



PRESS RELEASE

Reno Sparks Chamber Praises Continued Government Efforts to Collaborate on Services

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For Immediate Release (08-17-2009) – The Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, northern Nevada’s largest business organization, has appeared before several government bodies to urge continued efforts toward shared government services in instances where such services can be delivered more efficiently.

“The Chamber applauds the Washoe County Commission and the School District Board of Trustees for their decision to move forward with these shared services discussions,” stated Ralph Hartmann, Chamber Chairman. “We believe that governments at every level should always seek to provide better service at less cost. The Chamber does not believe in consolidation for consolidation’s sake. We do support, however, a constant, vigilant effort by our elected leaders to search for cost savings.”

By expanding on Washoe County’s record of consolidation, such as fire services, animal control, flood control, the health district and several others, services may be delivered more efficiently. Current discussions have centered on possible consolidation of purchasing, human resources, and information technology functions. The Chamber supports further discussion and an independent, third-party perspective to our elected leaders.

“While the Sparks City Council chose not to move forward with the consolidation of the above-mentioned areas, the Council remains fully-committed to engaging

in future tax-saving efforts and the Chamber respects their position,” Hartmann stated.

Finally, the Chamber will continue to urge legislators to reform the public employee collective bargaining system so that potential consolidation efforts are not hampered by “cherry picking” and other union contract issues.

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