

HOST COMMITTEE CONTACTS

The LVCVA Host Committee's role is to welcome major conventions and special events to the city and take a leading role in educating the local Las Vegas and Southern Nevada community on the importance of tourism to our local economy.

Oscar B. Goodman

Host Committee Chairman

Oscar B. Goodman is charged with being the No. 1 Ambassador for tourism in Las Vegas. As such, he welcomes visitors to Las Vegas and rallies the local residents behind our leading industry: tourism. Prior to serving as Chairman of the Host Committee, Oscar B. Goodman served as the "Happiest Mayor in the Universe" for Las Vegas. In April 2007, he captured 84% of the vote in his re-election to a third four-year term. During his tenure as mayor, he had many accomplishments in the heart of downtown, including Symphony Park, a phenomenal 61-acre planned development which includes the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry. The park also includes The Smith Center for the Performing Arts and the Discovery Children's Museum. Also planned for this site are an arena, a boutique hotel, multiple high-rise residential units and mixed use opportunities. At the conclusion of his last term, he did what no other mayor has ever done, swore in his wife Carolyn Goodman to succeed him as the new Mayor of Las Vegas. Mr. Goodman was born and raised in Philadelphia; he graduated from Haverford College and received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He has been recognized by the National Law Journal as one of the "15 Best Trial Lawyers in America." In addition to his work as the No. 1 ambassador of Las Vegas, he has taken up acting, playing himself in the movie Casino and most recently starring on an episode of the prime time hit series CSI: Las Vegas. Mr. Goodman is the author of the highly acclaimed Being Oscar: From Mob Lawyer to Mayor of Las Vegas, published by Weinstein Publishing in May 2013.

Oscar Goodman

Oscar Baylin Goodman (born July 26, 1939) is an American attorney and politician. He was the mayor of Las Vegas, Nevada from 1999 to 2011. His wife, Carolyn Goodman, succeeded him as mayor in 2011. Goodman is an Independent.^[1]

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Biography

Goodman was born and raised in a Jewish family in Philadelphia. After attending Central High School^[2] for a time, he graduated from The Haverford School,^[3] Haverford College and received his J.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He and his wife Carolyn have four children.

During his career as a defense attorney he represented defendants accused of being some of the leading organized crime figures in Las Vegas, such as Meyer Lansky, Nicky Scarfo, Herbert "Fat Herbie" Blitzstein, Phil Leonetti, former Stardust Casino boss Frank 'Lefty' Rosenthal, and Jamiel "Jimmy" Chagra, a 1970s drug trafficker who was acquitted of ordering the murder of Federal Judge John H. Wood, Jr. One of his notorious clients was reputed Chicago mobster Anthony "Tony the Ant" Spilotro, who was known to have a short and violent temper. In the semi-factual 1995 movie Casino, the character of Nicky Santoro was based on Spilotro and was portrayed by actor Joe Pesci. Goodman had a

Oscar Goodman



Goodman in 2003

21st Mayor of Las Vegas

In office

June 8, 1999 – July 6, 2011

Preceded by Jan Lavery Jones

Succeeded by Carolyn Goodman

Personal details

Born	Oscar Baylin Goodman July 26, 1939 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.
Political party	Independent (2009–present)
Other political affiliations	Democratic (1989–2009)
Spouse(s)	Carolyn Goldmark (m. 1962)
Children	4, including Ross
Residence	Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.
Alma mater	Haverford College (B.A.) University of Pennsylvania Law School (J.D.)

cameo appearance in the film as himself while defending "Ace Rothstein", a character closely based on Lefty Rosenthal and played by Robert De Niro.

Profession	Attorney and politician
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Goodman and his wife were active in the local Jewish federation soon after they moved to Las Vegas in 1964 as well, with Carolyn eventually serving as head of the federation's women's divisions.^[4]

Goodman also represented former San Diego Mayor Roger Hedgecock, who was convicted of accepting illegal campaign contributions and eventually forced to resign. Hedgecock was later cleared of all charges on appeal.

In 1980-81, he served as president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.^[5]

Goodman was a senior partner in the law firm of Goodman & Chesnoff.^[6] Goodman currently serves as Of Counsel to Goodman Law Group, a Las Vegas law firm formed by his son, Ross C. Goodman.^[7] Goodman was elected mayor of Las Vegas on June 8, 1999, receiving 32,765 (63.76 percent) votes while his opponent, then-Las Vegas City Councilman Arnie Adamsen, received 18,620 (36.24 percent). Goodman was re-elected to a second four-year term in 2003, defeating five opponents and receiving 29,356 (85.72 percent) of the votes. On April 3, 2007, he was re-elected to a third and final term with 26,845 votes (83.69 percent), again defeating five opponents. Las Vegas law prevents the mayor, who has been called the town's "most popular mayor",^[8] from serving more than three terms. His wife was elected to succeed him as mayor in 2011, winning 60% of the vote.^[9]

Goodman was a member of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority before being elected mayor.

Significant events

Goodman appears as himself in the 1995 Martin Scorsese film Casino. Later on, he made another brief appearance in the film Looney Tunes: Back in Action on the DVD extras. In 2006 he appeared as himself in the Direct-to-DVD film Bachelor Party Vegas and respectively in 2015 and 2016 did interviews for the television programs The Making of the Mob: New York and The Making of the Mob: Chicago.

On June 8, 1999, he was elected mayor of Las Vegas.

On June 28, 1999, Goodman was the first mayor of Las Vegas to have his image placed on \$5 and \$25 casino chips issued by a Las Vegas casino. The two chips were issued by the Four Queens Hotel and Casino in Downtown Las Vegas. In 2006, the Four Queens put out a \$200 Silver Strike with the likeness of Oscar on it.

In 2000, a bobblehead doll was issued as a promotion during a Las Vegas 51s baseball game.

Mayor Goodman was an invited celebrity photographer for the Playboy Cyber Club. He shot a topless pictorial of Miss January 2001 Irina Voronina for the website.

In 2002, he became a spokesman for Bombay Sapphire gin, receiving a \$100,000 salary which was donated to charity, including \$50,000 donated to The Meadows School, a private school in Las Vegas founded by his wife Carolyn.

In April 2003, he was re-elected for a second four-year term, winning 86% the vote,^[10] and becoming one of the most popular politicians elected to office in Las Vegas.^[11]

In 2003, *Las Vegas Review-Journal* columnist John L. Smith wrote a book titled *Of Rats and Men: Oscar Goodman's Life from Mob Mouthpiece to Mayor of Las Vegas*, which chronicles Goodman's life, including 35 years spent defending notorious U.S. crime figures, including, among others, Meyer Lansky, Anthony "Tony The Ant" Spilotro and Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal (The last two were portrayed respectively, and under different names, in the film *Casino* by Joe Pesci and Robert De Niro).

In 2003, Goodman was voted the Least Effective Public Official in the *Review-Journal's* annual reader's poll.^[12]

Goodman has been vocal about having a Major League Baseball team relocate to Las Vegas. In 2004, the city failed to secure a move by the Montreal Expos to the city. Instead, the team relocated to Washington, D.C. and became the Washington Nationals. Later that year, Goodman met with officials of the Florida Marlins. The Chicago White Sox were considering a move but talks fell through after Chicago officials provided incentives for the team to stay.

During his time as mayor, Goodman tried to get a National Football League team to relocate to Las Vegas. On April 24, 2006, he called the San Diego Chargers and asked if they would be interested in moving. Because of a contract, the city could not talk about a possible move. On January 4, 2007 he called again, since the team was not allowed to talk to other cities about a possible move. Again, Goodman was turned down "for the time being."^[13] According to Mark Fabiani, the Chargers general counsel, Goodman is a longtime season ticket holder of the Chargers and a fan.^[14] Ultimately in 2017, under the tenure of his wife as mayor the Oakland Raiders agreed to relocate to Las Vegas for the 2020 season. The Chargers ultimately relocated to Los Angeles.

Goodman was angered by President Barack Obama's negative remarks about Las Vegas in 2009 and 2010.^[15]

He guest starred twice as himself on the CBS series CSI in the episodes "Sqweegel" while defending Ann-Margret's character from being harassed by the LVPD, and "Maid Man", first appearing at the opening of the Mob Museum, which was re-created for the show in advance of its opening.^[16]

His memoir, *Being Oscar: From Mob Lawyer to Mayor of Las Vegas*,^[17] written with George Anastasia, was published in 2013.^[18]

On September 27, 2018, Goodman was interviewed by entrepreneur and Independent journalist Patrick Bet-David.^[19]

Seeking higher office

Goodman briefly entertained challenging presidential son Jack Carter for the Democratic nomination to run against incumbent Republican U.S. Senator John Ensign in 2006. However, on April 20, Goodman announced that he would not run but instead would run for a third term as mayor. After winning the mayoral election in 2007, Goodman, like his counterpart Michael Bloomberg in New York City, looked into a means to change the city charter to remove term limits.^[20] In the absence of that change, Goodman fueled speculation that he might run as an Independent in the 2010 gubernatorial race against incumbent, Republican Jim Gibbons and the presumptive Democratic candidate, Rory Reid.^[21] However, Goodman

decided not to run for governor, citing his desire to stay close to his family and objections to moving to the capital Carson City.^[22] Goodman has appeared interested in higher office and was the focus of a story (perhaps tongue-in-cheek) about being the first Jewish president of the United States by Las Vegas commentator Dayvid Figler.^[23]

Criticism

Ethics investigation

In February 2004, Robert Rose, an ethics watchdog, filed a complaint with the Nevada Commission on Ethics claiming that during the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Goodman handed out to fellow mayors, conference attendees and other political figures invitations to a cocktail party Goodman was hosting. Rose alleged that this was nothing more than the mayor abusing his power of office to help promote a business that is owned by his son, Ross Goodman, and Las Vegas Councilman Michael Mack. The Nevada Ethics Commission opened an investigation on April 14, 2004, and on May 13, 2004, the members of the commission found the mayor in ethics violations, although no fine was rendered. Goodman sued the commission and won; the commission's ruling was reversed by the court.

On September 16, 2004, Rose again filed a complaint with the Nevada Commission on Ethics, this time asking the commission to clarify Goodman's affiliation with his son Ross's law firm. In a statement, the mayor explained his name on the letterhead is a way of informing out of state law firms that Ross Goodman is his son. However, a person serving as an elected public official in Nevada may not have his name listed on a law firm letterhead, and Goodman removed his name under protest after several newspaper articles noted the infraction.^[24]

On July 18, 2005, the Nevada Commission on Ethics concluded insufficient cause for a hearing and recommended the allegations be dismissed, clearing Goodman of the ethics complaint regarding his name listed as "Of Counsel" to Goodman Law Group.^[25]

On September 11, 2007, the Supreme Court of Nevada ruled that Goodman did not violate any ethics laws during the 2004 cocktail party that he hosted on behalf of his son Ross C. Goodman.^[26]

Remarks to schoolchildren

On March 3, 2005, Goodman spoke to a group of fourth-graders at Jo Mackey Elementary School. When asked what he would take with him if marooned on a desert island, the mayor replied, "A bottle of Bombay Sapphire Gin." When asked about his hobbies, the mayor named drinking Bombay Sapphire Gin as a favorite. Later, when asked to comment about his statements, Goodman was unapologetic: "I'm the George Washington of mayors. I can't tell a lie. If they didn't want the answer, the kid shouldn't have asked the question." This caused an outcry from parents whose children heard the remark, and school officials said the remark was inappropriate.^{[27][28]}

Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six: Vegas

In July 2006 the mayor criticized the Ubisoft game Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six: Vegas for its premise of terrorism in Las Vegas, because he thought it may tarnish the city's image. He stated, "It's based on a false premise.... It could be harmful economically, and it may be something that's not entitled to free

speech (protection).... I will ask... whether or not we can stop it."^[29] Publication of the game was not hindered.

Legalized prostitution

Currently, prostitution is legal in Nevada only in rural counties with fewer than 400,000 residents, a requirement which excludes Clark County and the city of Las Vegas from allowing the practice. Mayor Goodman supports legalizing prostitution in the city's downtown area as a revenue generator and tool for revitalization,^[30] although a majority of Nevadans polled in 2003 opposed the mayor's position.^[31] Goodman's views on prostitution have been criticized by The New York Times columnist Bob Herbert,^[32] as well as Las Vegas Sun columnist Jon Ralston.^[33]

See also

- List of mayors of Las Vegas, Nevada

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External links

- [Oscar Goodman \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0329189/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0329189/) on **IMDb**
- "Mob Trial Riles Las Vegas," APBnews.com, May 17, 1999 (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070927065310/http://www.cathyscott.com/pdf/apb051799.pdf>) by **Cathy Scott**
- [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?oscargoodman\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?oscargoodman) on **C-SPAN**

Political offices		
Preceded by Jan Laverty Jones	Mayor of Las Vegas June 8, 1999 – July 6, 2011	Succeeded by Carolyn Goodman
Preceded by Carolyn Goodman <i>as First Lady</i>	First Gentleman of Las Vegas July 6, 2011 – present	Succeeded by Incumbent

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This page was last edited on 27 December 2019, at 15:22 (UTC).

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While serving as mayor, Goodman first envisioned creating a museum dedicated to the history of the Mob in downtown Las Vegas' former federal building and U.S. post office. In 2012, that vision became a reality when the Museum opened to the public. Today, he serves on the Museum's Board of Directors. Feb 7, 2018

National Museum of Organized Crime & Law Enforcement

The Mob Museum, the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the public understanding of organized crime's history and impact on American society.

The Mob Museum offers a bold and authentic view of organized crime from vintage Las Vegas to the back alleys of American cities and—increasingly—across the borders and networks of the entire world. Explore the real stories and actual events of Mob history through interactive exhibits and one-of-a-kind Mob and law enforcement artifacts found inside our restored 1933 former courthouse and post office building located just minutes from Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas.

Mob Museum

The **Mob Museum**, officially the **National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement**, is a history museum located in Downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. Opened on February 14, 2012, the Mob Museum is dedicated to featuring the artifacts, stories, and history of organized crime in the United States, as well as the actions and initiatives by law enforcement to prevent such crimes. The museum is housed in the former Las Vegas Post Office and Courthouse, which was built in 1933 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum is located on Stewart Avenue, two blocks north of Fremont Street, the main artery of the downtown casino district.

Developed under the creative direction of Dennis Barrie, co-creator of the International Spy Museum and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the museum is governed by a non-profit board, the "300 Stewart Avenue Corporation," in partnership with the City of Las Vegas. The museum is dedicated to the contentious relationship between organized crime and law enforcement within the historical context of Las Vegas and the entire United States.

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History

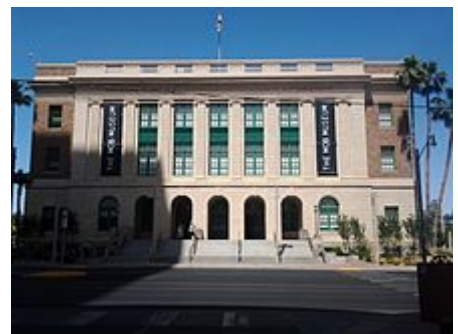
In 2000, the federal government sold the former post office and federal courthouse to the city for \$1, with stipulations that the building be restored to its original look and be used for a cultural purpose.^[1]

Then-Mayor Oscar Goodman, himself a former Mob defense attorney, had the idea for a mob museum in 2002.^[1] The idea faced early opposition from Italian-American groups, while being supported by the FBI, including the former head agent in Las Vegas, Ellen Knowlton, who joined as president of the

The Mob Museum



Established	February 14, 2012
Location	300 E Stewart Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89101
Coordinates	36.172823°N 115.141252°W﻿ / ﻿36.172823°N 115.141252°W﻿ / 36.172823; -115.141252
Type	History
Director	Jonathan Ullman
President	Jeffrey A. Silver
Website	themobmuseum.org (https://themobmuseum.org/)



The front of the Museum

museum's board.^[1]

The project budget was estimated at \$50 million, including \$26 million for restoring the building.^[1] Funding included federal, state, and local grants.^[1] Goodman generated controversy by suggesting that federal stimulus money could be used for the museum.^{[1][2]}

The museum opened February 14, 2012 to the public at 2:00 PM. (The morning and day before were reserved for press and dignitary ceremonies.) Admission for adults started at \$19.95 (\$13.95 for Nevada residents). As of July 2018, prices were \$26.95 for adults (\$16.95 for Nevada residents), \$20.95 for seniors and \$16.95 for children, with varying prices for other specific categories, groups and packages.

Exhibits

The centerpiece of the Mob Museum is the second floor courtroom, which was the location of one of fourteen national Kefauver Committee hearings to expose organized crime held in 1950 and 1951. The museum also acquired the brick wall where the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre took place.^[3] Other exhibits focus on Mob violence, casino money skimming operations, and wiretapping by law enforcement.^[4] In 2018, a new exhibit called Organized Crime Today was added to the first floor following a major renovation.^[5]



Mob Museum exhibit showing an early slot machine

The self-guided tour commences on the third floor where the actual wall of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre is on display, accessible by elevator or stairs, and winds its way down to the second and first floors. Visitors can watch a film about the history of Organized Crime (beginning around the time of the passing of Prohibition). The main part of the exhibition consists of Mob-related photos with captions explaining the significance of the particular images, but also what individuals/events they were connected to.



Wall of Mobsters

The museum offers a wide array of thematically oriented sections addressing the Mob's involvement in illegal activities such as gambling, drugs, prostitution or bootlegging and the efforts of law enforcement to counteract and eliminate those criminal operations. Additionally the visitor is able to view some uniquely disturbing, otherwise rarely accessible material, for example the photographs of victims of the most famous murders credited to the Mafia (appropriately named "Mob's Greatest Hits"; these are quite graphic in nature, because they show the actual corpses of the deceased), as well as pictures and short biographies of the most popular and notorious gangster personalities. A special Wall

located near the exit depicts images of all the actors who portrayed well-known Mobsters in movies or series. A significant number of exhibits are interactive; there are also several stations situated throughout the museum, where relevant film footage is played on a loop.^[6]

There is a gift shop on the first floor. Using photos, text, displays, interactive techniques, hands-on exhibits, and other first-class museum methods, the visitor learns about the history of organized crime, Prohibition and the business opportunity it provided. Visitors learn about Las Vegas' first casinos,

Howard Hughes, J. Edgar Hoover, the origins of the FBI, Al Capone, Eliot Ness, and much more. A visitor can sit in a replica electric chair, listen to actual wire taps, train in a use of force training simulator and explore an interactive crime lab exhibit related to forensic science.^[7]

In April 2018, the museum opened a fully operational speakeasy and distillery in their basement exhibit, The Underground.^[8] The space features exhibits related to the cultural history of the Prohibition era as well as the bootleggers, rumrunners, and moonshiners who ensured Americans still had access to liquor during the 13 years of federal Prohibition. The museum distills its own 100 proof, 100% corn moonshine in a custom-built pot still located in the Underground.^[9]

Notable mobsters

Mobsters who operated in casinos

Name	Family	Rank	Casino
<u>Meyer Lansky</u>	<u>Genovese crime family</u>	Associate	<u>Flamingo Hotel</u> and <u>Riviera</u>
<u>Bugsy Siegel</u>	<u>Genovese crime family</u>	Associate	<u>Flamingo Hotel</u>
<u>Frank Costello</u>	<u>Genovese crime family</u>	Boss	<u>Tropicana</u> (Investor)
<u>Vincent Alo</u>	<u>Genovese crime family</u>	Capo	<u>Desert Inn</u>
<u>Moe Sedway</u>	<u>Genovese crime family</u>	Associate	<u>El Cortez</u> and <u>Flamingo Hotel</u>
<u>Joseph Stacher</u>	<u>Genovese crime family</u>	Associate	<u>Sands</u> and <u>Fremont</u>
<u>Marshall Caifano</u>	<u>Chicago Outfit</u>	Soldier	
<u>Anthony Spilotro</u>	<u>Chicago Outfit</u>	Soldier	<u>Stardust</u>
<u>Frank Cullotta</u>	<u>Chicago Outfit</u>	Associate	<u>Stardust</u>
<u>Frank Rosenthal</u>	<u>Chicago Outfit</u>	Associate	<u>Stardust</u> , <u>Fremont</u> , <u>Marina</u> and <u>Hacienda</u>
<u>Michael Spilotro</u>	<u>Chicago Outfit</u>	Associate	<u>Stardust</u>
<u>Gus Greenbaum</u>	<u>Chicago Outfit</u>	Associate	<u>El Cortez</u> , <u>Flamingo Hotel</u> and <u>Riviera</u>
<u>Herbert Blitzstein</u>	<u>Chicago Outfit</u>	Associate	<u>Binion's</u>
<u>Raymond Patriarca</u>	<u>Patriarca crime family</u>	Boss	<u>The Dunes</u> (Investor)
<u>Anthony Joseph Zerilli</u>	<u>Detroit Partnership</u>	<u>Underboss</u>	<u>New Frontier</u>
<u>Moe Dalitz</u>	<u>Cleveland crime family</u>	Associate	<u>Desert Inn</u> , <u>Castaways</u> , <u>Stardust</u> and <u>Sundance Hotel Casino</u>
<u>Anthony Cornero</u>	<u>Los Angeles crime family</u>	Associate	<u>Stardust</u>
<u>Peter Simone</u>	<u>Kansas City crime family</u>	Associate	<u>Harrah's</u>
<u>Charles Panarella</u>	<u>Colombo crime family</u>	Soldier	<u>Westin Las Vegas</u>

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External links

- [Official website \(https://themobmuseum.org/\)](https://themobmuseum.org/)

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