



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 53.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: NOVEMBER 18, 2009

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER
DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH N. FRETWELL

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:
ADMINISTRATIVE:

Report and possible action on Workforce Connections services, programs, resources and activities by Executive Director John Ball - All Ward

Fiscal Impact

☐ No Impact ☐ Augmentation Required
☐ Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Workforce Connection oversees the implementation of the Workforce Investment Act, which provides funding for employment and training services throughout the Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Act. Workforce Connection is a group of elected and highly motivated individuals whose mission is to get southern Nevadas workforce back on its feet through partnerships with a wide array of employers and agencies dedicated to investing in the future of the community. Workforce Connections serve the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City, and the counties of Clark, Lincoln, Nye and Esmeralda and selects the service providers who offer training and employment services to eligible adults, dislocated workers and youth clients. Services are managed and delivered through comprehensive one-stop centers, called Nevada JobConnect. The mission is to develop a world-class workforce through the distribution of funds earmarked for training, apprenticeships and other market driven strategies designed to couple the right workers with the right employers.

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept Report and direct staff if necessary

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at Meeting PowerPoint Presentation by Staff

Motion made by STEVEN D. ROSS to Accept the report

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Minutes:

STEPHEN HARSIN, Director of Neighborhood Services, stated that the Workforce Connections is an agency that serves Southern Nevada and oversees the implementation of the Workforce Investment Act, which provides funding for employment and training services. COUNCILMAN ROSS currently sits on the Workforce Connection Board. MR. HARSIN invited JOHN BALL, Executive Director of the Workforce Connection, to give a presentation.

COUNCILMAN ROSS noted that it is important to let the public know what the Board does and how it functions. MAYOR GOODMAN stated that not all committee assignments are fun and games, and COUNCILMAN ROSS stepped up to making the Workforce Connections a success.

MR. BALL pointed out he received help from City staff and COUNCILMAN ROSS role has been critical. The most important ingredient is to have at least one elected official that has the vision, integrity and courage to push this through, and with the Councilman leadership and the continued support of the other elected officials, has been critical to the programs success.

MR. BALL provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Workforce Connections, which serves all employers and job seekers in Southern Nevada. It develops not only a regional competitive workforce but a globally competitive workforce driven by the understanding of what employers in this labor market need, in terms of skill sets for their workers, today and tomorrow. He outlined the fiduciary responsibility of the County, City of Las Vegas, City of Henderson, City of North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Nye County, Esmeralda and Lincoln Counties. The composition of the board includes representatives of business, education, labor, community based organizations, economic development and the state partners. They are a few of the public agencies that have money this year, substantially enhanced by the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

COUNCILMAN ROSS pointed out that it is significant to recognize what the federal government has done for Southern Nevada. Those funds are used to retrain people. MR. BALL added that the funds were diminished and this \$30 million is a huge opportunity for Workforce Connections.

MR. BALL pointed out the funds are performance-based. There are three programs; adult, dislocated workers and youth. The biggest challenge is how to make young people successful. The graduation rate has to be increased in the Valley in order to make the workforce program successful. The Workforce Connections role has been seen as a funding agency, but that is not the highest purpose. Congress intent was to get all the key players in one room to develop a system approach so all each of the constituents and stakeholders combine are bringing their assets and potentials into a strategic plan for the community to buy into. Every successful city region operates that way.

MAYOR GOODMAN asked for a list of their members.

MR. BALL outlined the recent accomplishments and activities, such as the summer youth program. It helped families that had critical needs. With the help of the Nevada Public

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Education Foundation and the Clark County School District, the Workforce Connections was able to provide classroom credits to applied toward graduation. MR. BALL presented a list of the participating organizations and charts on the youth demographics. The findings were used to craft programs and direct resources where they are needed most. He showed photos of the youths who participated in the culinary, electronic, graphics art, horticulture, and automotive trainings.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN verified that Workforce Connections works very closely with the Nevada Public Education Foundation, who gets referrals from different companies. In the event there is someone who may qualify for their services, MR. BALL asked that he be contacted.

MR. BALL stated they are getting very aggressive in going after additional funding at the federal level. He indicated that a Las Vegas native, a state wrestling champion, will be leading the Youthbuild Las Vegas program. He outlined future goals, such as Project 5,000" summer youth expansion project.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW thanked MR. BALL for information and as a prior Supervisor for the Nevada Business Service, he understands the need for this program. The high school dropout rate is increasing and this program will assist those who are struggling to graduate. He looks forward to working with MR. BALL to ensure that the young people are well educated and are given them opportunity to be productive citizens in the community.

COUNCILMAN ROSS stated that the message is clear and the numbers speak for themselves. This board is touching the lives of the many young people in the community by preparing them to be productive citizens. It will be an experience they will never forget.