



AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON: OCTOBER 3, 2007

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER
DIRECTOR: DOUGLAS A. SELBY

Consent Discussion

SUBJECT:
ADMINISTRATIVE:
Report from the City Manager on Emerging Issues

Fiscal Impact

No Impact Augmentation Required
 Budget Funds Available

Amount:
Funding Source:
Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

The City Manager (CM) Report will be a vehicle for the City Manager to update the Council on emerging issues that may have an impact on the City of Las Vegas. The CM Report will be a recurring item for every Council meeting. If there are no items for the particular meeting, the City Manager will recommend that the item be stricken.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report only, no action required

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

None

Minutes:

No motion required. A report was given.

CITY MANAGER SELBY reported on various issues affecting the City. The consolidated sales tax, which comprises approximately 60 percent of the operating budget, continues to decline. Staff attributes this to the downturn in the housing market, as well as the downturn in retail sales. City administration remains optimistic that, as all the new projects are come online, things will turn around. Nevertheless, staff has been asked to take a conservative approach to budgeting.

During his recent visit to Washington, D.C., a few topics of interest were discussed. There is a concern that the nation could face major shortfalls in transportation funding, which could adversely affect Nevada projects. There are efforts to prevent the fund from going into a deficit, but it remains to be seen. The Secretary of Transportation has created a new program for corridors that are of commercial concern to the United States. This program is called Corridors of the Future. The good news is that I-15, because of its role in transportation, interstate commerce and its relationship to NAFTA, is included in the Corridors of the Future program.

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This will make it eligible for consideration in certain types of funding and innovative efforts, such as truck-only lanes. As part of the reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act, there might be an opportunity to restore Amtrak service between Las Vegas and Southern California. Legislation is being considered to address the mortgage crisis, including the possibility of broadening the FHA program and forgiving the tax consequences. CONGRESSMAN BARNEY FRANK is looking to introduce legislation that would legalize internet gaming. Regarding tourism and trade, there is a great deal of bipartisan support for encouraging international tourism and trade. Concerns were expressed about how Canadians might feel about stricter border controls and passport requirements, as Las Vegas is the third most popular destination in the U.S. for Canadians. The concern is that all international visitors are treated like terrorists, thus, courtesy at the borders is a concern. These concerns sparked the creation of the Discover America Initiative.

CITY MANAGER SELBY announced several upcoming events throughout the City: the homeowners association appreciation day on 10/6/2007, during which the City will educate homeowners on sustainability, opening up the fire stations for the public to visit on 10/13/2007 as part of Fire Prevention Week and the Annual Hispanic International Day parade, which will also be held 10/13/2007. COUNCILMAN ROSS outlined an open forum for the homeowners meeting on Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., recognizing the commitment homeowners associations make to the community.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON asked if the housing program for teachers was still available. CITY MANAGER SELBY offered to obtain accurate numbers and report in the future. COUNCILWOMAN PARKMAN requested the teachers' housing program report include any other teacher-related programs.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON indicated that, while the City has good parades, they should be promoted to a greater extent, starting with the upcoming Veterans Day Parade in November.

MAYOR GOODMAN directed CITY MANAGER SELBY to let the Council know if there is anything it can do to move along some of the programs mentioned during his report, such as Amtrak; in particular, internet betting. He noted that sport betting is an example of where Nevada's regulation has demonstrated its expertise. Nevada should be involved with the leagues and regulations that preclude betting misconduct.

TOM MCGOWAN, Las Vegas resident, commented on the disparity between the have and have-nots, artificially inflated property values and rents and their effect on homelessness. He suggested the Council reorder its priorities to address these issues, or face a government collapse.