

KNPR “State of Nevada” Summary

The episode of KNPR’s “State of Nevada” program that I listened to was the “Clark County Responds to Mayor Comments and Concerns About Reopening” on April 28, 2020. This episode was hosted by Mike Prevatt and he brought in commissioner Michael Naft, from the Clark County Commission, as a guest.

As the title of the episode states, this episode is about the dispute between Las Vegas’s mayor, Carolyn Goodman, and governor, Steve Sisolak, that became viral within our state. As the coronavirus pandemic has become a significant issue in everyone’s lives, this dispute began because of an interview that Goodman had with CNN’s Anderson Cooper where Goodman declared that she wanted to open up Las Vegas’s casinos, restaurants, and just small businesses in general to open back up despite the possible backfire that may take on the situation. The main reason for this interview blowing up within the Las Vegas community was due to the various remarks that Goodman made including that she thinks the virus has been here for years and she refutes Chinese research because “this isn’t China, this is Las Vegas” (Prevatt). Then, I would definitely say the most infamous line from that interview was that Goodman “offered to be a control group” for opening businesses back up which Sisolak then rejected the idea of opening up for that reason (Prevatt). From KNPR, Sisolak stated that he will be more willing to re-open businesses gradually, not all at once, after the “transmission of the coronavirus has come down significantly and hospitals are less burdened” (Prevatt).

In the KNPR episode, commissioner Michael Naft was brought in to talk about his opinions on this situation. Naft clearly expressed his disagreement with the mayor’s statements as he also showed his concern about Las Vegas in general. He went on to talk about how

Goodman was offering up Las Vegas as a “science experiment” but the Clark County Commission all wants the city to be the “safest place to be” (Prevatt). The Commission has been intently listening to the governor and medical experts on the proper time to reopen the city rather than “spewing conspiracy theories” as a reason to reopen non-essential businesses. Naft then emphasizes that we should be following what the governor and health experts have been saying, as there are already plans being set to ensure the safety for reopening businesses. Since Naft was the only guest, no opposing opinions were presented to side with Goodman.

One of concepts that were presented through this episode was the jurisdiction of the mayor. Although it may sound like the mayor has a lot of power, Goodman has no control over the Las Vegas Strip, therefore her statements do not hold any authority, especially compared to Sisolak. Other big concepts that have frequently been brought up recently due to the coronavirus pandemic are civil liberties, “limitations on the government’s ability to interfere with the individual,” and freedoms (Phelps). As there have been stay-at-home orders and restrictions in freedom of assembly as there should not be a meet up of more than ten people at a time, many people have been protesting about their freedoms being taken away. There have been countless protests all across the United States because of these circumstances. Not only that, there have been countless videos circulating of people being detained by police for going to places like parks. And because of that, I feel that another important concept to relate to this situation is giving up rights for safety. As there have been many people who have lost jobs and cannot go outside anymore, it is in exchange for safety.

As this is a major concern for all the citizens of Nevada, the fact that there are precautions being thought about by the Clark County Commission and actual medical

researchers for this situation is good to know from this episode. I also got to hear more insight on this dispute other than the clips that became viral on social media. Although I do not listen to the news often, hearing about this dispute was interesting as this is affecting Americans directly and I was able to understand and relate concepts to what was being discussed from the information I have learned in this class.

Works Cited

Phelps, Martha. "Civil Rights." Political Science 101, 12 Feb. 2020, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Lecture.

Prevatt, Mike. "Clark County Responds To Mayor Comments And Concerns About Reopening." Nevada Public Radio, American Public Media, 28 Apr. 2020, [knpr.org/knpr/2020-04/clark-county-responds-mayor-comments-and-concerns-about-reopening](https://www.knpr.org/knpr/2020-04/clark-county-responds-mayor-comments-and-concerns-about-reopening).