

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Legislative down Time

These dog days of summer that commence immediately after the end of a Legislative session are usually very, very quiet. Unlike 10 other states, the Nevada Legislature was able to finish on time and without the need for a special session. This year is the first time since 1999 that we have not had a special session at least immediately following the end of session (same day) or well into summer as in 2003. Some states have been completely unable to recess because of their budget/revenue shortfall issues, or have had multiple special sessions (Arizona is on their third). So until the interim committees begin to meet sometime in the fall, there isn't a lot of news taking place. The most activity that we are beginning to see is the campaign funding request letters hitting mail boxes. State law prohibits Legislators from seeking campaign funds until 30 days after a regular Legislative Session has ended. On July 4th, just days after that prohibition was lifted, and on our nation's birthday no less, the first letter soliciting funds was received by your NAIOP government affairs team. Most of these letters serve to update their constituents and their friends with news of the session, bills and programs that were worked on by the individual legislator seeking support and a discussion of the challenges ahead. And the proverbial ask for a contribution. In speaking to sitting legislators, they have a huge challenge ahead of them in trying to fill a great number of open seats. At a minimum, there are seventeen seats that are open due to term limits, one extra senate seat available with the resignation of Republican Warren Hardy, talks of current legislators both termed out and seated with time left who now have interest in vacant seats in the opposite house and just an overall need to field a large number of candidates on both sides of the aisle. As a side note - if anyone is willing to spend their winter in Carson City every other year, make a salary of \$130 dollars a day for 60 of the 120 days (plus per diem and travel expenses), and have your complete personal life open to inspection – feel free to contact your party caucus representative. The clock is ticking even louder this campaign season as filing for elective office has been moved from the middle of May to the first of March since the Legislature moved the Primary Election back to June.

Interim Committees

Unlike the dog days of summer described above, the Nevada Legislature truly does have a lot to do between now and February of 2011. Because our legislature meets only for 120 days every other year, the interim time period between the regular sessions becomes very important as both standing committees and subcommittees formed either by the Legislative Commission or created by special legislation from the previous session process and deliberate on important issues. The Legislature is staffed all year round, in session or out of session by the Legislative Counsel Bureau. They handle all of the legal, research and fiscal duties of the Legislature. There is also an Audit division that monitors state agencies and provides those reports to the Legislature. The Legislative Commission which is made up of 12 legislators supervises the LCB. This body meets every few months to deal with interim matters of the legislative branch of government. The Interim Finance Committee also meets all year round and makes the fiscal decisions for the Legislature when the full legislature is not in session.

But there are many other committees that meet during the interim including the committee NAIOP is so excited about. As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Legislature will study and report back to the 2011 Session through the auspices of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 30 the development and promotion of logistics and distribution centers and issues concerning infrastructure and transportation in this State. NAIOP's members and government affairs team will put forth great efforts in assisting this committee on understanding these issues from the NAIOP perspective. There will be many issues discussed by the standing Health Committee, Education Committee, Public Lands Committee, Committee on Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Victims of Crime just to name a few. Studies commissioned this session include Employee Misclassification, Governance and oversight of the K-12

System of Public Education, Group Homes, Production and Use of Energy, the requirements for Reapportionment and Redistricting, and another of importance to NAIOP – the Powers Delegated to Local Governments. And there will always be something that raises the concern of the Legislature that one or more committees will focus on during their regularly scheduled meetings as the Health Committee did last interim with Hepatitis crisis and the Out Patient Endoscopic Centers.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Las Vegas City Council votes against increase in business license tax

The Las Vegas City council unanimously voted against an ordinance to increase the business license tax paid every six months by businesses that calculate the tax using their gross sales. They also rejected a proposal to require commercial property landlords to get a business license, which is not required in the city now. The council members were clearly affected by the hundreds of e-mails that were sent by members of business groups such as NAIOP. After the vote, the Mayor addressed those who advocated against the fee increase and cautioned them to not consider this a victory. The Mayor stated that Las Vegas has serious fiscal challenges and government services will need to be reduced in future. While the City Council turned down the business license fee increase proposal, it did support a measure to increase certain inspection fees and fines meant to recover costs associated with increase costs in business licensing.

March appointed to Henderson City Council

In a special meeting on July 8, the Henderson City Council appointed Debra March to serve the remainder of the council term that became vacant when Andy Hafen was elected Mayor. March is the executive director of Lied Institute of Real Estate Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and at the time of her appointment was a member of the Henderson City Planning Commission. March, who will be sworn officially in on July 21, was selected from a group of 14 applicants. Her appointment also was noteworthy from a historical standpoint—for the first time, a majority of the Henderson City Council will be women.

City of Las Vegas received federal stimulus dollars for energy project

A top federal official visited Las Vegas on July 8 to announce that \$1.2 million of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Recovery Act funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be used for three solar carport projects. HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims joined Mayor Oscar Goodman and Councilman Ricki Barlow in making this announcement which is expected to save the city government in energy costs and reduce their carbon footprint. The solar parking plan, combined with other renewable energy projects, will bring the city to an approximately ten percent renewable energy standard for all municipal operations by 2011.

APEX Overlay

While members of our Government Affairs Group continue to work closely with the City of North Las Vegas regarding trying to better time approval of this Overlay and modifications to Title 17, please review the Overlay documentation and respond back to the City as indicated with any recommended changes prior to July 22nd. Go to Government Affairs News on the chapter website. <<link>>

City of Henderson Zoning Code Update/Changes

Please review the proposed Henderson zoning updates/changes and respond back to George Garcia at GGarcia@gcgarciainc.com prior to July 23rd. Go to Government Affairs News on the chapter website. <<link>>

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