



CITY OF LAS VEGAS

1700 N. Grand Las Vegas, NM 87701 454-1401 www.lasvegasnm.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2008

CONTACT: Mercy López
454-1401 ext. 294 or 505-426-7594

MAYOR INVITES H.U.D. REGIONAL DIRECTOR TO MEET WITH LOCAL HOUSING BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LAS VEGAS, NM – Las Vegas Mayor Tony E. Marquez, Jr. invited Justin Ormsby from the Housing and Urban Development regional office in Fort Worth, Texas last week to meet with the Las Vegas Housing Board of Commissioners. Marquez also informed federal elected officials on the *Las Vegas Optic* report of an alleged vendetta against the city by a HUD official.

During a housing board meeting on October 29, 2008, Housing Commissioner and City Councilor, Diane Moore, stated that Floyd Duran from the state HUD office should not be invited to meet with the commissioners after allegations in the local newspaper surfaced on possible unfairness to the city by Duran. Marquez then immediately directed the local housing authority to contact the next ranking official above Duran to meet the housing board.

“The newspaper article raised major concerns regarding the federal funding of the Las Vegas’ Housing Authority,” Marquez said. “The allegation that was received from a former HUD employee questioned the fairness of Mr. Duran’s actions to the local housing authority.”

Ormsby is the direct supervisor of Duran, program center coordinator for the New Mexico branch of the Office of Public Housing – part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Development.

“Affordable housing is a priority in Las Vegas,” Marquez said. “I want to ensure that Las Vegas’ residents are not affected by the allegations.”

###