

KNPR: Clark County Responds to Mayor Comments And Concerns About Reopening

The impact of COVID-19 has devastated our local economies, costing thousands of people their jobs and their livelihood. The Las Vegas Strip was undoubtedly the most affected by COVID-19 because of the complete shutdown of restaurants, small businesses, and especially Casinos that have forced thousands of people to become unemployed. This chaotic and unpredictable sequence of events have forced Clark County residents to stay home, in turn, hurting Las Vegas's economy. With the hotels and casinos shut down, domestic and international travelers are unable to experience Las Vegas which causes Clark County to lose millions, potentially billions, of dollars in revenue. The goal of reopening is in everyone's unreachable grasp because of the constant disagreement of when is the right time to open Las Vegas back to the public. Public officials are optimistic about turning Las Vegas back to the Las Vegas brand, but the unpredictability of COVID-19 makes uncertainty of when the right time is.

There has been much controversy as to who has the jurisdiction and final say on the reopening of the Las Vegas strip and the direction Clark County will take in normalizing our city. Mayor Carolyn Goodman has recently aired on CNN television to speak about the matter, offering Las Vegas as an "experiment" for the corona virus to see how many people will be affected and get sick after reopening (Prevatt). She stated in the CNN interview that she wanted to get Las Vegas open as soon as possible. Clark County came onto KNPR's State of Nevada's radio station to clarify that the mayor doesn't have complete jurisdiction over the Las Vegas strip and she was just acting like the cheerleader to her community. Although Goodman is very optimistic upon the reestablishment of Las Vegas' brand, the Governor, Steve Sisolak, and Clark County Commission are under the guidance and direction of medical experts on the situation. County Commissioner, Michael Naft, rapidly spoke upon the mayor's comments and expressed

his pride for Las Vegas stigmatise as a touristic, safe, enjoyable place. Las Vegas is described as being “too valuable to play games with,” as the situation changes, and Nevada as a whole is cautiously making decisions on moving forward under the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a County Commissioner, Michael Naft, will be sure to follow the direction of the governor, the state of Nevada, and health care professionals on both state and local levels. Opening back up small businesses is key for Michael Naft and all of Clark County who are the suppliers of millions of jobs that are the backbone of, not just our local economy, but our national economy. They plan to create a plan to reopen small businesses as soon as possible and as fluid as possible. The big question that travelers and people around the world are wondering is when will Las Vegas be open. Casinos are already taking reservations for Memorial Day weekend on May 25, 2020 with the hope that the Las Vegas strip will be open. Although Michael Naft is optimistic of the idea and applauds the level of openness and transparency that both Casinos and Resorts are having with their customers stating that the situation is not stable. The Casinos and Resorts are disclosing to their customers that they are following the rules and regulations that the state is enforcing in order to create a safe environment for everyone.

The big question that is on everyone’s mind is when will we be able to reopen and hopefully get things back to the way they were. But unfortunately, it is impossible to tell when things will be able to return to normal. Some experts say 6 months, some say a few years, but there is no way of knowing for sure. The COVID-19 is unpredictable and medical experts say that COVID-19 will be returning in the winter with a vengeance. They predict that there will be a recuperation of confirmed cases after reopening many services, for there will be an increase in interactions between people within Nevada. There is no way of knowing for sure but Michael Naft is optimistic about reopening Clark County sooner with support from Governor Sisolak,

who plans to initiate Phase 1 on Saturday, May 9 (Wolford). Michael Naft is excited to bring the Las Vegas strip back to its former glory by opening restaurants, casinos, small businesses, and resorts.