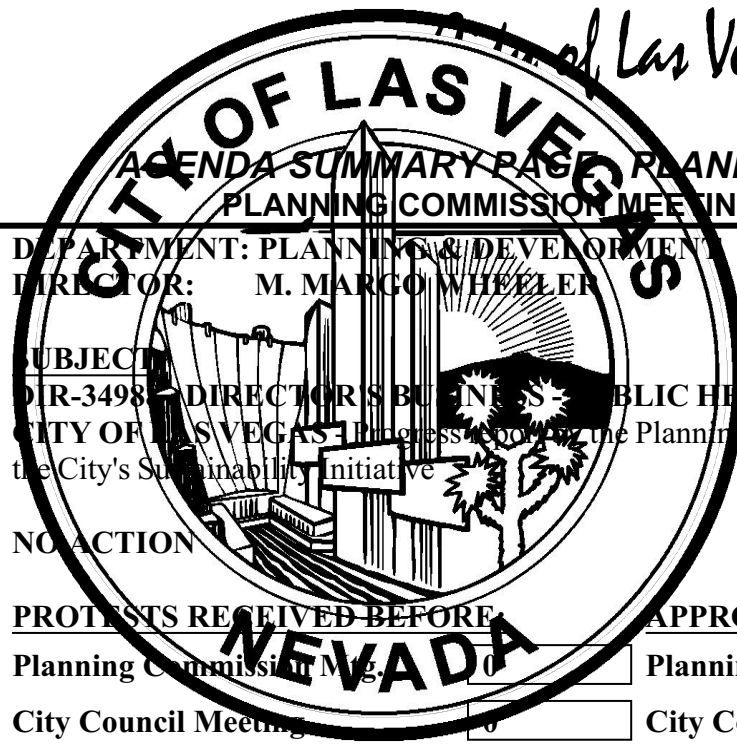




City of Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 29.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF: JULY 23, 2009

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR: M. MARGO WHEELER

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT: DIR-3498 - DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS - PUBLIC HEARING - APPLICANT/OWNER:
CITY OF LAS VEGAS - Progress Report by the Planning & Development Department regarding
the City's Sustainability Initiative

NO ACTION

PROTESTS RECEIVED BEFORE:

Planning Commission Mtg.

City Council Meeting

APPROVALS RECEIVED BEFORE:

Planning Commission Mtg.

City Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

NO RECOMMENDATION

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

None

NOTE: COMMISSIONER GOYNES disclosed he works for the Workforce Investment Board.
He was comfortable in voting since no contracts have been signed.

Minutes:

Public Hearing held. No motion required.

CHAIR TROWBRIDGE declared the Public Hearing open.

Using a PowerPoint Presentation, TOM PERRIGO, Deputy Director of Planning and Development, gave a brief update of the implementation of the City's Sustainability Initiative. The Mayor and Council adopted the Sustainable Energy Strategy in September of 2008. As a result, the City of Las Vegas has been recognized as one of the leading cities for climate change and energy policy.

The City will be receiving approximately \$400 million in stimulus money under the Energy and Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The program will leverage the money with bonds and other funding sources in combination with the standard Municipal Bonds, rebates from NV Energy and the Green Building Special Revenue Fund to complete \$28 million in projects.

The Sustainable Energy Strategy requires a savings from energy projects in one year to be reinvested in future years. The initial investment would not only save energy money to pay the debt service but will be returning to the City up to \$550,000 in the first year. By reinvesting that

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money, by the year 2030, the City will be investing up to \$9 million. This would result in a reduction of about 35 percent in energy demand from the City and at the same time, about 25 percent of that demand from the City would be met by renewable sources. This strategy would also help the City reduce its carbon footprint by 40 percent by the year 2030.

The City uses about \$16 million in energy primarily in three areas, treating waste water, street lights and buildings. Solar panels will be installed on covered parking at City facilities, which will offset the energy costs and help provide services at a reduced rate. The City would be also investing about \$20 million to put in up to four megawatts of solar energy at the Water Pollution Control Facility to help offset the energy demand. In addition, a company will conduct energy audits on City buildings and perform prioritized energy retrofits to maximize energy efficiency and reduce the City's energy costs. Existing street lighting will be replaced with induction lighting, reducing the energy demand and the maintenance costs.

The Sustainable Energy Strategy calls for the creation of programs for the community, such as Home Free Nevada, a program based on Energy Stars Home Performance Program. This program will provide energy audits for residential homeowners by providing a rebate in partnership with NV Energy. In response to MARK WILSON, Director of Planning and Development, MR. PERRIGO stated that a pilot program will be launched in four weeks in areas where the homes are using more energy. It is expected that by October, this program will be open to any resident in the City. He has also been meeting with the Energy Block Grant Coordinator for Clark County, Henderson and North Las Vegas, and they are preparing a program similar to the City and will work together on the City's pilot to perfect the same program.

MR. PERRIGO has participated in establishing a non-profit organization called Green Chips to create one common voice for sustainability in the community. Most importantly, a revolving loan fund will be created. The Green Chips and the Home Free Nevada programs will create jobs that are long-term permanent positions. This will help kick off an entire new industry, providing money from the stimulus and monies from HUD.

In 2006, the City Council adopted the Green Building Program and it will be updated to add new incentives for new and existing buildings in commercial and residential sectors. In order to qualify, buildings must be built to a LEED standard, be part of the NV Energy Plus Program, Green Globes or Southern Nevada Green Building Partnership. The City is working with the University of Las Vegas Nevada to promote renewable energy by creating a website where people can obtain information. It is important to recognize that this is new in the economy, and it will create jobs and tax revenues. The projected energy savings for homeowners participating in these programs is over \$50 million annually, money that will be put back into the economy.

COMMISSIONER QUINN asked that she be provided a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

CHAIR TROWBRIDGE congratulated staff on the excellent job in taking the leadership role in renewable energy and for contributing to the future of Las Vegas and the entire Southern

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Nevada.

COMMISSIONER EVANS was impressed with the Springs Preserves and their shade structures. Regarding big box shopping centers with large parking lots, he questioned whether solar panels would be cost-effective and is something that can be promoted. MR. PERRIGO replied that the Springs Preserves is very expensive; the City anticipates researching Thin Film, which is very durable and inexpensive. The price of solar has dropped significantly in the last six months, so there will be parity between solar and carbon gas energy sources.

COMMISSIONER TRUEDELL asked for clarification on streetlight induction compared to what is existing and why not look at some of the other cutting edge streetlights, such as LED, that have no maintenance and much lower utility cost. MR. PERRIGO responded that LED is a great technology but its light does not spread out as much. Putting 200 watts induction lighting will save energy and last longer, but the light will look and feel different. The City is looking at different strategies, such as them on collector streets where it would not feel different to the neighborhood. COMMISSIONER TRUEDELL pointed out there is a big difference when seniors look at lighting; it is darker for them at night. MR. PERRIGO stated that other municipalities have spent a lot of time researching and find that induction lighting is the best alternative to save energy, maintenance costs and provides the same quality of lighting that people currently experience.

CHAIR TROWBRIDGE declared the Public Hearing closed.

