



## The Nevada Policy Research Institute

For Immediate Release  
June 30, 2011

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### City of NLV confirms Speaker Oceguela double-dipped

LAS VEGAS — The City of North Las Vegas Fire Department yesterday [confirmed in a news release](#) that Assembly Speaker and NLV Assistant Fire Chief John Oceguela drew both his legislative and firefighting salaries during the 2009 and 2011 legislative sessions. The fire department produced unsigned agreements stating that [Oceguela worked 18 hours a week for the fire department during the 2009 legislative session](#) and [nine hours a week for the fire department during the 2011 legislative session](#).

“I’d like to thank North Las Vegas Fire Chief Al Gillespie for officially confirming that Speaker Oceguela drew pay both as a legislator and as an assistant fire chief during the 2009 and 2011 legislative sessions,” said Steven Miller, managing editor of *Nevada Journal* and author of the article [“Speaker Oceguela — another government ‘double-dipper’?”](#) which led to the fire department’s news release.

“Aside from raising a host of ethical and separation-of-powers questions, this is information that the citizens of North Las Vegas and the voters in Oceguela’s district have long deserved to know. At an absolute minimum, this should have been disclosed publicly prior to the start of the 2009 and 2011 legislative sessions.”

Miller also noted that this revelation also raises numerous other questions, including:

- Why didn’t either Oceguela, Gillespie or the department’s public information officer release the agreements to *Nevada Journal* when the publication sought interviews and requested documentation that would clarify matters?
- Why did the fire department pay Oceguela for 18 hours of work per week in 2009, but only for nine hours of work per week in 2011 for job responsibilities that were practically identical?
- If, [as Chief Gillespie has stated publicly](#), Oceguela worked early in the mornings and one weekend day during the session, how did he ‘monitor day to day operations’ or participate in ‘regular staff meetings’ — two obligations spelled out in the agreement between the fire department and Oceguela?

Miller also challenged Gillespie, who attempted to disparage *Nevada Journal's* reporting, to find one substantive factual error in the meticulously researched article which reflected records obtained directly from the City of North Las Vegas. "If the chief is upset that his department provided *Nevada Journal* with inaccurate records," said Miller, "he should find out why his department is releasing inaccurate information."

**More:**

Update to original story: [NLV fire department confirms Ocegüera's double-dipping](http://nevadajournal.com/2011/06/30/nlv-fire-department-confirms-ocegueras-double-dipping/) is available at <http://nevadajournal.com/2011/06/30/nlv-fire-department-confirms-ocegueras-double-dipping/>.

Original story: "[Speaker Ocegüera — another government 'double-dipper'?](http://nevadajournal.com/2011/06/29/speaker-oceguera-another-government-double-dipper/)" is available at <http://nevadajournal.com/2011/06/29/speaker-oceguera-another-government-double-dipper/>.

NLV fire department press release in response to *Nevada Journal's* story is available at [http://www2.8newsnow.com/docs/npri\\_response.pdf](http://www2.8newsnow.com/docs/npri_response.pdf).

2009 agreement between Ocegüera and the NLV fire department is available at [http://www2.8newsnow.com/docs/2009\\_contract.pdf](http://www2.8newsnow.com/docs/2009_contract.pdf).

2011 agreement between Ocegüera and the NLV fire department is available at [http://www2.8newsnow.com/docs/2011\\_contract.pdf](http://www2.8newsnow.com/docs/2011_contract.pdf).

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