



Agenda Item No.: 39.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2009

DEPARTMENT: HUMAN RESOURCES
DIRECTOR: F. CLAUDETTE ENUS

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:
ADMINISTRATIVE:

Discussion and possible action on the ratification of William Arent as the Director of the Office of Business Development (\$131,000 annual salary + benefits - General Fund)

Fiscal Impact

☐ No Impact ☐ Augmentation Required
☐ Budget Funds Available

Amount: \$131,000 + Benefits

Funding Source: General Fund

Dept./Division: Business Development

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Mr. Arent is currently serving as acting director for the city of Las Vegas Office of Business Development (OBD). Mr. Arent has been employed with the City of Las Vegas since 1997. He was the senior project manager for Union Park, and has negotiated development agreements for the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute and The Smith Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Arent holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Public Administration from UNLV.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and ratify the appointment of William Arent to the position of Director of the Office of Business Development

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

None

Motion made by GARY REESE to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON, GARY REESE, STEVEN D. ROSS, STAVROS S. ANTHONY; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-OSCAR B. GOODMAN)

Minutes:

CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL recommended BILL ARENT as the Director of the Office of Business Development (OBD). MR. ARENT has been the Acting Director for six months and has done an excellent job. He has been with the City for 12 years and has been the Redevelopment Manager. In the last six months, MR ARENT was able to put together a funding

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package to get the Performing Center started. He was instrumental in assisting CIM Group with the creation of the Tourism Improvement District for the Post Office block, which will be a critical component to downtown redevelopment in the future. He also helped with the \$85 million Redevelopment Agency (RDA) bond sale. MR. ARENT showed strengths in working with the State Legislature, especially during its most difficult session. He was successful with informing the legislators about the value of redevelopment. He also helped Newland Communities obtain land for the Cleveland Clinic.

MR. ARENT was humbled and honored and thanked the Mayor and Council for their support, and through their leadership, it has made this City great. He thanked CITY MANAGER FRETWELL and the entire office for their support. It is humbling to read the paper about the many challenges facing the City with unemployment and the tourism industry who has supported the economy so strongly. It is his job, along with a great team, to address this and diversify the economy. He thanked CHIEF URBAN REDEVELOPMENT OFFICER SCOTT ADAMS for setting the bar high and for his support for the past five years. MR. ARENT recognized and thanked his wife, VANESSA, for her support. He stated that it is true that behind every good man is a great woman. He acknowledged his daughter, MELANIE, who was present, and his other daughter, ELIZABETH. He thanked his mother, MARY ANN, who has been a public servant for many years in and who taught him the value of hard work and the importance of public service. He thanked the OBD team and mentioned that the success over the next several years will be attributed to this team and not just because of him.

MAYOR PRO TEM REESE stated that it has been a pleasure working with MR. ARENT and enjoys his honesty and integrity and his ability to answer the Council's difficult questions.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON indicated that a few years ago MR. ARENT was the one sitting in the back during briefings with a nice, calm style. He expressed his confidence in MR. ARENT'S ability to do a great job and announced that he was pleased to support the City Managers recommendation.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW remarked that he and MR. ARENT began working for the City at the same time and has admired his true dedication to the City of Las Vegas. His personal and professional growth is to be commended. He agreed that MR. SCOTT has done a fabulous job and was confident that MR. ARENT would be able to follow in his footsteps. COUNCILMAN BARLOW stated that this would be a great opportunity to look at the recession as a blank canvas and to focus on creating great work. He congratulated MR. ARENT and gave his full support. The Councilman thanked CITY MANAGER FRETWELL for giving MR. ARENT the opportunity to show that he is the right candidate.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN stated that she, along with the residents of Ward 1, respect MR. ARENT'S work and was very pleased to see him appointed to the position of Director.

MAYOR PRO TEM REESE acknowledged that the biggest milestone is that once again the City was successful in selecting an experienced person from within to fill a very important position.