

**CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

March 18, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER**

4:35 P.M., Council Chambers, 2200 Civic Center Drive, North Las Vegas, Nevada

**ROLL CALL**

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

Mayor Michael L. Montandon  
Mayor Pro Tempore William E. Robinson  
Councilwoman Stephanie S. Smith  
Councilwoman Shari Buck  
Councilman Robert L. Eliason

**STAFF PRESENT**

City Manager Gregory E. Rose  
Assistant City Manager Maryann Ustick  
City Attorney Carie Torrence  
Acting City Clerk Anita Sheldon  
Finance Director Phil Stoeckinger  
Fire Chief Al Gillespie  
General Services and  
Communications Director Brenda Fischer  
Police Chief Joe Forti  
Assistant to the City Manager Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth  
Deputy City Clerk Marie Purcell  
Deputy City Clerk Adelmira Tapia-Rojas

**VERIFICATION**

Anita Sheldon  
Acting City Clerk

## **BUSINESS**

### **1. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE 2008 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

Police Chief Joe Forti explained that the first goal for the Police Department was to reduce crime. There were 28 homicides in 2007 and 13 homicides in 2008. He said there was a 9% increase in the number of rapes but explained that most rapes were with known subjects as opposed to random crimes. Chief Forti explained that several of the reports were not actually rapes, but the Police Department was required to report them as rapes and those cases could not be removed from the crime numbers. He said that the total number of violent crimes decreased by 8%. Chief Forti explained that there was a 28% decrease in the number of motor vehicle thefts which were attributed to utilization of the Problem Solving Unit and countywide task force. There was a 10% total decrease in property crimes.

Chief Forti said he felt the reason that there was a reduction in crime was due to community involvement, policing theories and methods. He explained the broken window theory which meant going after small crimes to get the larger crimes. He said there was a 19% increase in the number of total arrests. There was a 20% increase in the number of adult arrests and 8% increase in the number of juvenile arrests.

Chief Forti explained the SARA model, which was a Community Policing model and meant scan, analyze, respond and assess.

Mayor Pro Tempore confirmed that the crime statistics were for the years 2007 and 2008.

Chief Forti discussed the proactive methods that were utilized which included the Problem Solving Unit that was established in the North and South Area Commands. The units were utilized in special assignments for crimes, such as burglaries, until arrests were made or there was a reduction of crime in that area. The units were also used for auto thefts, burglary and robberies. VIPER was a method used for auto thefts and utilized bait cars. Chief Forti explained that the Police Department partnered with other City departments to reduce crime. He explained RAAP, the Revitalization of Arrowhead Acres Park which was between Civic Center Drive & Belmont Street and Lake Mead Boulevard to Las Vegas Boulevard. He said there were problems in that area, which was highly Hispanic, and was waiting for a Memorandum of Understanding with a group called 10,000 Kids who would be employed for community outreach in that neighborhood. Chief Forti discussed the ARMOR group which was a county group with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and Henderson Police Department who responded to suspicious packages, bombs and high risk events. Operation "What Goes Up, Must Come Down" was a New Year's Eve project for an aggressive approach on the discharge of firearms.

Chief Forti explained that crime reports were reviewed weekly as well as weekly traffic reports analyzing top crash locations and fatal accidents. Chief Forti explained the four core principles of CompStat which were accurate timely data, rapid deployment, effective tactics and relentless follow-up.

Chief Forti explained that the second goal for the Police Department was to increase crime clearance rates. The total violent crime clearance rate was 50% and property crime clearance rate was 14%. He explained that proactive steps taken were the increase of the number of detectives in the Detective Bureau, addition of swing shift detectives, implementation of the victim information notification system and expansion of data sharing with E-PD and E-reporting.

Chief Forti explained that under Community Outreach, the Police Department partnered with the community through Community Watch, Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch, RAAP, Latino Connection meetings held at St. Christopher's, Advisory Council meetings, reading at schools and expansion of GREAT which was a gang awareness program. He explained the addition of CrimeView to the website which allowed citizens to search for recent crime activity within a specific search radius of an address.

Councilwoman Smith questioned the GREAT program and asked if North Las Vegas students attending Las Vegas schools were benefited by the program. Chief Forti explained there were two instructors and a number of middle schools which made it difficult to schedule the programs because it was an extended program. Councilwoman Smith said it was a loophole which needed to be fixed.

ACTION: DISCUSSION HELD

**2. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE SPACE PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE USE OF FREHNER BUILDING.**

Principal Engineer Tom Brady said that in October 2007, Council authorized the purchase of the Frehner building associated with the Frehner property for use as a support building associated with the Wastewater Reclamation facility. The building was approximately 20,000 square feet but due to the architecture there was 16,000 usable square feet. He explained that when the Water Reclamation Facility was relocated to Nellis Air Force Base a question arose as to the best use for the facility, considering the size and availability. At the time, the City was in the midst of the Capital Improvement Plan and Operating Budget process. Space requests came from several departments in addition to the City Hall space planning process.

Principal Engineer Brady identified requests made from Police Detectives, Finance Department, City Clerk's Office, Information Technology, IT Server Room, Fire Administration and Code Enforcement. He explained that different combinations were reviewed. The primary factor was to review that the space provided with active funded projects that met the needs of the departments or alternatives.

Principal Engineer Brady explained that Code Enforcement and Fire Administration fit the space with room for staff growth and permanency. City Manager Rose said that the Police Detectives needed space and it was decided to rent space relocate them.

Mayor Montandon questioned Information Technology's need for 12,000 square feet of space. Principal Engineer Brady explained that the Records Division of the City Clerk's Office and Information Technology were identified for conversion in the present City Hall. City Manager Rose said the intention was to have the present City Hall as a temporary Police Headquarters. He said the utilities building would be reviewed to address space needs once the Water Reclamation Facility was completed.

Councilman Eliason questioned whether the sale of the current Lake Mead Boulevard Police Headquarters was factored in the space need decision. City Manager Rose explained he spoke with the Executive Director of North Vista Hospital and their intention was for a future purchase. He also explained that the 16,000 square feet of space was not sufficient to accommodate the Police Department needs. Mayor Montandon confirmed that the Communications Division and Police Administration needed to be in the same building and 16,000 square feet would not be a sufficient amount of space. Chief Forti explained that the Communications Division did not have to be with the Administrative Division of the Police Department. City Manager Rose said the issue was the best operational fit.

Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson questioned whether the discussion was part of the \$1.2 million for the Frehner building and asked what renovations were needed since it was a new building. Fire Chief Al Gillespie said there were issues such as the roof, heating and air conditioning which were costly and independent of what was needed for the Fire Service. He explained that emergency power was needed and the ability to install the fiber optics in the building. Chief Gillespie said that the \$1.2 million was based on the estimates from Public Works and what they felt it would take to complete the job. The bidding process began for individual projects and Chief Gillespie believed the cost would be under the \$1.2 million.

Councilwoman Smith questioned whether there was a discussion to temporarily relocate the Police detectives to a City-owned building rather than adding additional rent debt. City Manager Rose explained it was decided to reduce investment in the existing police headquarters and house the detectives in a facility temporarily until a new police headquarters was constructed. Councilwoman Smith questioned whether the Frehner building was reviewed for departments that were renting space to eliminate

some of the current leases. City Manager Rose explained that each lease was short term and the needs would be met with the new City Hall. He explained that a funding source had not been identified to construct a new police headquarters.

ACTION: PRESENTATION MADE

**PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public participation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

ACTION: THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:27 P.M.

MOTION: Mayor Montandon

SECOND: Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson

AYES: Mayor Montandon, Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson, Councilmembers  
Smith, Buck and Eliason

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

**APPROVED: April 15, 2009**

/s/ Michael L. Montandon  
Mayor Michael L. Montandon

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Anita Sheldon  
Anita Sheldon  
Acting City Clerk