



**AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: JANUARY 3, 2007**

**SUBJECT:**

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

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION:**

Submitted at Meeting: Written comments by Tom McGowan

**Minutes:**

MAYOR GOODMAN asked if anyone in the audience needed help in finding a place to stay, as City staff was available for those who wanted the help.

DOROTHY BARNES, Las Vegas resident, once again brought forth her concerns about her rights being violated.

PATRICIA BROWN, 207 North 11th Street, expressed concern about affordable housing and the homeless. She stated that during the holidays she became homeless and while going through the process of finding housing, she encountered problems and rude people who do not know the process. Her ID was stolen and she could not prove who she was and could not access any of the programs available. Through JENNIFER ELLIS' efforts and time and other staff members, she was able to find housing for the new year. She stated the system needs to be investigated as to the step by step procedures. She suggested that free rent vouchers be given to those people trying to access programs so they can get back on their feet. MAYOR GOODMAN suggested that MS. BROWN contact MS. WEST from the Regional Homeless Coalition, to discuss her experience. MS. BROWN reiterated that more affordable housing is needed and the people helping the homeless need to be more compassionate.

AL HESSEN referred to an article where he allegedly made comments against MAYOR GOODMAN. He deemed that comment bogus.

ROSHAND JOSHUA COLLINS, homeless advocate, preaches the word of God. Being in a shelter will not resolve the issues. The main issue is the jail system and the prosecution and the discrimination of the homeless by the law. Many of them are being arrested just for jaywalking. Where is the Council defender of the poor? COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN commented that members of the City Council work very hard to help the poor and they take the homeless situation very seriously.

JAMES BIRCH, photojournalist from New York City, stated his wife was arrested for domestic violence. Las Vegas does not have many programs that help the homeless. His wife is educated,

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but lives on the street. MAYOR GOODMAN suggested his wife contact his office and she will be given a place to stay, as no one is being turned away from the City.

CRYSTAL QUORQUIT stated the focus should be on empathy and to provide help to people rather than fight or silence people. It should be recognized that people need basic necessities: housing, food and clothing. The reality is that people can be offered housing and food, but this only puts a band aid on the issue. What should be addressed is what causes homelessness. She asked what is being done to ensure that people are being rehabilitated and receive mental help. MAYOR GOODMAN asked DEPUTY CITY MANAGER ORLANDO SANCHEZ to provide MS. QUORQUIT with MS. WEST'S telephone number, who will be able to answer all her questions.

TOM McGOWAN, Las Vegas resident, noted that on December 29, 2006 the City honored the memory of PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD, but that the ceremony was only attended by few and no City Council members were present.

JOHNNY VENTURA, 601 Raintree Lane, stated that the Mayor and Council's job is very hard. He invited the Council to go see the movie "The Pursuit of Happiness" where it shows how a homeless man came out of his homelessness to become successful. He is still looking for funds to get the Clark County Chronicle established.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

