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PRESS RELEASE

There has been a great deal of media coverage and speculation regarding issues surrounding the arrest of Assemblyman Steven Brooks. Some of that coverage and speculation surrounds the involvement of Councilman Ricki Barlow. The Councilman believes the facts need to be publicly set forth to clear the air and correct certain false statements and impressions created by representatives of the North Las Vegas Police Department.

Steven Brooks is a friend of Councilman Barlow. Unfortunately Steven Brooks has been suffering from mental illness which required his hospitalization.

On January 19, 2013 Councilman Barlow received a phone call from Brooks' wife Ada expressing concerns about his erratic behavior and whether he should have been released from the inpatient facility where he was being monitored. Ada Brooks also expressed her concern that Steven may be in possession of a gun.

In close proximity to this phone call, Councilman Barlow received a telephone call from Steven Brooks' mother reiterating the same concerns expressed by Brooks' wife. Brooks' mother indicated that the last thing she wanted was for her son to be involved in an altercation or shootout with the police, and expressed a fear that in his current mental state Steven might not be afraid to do so. Councilman Barlow informed Brooks' mother that he would attempt to reach out to some people to see if they could get Steven some help.

Councilman Barlow called Senator Kelvin Atkinson regarding Steven Brooks. Councilman Barlow had spoken with Senator Atkinson several days earlier wherein Senator Atkinson relayed that Assemblyman Brooks had been making numerous requests for money. In the conversation of January 19, Councilman Barlow informed Senator Atkinson of the concerns expressed by Steven Brooks' wife and mother.

At no point during this conversation between Councilman Barlow and Senator Atkinson did Councilman Barlow claim that Assemblyman Brooks had made any threats against anyone, much less Speaker Marilyn Kirkpatrick. Any claims by any person to the contrary are false. As of January 19, 2013 Councilman Barlow had no knowledge of any such threats made against Speaker Kirkpatrick, and as evidenced by the January 21, 2013 e-mail from Senator Atkinson released herewith, there is now reason to believe that no such threat was ever made.

After speaking with Senator Atkinson, Councilman Barlow received a telephone call from Steven Brooks. Brooks claimed that he had not heard from Barlow for weeks and expressed a sentiment that Councilman Barlow had abandoned him. As Councilman Barlow had spoken with Brooks on multiple occasions while Brooks was hospitalized, this telephone conversation reinforced to Councilman Barlow the concerns expressed by Steven's wife and mother. At no time during this conversation did Steven Brooks threaten anyone.

Following the telephone conversation with Senator Atkinson, Councilman Barlow again spoke with Steven Brooks' mother. In this second conversation on January 19, Brooks' mother asked Councilman Barlow whether she should contact the police regarding her son. The concern of both Brooks' mother, and Councilman Barlow, was for Steven's own safety. Neither Steven's mother nor Councilman Barlow wanted a repeat tragedy of the sort which occurred with mentally ill veteran Stanley Gibson.

Later that afternoon Councilman Barlow received a telephone call from a Sergeant Simon of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Sergeant Simon was very professional in connection with his call and clearly informed Councilman Barlow that he was investigating the well-being and actions of Steven Brooks. It was during this conversation with Sergeant Simon that Sergeant Simon asked Councilman Barlow if the Councilman was aware that there was a complaint made that Steven Brooks had threatened Speaker Kirkpatrick. This was the first that Councilman Barlow had ever heard of such an allegation. Councilman Barlow did share the Sargent Simon the concerns expressed by Brooks' mother regarding Brooks not being afraid of a confrontation with the police.

Later that evening while Councilman Barlow was on his way to dinner with his wife, he received a telephone call on his personal cell phone from North Las Vegas Assistant Chief of Police Victor Dunn. In contrast of the professionalism of Sergeant Simon of the LVMPD, Assistant Chief Dunn did not inform Councilman Barlow that he was conducting an investigation, and pretended as if it were a personal and private conversation. Assistant Chief Dunn inquired of Councilman Barlow as to what he had heard or knew about Steven Brooks. When Councilman Barlow later learned during the course of the conversation that Assistant Chief Dunn was in fact at Brooks' residence, the Councilman expressed his displeasure in the manner in which Assistant Chief Dunn had acted, and informed Assistant Chief that he would not be speaking with him any further.

Councilman Barlow has had an opportunity to review a report of the North Las Vegas Police Department wherein Assistant Chief Dunn asserts that Councilman Barlow believed there was a real danger to Speaker Kirkpatrick, and that Councilman Barlow may have contacted Senator Atkinson to give him information about threats made to Speaker Kirkpatrick. These assertions by Assistant Chief Dunn are false.

Attached to this release is an e-mail dated January 21, 2013 from Senator Kelvin Atkinson to numerous elected officials wherein Senator Atkinson appears to cast considerable doubt as to whether any such threat was ever in fact made against, much less communicated to, Speaker Kirkpatrick.

Councilman Barlow's only concern has been for the health and welfare of his friend Steven Brooks, and he hopes that Steven can get the help which he needs. However, due to the lack of professionalism and poor investigation by the North Las Vegas Police Department, and in particular Assistant Chief of Police Victor Dunn, a great deal of rank speculation and misinformation has been provided to the public and the press.

Any further inquiries may be directed to my attention.

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