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April 9, 2013

County Board of Commissioners
500 South Grand Central Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Dear Commissioners,

As the day comes to a close and you are tasked with reviewing the applicants for the vacant seat in Assembly District 17, I wanted to take a moment to express our Executive Board's concerns and perspectives on this most important decision.

In our view, the decision you make on April 16th can decide whether or not State Government has a diverse representation of the electorate in Nevada. Currently, African Americans have four representatives on the floor of the Assembly. One of which will be termed out at the end of this session, another in two years (should he be re-elected). With re-districting there is a good chance that one or two of these representatives will be replaced by someone other than an African American and therefore this seat is critical.

It is important to note that during re-districting our State and local governments considered ALL communities of interest when drawing the lines, to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to have representation in government as required by our Federal Government. We applaud you for making that a priority and championing that. If you recall, we had many discussions concerning the African American **urban core**. Assembly District 17 sits in that core and is in fact the third largest district of African Americans in Clark County. In fact, African Americans represent the largest minority voting eligible population at 8,857 and 20.32% of the population in this District. See attached report for sources of information.

Voters in 2012 elected Steven Brooks, an African American to represent them in Assembly District 17. Representative Brooks is a Black Hispanic and served in both the African American Legislative Caucus and the Hispanic Legislative Caucus. The Hispanic community represents 7,710 eligible voters and 17.68% of the population in Assembly District 17. See attached report for sources of information. Combined, this represents a total of 38% African American and Hispanic eligible voters (or those that could cast a ballot if this was an election). We did not include other minorities with much smaller eligible voting populations not to be exclusive, but to show why we believe an African American should be appointed.

In addition, African Americans turned out at record numbers again in 2012, and indications show that voter turnout of African Americans was again at the highest percentage of any group across Clark County. Assembly District 17 was a targeted community of interest for us and the African American community turned out in support of an African American candidate qualified to represent not only their interests but the issues of everyone in the District.

We are familiar with a few qualified applicants that have expressed interest and anxiously await the opportunity to review all applications and consider an endorsement. However, in the meantime we humbly ask for your vote of an African American to this seat. Our Board is engaged in this process as a top priority and I am available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Yvette Williams
Caucus Chair