



Catholic Charities

OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

Executive Offices

Monsignor Patrick R. Leary, *Chief Executive Officer*

June 9, 2011

City of Las Vegas
Planning Department
333 N. Rancho Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89106

RE: Justification Letter, license N36-92814-F-154916

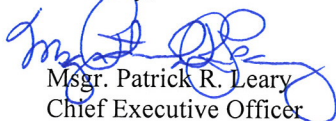
Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada respectfully requests grant of a Special Use Permit pursuant to a business license to operate a Non-Profit Thrift Store at 915 S. Rainbow Blvd, Las Vegas NV 89145. Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada is a registered 501(c)3 corporation, TAX ID 88-0059425 and has operated in this community for 70 years providing help and hope to individuals and families in need through 24 different social service programs (please reference www.catholiccharities.com). Despite our excellent track record, low-overhead (91¢ of every dollar goes to direct client service) and aggressive cost cutting measures, traditional funding sources supporting our many missions have decreased while the demand for our services has increased. We have an urgent need to increase revenue sources to continue the services we provide to the greater Las Vegas metropolitan area. One avenue is to operate a non-profit thrift store which serves multiple purposes:

1. It allows charitably minded citizens a means to contribute to the well-being of others through in-kind donations of gently used household goods, clothing and furnishings.
2. After utilizing donated goods to directly benefit clients we serve, Catholic Charities processes and selects suitable items for resale through a retail outlet such as we are requesting at 915 S. Rainbow Blvd. The revenues generated through retail sales go back into the myriad programs we operate to keep our agency's overhead costs as low as possible.
3. Citizens struggling to make ends meet are able to acquire those goods at reasonable prices, aiding their ability to better meet other demands on their limited resources.
4. The retail operation provides both direct employment to local residents as well as employment skills training, one-on-one daily work performance mentoring and customer interaction skills for twelve or more citizens in our Resident program and those in our Senior Community Service Employment Program. At the proposed 915 S. Rainbow Blvd location, we will begin by *adding* eight full time and four part-time paid staff positions to run the operation along with shared staff from our other area operations.
5. Our operating hours will mirror those of the shopping center: M-F 10-6; Sa-Su 10-5. The space we intend to occupy has been largely *unoccupied for the last seven years* per the landlord, so we would not be displacing other for-profit entities.

Catholic Charities has operated similar retail outlets for more than two decades in this area in full compliance with applicable statutes and ordinances. Our two other Thrift store locations are at 1767 N. Rancho Dr. (89106); 1501 Las Vegas Blvd North (89101); and our Distribution Center/warehouse is located 924 S. Commerce (89101).

Thank you for your consideration of granting this special use permit. If you have additional questions, please contact Patrick Raglow at (702) 387-2243 or praglow@catholiccharities.com.

Sincerely,


Msgr. Patrick R. Leary
Chief Executive Officer

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JUN 16 2011

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