

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yolanda Coleman.

2 MS. COLEMAN: Hi. Good afternoon, ladies and
3 gentlemen. Welcome of Las Vegas, and while you are here please
4 go out and visit some of our communities. I've seen Las Vegas
5 grow from a town into a metropolitan city, and it all is nice;
6 it's a nice place to raise a family. You see, I was born and
7 raised in Las Vegas. My mother and father worked in the casino
8 industry. My mother was the first female cook on the Strip and
9 my parents made a pretty good living. Although they divorced
10 when I was three, they still provided for my sister and I. If
11 they struggled I never knew it. Our lights never went off nor
12 was our refrigerator ever empty. We had what we needed and most
13 of what we wanted. My parents and my parents taught us that
14 through integrity and pride and hard work our goals would be
15 reached, and through the casino industry and the strong union
16 backing, one of my goals is about to be fulfilled. I will soon
17 own my own home. I think that's saying a lot considering where
18 I am now at 34 years old as opposed to where I came from six
19 years ago.

20 I left an abusive marriage six years ago with just
21 the clothes on my back and a fetus in my womb. The odds were
22 greatly against me. Afraid and helpless I went back home to my
23 father. I got myself together; I got back on my feet, and
24 thanks to the gaming industry -- which had it not been there I
25 don't know where I would be now. And thanks to the Culinary
26 Union, the job that I have been blessed with is lucrative and

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1 fair. And now my bills are paid and my refrigerator is full,
2 and my child will soon have her own back yard. I am very proud
3 of my accomplishments as a single income single parent. I don't
4 have to rely on a welfare check or food stamps to make it,
5 because I have been truly blessed.

6 Thank you for your time, and you guys get out and
7 visit the communities, okay. Not just the casinos, the
8 communities too, okay.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: As soon as we get out of this
10 room, we'll do that.

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