

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE **CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: FEBRUARY 6, 2008**

DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR: DAVID RIGGLEMAN

SUBJECT:
RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at meeting: Copy of Proclamation for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Day

Minutes:

No motion required. A presentation was made.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW gave some history on how Black History Month came to be. DR. CARTER G. WOODSON devoted his life to pressing for the study of Black history. He longed for the day when Black History Month would no longer be necessary and all Americans would willingly recognize the contributions of Blacks. DR. WOODSON felt February would be the best month designated to celebrate Black history because it coincides with Abraham Lincoln's and Frederick Douglas' birthdays.

In celebration of Black History Month, COUNCILMAN BARLOW honored the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKAS), which was celebrating its centennial anniversary and was founded at Howard University in 1908. The sorority is the oldest Greek letter organization established by African-American college educated women. As a sorority, it kept a balance and endured because of the energy, sincerity, and passion it brought to all it pursued. As the world became more complex, the sorority cut across social barriers.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW called forward and presented F. LaVONNE LEWIS, Western Regional Director of AKAS, and BARBARA McCANTS-HILL, President of the Las Vegas Theta Theta Omega Chapter, with a Proclamation declaring February 6, 2008, as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Day, as well as with a crystal goddess trophy as a token of appreciation for the Sorority's 100 years of service and commitment.

MS. LEWIS explained that Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded by nine college ladies to serve all mankind, and it has done just that for the past 100 years. She gave an account of the many services it has been involved in throughout the Country, including the provision of health services in Mississippi in 1933, provision of leadership to the American Council on Human Rights at the end of World War II, assistance in youth education by providing scholarships, assistance to Hurricane Katrina victims, and assistance during the recent fires in Southern California.

MRS. McCANTS-HILL thanked the Council for the recognition. She stated that one of the main projects of Theta Theta Omega is to raise monies for scholarships.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW also recognized the West Las Vegas Arts Center Performance Ensemble and thanked them for their performances at City Hall plaza in celebration of African-American history.

