



PRESS RELEASE

Reno Sparks Chamber Applauds Government Efforts to Collaborate on Services

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For Immediate Release (07-17-2009) – The Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, northern Nevada’s largest business organization, applauds the Reno City Council for moving forward with efforts to deliver government services more efficiently through collaboration or consolidation. The Chamber commends local government entities on actions already taken to become more efficient, and urges them to seriously explore carefully selected collaboration/consolidation efforts, especially during these difficult economic circumstances.

“The Chamber believes that governments at every level should optimize operational efficiencies when possible,” stated Ralph Hartmann, Chairman of the Board of the Reno Sparks Chamber. “If consolidation of certain functions will save tax dollars, while maintaining and enhancing services for residents, then those efforts should move forward.”

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, Hartmann said.

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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