



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 62.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: AUGUST 18, 2010

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER
DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH N. FRETWELL

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:
ADMINISTRATIVE:

Report and possible action on the creation of a foreclosure prevention website
www.StopNevadaForeclosures.org, which provides outreach resources to troubled borrowers in an
effort to help avoid foreclosure-- All Wards

Fiscal Impact

☐

No Impact

☐ Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

As part of the Foreclosure Prevention Partnership Program, the Department of Neighborhood Services partnered with Fannie Mae and collaborated with the Department of Information Technologies along with several local non-profit counseling agencies and HUD. Through this collaboration, a website has been created and launched to the community that provides outreach resources to troubled borrowers in an effort to help them avoid foreclosure. Fannie Mae provided the city of Las Vegas/Neighborhood Services a \$75,000 grant to finance the websites development. The city of Las Vegas Foreclosure Prevention Partnership Program (FPPP) brings together government agencies, housing counseling agencies, lenders and non-profit organizations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report and possible direction to staff.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at Meeting PowerPoint Presentation by Lisa Morris Hibbler

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)

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Minutes:

STEVE HARSIN, Director of Neighborhood Services; LISA MORRIS HIBBLER, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services, and ZEEDA DANIELE, Fannie Mae, gave a PowerPoint presentation showcasing the City of Las Vegas (City) new website, StopNVForeclosures, which will help prevent foreclosure fraud. Referring to some statistics, MR. HARSIN pointed out that Las Vegas leads the nation in foreclosures, so this website will provide the community with outreach resources to troubled borrowers. This website was made possible through a Fannie Mae grant and developed by City staff and community partners, saving the City thousands of dollars.

MS. HIBBLER reiterated some of MR. HARSIN's comments and added that the services provided are free of charge. Prior to submitting the PowerPoint for the record, she detailed the contents of the website and noted that applicants can complete the application in intervals and information will not be lost. In addition, resources and FAQs are included, based upon the most current and accurate information available at the time of developing the website. Phase 2 of the website will include features, such as Spanish translation, and specific mapping, additional administrative reports for the books and Google translation for multi languages. The City will also enhance its education, outreach and marketing aspects, mailboards, media and the website.

On behalf of the City and the Council, MS. HIBBLER recognized the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved counseling agencies present for their hard work and partnership in embracing a uniform intake application, specifically the Coalition of Affordable and Sustainable Housing (CASH) Network. MAYOR GOODMAN expressed appreciation for their efforts within the community. MS. HIBBLER also recognized several other entities, City staff and the Council for their continued support in the City's ongoing efforts with foreclosure prevention. For anyone interested in the program or the City's new website, she relayed contact information and the website, www.StopNVForeclosures.com.

MS. DANIELE thanked City staff, the Council and the Las Vegas community for their support and efforts in taking a leadership role in foreclosure prevention. She was pleased in knowing that homeowners will have an opportunity to meet with representatives they can trust and who will help them understand the options available to them and avoid potential scams. She highly praised this city for its incredible counseling network and appreciated the Council members that attended yesterday's kick-off event for anti-scam awareness. The task force will be sending letters to the Council members asking for their input in effectively reaching their constituents within their wards and informing them of these resources.

COUNCILMAN ROSS appreciated the collaborative efforts on everyone's part and emphasized the importance of relaying this message to the community. He reiterated that these services are free of charge and urged residents to call 229-HOME (4663). COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN knew of individuals who have been scammed and concurred with COUNCILMAN ROSS comments.

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In addressing COUNCILMAN ROSS query, MS. HIBBLER informed the Council that the City has taken appropriate measures to ensure the websites security and privacy of homeowners personal information.

MAYOR GOODMAN thanked everyone who participated in this collaborative effort to establish the program and its website. He was greatly concerned that this city leads the nation in foreclosures and the potential release of additional foreclosed properties on the market could exacerbate the problem. The Mayor wondered if the City had the authority to place a moratorium on foreclosures by banks for at least three years to allow the community to heal from its budget woes. CITY ATTORNEY BRAD JERBI stated the city is prohibited from doing this but staff could look into alternatives such as possible legislation.

COUNCILMAN REESE appreciated the program and knows it will be vital in assisting the community.

