U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Coordination and Review Section

Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

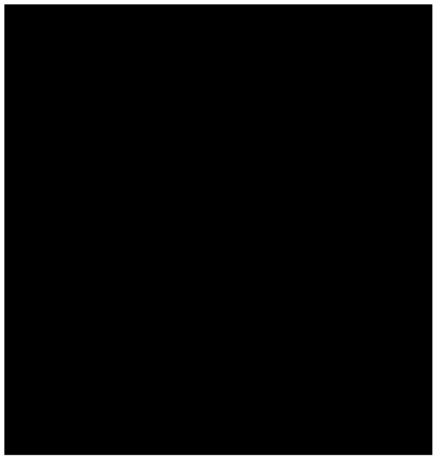
I can reached any day from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. by phone or

If you are unable to reach me for whatever reason, please contact

Complaint

This complaint involves myself and the neighborhood surrounding F Street,

Las Vegas Nevada.



The following agencies discriminating against us are:

The City of Las Vegas

The Regional Transportation Commission

The State of Nevada

North Corridor Constructors

Las Vegas Paving

PBS&J

I believe that other people in my neighborhood suffer from the same injustices but their voices have not been heard because the public meetings are filled with people from all over the City who do not sharer our values.

They have shouted at us and poked fun at us and denied us an opportunity to adequately speak our feelings. The meetings were held in government facilities and in churches where our voices were limited by time restraints. We were not recognized when we held up our hands to speak. There were people speaking on our behalf but not speaking for us. I was always told that my story was being told in the wrong place. I filed a complaint with the NAACP but am still waiting to hear from them.

This is the first time that I have been offered a remedy. I have been told on December 12, 2010 by Councilman Barlow, City of Las Vegas that in order to get any remedy that I would have to sue the City.

Now, Mrs. Norma Norman , Civil Rights Officer NDOT, gave me a form to complete that had information on how to contact you on December 15, 2010.

Mr. Easler sent me your form on December 17, 2010.

Now I feel like I am getting some attention and that I will eventually have a day to tell my story. I have been asking for this for two years.

We have requested that NDOT, the City and RTC hold a public meeting in "

"our neighborhood" which they have not. The meetings are always held outside of our neighborhood.

I complained to 911 emergency during the construction to complain about the dust because Las Vegas Paving was dumping dirt during a 45 mph wind advisory.

I called the EPA and asked for help to try to prevent those people from further damaging my home.

My wife suffers from Asthma. If we had known their schedule, we possibly could have left the area while it was under construction.

This neighborhood has been shut off from the rest of the prosperity enjoyed by the rest of the City. It suffers economically and spiritually. Children lack a sense of pride and residents feel a sense of hopelessness.

This neighborhood needs to be re-connected and economically integrated.

We want this neighborhood to share in the wealth of the City. We want this neighborhood to be a model city for America .

I have not filed a complaint with any other Federal agency and do not wish to sue anyone. I just want justice right now.

When projects occur in other parts of the City, the project is demonstrated to the Neighborhood Association in that area. This project has not come before our Neighborhood Association even though we have made repeated requests.

The dirt piled against the freeway where the street closed is void of landscaping, the wall they built has no lighting, and an unsightly giant piece of highway metal frame has been left lying in a vacant lot in clear view of my home.

The City of Las Vegas code enforcement gave me a Cease and Desist on Jun 10, 2010 order for working on my cars in my backyard. My yard Is fully enclosed. The only way anyone can see what is going on in back yard air is by airplane or to enter through a gate. I have been working on cars in my back yard for 15 years. Now it is hard for me to earn a living.

Ms. Norma Norman, Civil Rights Officer, NDOT can verify the activities I have taken to get to this point and provide supporting documents.

Ms. Katherine Duncan of the Ward 5 Chamber of Commerce can clarify my complaint.

My wife can witness the damage to our home and the mental anguish we endured and are still enduring.

[redacted] is a witness.

[redacted] is a witness.

[redacted] is a witness.

I can not afford an attorney.

I have never been notified that the street would be closed.

During construction, my home suffered damages caused by the construction activities. Earth shaking equipment, jackhammers and heavy trucks caused my home and walls to crack.

Dust filled my home during the day and night.

Noise from construction project disturbed my sleep at night, especially when work was performed around the clock.

I felt hurt and ashamed.

I tried to tell my feeling to the government officials, but I would not get any satisfaction. During the last two years, I have attended meeting after meeting after meeting conducted by the City, by NDOT by SNEC, etc., however not one of these agencies has sought any relief from me.

I filed a claim with my insurance company.

National Casualty Company

I filed a claims with the insurance company for NDOT.

National Liability Field Claims Ms

I presented my case to the SNEC. 2-09 date Present

[redacted]

The F Street neighborhood has been historically segregated from the rest of the Las Vegas community. The neighborhood has a 40% poverty rate, 1 out of 2 do not have a high school education and unemployment among teenagers is nearly 50%. Business licenses have been consistently denied and business wishing to locate in the area have been steered to the other side of town.essential services such as library, community center, medical center and fire stations have not been provided. The area is void of trees, sidewalks and bus stop shelters. Taxi cabs will not service the area . This is the only area of Las Vegas where blacks were allowed to live until 1960.

F Street Timeline

1943: Mayor Cragin refuses to renew business licenses of Black business owners unless th ey relocate to the Westside. Restrictive covenants and failure to rent to Blacks create defacto segregation

1944-1945 Informal urban renewal programs razes 375 homes, causing overcrowding on the Westside

1945: Reverend Henry Cook and West Side residents petition Mayor Cragin to pave "E" Street, the main thoroughfare on the Westside. All requests for public improvement are denied.

1950: Under Truman's Fair Deal, $1 million federal housing project approved (Kaufman, p. 360)

1951: Predominantly White middle-class residents of Bonanza Village protest use of the 20-acre Zaug Tract for low-cost housing development. Black residents charge racial discrimination. Bonanza Village hires attorney Harvey Dickerson (Kaufman, LV Sun, 4-24-51)

1951: As a compromise to Bonanza Village residents, a "100-foot wide buffer highway" is constructed (Highland Avenue, later renamed Martin Luther King Boulevard), separating the future housing project from Bonanza Village (Kaufman, p. 361; Moehring, p. 179)

1952: City of Las Vegas blacktops areas on the Westside. Federal housing project now known as Marble Manor completed (Kaufman, pp. 362-363).

1955: City of Las Vegas creates ordinance to drive out illegally parked trailer owners. 600 people sign petition to overturn ordinance, but it is retained (Kaufman, p. 375). Paving district established to fund curbing, guttering, and lighting on the West side.

1956: City of Las Vegas applies for federal urban renewal money, allowing it to condemn property for "better" use. City Planning Department extends slum clearance program by recommending that the federal highway (later known as I-15) be routed through the Westside (Kaufman, p. 375).

1957: Federal Highway plans cut highway through the Westside. Westside residents protest plan. Highway plan tied in with urban renewal plan to placate residents. 200 families displaced with promise that they would be moved to better housing (Kaufman, pp. 375-376)

1959: Las Vegas Review-Journal describes plan by State Engineer and city officials to extend Highland Avenue , which had ended at Charleston Blvd. Plan states that Highland Avenue may be extended all the way to San Francisco (LV Review Journal, 10-15-59).

1960: 160 family dwellings completed. This does not meet demand for housing. Advisory Urban Renewal Committee suggests that further low-income projects should be built outside the Westside, but this suggestion was ignored by planners (Kaufman, p. 378).

1962: Plans for widening I-15 include a cul-de-sac at F Street

1964: Civil Rights Act. Title VI prohibits racial discrimination on any projects involving federal funding

1968: Seven streets closed on the Westside. Led by Ethel Pearson, hundreds of people of the Westside community protest street closures, but streets remain closed.

1971: In response to Westside protests, F and D Streets reconfigured to access Downtown.

2004: Nevada Department of Transportation and City of Las Vegas plan expansion of Interstate Highway (I-15) through the Westside which will include closure of F Street and reconfiguration of D Street . F Street renamed City Parkway on development side of I-15. Government agencies claim they notified residents within 400 feet of the closure.

2006: Las Vegas City Council votes to close F and D streets as part of I-15 expansion. Las Vegas Councilman Lawrence Weekly later claims he did not know the plan would include street closings.

July 2008: Concrete wall built across F Street which cuts off direct access between the Westside and Downtown. City Council members claim they know nothing about the closure.

October 2008: Stop the F Street Closure Coalition formed

January 7, 2009: Protest march on Las Vegas City Hall .

January 9, 2009: [redacted] National Action Network and Stop the F Street Closure, LLC file a Federal civil rights lawsuit against the City of Las Vegas and Nevada Department of Transportation for the F Street closure.