



Las Vegas

PLANNING LAS VEGAS AS A WORLD-CLASS CITY

GROWTH WATCH

NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH: October 2009 Elementary School Poster Contest

The city of Las Vegas, Clark County School District and the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) joined forces in sponsoring a poster contest in support of National Community Planning Month. The contest was open to all students from kindergarten to 5th grade who live within the city of Las Vegas.

The theme of the contest was “My Favorite Place in Las Vegas,” and students were encouraged to illustrate a place that makes Las Vegas a wonderful place to live and play. Mayor Oscar B. Goodman selected a Grand Prize winner and two runners-up; the contest winners were recognized by the City Council at a televised meeting of the City Council on Oct. 7, 2009.

The winners were: Grand Prize - Lyndsay Wassmuth (Joseph Neal Elementary School – 5th Grade), First Runner Up - Beau Thistle (The Meadows School – 3rd Grade) and Second Runner

Up - Jonathan Farias-Martinez (John F. Mendoza Elementary School – 5th Grade).

National Community Planning Month, sponsored by the APA, is intended to

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The National Planning Month Poster Grand Prize winning entry by Lyndsay Wassmuth.

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Mayor Goodman Attends 44th National Session Of The Mayors' Institute On City Design

The 44th National Session of the Mayors' Institute on City Design was held in Denver, Colo. from July 22 – 24, 2009. The event was hosted by Denver Mayor John W. Hickenlooper with several western mayors in attendance. Experts in architecture and landscape architecture, development and urban planning joined the mayors in a discussion, offering advice on how the mayors could approach the urban design challenges facing their respective cities.

Mayor Oscar B. Goodman focused on the development of an urban pathway

system and activity nodes in the downtown core. He explained how the city is currently evaluating redevelopment proposals that have been brought forward in a manner that would connect various activity nodes by means of an urban pathway system. This system will incorporate drought tolerant trees along an extensive tree trail network that would connect the primary downtown neighborhoods of the Fremont Street Experience, the Arts District, Entertainment District and the Cultural Corridor. Mayor Goodman was offered a variety of

design and planning solutions that the resource team presented as a means to contend with the existing small parcels, while creating a more pedestrian-friendly environment within the study area.

The Mayors' Institute on City Design is a partnership program of the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Architectural Foundation, and the United States Conference of Mayors. There was no cost to either the host city or the mayors who attended this event as it was fully funded by the sponsors. This highly sought-after program has assisted more than 700 mayors in transforming their communities through good urban design. Mayor Goodman was so impressed with the session that he has offered to host a future session in Las Vegas. For more information on the program, visit www.micd.org.^{GW}

Las Vegas Boulevard In City Designated A National Scenic Byway

On Friday, Oct. 16, 2009, Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendenz announced that Las Vegas Boulevard, from Washington Avenue to Sahara Avenue, has been designated a National Scenic Byway. This completes a nine year effort by the city of Las Vegas to achieve this designation.

In order for a roadway to be designated, it must qualify by having at least one of the following intrinsic qualities: Archeological, Cultural, Historic, Natural Features, Recreational or Scenic. It also must have an adopted Corridor Management Plan and have been designated a State Scenic Byway. The cultural, historic and nighttime scenic amenities qualified Las Vegas Boulevard. However, the primary factor was due to the large amount of neon signage found along this stretch of the boulevard.

The state of Nevada designated downtown's Las Vegas Boulevard as the state's

17th Scenic Byway on Nov. 28, 2001. With this designation, the city was able to apply for and receive a \$25,000 federal grant to develop a corridor management plan outlining how the intrinsic qualities would be protected. With the community's involvement, this plan was adopted by the Las Vegas City Council on April 7, 2004. One of the goals outlined in the plan is to restore and place up to 20 historic neon signs in the median. It also called for the protection of existing neon signs and a mechanism to encourage additional neon signs in the future. The recent addition of the Horseshoe, Silver Slipper and Bow & Arrow signs contribute to the Scenic Byway as will future planned signs.

The city has formed a partnership with the nonprofit Neon Museum in order to finish a joint Scenic Byway/Neon Museum Visitor Center in the soon-to-be restored La Concha at 700 N. Las Vegas Blvd. An

\$809,000 National Scenic Byway grant is helping to fund this project. Congress sets aside upwards of \$40 million annually to fund projects located along the nation's scenic byways. The federal designation will enhance the city's grant applications in the future.

The Federal Highway Administration will also include Las Vegas Boulevard in all its marketing campaigns for the Scenic Byway Program.^{GW}



Refurbished Horseshoe Casino neon now located on Las Vegas Boulevard.



Walkable Community And Corridor Plan Status

The city of Las Vegas Planning & Development Department has embarked on two projects that will plan for aesthetic enhancements to streetscapes and infrastructure improvements. The first program consists of Walkable Community Plans which will make recommendations to improve access for residents to community amenities needed to conduct routine daily activities within a 10-minute walking distance. The second program consists of Corridor Plans, which will make recommendations to improve the quality and appearance of specific lengths of roads.

A study was conducted within the city to identify areas with the greatest potential to become self-sustained walkable communities. The Village Square and Meadows communities were identified as having multiple amenities within a 10-minute walk, making these communities excellent candidates for development as walkable communities.

The first community meeting for the Village Square walkable community was held on Aug. 20,

2009, at the M.J. Christensen Elementary School. Those in attendance provide many valuable suggestions. The community's concerns included completing the sidewalk network, more and safer crosswalks, and reducing traffic speeds with reduced lane widths.

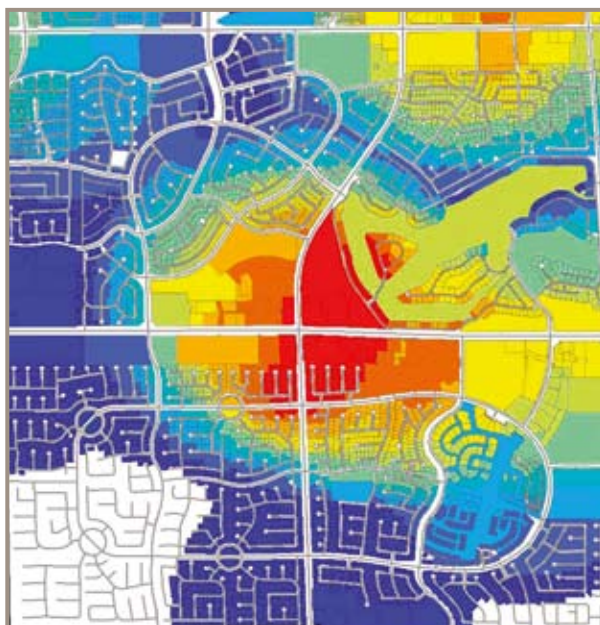
The West Charleston Boulevard Corridor Plan community meeting was held on Sept. 20, 2009, at the Charleston Heights Arts Center. Business and adjacent property owners expressed their concerns. Many were opposed to any expansion of the right of way, with

the exception of bus turnouts. Others wanted to create a plaza environment for patrons by reducing travel lane widths and providing for additional sidewalk. Most were opposed to the construction of more median islands, but were in favor of redesigning the existing islands to allow crossing traffic access to the businesses.

On Sept. 30, 2009, the Meadows Walkable community meeting was held at the Bill & Lillie Heinrich YMCA. Ward 1 Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian, neighborhood leaders and several residents attended. The community's top priority was the installation of a sidewalk on the south side of Meadows Lane with a controlled mid-block crosswalk.

Additional suggestions included widening the sidewalks along Bedford Road and the installation of shade trees.

City staff is currently in the process of drafting plans that will address the concerns of the participants. Once reviewed by the appropriate city departments, a second round of community meetings will be held for public comment prior to Planning Commission and City Council hearings.^{GW}



Walkable community map from Ward 2 illustrates the areas with access to ideal amenities within a 10-minute walk, with red being the best and blue having the least access.



Charleston Boulevard at Decatur Boulevard.



View looking west along Charleston Boulevard at Rancho Drive.



Landscaped sidewalk along Centennial Center Road.



City Of Las Vegas Wins 2009 Nevada APA Chapter DeBoer Awards For Excellence In Planning

Mayor Oscar B. Goodman and the city of Las Vegas Department of Planning & Development have won three 2009 Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) DeBoer Awards for Excellence in Planning. The awards honor excellence in planning projects and individual initiative.

Mayor Oscar B. Goodman won the Distinguished Leadership Elected Official Award for his advancement and promotion of planning principles throughout his three terms as mayor of the city of Las Vegas. He has been a force behind downtown Las Vegas redevelopment that resulted in the purchase of the 61-acre Union Pacific Railroad site, now Symphony Park. He has advocated for historic preservation including the restoration of the historic U.S. Post Office and Courthouse and the adaptive re-use of the historic Fifth Street School into a cultural center. The mayor has also formed the Arts District Task Force to facilitate a vibrant arts scene in a neglected industrial area in the southern portion of downtown. Yorgo Kagafas, AICP, urban design coordinator, Planning

& Development, submitted the nomination of the mayor.

The Department of Planning & Development won in two categories. The first is for the Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs Master Plan in the category of Outstanding Plan for an Individual Project demonstrating excellence in the application of planning principles. The park is one of the most unique and diverse resources in Southern Nevada and encompasses 680 acres of open space and developed park. The Plan encompasses water rights and lease transfer of 1,385 acres of adjacent recreation and public purpose lands. Physical improvements to restore the visitors' center at Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs are ongoing at this time. A grand re-opening is planned for Dec. 5, 2009. Courtney Mooney, AICP, Urban Design Coordinator, submitted the nomination.

The second award to the Planning & Development Department is for the West Las Vegas Plan in the category of Public Outreach. The 2009 update of the West Las Vegas Plan, as approved by City Council on



Director Margo Wheeler, AICP presented Mayor Oscar B. Goodman the Distinguished Leadership Elected Official award on Nov. 4, 2009.

July 1, 2009, shows the city's commitment in continuing to partner with residents of West Las Vegas. The plan illustrates a clear direction for implementation in land use, infrastructure and historic preservation sections. Detail is provided on areas such as streetscape and median improvements, community identity markers, historical resource preservation and improved neighborhood livability. Jim Marshall, AICP, senior planner, submitted the nomination. Tom Perrigo, AICP, deputy director and Flinn Fagg, AICP, planning manager, accepted the awards on Oct. 8, 2009 at the APA state awards banquet in Reno, Nev. [GW](#)



Census 2010 Activities

We are less than six months from Census day – April 1, 2010. A successful 2010 Census will be important for Nevada. Much is at stake with this Census. Nevada is on the bubble for adding a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and the allocation of billions of dollars in federal funds is determined by the Census.

In Southern Nevada, people are already hard at work preparing for the Census. Realizing the importance of the Census to Southern Nevada, the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) allocated funds for hiring an outreach

coordinator. The outreach coordinator will be in charge of organizing the Complete Count Committee (CCC), developing the CCC Web site, creating a logo specifically for Nevada and all promotional events and materials.

The Census Bureau has been busy in the Las Vegas area as well. The Las Vegas office for the 2010 Census opened in January 2009. Similar offices in Henderson and North Las Vegas will open in November 2009 and have grand opening events in December. In early 2010, the Census Bureau will start testing applicants for approximately 4,000 jobs. They expect

more than 25,000 people to apply for the jobs.

The first meeting of Southern Nevada Counts 2010 (SNC2010), the name chosen for the complete count committee, occurred on Oct. 22. The SNC2010 committee will meet monthly through the end of 2009 to plan and devise strategies for increasing awareness and response for the Census. Starting in January 2010, the SNC2010 will meet on a bi-weekly basis to fine-tune strategies and implement plans. January is also the target date for launching the SNC2010 Web site. The Web site will contain valuable information about the Census such as SNC2010 events, timelines and information about Census jobs.

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2009 Western Planner Of The Year



Tom Perrigo, AICP, deputy director city of Las Vegas Planning & Development Department with his award.

Tom Perrigo, AICP, deputy director was chosen as the 2009 Planner of the Year by the 14 State Western Planner Association. Perrigo was selected for his many contributions to the city's sustainability initiative, networking with both public and private partnerships to promote and perpetuate sustainability objectives, policies and projects in Southern Nevada. The programs and partnerships that he has fostered are numerous. Perrigo has provided leadership in the city's **CELEBRATE** program that identifies, implements and measures energy conservation actions within city departments. He was instrumental in the

foundation of Green Chips, a nonprofit organization that will fund energy audits and retrofits for homes in Southern Nevada. He conceived and developed the city's Green Building Program that provides commercial and residential rebates for building to sanctioned green building programs. He prepared an Urban Forestry Initiative that was adopted by City Council in May 2008; it will contribute to the city's long-term sustainability goal to plant and manage more trees in the city. Perrigo worked on the Las Vegas Wash that represents ecological habitat preservation and open space in under-served parts of the city. Perrigo accepted his award on Sept. 9, 2009 at the 2009 Western Planner Conference held in Spearfish, S.D.^{GW}

AIA Nevada Distinguished Service Award

As a team effort, Tom Perrigo, AICP, deputy director and Marco Velotta, planning technician, Dave Cornoyer, planner I and Lisa Spurgin, technician specialist, submitted an

application to showcase the city's commitment to Sustainability to the American Institute of Architects (AIA). This resulted in the city winning the AIA Nevada Distinguished Service Award For

Sustainable Practice – Organization. The award was presented to City Manager Elizabeth N. Fretwell on Sept. 19, 2009, at the Historic Fifth Street School. ^{GW}

Results of Planning & Development Case Planning Division Audit

This quarter, the Department of Planning & Development's Case Planning Division was selected for an internal audit. Instantly, thoughts of men dressed in white shirts with short sleeves, briefcases and miles of spread sheets raced to mind. Was the department spending too much on paper and pens? Are we missing any equipment? All fears were quickly laid to rest after our first meeting with the City of Las Vegas Auditor Bryan Smith.

Mr. Smith's first question was "Is there anything the Division was trying to change but was not making any progress on?" The

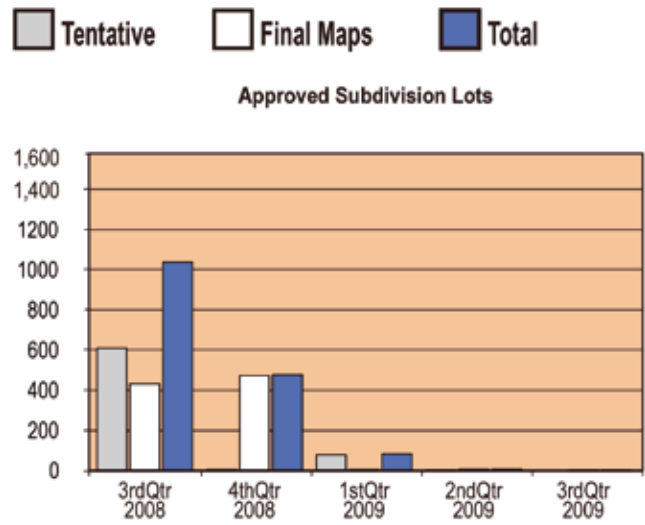
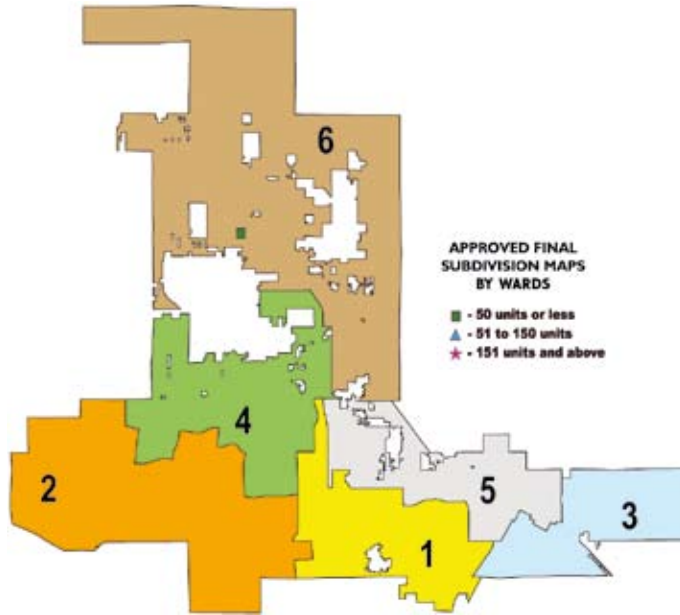
answer was a quick "yes", as the Division had been trying for 18 months to consolidate related land use entitlement reports into one report. Mr. Smith's professional attitude made it clear that he was not out to "get the Department", but to help us do our work better.

The results of the audit proved that this assessment was correct. Planning & Development staff concurred with all recommendations of the audit and said as such at the Audit Committee meeting of Oct. 15, 2009, where the report was presented and accepted.

The Planning & Development Department has so committed to completing the following operational improvement within six months:

- create formalized desk procedures for clerical and planner positions within Case Planning
- hold annual meetings with outside agencies who comment on applications*
- eliminate document redundancy
- improve the annual customer survey
- implement new software

*Note: The first such meeting was held on Oct. 27, 2009 and was well attended with representatives of the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC), Clark County Aviation, Nevada Power among others.^{GW}



Source: city of Las Vegas

Leading Economic Indicators For Clark County

“Over the past six months, the Southern Nevada Index of Leading Indicators (SNILI) has shown a bottoming. At no time has there been a clear signal the recession is ending. On the other hand, the U.S. Index has bottomed and shown repeated increases. The September SNILI shows a positive one-month gain, still trending downward but with some hope that the rate of decline is nearing an end.”

Source: UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research, March 2009

	Tentative Maps	Final Maps	Total
3rd Qtr-2008	608	430	1,038
4th Qtr-2008	4	471	475
1st Qtr-2009	76	4	80
2nd Qtr-2009	1	5	6
3rd Qtr-2009	-	1	1
% Chg Last Qtr	-100.0	-80.0	-83.3
% Chg Last Year	-100.0	-99.8	-99.9

CLARK COUNTY SERIES	DATE	UNITS	LATEST PERIOD	CHANGE PREVIOUS PERIOD	CHANGE YEAR AGO	CONTRIBUTION TO INDEX *
RESIDENTIAL BUILDING						
Units Permitted	Jul-09	#Units Permitted	494	-46.82%	-57.63%	0.009%
Permit Valuation	Jul-09	Dollars	\$ 54,661,852	-34.75%	-49.73%	0.046%
COMMERCIAL BUILDING						
Permits	Jul-09	#Units Permitted	24	-4.00%	-67.57%	-0.023%
Permit Valuation	Jul-09	Dollars	\$ 22,202,088	7.35%	-89.99%	0.033%
TAXABLE SALES	Jul-09	Dollars	\$ 2,226,329,436	-9.15%	-20.62%	-0.020%
McCARRAN AIRPORT	Jul-09	Passengers Enplaned/Deplaned	3,557,509	3.51%	-9.33%	0.008%
GALLONS OF GASOLINE	Jul-09	Thousands of Gallons	66,982.145	7.19%	-3.45%	0.030%
GROSS GAMING REVENUE	Jul-09	Dollars	\$ 729,888,886	6.16%	-10.92%	0.052%
CONVENTIONS HELD						
Visitor Volume	Jul-09	People	3,181,139	6.75%	-1.28%	0.108%
Attendance	Jul-09	People	249,692	-29.75%	-5.49%	0.005%
OVERALL CHANGE IN LEADING INDICATOR **	Sept-09		126.26	0.25%	-3.26%	0.25%

* The contribution to the index is a net-weighted average of each series after adjustment for seasonal variation.

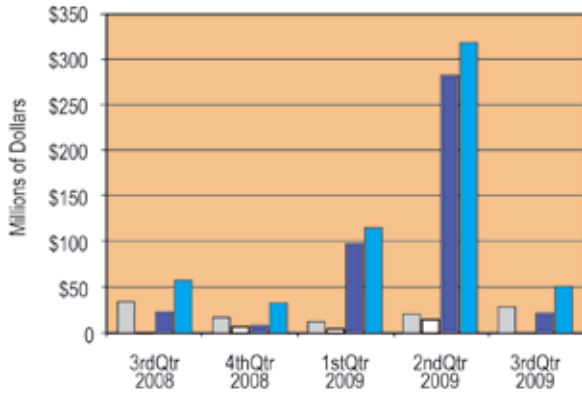
** The index is a six-month forecast (January 1, 2010) from the month of the data (July 1, 2009) and four months from the month of the series (September 1, 2009).

Source: UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research



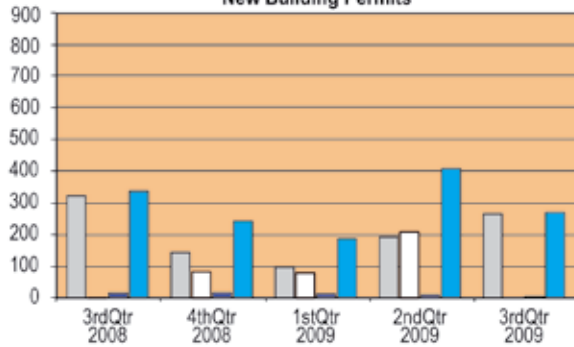
Single Family
 Multi-Family
 Commercial
 Total

New Permit Valuation



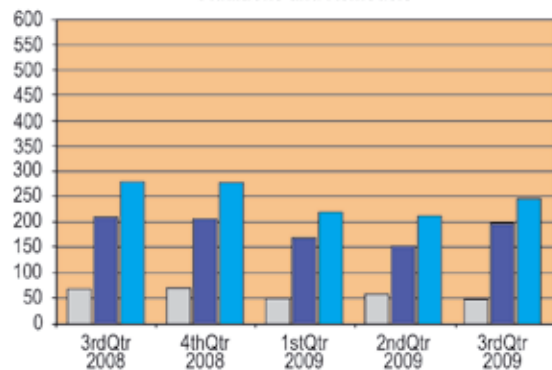
New Permit Valuation				
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial	Total
3rd Qtr-2008	\$ 34,463,322	\$ -	\$ 23,224,450	\$ 57,687,772
4th Qtr-2008	\$ 17,369,185	\$ 6,854,290	\$ 8,807,278	\$ 33,030,753
1st Qtr-2009	\$ 12,689,423	\$ 4,723,363	\$ 97,820,440	\$ 115,233,226
2nd Qtr-2009	\$ 20,968,528	\$ 14,980,825	\$ 281,307,807	\$ 317,257,159
3rd Qtr-2009	\$ 28,927,622	\$ -	\$ 21,971,855	\$ 50,899,477
% Chg Last Qtr	38.0	-100.0	-92.2	-84.0
% Chg Last Year	-16.1	0.0	-5.4	-11.8

New Building Permits



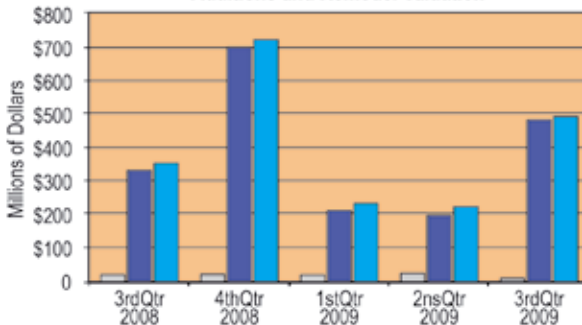
New Building Permits				
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial	Total
3rd Qtr-2008	321	-	15	336
4th Qtr-2008	143	82	16	241
1st Qtr-2009	96	78	12	186
2nd Qtr-2009	191	207	9	407
3rd Qtr-2009	264	-	5	269
% Chg Last Qtr	38.2	-100.0	-44.4	-33.9
% Chg Last Year	-17.8	-0.0	-66.7	-19.9

Additions and Remodels



Additions and Remodels			
	Single Family	Commercial	Total
3rd Qtr-2008	69	210	279
4th Qtr-2008	71	206	277
1st Qtr-2009	50	169	219
2nd Qtr-2009	59	153	212
3rd Qtr-2009	49	197	246
% Chg Last Qtr	-16.9	28.8	16.0
% Chg Last Year	-29.0	-6.2	-11.8

Additions and Remodel Valuation



Additions and Remodel Valuation			
	Single Family	Commercial	Total
3rd Qtr-2008	\$ 2,128,605	\$ 33,357,509	\$ 35,486,114
4th Qtr-2008	\$ 2,235,143	\$ 70,316,940	\$ 72,552,083
1st Qtr-2009	\$ 2,083,187	\$ 21,406,131	\$ 23,489,318
2nd Qtr-2009	\$ 2,543,401	\$ 19,919,574	\$ 22,462,975
3rd Qtr-2009	\$ 966,819	\$ 48,545,012	\$ 49,511,831
% Chg Last Qtr	-62.0	143.7	120.4
% Chg Last Year	-54.6	45.5	39.5

Source: city of Las Vegas (including subdivision information)



Gus W. Flangas Planning Commissioner



Planning Commissioner, Gus W. Flangas, appointed in July 2009.

Gus W. Flangas was appointed to the Planning Commission by Ward 4 Councilman Stavros S. Anthony in July 2009. Flangas is a native Nevadan. He graduated from UNLV in 1980. He served in the United States Army for 10 years as a commissioned officer and helicopter pilot. In 1990, Mr. Flangas attained a Masters in Operations

Management from the University of Arkansas. Mr. Flangas graduated from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. He was admitted to the State Bar of Nevada in 1993. Mr. Flangas is a member of the State Bar of Nevada and the Clark County Bar Association, as well as the Nevada Trial Lawyer Association.

Mr. Flangas has had an accomplished career in complex civil litigation, real estate and business litigation, construction litigation, appellate work, personal injury and a variety of felony and criminal cases.

A member of local charitable organizations, Mr. Flangas' community involvement includes past service on the advisory board of the Boys and Girls Club and as past president of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church. Mr. Flangas is currently serving on the board of directors for Goodwill Industries, Inc. He participates and supports children's athletics. *G_W*

NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH – Continued From Page 1

increase awareness of the impact that planning has on communities. Good planning helps to build neighborhoods of lasting value, and to create communi-

ties that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. APA is a nonprofit education and research organization committed to promoting good planning. *G_W*



Runner-Up posters from the National Planning Month Poster Contest: First Runner Up, Beau Thistle (left) and Second Runner Up, Jonathan Farias-Martinez (right).

CENSUS 2010 ACTIVITIES – Continued From Page 4

The implementation of outreach strategies will be made easier in Nevada due to the state's Interim Finance Committee. Through a recommendation from the Secretary of State, funds in the amount of

\$961,000 were allocated for the statewide Census campaign. The funds will be used to produce promotional spots specifically targeting Nevadans and the benefits an accurate Census holds for them. *G_W*



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