



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: **53.**

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: JULY 15, 2009

DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR: BILL ARENT, ACTING

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Report and possible action regarding support on the City of Las Vegas inter-departmental ARRA Committee findings and activities for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) - All Wards

Fiscal Impact

☐

No Impact

☐ Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), a.k.a., the stimulus bill, was signed into law on February 17, 2009. The ARRA committed \$787 Billion in federal funds in states and communities over the next 10 years. Priorities of the ARRA are infrastructure modernization; promoting clean, efficient energy; helping Americans hurt by the economy; supporting education and training; and transforming the economy through science and technology. The City of Las Vegas formed an inter-departmental committee in March to identify how funds could be captured for city priorities and how best to benefit the citizens of Las Vegas. This is an update of the progress of the City of Las Vegas ARRA Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report and direct staff accordingly.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted after Final Agenda PowerPoint Presentation by Staff

Motion made by GARY REESE to Accept the report

Passed For: 0; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

None; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

BILL ARENT, Acting Director of the Office of Business Development, using a PowerPoint Presentation which was submitted for the record, highlighted some of the changes in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) since staffs last report. The allocation to the State of Nevada had been increased to \$1.6 billion, but that did not necessarily increase the Citys allocation. An estimated 34,000 jobs will be generated by the ARRA with the number of jobs created in the City to be determined. The City is seeking \$213 million in

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funding, an increase from the City's initial request of \$186 million.

MAYOR GOODMAN pointed out that the City has only received \$4,833 in stimulus funds from the federal government so far this year.

MR. ARENT displayed a slide which listed how the Nevada's ARRA allocation would be assigned and noted that education and economic development had been assigned substantial amounts. Regarding funds the City is seeking, MR. ARENT stated that Neighborhood Services is seeking \$2.1 million for Homeless Prevention and Rehousing. The application had been submitted to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and was waiting for approval. Neighborhood Services and Public Works were seeking \$1.38 million for the Community Development Block Grant. The application had been filed and staff was waiting for notification of how much funding the City would receive.

The Federal Highway Administration had been assigned substantial funding and Public Works is seeking \$20 million for repaving and rehabilitation projects and traffic improvement projects. The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is seeking \$10 million for the Downtown Transportation Center, the North West Park and Ride, and the Boulder Highway Rapid Transit System. Public Works is also seeking \$10 million for the Sahara Avenue Bus Rapid Transit System. Planning and Development is seeking funding for the State Energy Program, weatherization, community energy programs, and public facilities.

MR. ARENT pointed out that GOVERNOR SISKIANS had sent a letter to the States federal delegation requesting that the formula for Economic Development and Facility Bonds be changed to more accurately reflect Southern Nevada's current decline in employment. Under the current formula, Southern Nevada was not eligible for any funding. Additionally, staff was exploring Build America Bonds for use on the new City Hall project.

Fire and Safety is seeking \$5 million for a new fire station at the Regional Public Safety Center and Information Technologies (IT) is seeking funding for broadband technology and expanding public computer center capacity. IT was also seeking funding to support Fire and Rescue and Detention and Enforcement. The applications have been submitted and staff is waiting for notification of the allocation amounts. The City has been notified that it will receive almost \$7.5 million in competitive grant funding to support all components of the criminal justice system and MR. ARENT noted how that money would be distributed.

Going forward, MR. ARENT stated that department representatives will continue meeting on monthly basis and will continue submitting applications. Staff is also developing a database and website to track and report on ARRA awards and projects. He noted that staff is working very aggressively to submit the grant applications, but obtaining the funds from the federal government is proving to be challenging. He also thanked ROMEO BETEA, Office of Business Development, for all his hard work in preparing this report and supporting the City's grant applications.

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In response to the Council's questions, MR. ARENT stated that staff is working more aggressively with the Nevada federal delegation to encourage the federal government to release the funds. MR. BETEA explained that there is a lot of activity and a lack of good information surrounding the ARRA, but a major report was expected in October which should help clarify the situation. He assured the Council that staff would explore every possible avenue for speeding up the release of funding.

