

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Seventy-fourth Session
March 20, 2007**

The Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Barbara K. Cegavske at 1:36 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Barbara K. Cegavske, Chair
Senator William J. Raggio, Vice Chair
Senator Warren B. Hardy II
Senator Bob Beers
Senator Bernice Mathews
Senator Valerie Wiener
Senator Steven A. Horsford

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Harry Mortenson, Assembly District No. 42
Harvey J. Munford, Assembly District No. 6

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brenda J. Erdoes, Legislative Counsel
Michelle L. Van Geel, Committee Policy Analyst
Brian Campolieti, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tim Rubald, Carson City, Interim Secretary, Commission on Economic Development

CHAIR CEGAVSKE:

I open this meeting with Assembly Joint Resolution (A.J.R.) 10 of the 73rd Session from the Assembly Committee on Elections, Procedures, Ethics, and Constitutional Amendments. Assembly Joint Resolution 10 of the 73rd

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Session passed last session and will need to pass the 74th Session to go to a vote of the people.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 10 OF THE 73RD SESSION: Proposes to amend Nevada Constitution to revise residency requirement for purpose of being eligible to vote in elections. (BDR C-1379)

HARRY MORTENSON (Assembly District No. 42):
Assembly Joint Resolution 10 of the 73rd Session is a correction to the *Constitution of the State of Nevada* because the courts have mandated we cannot have six months for the duration of residency before a person could vote. Assembly Joint Resolution 10 of the 73rd Session brings the *Constitution of the State of Nevada* in line with current law. All this bill does is change time for residency from 6 months to 30 days in order to vote.

SENATOR BEERS:
Was A.J.R. 10 of the 73rd Session on the ballot?

MR. MORTENSON:
No, A.J.R. 10 of the 73rd Session is coming through the Legislature a second time and goes on the ballot if it passes the Nevada State Senate.

SENATOR BEERS:
If it passes this second time, it goes on the ballot for the next general election?

MR. MORTENSON:
That is correct.

CHAIR CEGAVSKE:
I close the hearing on A.J.R. 10 of the 73rd Session and open the hearing on Assembly Concurrent Resolution (A.C.R.) 9.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 9: Urges the Commission on Economic Development to promote economic development and urban renewal and to stimulate employment in certain areas. (BDR R-191)

HARVEY J. MUNFORD (Assembly District No. 6):
The issue dealt with by A.C.R. 9 is a repeat presentation for me. Urban renewal was presented during the 73rd Session, and I keep trying to see if something

could happen. I am asking for support, endorsement and backing from the Legislature. Assembly Concurrent Resolution 9 urges the Commission on Economic Development to promote economic development and urban renewal to stimulate employment in areas of old west Las Vegas.

Representing a district in the heart of old west Las Vegas, I see the lack of opportunity and economic empowerment faced by many of my constituents on a daily basis. I have been a resident of west Las Vegas for 36 years. I moved into the area around 1972. Since that time, I have seen the neighborhood shift and change for better and for worse. I have been encouraged by the progress made over the last two years with new structures and the widening of Martin Luther King Boulevard. Building on this momentum, we have an opportunity to make a sound commitment to improving the lives and opportunities of the residents of west Las Vegas.

By passing A.C.R. 9, we can encourage economic activity for job creation and economic stability. It has been proven time and again that increased workforce opportunities can increase civic participation and decrease crime. As leaders in the state, we can help change the often negative perspective outsiders have of west Las Vegas by showing investors that feasible opportunities in this community will mutually benefit investors and residents. As a representative of this area, I have seen changes to include improvement in the enterprise zone known as Enterprise Park in west Las Vegas. Structures placed there are not economically beneficial to the community. Many of the structures are about appearance—not economic development. This has caused disappointment in the community.

We are a proud people in west Las Vegas. The early originals endured much frustration and concern, but they have not given up. When I first came to Las Vegas, west Las Vegas was fairly progressive and had some economic development. Maybe that was because of the concentrated community. After integration, the community changed. I am not negative on integration, but integration took income from our community because people moved to other parts of the area. Now, we should encourage people to move back to the area. The only way to manage that is to establish economic development. I have been trying to interest people in investing in the area and realizing its potential. This is a difficult task. I do not know what silver bullet or magic it takes to achieve this. Over the years, nonprofit or government grant-type organizations brought to west Las Vegas have become the surviving force for the community.

Although, this is good, there has never been any real capital investment. Many nonprofit organizations have not lived up to their expectations. In some instances, they have had a negative effect on the community. Unfortunately, our community became dependent on these organizations and lost the will to rely on itself. It is almost a begging situation where the community begs for something—without learning how to earn it.

Real capital will create an opportunity for residents to get a job and become independent. Some nonprofit organizations have provided job training, but that has not improved the community. Many more educated and wise people in the community have become aware those nonprofit organizations are not the answer to our problems. In the last year, there have been problems with funding and how it has been handled. Some of these organizations came to our community in 1966. We continue to fail at achieving the goals of former President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society." I understand the State of Nevada is in the business of investing. I request the State of Nevada offer its promotion, influence, cheerleading, backing and support. Many developers come to the city and ask for problem-solving solutions concerning land use and development projects. The Mayor of Las Vegas, Oscar B. Goodman, said in order to help west Las Vegas, he holds developers to an agreement of helping the community.

SENATOR RAGGIO:

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 9 is generic in that it talks about any area. I do not see any reason we should not support A.C.R. 9. Are there organized groups, either formal or informal, in west Las Vegas that encourage development?

MR. MUNFORD:

Community leaders in west Las Vegas are trying to stimulate and bring investment to the community. Ahern Rentals on West Bonanza Road is active in job creation within the community and hires anyone who wants to work, even ex-felons.

SENATOR RAGGIO:

Other than an individual, have leaders or business people come together to bring emphasis on the area?

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MR. MUNFORD:

To make wonderful things happen for the community, we need a unified effort on the part of elected officials and community leaders.

SENATOR RAGGIO:

I was the Republican candidate for United States Senate in 1970. If you were a candidate, you had to make an appearance in west Las Vegas. A potent group of African Americans who cordially received me were an impressive group from which I received much support. Those people from west Las Vegas were powerful, and the community should learn from that if they want to have a political voice. If the community comes together, it could accomplish much on its own.

CHAIR CEGAVSKE:

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 9 encourages the Commission on Economic Development to utilize the provisions of Senate Bill No. 229 of the 73rd Session. This is already done, but Assemblyman Munford, you want to emphasize business growth and effective revitalization of older neighborhoods. I concur with Senator Raggio that A.C.R. 9 is needed.

SENATOR BEERS:

If okay with the sponsor, I ask the Committee's consideration to expand the scope beyond the Commission on Economic Development and include the Nevada Development Authority (NDA), Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN), Northern Nevada Development Authority and the people to whom we transmit this because they have programs to promote economic development as well.

MR. MUNFORD:

I am willing to bring anyone who wants to help on board.

SENATOR BEERS:

We should consider that as an amendment as we process A.C.R. 9.

SENATOR HARDY:

I recall Senator Horsford worked hard on S.B. No. 229 of the 73rd Session. There was much discussion on how to do this and with what kind of incentives. I was discouraged to learn from my colleague that we are only now adopting the regulations set forth in S.B. No. 229 of the 73rd Session. There may be a

good reason for that, but the Legislature spoke clearly in S.B. No. 229 of the 73rd Session. We should process A.C.R. 9 and say we really mean it.

SENATOR HORSFORD:

I am in support of A.C.R. 9. Senate Bill No. 229 of the 73rd Session was passed unanimously by both Houses of the Legislature in 2005. Shortly after the session, we had a change of directors with the Commission on Economic Development. Regulations set forth by S.B. No. 229 of the 73rd Session are being promulgated now. Barbara Clark, formerly with the Nevada Tax Commission, is working on the regulations. I trust once those regulations are approved by the Tax Commission, we will bring about the type of economic renewal and stimulus we need, not only in west Las Vegas but all communities with underserved businesses. Through S.B. No. 229 of the 73rd Session, the Commission on Economic Development created a community development corporation which provides grants to small and minority-owned businesses to help them grow.

CHAIR CEGAUSKE:

You can tell there is support for A.C.R. 9 from this Committee. Do you accept the amendments suggested by Senator Beers?

MR. MUNFORD:

Yes.

TIM RUBALD: (Carson City, Interim Secretary, Commission on Economic Development):

I do not have any testimony but would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee. I take full responsibility for the delays promulgating regulations for S.B. No. 229 of the 73rd Session. It is not that the Commission on Economic Development has not done anything; we have been active in the creation of the Valley Center Opportunity Zone. We had a coaching situation dealing with west Las Vegas issues. One of my commissioners is the executive director for the Latin Chamber of Commerce. I take this issue seriously; it is not something we have tried to avoid. I want to put a program in place. I have spent time walking the streets; my background is in small community redevelopment so I am familiar with many of the problems and issues. I brought in consultants from Washington, D.C., to help with the Valley Center Opportunity Zone.

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CHAIR CEGAVSKE:

I close the hearing on A.C.R. 9 and will take a motion on A.J.R. 10.

SENATOR RAGGIO MOVED TO DO PASS A.J.R. 10.

SENATOR HARDY SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR CEGAVSKE:

I will now take a motion on A.C.R. 9.

SENATOR BEERS:

I move to amend A.C.R. 9 to expand the recipient list from the Commission on Economic Development to any other economic development agencies our staff can find including EDAWN, NDA and the Northern Nevada Development Authority.

SENATOR BEERS MOVED TO AMEND AND ADOPT AS AMENDED
A.C.R. 9.

SENATOR WIENER SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR HORSFORD:

If we are expanding the list, I would like to include redevelopment agencies. A grant fund created during the 73rd Session attempted to address urban blight. Few local governments and redevelopment agencies applied for the funding even though the State of Nevada made it available.

SENATOR BEERS:

I am fine with that motion if the secondary is fine with it.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR CEGAVSKE:

The Committee has received an amendment to S.B. 267 ([Exhibit C](#)). I will accept a motion after each member has read [Exhibit C](#).

SENATE BILL 267: Creates the Legislative Committee on Water Resources.
(BDR 17-205)

SENATOR MATHEWS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
S.B. 267.

SENATOR BEERS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR CEGAVSKE:

I adjourn the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections at
2:14 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Brian Campolieti,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Barbara K. Cegavske, Chair

DATE: _____