

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

March 19, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: 4:32 P.M.

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 Rose
Assistant City Manager Sam Chambers
City Clerk Karen Storms
Communications Director Brenda Fischer
Fire Chief Al Gillespie
Human Resources Director Joyce Lira
Acting Police Chief Joe Forti
Assistant City Clerk Anita Sheldon

VERIFICATION: Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk

BUSINESS:

1. POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME FIGHTING STRATEGY.

City Manager Gregory Rose explained that he asked Acting Police Chief Joe Forti to bring forward a presentation that focused on two main issues, reduction of crime rate and clearance rate.

Acting Police Chief Joe Forti gave an overview of his presentation which included the goals, objectives and vision for addressing crime issues in the City. He stressed that it was a team collaboration. Acting Chief Forti explained fighting crime involved partnerships and recognized Jerry Simon, Clark County Juvenile Justice in charge of the Safe Village initiative and Operation Cease Fire for the City of Las Vegas and Deputy Chief Jimmy Owens, Metropolitan Police Department who were in attendance.

Acting Chief Forti addressed goals such as reduction of crime rate, increased crime clearance rate and evaluation of existing programs to determine community value. He explained the four "p's" of policing; proactive policing, preventive measures, problem solving and partnerships.

Acting Chief Forti stated he was a strong believer in the Community Policing theories and methods. He explained the Broken Windows theory which dealt with looking at small things to address a bigger issue and the SARA model, a problem solving approach to policing involving scanning (spotting a problem), analysis (how to approach), response (solutions and actions) and assessment.

Acting Chief Forti explained that the North Area Command and South Area Command were employing different projects unique to their areas. He explained that recently two problem solving units were formed, one in the North Area Command and the other South Area Command and were designed to go out and address problems such as copper theft, and work through until solved.

Acting Chief Forti explained the various entities involved with the North Las Vegas Police Department on crime reduction such as Metropolitan Police Department, Henderson Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Agency. City Departments were also part of the partnership such as Code Enforcement, Public Works (red light camera program) and Business Licensing (mobile vendors).

Acting Chief Forti explained crime rate reduction through ongoing statistical analysis of crime trends, involved review of data at weekly staff meetings and at CompStat meetings. CompStat was a strategy for improving performance by addressing the reduction of crime and required a full commitment by the leadership team. Four core principles of CompStat were accurate and timely data, rapid deployment, effective tactics and relentless follow-up. Acting Chief Forti continued to explain the CompStat process.

Acting Chief Forti explained measures to increase crime clearance rate which included increasing the number of detectives and adding swing shift detectives. He explained community outreach, the need to continue to partner with the community through Community, Neighborhood and Business Watches and the need to engage the youth in various programs. He explained the possibility of adding CrimeView to the web which would allow citizens to search for recent crime activity within a specific radius of an address.

Deputy Chief Jimmy Owens, Metropolitan Police Department spoke about his experience in the gang unit and the methods used to fight gang crime in the past. He stated that partnerships were needed because crime had no boundaries. The police had concentrated on the Bolden area due to high levels of youth on youth crime. He felt that working with the community as partners was a benefit with the community taking ownership of the neighborhood. He explained that gun related crimes in the Bolden area were reduced by 40%.

Jerry Simon, Clark County Juvenile Justice, explained an organization called the Southern Nevada Community Gang Task Force with community mobilization through prevention, intervention and suppression. The task force had been recognized as one of the top gang task forces in the country. He explained that community mobilization was the involvement of citizens, including former gang youth, faith-based organizations, community groups and agencies to reduce gang crime and violence. The CEASEFIRE Model was implemented. The actual community name was Operation Lasting Peace and was first implemented as Safe Village in the Bolden Area Command. He explained Safe Village operated under two components, law enforcement and community mobilization. The Police Department pledged five years to that community which was done through Operation Lasting Peace using response where 200-300 citizens arrive at the street where the violence took place within 72 hours of that violence. There was a protocol where the police looked at an operational definition of what type of violence had occurred and got the neighborhood outraged. He also explained the utilization of existing community members who worked at talking the kids and young adults out of committing crime. There were also people who responded to UMC to work with the family and person injured to be sure there was no retaliation. He also explained there was sustainment, to be sure the violence stayed out of the neighborhood. Mr. Simon explained the importance of educating parents for early intervention.

Municipal Court Judge Warren Vanlandschoot spoke about the morale boost in the Police Department, the increase in criminal arrests and supported the plans proposed by the Police Department.

Councilwoman Buck commended Acting Chief Forti on the proposed plans and initiative that would be taken the Police Department.

Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson also commended Acting Chief Forti on proposed plans and the need to address the increased crime.

Councilwoman Smith commented on the need to get involved with the youth at an early age and the importance of being proactive.

City Manager Rose commented that the strategy which would be employed in the Police Department regarding addressing crime and clearance rate was sound. He explained that included in the proposed budget was funding for the CEASEFIRE Program.

ACTION: PRESENTATION GIVEN

2. UPDATE ON LAS VEGAS WASH REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM.

Michelle Menart and John Jones, Park Planning and Development Division, Tom Brady, Engineering and Planning Division and Johanna Murphy, Long Range Planning Division were part of the Trails Task Force and met several times a month to resolve issues related

to trail planning and development and other projects funded by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

Ms. Menart explained that trails created active transportation and recreation opportunities by providing people with safe places to bike, walk, hike, jog and skate. Trails connected neighborhoods with places such as parks, schools, shopping, work and places of worship and were an alternate mode of transportation. Ms. Menart explained that trails provided natural, scenic areas that caused people to actually want to be outside and physically active with cost effective places to exercise versus expensive indoor gyms and health clubs. Economically, trails attracted new residents and businesses, increased property values and increased tax revenues.

Ms. Murphy explained that in August 2001 the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition adopted the Las Vegas Valley primary trail system commonly known as the Regional Trails Network and had 760 planned miles of off street trails. It was an integrated, interconnected system linking urbanized areas with federal lands. The City was working to develop the mainframe of the system comprised of the Lower Las Vegas Wash and Upper Las Vegas Wash trails. The network was adopted as the Regional Transportation Commission's alternative mode of transportation. In July 2006 the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition adopted the Regional Open Space Plan which recommended an open space system with five elements, mountain and desert backdrop, the regional trails network, Vias Verde, the regional significant and heritage land and the washes. At the Southern Nevada Open Space and Trails Summit officials from the local, federal and regional agencies signed a statement of intent to work together to define the visions of the trails and open space network for Southern Nevada.

Ms. Murphy explained that since the creation of the Southern Nevada Lands Management Act, \$287 million had funded the regional trails network with \$44 million funded for North Las Vegas trails.

Mr. Brady explained that the City received more than \$168 million for all City programs, but trails received \$45 million which helped create over 17 miles of trail programs. In the first phase of the program two miles of trails were developed. Construction of phase 2 and 3 were awarded which would improve Sandstone Ridge Park down to the Craig Road and North 5th Street intersection at the Desert Star regional mall development. There were more than ten miles that were in a phase of planning or development that would continue on the Las Vegas Wash and Upper Las Vegas Wash. He explained that future phases would take the trail over I-15. Mr. Brady explained work was being done in the Upper Las Vegas Wash and would take the trails from Deer Springs to Craig Road and tie into the Beltway plans and Park Highlands development. The next phase would tie in with the Las Vegas Wash and go over I-15 which would take it down to the Lake Mead Boulevard intersection with Pecos Road and tie into South Las Vegas trails.

Ms. Menart explained that the process of developing trails had been met with challenges with the largest being the lack of citywide trails and bikeways master plan which was funded through Southern Nevada Land Management Act. The City would hire a consultant who specialized in trail planning to develop a system of interconnected trails, sidewalks and on road bike facilities. The spine of the system was being developed with the wash trails system but there was a need to figure out how to connect east and west and north to the future master planned communities and other developments such as the UNLV campus. The scope of work would include various alignment alternatives, design, property acquisition strategies, private dedication requirements and cost estimates.

Councilman Eliason arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Ms. Menart explained there were issues in the implementation of the existing trail system such as connectivity, pedestrian crossings, new trail development in mature areas, maintenance and security.

ACTION: UPDATE GIVEN

PUBLIC FORUM

Dean Leavitt, 918 Dawn Valley Drive, North Las Vegas, was excited about the trails and concerned about the need of a traffic control device for pedestrians to cross Ann Road.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:43 P.M.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson

SECOND: Councilman Eliason

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED: May 21, 2008

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

ATTEST:

/s/ Karen L. Storms
Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk