

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE **CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: JANUARY 6, 2010**

DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

DIRECTOR: DAVID RIGGLEMAN

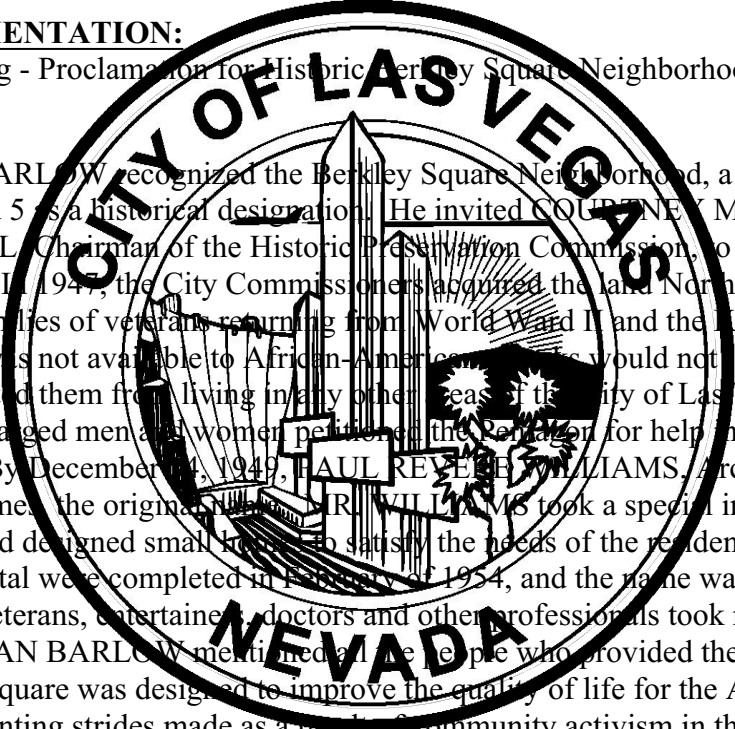
SUBJECT:

RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION FOR BERKLEY SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at Meeting - Proclamation for Historic Berkley Square Neighborhood Day

Minutes:



COUNCILMAN BARLOW recognized the Berkley Square Neighborhood, a very active community in Ward 5 as a historical designation. He invited COURTNEY MOONEY, Member, and BOB STOLDAL, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, to the podium and gave some history. In 1947, the City Commissioners acquired the land North of "F" Street to build houses for families of veterans returning from World War II and the Korean War. During this time, housing was not available to African-Americans and they would not lend to them and segregation prohibited them from living in many other areas of the City of Las Vegas. Many of the honorably discharged men and women petitioned the Pentagon for help in locating housing for their families. By December 4, 1949, PAUL REVERE WILLIAMS, Architect, designed the West Side Park Homes, the original name. MR. WILLIAMS took a special interest in the housing problem and designed small homes to satisfy the needs of the residents. The first 30 homes of the 155 total were completed in February of 1954, and the name was changed to Berkley Square. Veterans, entertainers, doctors and other professionals took residence in this area. COUNCILMAN BARLOW mentioned all the people who provided their support and services. Berkley Square was designed to improve the quality of life for the African-American community, representing strides made as a result of community activism in the late 1940s and 1950s.

In 2005, the City of Las Vegas initiated an historic research survey to determine whether the neighborhood met the requirements for the historic designation. In 2006, the study was completed, using grant funds from the Nevada State Historic Office and the Berkley Square Neighborhood was designated on the National Register October of 2009.

The Councilman invited representatives of Berkley Square, RUTH D'HONDT, President, and AGNES MARSHALL, Vice President, of the Berkley Square Neighborhood Association.

MR. STOLDAL thanked the Councilman and stated that he drives by the neighborhood often and realizes this is a special and unique place. It reminds him of the movie "A Good Life". It is a community to raise a family, but it is the energy and vitality that still exists in the community that preserves that historic nature.



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COUNCILMAN BARLOW presented the proclamation recognizing Berkley Square as an architectural and historical housing development.

MS. DHONDT was pleased to receive the honor. The residents take pride in their neighborhood and enjoy living there, even if it's not a perfect neighborhood.

MS. MARSHALL added she has lived there for 54 years and has raised her family in this community. She appreciated the recognition.