLU at bay as well.

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2013 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2014 All right. Thank you. Okay. All right. Thank you very much everybody. I appreciate that. I'm
2015 gonna ask our City Attorney, Brad Jerbic, to make a brief presentation as to what we can or
2016 cannot do legally and what your suggestion is to us and then I'll hear from the Council and then
2017 I'm gonna make a motion.

2018

2019 **CITY ATTORNEY JERBIC**

2020 Thank you, Your Honor, members of Council, almost everybody in the neighborhood who came
2021 here tonight. As you heard Councilman, Mayor Pro Tem Reese, at the neighborhood rally a few
2022 weeks ago charged our office with looking at solutions to this problem. Let me just start with a
2023 couple things that we can easily identify and get our arms around. I think that with any person
2024 who is wounded and hemorrhaging, the first thing you do is you stop the bleeding, then you go
2025 in and do the fine work to repair the wound. I think this park in this neighborhood in some ways
2026 is no different. Right now there is a – hemorrhaging of resources being spent on dealing with the
2027 problems collected with vagrancy and transients at this park. People can call it by any other
2028 name but that's exactly what it is. As a result of that, some of the statistics that were introduced
2029 are interesting. I'm just going to put one chart back up, Your Honor, with your permission.

2030

2031 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2032 All right. Let me ask you this, while you're finding your chart, are we allowed to arrest people
2033 for public intoxication?

2034

2035 **CITY ATTORNEY JERBIC**

2036 Turn to our marshals. Nope.

2037

2038 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2039 We can't arrest people if they're drunk in public?

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2040 **CITY ATTORNEY JERBIC**

2041 Well we, there are towns –

2042

2043 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2044 Well, I'll – sleep a little easier tonight, then.

2045

2046 **CITY ATTORNEY JERBIC**

2047 Let me – may I, state, Your Honor.

2048

2049 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2050 Jesus Christ.

2051

2052 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

2053 (inaudible)

2054

2055 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2056 God Bless. Yes.

2057

2058 **CITY ATTORNEY JERBIC**

2059 May I state that – there's no constitutional issue with passing a law that would prohibit public

2060 intoxication. We don't have one here. As somebody said a moment ago, I can hear them in the

2061 background saying this is Las Vegas. We have people on Fremont Street and the Strip inebriated

2062 on a regular basis and distinguishing between that population and populations of other areas of

2063 towns is a little difficult if you wanted to do it by ordinance. But, if you want us to consider it,

2064 we'll go ahead and make a report to you on it.

2065 This is the chart, and it's not that different from the other one that was January to May

2066 2004/2006. Cumulative to date, and this is remarkable, 53 percent of all resources, now this is

2067 every park in the City of Las Vegas, every single park, for a two-year period, cumulative, 53

2068 percent of the arrest and citations came from Huntridge. And if you go down to May, January to

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2069 May, the first five months of this year, 80 percent of all arrests and citations that have occurred
2070 in every city park in this City, and there's a lot of them, came out of Huntridge. We are spending
2071 an enormous amount of resources.

2072

2073 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER**

2074 It's not every park.

2075

2076 **CITY ATTORNEY JERBIC**

2077 I'm sorry.

2078

2079 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER**

2080 It's just, what we did is we looked at parks between two and four acres –

2081

2082 **CITY ATTORNEY JERBIC**

2083 Okay.

2084

2085 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER**

2086 – which Huntridge is three acres. So, we looked at that instead of parks.

2087

2088 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2089 All right. Thank you.

2090

2091 **UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER**

2092 So, it's the parks that are listed on the side here. Those are the ones that we looked.

2093

2094 **CITY ATTORNEY JERBIC**

2095 Yeah, well let's look at some of those too because I still think the point is, it's still well made.

2096 Charleston Heights, Cimarron Rose, Coleman, Cragin, Durango Hills, these – are substantial

2097 parks and – they are spread out all over town, these aren't just downtown parks. These aren't

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2098 located in just one ward of the City. These are spread throughout the City and of parks this size,
2099 I stand corrected, 80 percent of arrest and citations are just Huntridge. That – is involving a lot
2100 of your resources through your Marshal's unit, through Metro, through the City's Attorney's
2101 Office and prosecutions and so let me identify a couple of the things that I think we can do
2102 something about.

2103 Number one; let's talk the feedings that are occurring at the park. You've heard from both
2104 service providers and from the police department that it does absolutely no good to literally lure,
2105 and I'm using that word deliberately, lure a transient or a vagrant from a service provider and
2106 bring them to an area with no service provider and give them just a meal. You, what you're
2107 doing is you're taking a segment of our population that is very service intensive, that needs beds,
2108 that needs sometimes medical treatment, sometimes needs doctors, definitely needs jobs, needs a
2109 whole variety of services in addition to just a single meal and pulling them away from those
2110 services and establishing a temporary food feeding service, a mobile soup kitchen, if you will, in
2111 the middle of a neighborhood park. That is not something we would allow the Salvation Army
2112 to do. We wouldn't allow Catholic Charities to do it and yet, we have an individual who is
2113 doing it right now, and that has led to chaos.

2114 What I – have researched, one, is we have a law on the books that we have been enforcing and I
2115 don't wanna talk about pending citations or pending lawsuits, but to a certain extent I – have to
2116 mention them for purposes of this presentation. We have issued two citations already because
2117 we have a Code that requires that if you're going to cause a gathering of 25 or more, and I'm
2118 paraphrasing now, you need to get a permit from the park's director. That is our Code,
2119 1336.080. 1336.090 states the reasons of which a park director may deny such a permit. Let me
2120 just read very quickly so that nobody's under any false delusions that we're ever going to give
2121 one for a mobile soup kitchen. 13.3609 (sic) this says the director may deny or condition the
2122 issuance of a permit, which is applied to pursuant to this section, in order to, one, protect the use
2123 and enjoyment of the park or facility for other members of the public. Now, you've heard
2124 testimony about all the things that happen when you bring a service intensive population out of
2125 an area where they can receive services, dump them in a park where there are no services. You
2126 have public urination, you have public washing of clothes, you have debris and then you have, as

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2127 Your Honor said, by inference, by inference and maybe inference only, an inference that more
2128 crimes occur as a result of this population coming to this park.

2129 And – I'll tell you what, I think it's a very logical inference. If you have a number of people that
2130 have lived in this neighborhood for many years and crime before the park was closed is at a
2131 certain level and then the park is closed and it goes down considerably and then goes back up
2132 considerably when you reopen it, the, if – it isn't people from outside the neighborhood
2133 committing the crimes, then what you've gotta believe is that everybody in the neighborhood
2134 commits crimes, but only when the park's open. And that's absurd. That's absurd. So, I would
2135 submit to you that it's a very logical inference, and I'm not saying that it's provable just by that
2136 observation alone, but it's certainly worth consideration. I think that, let me continue through
2137 this list of – protecting the public and other – things on the list that the director can consider.
2138 Excuse me, one moment. I managed to shuffle my papers in just a second.

2139 Number two; protect the health and safety of all persons who visit the park or facility. To our
2140 knowledge, the individual distributing food out here doesn't even have a Clark County Health
2141 Food Permit. Now, I will bet you that shelters in town that distribute food are subject to some
2142 kind of health law. And I will bet you that some of this food that – is being prepared and served
2143 is not passing any kind of a health test. I'm not saying it's bad to eat, but I'm just saying, it's not
2144 subject to the scrutiny by the Clark County Health District.

2145 B or – C, ensure that there's adequate parking and sanitary facilities to accommodate all persons
2146 who use the park or facility. Well, at this particular park there are two bathrooms and very little
2147 parking and – certainly not enough facilities to accommodate this kind of population.

2148 D, protect the grounds, equipment, vegetation, buildings, fences, and other amenities of the park
2149 or facility from damage, overuse or destruction. And you've heard from people that frequent the
2150 park what they found in the park; condoms, needles, people sleeping in mass in the park to the
2151 point where the neighbors won't even use it.

2152 E, provide that the park or facility in the surrounding area is kept clean and free from debris, I
2153 just covered that. And finally, and – this is really the – whole encompassing one, ensure that the
2154 group does not, does not disturb or annoy persons who occupy land which is nearby such park or
2155 facility. You can only feel absolute agony when you listen to the people who live around this
2156 park talk about the stories of people. They – wake up, find people sleeping on their front porch,
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2157 find people defecating in their bushes, find people publicly urinating, find people washing their
2158 clothes in this park, hanging out afterwards, and I think a large part of the problem, not all of it,
2159 is due to the fact that this has become, for want of a better term, an attractive nuisance because of
2160 these free feedings.

2161 We have refused to issue citations for this. Interestingly, and then Trina Robinson is in the
2162 audience because I wanted to have someone verify that I was there for this conversation, we met
2163 with Lee Roland of the ACLU about two months ago, and I'll mention people by name here so
2164 we put this right up front. We tried to have a meeting with the ACLU and the individual who's
2165 doing the feeding at Circle Park. We have indicated from day one, the City is not against
2166 feeding the homeless, the City is not against shelters and the City does have compassion for the
2167 least fortunate of our society. But there's a place where you can do good and there is a place
2168 where you can do destruction and we want to see this feeding occur in a better place. Just as
2169 some of the service providers indicated earlier, they are willing to team with individuals who
2170 want to feed people so it occurs in the most beneficial place possible. At that meeting, I was
2171 there for a while, and the individual who did the feeding didn't show up till the end and Trina
2172 was there for that part. But I remember the first part of the meeting and talking to the ACLU
2173 about the need for a permit and we were told that the ACLU had reviewed our statutory scheme,
2174 believed it was constitutional and knew the individual needed a permit and would encourage her
2175 to try and get one before doing homeless feedings.

2176 Recently we were sued by the ACLU who now say that this particular ordinance is
2177 unconstitutional, is stationally invalid and – are seeking to have it invalidated by Federal Court.
2178 We intend to represent the City in this matter and that's all I'm going to talk about that pending
2179 litigation, but I want to let you know where we stand with respect to issuance of permits. We're
2180 still no issuing them, there's been no injunction stopping us from enforcing that particular code
2181 and we have no court date at this point in time.

2182 In addition to looking at that ordinance, it seems logical to me, and maybe I'm the only one that
2183 thinks that it, that soup kitchens also have a land use associated with them like many other
2184 things. People that do automotive repair, very intensive land use, we put them in a, an industrial
2185 area or in a CM area because of the intensity of the land use. Well, shelters and missions, rescue
2186 missions are the same way. These are very intensive land uses because the nature of the person

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2187 who uses them is different than the person who comes to the family picnic. Not because they
2188 don't have a job, not because their clothes look different, but because their need for services are
2189 completely different. They don't go to a home to a bed, like a person who comes to a family
2190 picnic, nor do they have access to a telephone or a job or transportation or other things. And so,
2191 when they're brought to an area, they're dropped there. And so, as a result, what we've done is
2192 we introduced today an ordinance that will be eligible for adoption on July 12th that will prohibit
2193 the serving of food, will essentially prohibit mobile soup kitchens in every park in this City.
2194 That way people won't have to worry about this checkerboard game, and we heard from many
2195 people in the neighborhood, if you stop it at Huntridge, it's moving to Baker, if you stop it at
2196 Baker, it's moving to Jaycee and I think there's a lot validity to that, Your Honor. I think that if
2197 there's gonna be a solution, it needs to be a City wide solution so we don't just push this problem
2198 from one ward to another. That – I think is the first start, that – we're making.
2199 The other thing that we are doing is we are working hand in hand with the Marshals on every
2200 activity that goes out there. We're on call 24/7. The Marshals have been incredibly intensive in
2201 their enforcement efforts at this park to let people know that this just isn't a free for all. This
2202 isn't a place that you can go, do drugs, do whatever.
2203 Before Trina speaks, I wanted to mention one more thing, and this doesn't have to do so much
2204 with the feedings, but it's consistent with what Chris G. said earlier. The, it's now spread to the
2205 thought that this is suddenly a – social services park, for want of a better term. And so now you
2206 not only have feedings, which by the way did occur, somebody correct me out here, I understand
2207 there were feedings before the park was closed, stopped while during the closure and then
2208 commenced with a vengeance after the park reopened. I'm seeing everybody nodding their
2209 head. In addition to the feedings, Your Honor, this is a flyer and I'll give it to the Clerk and it
2210 reads: Need help getting into rehab or other social services, Las Vegas Outreach Team, Circle
2211 Park Tuesdays, 11 a, which I assume means 11 a.m., and then it says also free condoms, free
2212 bleach kits, other giveaways, I don't know what that is, referrals to support groups, helpless for
2213 homeless teams and help for HIV positive. This is – the kind of thing that's being distributed out
2214 there now, further intensifying the concentration of homeless people in an area where there are
2215 no social services. That is my report to the Council. I'd like to report, I'd like to file that with
2216 the Clerk at this time and allow Trina to speak.

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2217

2218 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2219 All right. Thank you, very much. All right. I'd like to hear from the Council now. Did you
2220 have something to add, Ms. Robinson.

2221

2222 **TRINA ROBINSON**

2223 No, unless the Council had any questions. I do not.

2224

2225 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2226 No. Okay. Very good. Thank you. I want to hear from the Council and then I'll have a motion.
2227 Anybody wanna speak, Mayor Pro Tem.

2228

2229 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

2230 Yes. First of all I want to thank staff, I think, for doing a great job; I wanna thank Metro, our
2231 Marshals. Most of all I want to thank the residents. You know this has been going on for quite a
2232 few years and I know that, I think a lot of neighbors get disenchanted, they feel like all they get
2233 when they call my office is the same old rhetoric. Well, we're going to check into it. We're
2234 gonna do something. And I knew that I had to have help, especially when I set up the meeting at
2235 Circle Park and invited my Mayor because he's – a man that's not afraid of calling it what it is
2236 and I certainly appreciate that and I want to thank him for his stepping in here and helping us. I
2237 want to thank my – Council members. I know that this is not a wide-spread problem in some of
2238 the areas. I think Councilwoman Tarkanian and Councilman Weekly and I have probably the –
2239 bulk of it. I would even say that probably, Councilman Weekly has more than I do.

2240 I feel like the City has been very proactive. I think more so than even the County, which it is
2241 their, to me, fiduciary duty to take care of this problem. I think the State also has to be involved.
2242 I think the City has provided all the service providers in Councilman Weekly's ward. I think it's
2243 unfair. I think this is a regional – problem and we have to – make sure that everybody shares
2244 their own, that way it makes it lighter for the rest of us to carry ours.

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2245 I would dare say that probably 60 percent of my calls are calls dealing with burglaries,
2246 homelessness, people pandering and I would bet that Councilman Weekly's calls, I won't speak
2247 for Councilman Weekly, but I'll bet his calls are probably 18 to 20 percent higher than that. I
2248 know that there has to be a solution to this problem. I know in the Federal level, it's like,
2249 there're certain things that you could do but you can't. I really admire that one lady that said
2250 about her rights as a taxpayer and I always wondered how our Federal Government can say, our
2251 Federal judges can say, we the taxpayers have no rights. Those people that are out there causing
2252 the problems, they're the one's we had to protect. They're the ones that got the rights. I think
2253 it's like, that – old saying my dad used to say you got the – cart before the – horse. I think that's
2254 what we got here. We – we're carrying this load the wrong way here. I think it's about time that
2255 we try to do something rather than giving lip service to see what happens.

2256 I know I've talked to my City Attorney many, many times and he sites different cities where he's
2257 checked. He tells me of these things that they've tried to do to prevent what's happening here in
2258 their cities. And he tells me how the judges rule on this and they take it to the courts and they're
2259 paying this huge amount of money every year because they're frigid upon the homeless issues.
2260 And I think it's about time that we, you and I and the Council, do something to make sure that
2261 we do everything that we can. Again, I want to thank the Mayor for having this meeting here
2262 tonight and taking the lead on this.

2263

2264 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2265 All right. Thank you.

2266

2267 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

2268 Thank you.

2269

2270 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2271 Thank you. Thank you. Yes, Councilman Brown.

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2272 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

2273 Thank you, Your Honor. A comment and – a request to you. The comment is that you learn so
2274 much in – a forum like this. We certainly get briefed on City programs and all the positive
2275 things that we have accomplished, but when we hear from the Lutheran Services, Catholic
2276 Charities, Salvation Army, Homeless Coalition, our Metro team, our Marshals, we certainly
2277 don't read about that in the paper. We read about the lady that's complaining about the City not
2278 spending money and harassing and all that. That's – sad it's a sad commentary that all the good
2279 that's being accomplished we never get to see or read about. There's this perception of certainly
2280 the gentlemen to my right, that he may be the meanest Mayor in the world –

2281

2282 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

2283 He is.

2284

2285 **COUNCILMAN BROWN**

2286 -- and yet, we'll read about that but we won't read about the people day in and day out in the
2287 social services world that are doing a phenomenal job. And officers, I don't know if you've been
2288 profiled in one of the local papers yet for all the work you do, I might have missed that article,
2289 but they're – not knocking down your door to follow you around and track what you do. I think
2290 it would be a fascinating story, especially your experience and your knowledge of – the homeless
2291 and what they do. So, that's – the comment, Mayor. That it's – a sad commentary that we're not
2292 getting enough good news out there about all the good work that's being done. And we'll just
2293 use the statistics that Shannon gave us for the park.

2294 And the request to you is this 47 percent of the treatment resistant or treatment intolerant,
2295 whatever we're calling them, I'd like to find out a way that we can be far more aggressive in
2296 going after, in a humane way, but far more aggressive in going after that population because
2297 what I've heard is that population is likewise divided into a couple categories, some that can't
2298 help themselves. But we can't just say they can't help themselves and they don't want treatment,
2299 that's – a problem area. But more importantly, the people that you've indicated that choose to be
2300 homeless and maybe out of that population those are the ones that are showing up on maps like

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2301 this and how we go about that in a humane, legal and aggressive way, I'd certainly like to see
2302 you in your motion, or perhaps the City take a look at that.

2303

2304 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2305 Okay, I'm certainly going to include that in my motion. All right. Anybody else. All right.

2306

2307 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

2308 Mr. Mayor.

2309

2310 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2311 Yes.

2312

2313 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

2314 I just want to say that probably every member of this City Council is actively involved in with
2315 agencies or groups that are helping the homeless. And we've learned, I think, through our
2316 experience that the way to help them sometimes when you work with these difficult problems is
2317 by taking the longer more difficult path. I know that when you start out with young children and
2318 you're showing them that they should help others, that they – serve the food and they help with
2319 that and that makes them feel good, but you have to go past that stage and that next stage is
2320 looking at the different phases, the different stratus of homelessness and pinpointing what we
2321 need at each one of those different levels and providing those services.

2322 And if we don't have those social services there when we're giving the food, we're really not
2323 helping the homeless. We're prolonging whatever problems they're in and if you really want to
2324 help, you have to do it in an organized way. I'm so impressed that you've gotten this
2325 coordination together. Deborah, what you're doing with all the – church groups are doing and –
2326 if you could keep up this coordination and even make it tighter and we can get more help, that's
2327 where we need to go. You have to, I don't know if you call it tough love whatever you call it,
2328 you know, they say with your children, you want them to love you all the time, you want the
2329 homeless to like you and appreciate what you're doing, but sometimes you have to be tough

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2330 because if you don't, you're not really helping them. You may be feeling good for a while, but
2331 you're not really helping them and I think that's what this City wants to do. And, Mr. Mayor, I –
2332 would certainly, with all the help that I could give, want to help.

2333

2334 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2335 And I know that. I know the entire Council feels that way and I thank – everybody for being
2336 here today. I thank the Metro officers for their candor, I thank our Marshals for their
2337 contribution and the hard work and I thank all of the folks who live in the area who are
2338 expressing themselves. I thank the social providers for being here and to, enlightening us as to
2339 the facts. And the bottom line is this, whenever I talk about the homeless issue, I'm told we
2340 can't. We can't do this, we can't do that. Well, I'm from the private sector. As a lawyer, where
2341 there was a fee there was a remedy, okay. And, as far as I'm concerned, that's the philosophy
2342 that I'm gonna be using here today. It may be going a little over the top and maybe we have to
2343 do that and maybe we have to be the most proactive City in the country and not be afraid of
2344 lawsuits and not be afraid of criticism but try to address the issues to get a solution. Everything
2345 has a solution.

2346 And I can tell you this, this Council will not tolerate our City parks to be utilized in the manner
2347 in which this park is being utilized, where there're the condoms, or the broken glasses of liquor
2348 and beer, where there're syringes which could cause deadly diseases if a child were to step on it,
2349 to have people exposed to the public in general, we're not going to allow it. It's that simple.
2350 And if we have to take some beating, as far as the position that we're gonna take, we'll take the
2351 beating but we're going to address the issue and we're going to solve the problem. These are the
2352 things that I'm going to direct the City to do.

2353 Number one, I want to continue the wonderful, the wonderful work that the Outreach is doing. I
2354 want the social service agencies and Ms. West to know how much we appreciate what you're
2355 doing because it's those people who are seeking help that we're reaching out to and we're
2356 providing them help so they could become useful, productive members of our society. That's
2357 number one. We're going to continue that.

2358 Number two, Ms. Fretwell, we're going to continue our ten-year plan and we're going to do
2359 everything as a City where we can stop people from becoming homeless. We're going to be

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2360 involved in the programs of transitional housing, the programs of Evolve to make sure that when
2361 people are seeking help that we're able to help them. Okay, those things are a given. So, I don't
2362 wanna hear that we're not trying to help the homeless.

2363 Number two (sic), the record is clear at this point in time that there are facilities available in this
2364 community which will provide the services to help the homeless. So, I don't wanna hear the bull
2365 anymore that we don't have the facilities. Anybody, I've heard it today and it has not be refuted,
2366 and I don't want these organizations to, you know, the whisper, underhandedly that the Mayor's
2367 full of soup. But the truth of the matter is we do have the facilities here for those that wanna be
2368 helped and we have to continue to support those facilities with CDBG funds, we have to do
2369 everything as a City to make sure that those funds don't dry up in Washington. Washington
2370 turns a, their face to us as far as the monies which we need in order to keep these social agencies
2371 alive and well to provide the services. We gotta watch out for the tasks and the tabors to make
2372 sure that we're not gonna be hamstrung from providing the services as a City because they're
2373 gonna try to take our tax dollars away from us. That's a very popular thing to say. We don't
2374 wanna pay taxes but it's the tax dollars, young lady, that are used in order to resolve these issues
2375 that we're discussing here today and we're going to continue to do that. We're going to ask the
2376 City Attorney to explore several issu, areas.

2377 One, the area of volunteers in order to asses the, to assist the overburdened Metro staff and the
2378 overburdened Marshals in this area as to whether or not we could can get people who will
2379 volunteer to make sure that if there are, they see things happening in the parks, which are un-
2380 toured that they advise the authorities immediately and if they're criminal, I am asking that any
2381 crimes that are being committed by anybody in our City should be dealt with severely. And I'm
2382 saying this as a criminal defense lawyer, dealt with because we're putting them on notice now.
2383 We're not gonna tolerate the crimes, we're not gonna tolerate the crimes in the neighborhood,
2384 we're not gonna tolerate the crimes in the park. And I'm going to ask the City Attorney to tell
2385 our Municipal Courts, even though there's a separation of power there, that I expect when these
2386 people who are associated with Circle Park being brought before the City, if they're found
2387 guilty, beyond a reasonable doubt, of a crime, that they get the full six months, okay. So, it's not
2388 gonna be a good place for them to continue their activities. I'm talking about crimes now.

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2389 I'm going to ask the City Attorney to – really get us an ordinance addressing issues of public
2390 intoxication. That is unforgivable, the fact that, when you say you go to the park and you're
2391 talking to these people and I was there, the odor of alcohol, and I'm an expert on that, the odor of
2392 alcohol almost knocked me over, that's how bad it was when I was talking to these people who
2393 claim that the park was their solace, that that's where they were gonna be able to get salvation.
2394 Let'em get salvation at the Salvation Army. Let'em get salvation down at Catholic Charities.
2395 I want the soup kitchen ordinance, I want that pursued as quickly as possible because it's an
2396 enabler, it's unhealthy, it doesn't accomplish a damn bit of good, it doesn't get the folks into an
2397 area where social workers are able to help them and that's what we're interested in. We're
2398 interested in getting these people help.
2399 I also want to explore a pandering ordinance because I believe that these people who are
2400 standing on the street corners are tending money under false pretenses. I am absolutely
2401 convinced from my own experiences that these people are eating pretty damn good and they're
2402 telling that, the people who there's, because we're a town of gamblers and we're superstitious,
2403 whenever you pass somebody who says, I'm hungry, feed me, you take out a buck or five bucks
2404 because you think you're gonna hit a slot machine if you do it. And I wanna make sure that if
2405 somebody has a sign like that, I want to find out where they had their last meal and whether they
2406 really are hungry, and I wanna prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law because it's no fun
2407 driving home everyday and having them, with their signs, looking at you and then running away
2408 when they see you and that's what's happening with me. So, I want that taken care of as well.
2409 I want to explore making the park into a, the kind of park that was described with the community
2410 gardens, whether that would make a difference, but it's not gonna make any difference until we
2411 clean up the park. We can get little areas, little pockets, getting people there interested, but at
2412 the same time, law enforcement has to be there. They have to monitor these people and if these
2413 people are disturbing, okay, and we'll try this one too, disturbing the peace of the people who are
2414 going to be planting the stupid tomatoes, then I want them arrested too. Okay. And I want them
2415 prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I don't care whether they say they're homeless or not. If
2416 they're committing a crime, I want them prosecuted for it. We can try the – dog park. We could
2417 try all these wonderful suggestions that we heard. We can try the ones down in, the Puerto Rican

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2418 situation. We could try everything, but the main thing is we have to make sure that we – address
2419 the homeless people.

2420 Now, this is where we're going out of the box. I'm going to direct the City, and I see Brad,
2421 you're shaking. Okay. Don't, that's okay, somebody has to do it, okay. And if we're the first
2422 City that's gonna do it, we're gonna do it. If we see somebody there who's service resistant and
2423 we're gonna take one person, it will be the lucky person, who we're gonna have a test case with
2424 and you – can go there with Ms. West and she could say this person service resistant and I think
2425 this person has a mental problem and I think this person is a chronic alcoholic, I want that person
2426 taken into your bosom, my friends with law enforcement, taken into your bosom and taken over
2427 whether they like it or not, okay, to West Care. And, if West Care won't take care of them, then
2428 I want to know why because the City of Las Vegas gives West Care a lot of money and we
2429 provide a lot of beds and I want to make sure that they take care of people. We'll do one at a
2430 time and, if they want to sue us, if the ACL wants to sue us, ACLU, come on baby, 'cause I
2431 made my living defending lawsuits. That's the way I look at it.

2432 And I want this –, Get Tough Policy to be put into action, not just talk anymore. I've been
2433 criticized for my talk, now you're gonna see some action, okay. All right. That's where we are
2434 right now. And that's – my motion to follow that directive. All those in favor, please vote. You
2435 can't vote fast enough. Okay. I even forgot what you're supposed to do.

2436

2437 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

2438 Post.

2439

2440 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2441 Post.

2442

2443 **BARBARA JO RONEMUS**

2444 (Inaudible) Councilman Wolfson.

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2445 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

2446 (inaudible) so many things.

2447

2448 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2449 That's okay. That's all right. We're gonna put them all in action. Everyone – knows what
2450 we're trying to accomplish here. The Metro guys know. The Metro guys know the truth. They
2451 know the truth. They said exactly what I've been saying, where I've been laying blasted by the
2452 stupid media, okay.

2453

2454 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

2455 But, Mr. Mayor, what you're saying is you're gonna take each of these at a time and you're
2456 going to work on'em.

2457

2458 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2459 That's correct.

2460

2461 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

2462 And then see if it works, then you might move in a different direction.

2463

2464 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2465 Exactly. But, we have to try every single remedy here. We have to help the homeless, we have
2466 to help the homeless who don't want to help themselves and we have to protect the
2467 neighborhood.

2468

2469 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

2470 And we'd be –

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2471 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2472 And that's the way it is.

2473

2474 **COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN**

2475 – and we'd be doing this with the guidance of the experts that are working with –

2476

2477 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2478 No question. I – want to continue that. That's number one. We're going to continue the fine
2479 service providing that we do, but at the same time, for those who don't want to take advantage of
2480 it, for interfering with our quality of life, we're going after them.

2481

2482 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

2483 Your Honor.

2484

2485 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2486 Yes.

2487

2488 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

2489 If I could. I can certainly appreciate that, but with some of the implementations at the park as far
2490 as, like the botanical garden or whatever, I would like to be able to work with those people and
2491 with staff, of course –

2492

2493 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2494 Of course.

2495

2496 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

2497 – to make sure that we can do something like this. I know that we have an area over there where
2498 we thought we was going to put something like that, it just never happened, and I think there's a

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2499 lot of things there, that if we do this, it might cause problems too. And so I don't know whether
2500 we need to do that right away, I'd like to talk to the people and, you see –

2501

2502 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2503 I'm not, Mayor Pro Tem, I'm not suggesting anything precipitous. I am just saying this, that
2504 we've got to do something and we've got to do it as soon as it's humanly possible.

2505

2506 **COUNCILMAN REESE**

2507 Thank you.

2508

2509 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2510 Which means tomorrow, as far as going after the service resistant.

2511

2512 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

2513 Mayor Goodman, I'd just like to say, if I may –

2514

2515 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2516 Anything.

2517

2518 **COUNCILMAN WOLFSON**

2519 That I am in full agreement with the spirit of your motion. Your motion had many, many
2520 subcategories to it. I'm casting my vote in favor of the spirit of your motion.

2521

2522 **MAYOR GOODMAN**

2523 That's fair. And – I appreciate what Councilman Wolfson is saying. I was a broad brush there
2524 because I do get excited about this. It makes me sick. It makes me sick the way this thing has
2525 been portrayed. The neighborhood's entitled to have a wonderful quality of life and the
2526 homeless are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and to be brought back into society.
2527 But there are those out there who don't want to play by the rules, we're gonna make the rules for

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2528 them now. It's that simple. All right. Post, please. Motion carries. (**Motion carried with**
2529 **ROSS excused**) Thank you.

2530 **(END OF DISCUSSION)**

2531 /yy;ac