

State Legislature Faces Major Deadlines

Some good news and some bad news as the session progresses

The State Legislature passed a major deadline on Friday April 10th when 159 Bills automatically died because they were not voted out of committee by midnight on that date. The Legislature places self imposed deadlines on itself to ensure that they can work their way through the process in the hopes of adjourning on time on the First Monday of June (120 days after they started in February). The next important deadline takes place just days later when all bills have to pass out of the House of Origin by April 21st. That means that after some very long committee meetings that sometimes lasted as late as 11pm on such subjects as the marking of sewer laterals during the week ending April 10th, we then began a week full of hours long floor sessions as legislators have to adopt the amendments that have come out of long committee work and then prepare to vote on those bills have now been placed on the General File. What really slows down the process besides the pure mechanics of each bill having to be processed is when each political party asks for a long recess to go into caucus prior to bill voting to discuss how each party will take on potentially controversial bills. It can get very tedious in what already can be a slow process. Numerous bills will be voted out in a unanimous fashion because of the hard work that has taken place in committee to mitigate concerns - hence the large number of amendments that have to be adopted. But there will still remain some bills that the majority has pushed through committee that the minority party just cannot agree to and the vote will split down party lines. A rarity, but still a reality. So the good news is that bills died. The bad news is that bills died. Seriously, here is what we have going on still of importance.

One of NAIOP's primary objectives this session was to support the Nevada Department of Transportation's Pioneer Project for Managed Lanes to ease Congestion along I-15 and US95. The big stumbling block was always going to be the need for NDOT to be able to do limited tolling and automated enforcement as a means to attract private money and developers who would want to fund such a public private partnership. The legislature could just not grasp the concept and need for the tolling and some tough hearings took place with the final outcome being that the Chair of Assembly Transportation chose to not bring the legislation (AB524) up for a vote in work session.

Other bills of interest that did not pass out of committee that your NAIOP government affairs team had concerns about (the good news) was AB166 which related to employment practices, AB506 which would have created community land trusts - perhaps to the detriment of commercial land development died, and SB264 which would have given more authority to local governments to tax was reduced to an interim study. Other bills of concern to NAIOP that were successfully amended to lessen our concerns were AB189 dealing with tenant late fees which now has commercial properties exempted, and SB338 which dealt with the abandoned property left behind in commercial buildings.

Bills that remain that still need additional work with both the legislature and the sponsors of the bill include SB352 which relates to Liens, AB178 relating to workers compensation, AB467 that deals with prevailing wage on public works projects that could bleed into the private sector, AB313 dealing with late fees on tenants and the broader issue of sales tax and property tax abatements that relate to education.

Mayor Oscar Goodman Becomes Director of National Sustainability Board **City Of Las Vegas Recognized For Sustainability Efforts**

Efforts by the City of Las Vegas to create a sustainable community has been recognized with the selection of Mayor Oscar B. Goodman as one of 12 directors of ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) Local Governments for Sustainability U.S.A. ICLEI is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have

made a commitment to sustainable development. More than 1,075 cities, towns, counties and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership.

"I'm honored to be a part of this prestigious board that looks at the big picture of how we can become more sustainable," Mayor Goodman said. "Many know Las Vegas for its world-class entertainment, hotels, restaurants and boutique shopping, but beyond the neon we are a city that embraces alternative fuel vehicles, green buildings and conserving our natural resources. "I look forward to sharing some of the strides Las Vegas has made in this area and to learning some new ways we can make Las Vegas more sustainable in the future." For the city of Las Vegas sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

The City of Las Vegas was named the American City of the Year at the World Leadership Awards in 2007 in recognition its sustainability program, which included alternative fuels program and Centennial Hills Master-Planned Campus. The city's alternative fuels program is recognized worldwide for its innovation. More than 90 percent of the city's 1,350 vehicles operate on alternative fuels such as hydrogen, compressed natural gas, biodiesel and hybrid technology. Policies have been adopted by the city for any new city buildings to be constructed to green building standards. Also, the city is working with Newland Communities to build one of the first LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, certified neighborhoods in the world at the 61-acre Union Park development downtown.

Federal Lands Bill: City Of Las Vegas Receives Acres for Nevada Cancer Institute and Other Public Uses

As part of the federal lands bill recently signed by President Obama, the City of Las Vegas will receive an 80-acre parcel of federal land to be used for public facilities and additions to the Nevada Cancer Institute (NVCI). Approximately 24 acres will go to NVCI, while the majority of the remaining acreage will be used for public purposes, including an existing water pumping facility, flood control projects and a park. Current plans also call for a small development on a portion of the site that will feature uses compatible with NVCI. "We are very grateful to have received this land from the Bureau of Land Management as well as the continued dedication and assistance from our congressional delegation and the city of Las Vegas," said Heather Murren, chair of the NVCI board.

Receiving this land marks a new chapter in the partnership between the city of Las Vegas and NVCI. "NVCI is helping the city to reach its goal of becoming a world-class medical center," Ward 2 Councilman Steve Wolfson said. "I'm proud that the institute is located in Ward 2, and I look forward to the continued excellence that this non-profit organization brings to the community." Incoming NVCI Director and CEO John C. Ruckdeschel, M.D., added, "We have yet to do the analysis to determine how to best use this land. However, it will be in keeping with our mission to reduce the burden of cancer for Nevadans through groundbreaking research and patient care."

Personnel Moves at Clark County and City of Henderson

There were two significant personnel announcements made in late March. City of Henderson officials took action to terminate the contract of City Manager Mary Kay Peck on April 14th. Assistant City Manger Mark Calhoun was named acting city manager. Clark County Assistant Manager Darryl Martin announced that he is resigning in order to take a top administrative position with Dallas County. Dallas County commissioners voted March 31 to hire Martin, who will start his new job on April 27.

County and Union Reach Budget Agreement

On April 3, the Service Employees International Union Local 1107 approved a budget agreement with Clark County that will avert drastic budget reduction measures and maintain vital services. This vote follows months of dialogue between Clark County and SEUI leadership. Prior to the vote, County Commission Chairman Rory Reid stated "the significance of this agreement cannot be overstated". Al

Martinez, president of SEIU Nevada, which represents members employed by Clark County and University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, added that "the primary focus throughout discussion was maintaining the vital services of Clark County and UMC employees provide for our community." According the union spokeswoman Amber Lasater, more than 62 percent of the 9,500 union members who voted ratified the contract offer, which included trimming cost-of-living raises to 1 percent from 3 percent and capping merit pay increases at 4 percent instead of 5 percent.

Implementation Workshop for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is hosting a workshop to help Nevadans take advantage of the economic recovery plan. Officials from 40 federal and state agencies have been invited to attend. Representatives from Senator Reid's offices will be on hand to answer questions and advise Nevadans on getting the most out of the recovery plan. The workshop will be held on April 16 at Mandalay Bay Resort. For additional information and to register for the workshop, please visit:

<http://reid.senate.gov/services/arra_workshop.cfm>

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