

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOUGLAS C. GILLESPIE, Sheriff

Partners with the Community

April 21, 2008

Rory Reid, Commissioner  
Clark County, Nevada  
500 Grand Central Parkway  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106  
Facsimile No. (702) 383-6041

Steven Kirk, Councilman  
City of Henderson  
240 Water Street  
Henderson, Nevada 89009  
Facsimile No. (702) 267-2081

Douglas Selby, City Manager  
City of Las Vegas  
400 Stewart Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101  
Facsimile No. (702) 388-1807

Oscar Goodman, Mayor  
City of Las Vegas  
400 Stewart Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101  
Facsimile No. (702) 385-7960

Virginia Valentine, County Manager  
Clark Court, Nevada  
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89106  
Facsimile No. (702) 455-3558

Dr. Lawrence Sands  
Southern Nevada Health District  
625 Shadow Lane  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106  
Facsimile No. (702) 383-6341

Dear Chairman Reid, Mayor Goodman, Councilman Kirk, Ms. Valentine, Dr. Selby and Dr. Sands:

I would like to take this opportunity to update you regarding the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's (LVMPD) efforts to ensure that patients of the Endoscopy Center of Nevada and its associated clinics (collectively referred to as Endoscopy Center) are able to receive copies of their medical records. As you may be aware, LVMPD seized nearly 2,000 boxes of patient medical records through a warrant for the purpose of conducting an investigation into possible criminal activity. To date LVMPD has received 1,373 requests for patient records. With the exception of emergency requests, LVMPD has not been able to fulfill the majority of the requests as the records were not kept in alphabetical or any other order that would be easily searchable.

Chairman Reid  
Mayor Goodman  
Councilman Kirk  
Ms. Valentine  
Dr. Selby  
Dr. Sands  
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On March 31, 2008 a meeting was held where various stakeholders were present. At that time it was deemed that getting patients access to their records was an utmost priority. Officers from the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) were appointed to negotiate an inter-local agreement between Clark County Government, LVMPD, and SNHD. The purpose of the inter-local agreement was to ensure that a contract between SNHD and ChartOne, a third party administrator of patient medical records, would fulfill the needs of every agency, while ensuring that the utmost priority is given to the dissemination of records to patients of the Endoscopy Center.

On April 17, 2008 LVMPD was notified by officers of the SNHD that their agency was legally unable to enter into a contract with ChartOne. Various reasons were given by SNHD including: that under Nevada law SNHD is not the purchasing agent for LVMPD, SNHD is prohibited by law from entering into inter-local agreements, entering into an agreement with ChartOne was beyond its statutory authority because it does not pertain to a public health issue, and additionally, SNHD had been unable to secure funding for the contract.

Based upon the critical nature of these files and the amount of requests that continue to be received by LVMPD, time is of the essence. I believe it is critical to move forward and execute the contract with ChartOne to ensure the welfare of the patients who were treated at the Endoscopy Center. To that end, as of April 18, 2008, I directed my staff to enter into direct negotiations with ChartOne for an emergency contract for the maintenance and dissemination of these records.

I am confident you share my concerns and will be counting on your support when seeking reimbursement to LVMPD from those governmental agencies that have already pledged funding for this purpose.

Sincerely,

  
DOUGLAS C. GILLETTE  
SHERIFF

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