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Obama's Suggestion that Americans Avoid Vegas Angers Mayor & Former Mob Attorney Goodman

Tim King Salem-News.com

The mayor of Las Vegas says the President's pending trip to Sin City will be an awkward one.

(LAS VEGAS, Nv.) - President Obama angered Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman this week, when he said that Americans impacted by the nation's economy shouldn't blow their money in Las Vegas. Goodman believes the statement will damage Las Vegas' economy.

"When times are tough, you tighten your belts. You don't go buying a boat when you're trying to pay your mortgage. You don't blow a bunch of cash on Vegas when you're trying to save on college. You prioritize, you make tough choices."

The President's words seem logical, but they aren't floating well in Goodman's world. This former Mafia lawyer now charged with running Sin City, told NBC News that the President won't be welcome when he visits Vegas in the coming weeks.

"I want the president to straighten this out. Otherwise, he's not welcome in my city," he said, adding that Obama's pending visit would be a very awkward one. Perhaps he forgets that Las Vegas is still part of the United States.

"This president is a real slow learner," Goodman said after the speech. "He has a real psychological hang-up about the entertainment capital of the world and an apology won't be acceptable this time."

It's been a year since the last time the President ticked off Goodman. That was during a town hall meeting in Indiana when Obama said, "You are not going to be able to give out these big bonuses until you pay taxpayers back. You can't get corporate jets. You can't go take a trip to Las Vegas or go down to the Super Bowl on the taxpayers' dime."

Each time Obama addresses spending money in the American city strictly designed to drain your wallet, the water heats up, but so what? Isn't he just speaking in plain truth?

Obama later wrote to U.S. Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, stating, "I wasn't saying anything negative about Las Vegas."

Goodman says it will take more than an apology.

In the past, Goodman represented some of Las Vegas' most notorious mobsters/murderers. Las Vegas is a different place than it was a few decades ago, but the criminal feeling has never left this city.

Tim King is a former U.S. Marine with twenty years of experience on the west coast as a television news producer, photojournalist, reporter and assignment editor. In addition to his role as a war correspondent, this Los Angeles native serves as Salem-News.com's Executive News Editor. Tim spent the winter of 2006/07 covering the war in Afghanistan, and he was in Iraq over the summer of 2008, reporting from the war while embedded with both the U.S. Army and the Marines. Tim holds numerous awards for reporting, photography, writing and editing, including the Oregon AP Award for Spot News Photographer of the Year (2004), first place Electronic Media Award in Spot News, Las Vegas, (1998), Oregon AP Cooperation Award (1991); and several others including the 2005 Red Cross Good Neighborhood Award for reporting. Serving the community in very real terms, Salem-News.com is the nation's only truly independent high traffic news Website. You can send Tim an email at this address: newsroom@salem-news.com

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