

Task force started

Joint effort targets human trafficking

By BRIAN HAYNES

REVIEW JOURNAL

Law enforcement authorities hope a new multi-jurisdictional task force will help jail ringleaders and aid victims of human trafficking in Southern Nevada.

"It's hard to believe in this day and age that there are still forms of legal slavery, but it does exist, and it's occurring in Nevada," state Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto said at a news conference Tuesday unveiling the creation of the Anti-Trafficking League Against Slavery, also known as ATLAS.

The task force includes the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. attorney's office, state and county prosecutors, and the Salvation Army.

The task force will be helped along by grants from the U.S. Department of Justice, which gave \$370,000 to the Police Department for law enforcement efforts and \$450,000 to the Salvation Army to provide social services to trafficking victims, many of whom are forced into prostitution.

Clark County District Attorney David Roger said making cases stick against pimps is difficult because the young prostitutes often stand back on the street and refuse to cooperate. Part of the problem had also been how authorities viewed the prostitutes, he said. "In the past, we considered them criminals, but they're victims in this thing," Roger said.

Authorities hope the task force will connect law enforcement and social services so prostitutes and other victims of human trafficking can get help and break free from their captors.

Las Vegas police Capt. Terry Lesney said one part of the initial effort will be to gauge how big a problem human trafficking is.

Shared Hope International, an anti-human trafficking group, has been studying human trafficking in Las Vegas for several months. Las Vegas is one of 10 cities being studied by the group.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Submitted after FINAL AGENDA
02-07-07/CP

TM/LAS COUNCIL MTG. [1P] WED. 7 FEB., '07 (COUNCIL CHAM.) (CH: MAY 016)

CITIZ-PARTIC.

-- < (1 min) > --

*TOM MCGOWAN; LAS VEGAS RESIDENT AND CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS. (MAY I HAVE THE OVER HEAD PLEASE? ~ THANK YOU).

ON WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY, '07, MULTI-TALENTED ENTERTAINER AND LONG-TIME LAS VEGAS RESIDENT LIZ RENAY WAS BURIED AT BUNKER MORTUARY'S EDEN VALE, ON LAS VEGAS BLVD., NORTH. APPROXIMATELY 40 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE FUNERAL SERVICE, INCLUDING HOMELESS ACTIVIST PATRICIA MARTINELLI-PRICE, FORMER LT. GOVERNOR DR. LOUIS HANMARGREN, AND PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCATE TOM MCGOWAN. THE CURRENT MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL DID NOT ATTEND THE FUNERAL. A SINGLE RELIGIOUS PRAYER FOR THE SOUL OF THE DEPARTED WAS READ BY A FORMER CO-WORKER AND FRIEND, WHOSE NAME IS TOM MCGOWAN.

PERHAPS CHARACTERISTICALLY, RJ CUB REPORTER AND POLITICAL GADFLY DAVID SCHWARTZ FAILED TO REPORT THOSE IMPORTANT FACTS REGARDING THE FUNERAL OF LIZ RENAY.

AS MAYOR, I'LL MAKE SURE THE NAMES OF ALL DESERVING LAS VEGAS ENTERTAINERS ARE PROPERLY RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTFULLY HONORED IN THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS FOR THE REST OF TIME.

THE WRITTEN TEXT OF MY PUBLIC COMMENT IS SUBMITTED AND REQUESTED INCLUSION IN THE MEETING MINUTES, IN COMPLIANCE WITH NRS 241, THE NEVADA OPEN MEETINGS LAW.

THANK YOU.

(SUBMITTED)

Submitted at City Council

Date 2/7/2007 Item CP