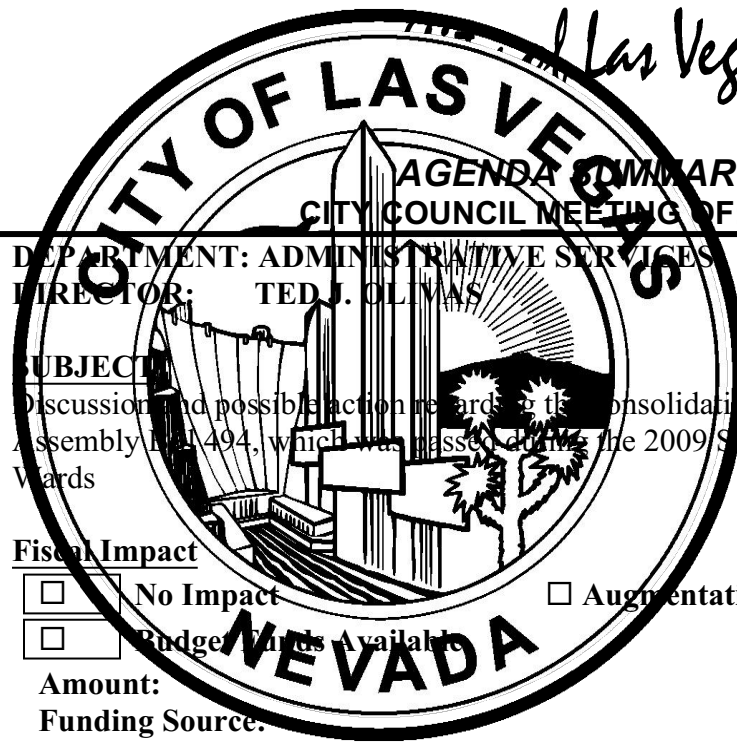




AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: JUNE 16, 2010

DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DIRECTOR: TED J. OLIVAS

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:
Discussion and possible action regarding the consolidation/reorganization report required in Assembly Bill 494, which was passed during the 2009 Session of the Nevada Legislature - All Wards

Fiscal Impact

☐ No Impact ☐ Augmentation Required
☐ Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

During the 2009 Legislature, Assembly Bill 494 (AB 494) was passed which requires the Board of County Commissioners of Clark County, the Board of County Commissioners of Washoe County and the governing body of each city in those counties, to submit a report to the 76th Session of the Nevada Legislature concerning the consolidation or reorganization of certain functions performed by those local governments.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council discuss the consolidation/reorganization report required in AB 494 and direct staff accordingly

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Assembly Bill 494
2. Submitted at Meeting PowerPoint Presentation by Staff

Motion made by GARY REESE 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)

Minutes:

TED OLIVAS, Director of Administrative Services, gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is included in the backup documentation, to update the Council on Assembly Bill 494 and the seven feasibility studies that have been approved, the studies' components and their status. He noted that a feasibility study for the Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan was added, and that the City is represented on each of the seven studies.

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MR. OLIVAS referred to Slide 11 and described the timeline for the seven studies included in Assembly Bill 494. He remarked that the next step is to finalize these reports and present them to the County, with the final report to be brought back to the City Council. He pointed out that this report does not preclude the City Council from looking at other consolidation opportunities.

MAYOR GOODMAN stated this is a wonderful opportunity for open discussion and individuality. He commented that he feels very strongly about consolidation and that the passage of Assembly Bill 494 is a step toward that. In his opinion, governments in Southern Nevada are not working as intended, as it seems they are competing against each other. He referred to collective bargaining agreements, and with arbitration being the ultimate alternative, he commented that arbitrators are going to be looking at how the various entities handle these issues.

The Mayor opined that the Legislature should look at complete consolidation of Southern Nevada, with one government, one set of ordinances for the entire Las Vegas Valley, for the sake of uniformity.

COUNCILMAN REESE expressed his preference for consolidation, but with trepidation, because many people do not understand the boundaries and how the various jurisdictions handle. The City has tried consolidation in a different way, such as what was done with the Housing Authority, which was very successful. He believes the City needs to obtain home rule. He heard at the last legislative session that the money taken from the municipalities do not belong to them, that it is given to them by the Legislature and the Legislature has a right to it. If consolidation will help meet the municipalities' needs, it should be seriously explored and considered.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON stated that the City started considering consolidation before the economy started to suffer. But there are two distinct topics: consolidation of services and consolidation of governments. He strongly felt that the business licenses and work card aspects should be consolidated in order to have uniformity. People do business all over the Valley, and they have to pay to pull a license in each jurisdiction. JIM DiFIORE, Business Services Manager, indicated that discussions have been held as to what aspects of the work card rules could be consolidated to simplify the process.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN expressed concern about consolidation because of the ineffectiveness of larger bureaucracies. In her opinion the municipalities reach the daily needs of the citizens the best.

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY agreed with consolidation, but noted that it has to be done methodically. He then confirmed with MR. OLIVAS that all the Southern Nevada entities participated in all the studies, except the one regarding the TV stations. MR. OLIVAS indicated that consideration has been given to using the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) after 9/2010 to further discussions on consolidation and to facilitate the process. But MR. OLIVAS and CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL emphasized that the Council

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has discretion to further explore certain areas for consolidation and to direct staff accordingly. MR. OLIVAS noted that he would be back with a report in August with implementation timelines.

COUNCILMAN ROSS stated that Assembly Bill 494 is great, but indicated that the only thing that has come out of it is endless discussion. The City needs to take the lead in consolidation.

MAYOR GOODMAN directed CITY MANAGER FRETWELL to contact her counterparts with the other entities to place an item on their agenda to find out if there is an appetite on behalf of the elected officials for complete or partial consolidation. Otherwise, it may be necessary to seek a mandate from the State. If there is a desire for real consolidation, a meeting could be scheduled before the next meeting of the Legislature.

MAYOR GOODMAN stressed that the City's Redevelopment Agency's efforts are in jeopardy, which greatly concerns him, due to the lack of success of the other entities' redevelopment efforts. Hence, he would prefer full consolidation in consolidation of the services provided to the citizens of Las Vegas.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW shared the sentiments of his colleagues. He mentioned the Regional Housing Authority as a great example of consolidation which was done by establishing a board. The initiative was not well received in the beginning, but it was ultimately done, and it has been very successful. He strongly believes that there are many other services that could be successfully consolidated in order to eliminate duplication of service.

CITY MANAGER FRETWELL stated that the consolidation of the Regional Housing Authority was voluntary. However, had the State not put it in the bill, it would not have happened, so it really takes leadership at the State level to make such a commitment. She indicated she would be happy to draft a letter to her counterparts, reminding the Council that sometimes it is difficult to give up total control. But she offered to put together a framework from which to proceed. MAYOR GOODMAN stressed that this is a matter that has to be addressed expeditiously, because the state of the economy is pressing.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN reiterated that great caution is necessary in this process. She pointed out that what should be consolidated is the election process and have it run on the same cycle.