

From: Lori Wohletz
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2005 7:59 AM
To: PW - All Staff; FO - All Staff; Office of Business Development; City Attorney, All Staff; City Manager, All Personnel; City Council, All Staff
Subject: City Managers Statement

Having read the City Managers address to all City staff this morning I felt that I should explain why I took the extraordinary step of speaking to the Las Vegas Review Journal. I have worked for the City for 11 years as the Environmental Officer and during that time I have built a reputation as a straight shooter who will not compromise on the truth. I consider myself to be technical staff and I do not become involved in any sort of politics. I fully agree with the City Managers assessment that the expert panel was composed of individuals of the best technical background and I strongly feel that they did an excellent job of completing their assessment in a very limited period of time. The original questions given to the panel were in my opinion very biased toward development, to such an extent that the panel itself immediately asked if the development were a "done deal". I made sure that the panel was told that they were not limited to the questions and should make a full and accurate assessment of the proposal. They fully completed that job assignment.

Where the City Manager and I part company is with what was done with the recommendation made by the expert panel. The expert panel was very clear in making the recommendation that half of the western portion of the Royal Links Golf Course and all of the northern portion be maintained as a permanent buffer. The City Manager responded that he needed a recommendation between doing nothing and keeping the buffer, more along the lines of constructing a higher wall. The panel was very firm in replying that a wall would probably just channel odors and make the situation worse for the already approved residences to the south. The panel stuck by their recommendation that most of the golf course should be maintained as a buffer and this was the recommendation in the report that they issued. This was not the recommendation made to the City Council. Staff recommended approval of lifting the deed restriction and allowing the golf course to be developed with a wall of additional height. I felt that this was a betrayal of the assurance that had been made to me by Charlie Kajkowski, that the recommendations of the expert panel would be taken without prejudice and be given to the City Council.

I want to tell you all that it is not easy taking on City management from a low level position such as mine. But I am absolutely determined that the truth be told. Mr. Walters has certainly benefited immensely from the City over the past 6 years, now this may be because as the Mayor says, he's a very good businessman, but it is our job as City staff to be just as good of business people to protect the City interests. I don't believe that we have done so in the past in regards to Mr. Walters. There will certainly be more media reports concerning Mr. Walters and his association with the City of Las Vegas. All I can say is that each person will have to make their own judgment as to whether or not City staff and management have done the best possible job that they could have done to protect the City interests. For myself, I can no longer work for the City, I will be resigning effective December 30 when I can take an early retirement. I've already made my choice to take a stand. I hope the rest of you also chose to make a stand and make sure that deals like these are never allowed to occur again.