REFLECTING ON 1 OCTOBER
Using Research to Inform Public Policy and Heal Our Community

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018
6:00 - 7:30 PM
GREENSPUN HALL AUDITORIUM
When The Profane Becomes Sacred: The Public Policy Implications of Tragedy in Las Vegas

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LAS VEGAS: THE MOST AUTHENTIC INAUTHENTIC PLACE

- Adapting to remain relevant
  - The 1990’s
  - Today
  - A money making venture

- Historically –
  “out with the old, in with the new”
The Site of Tragedy: Space Versus Place

In memorializing the site of the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history, how does a city like Las Vegas get it right the first time?
WHY STUDY NARRATIVE?

- How we communicate matters – narratives help us make sense of the world around us.
- There is power in naming.
  - Columbine
  - Sandy Hook
  - Parkland
  - San Bernardino
- Las Vegas Shooting / Route 91 Harvest Festival / 1 October
NARRATIVE POLICY ANALYSIS (Roe, 1994)

- Dominant Narrative
- Counter Narrative
- Metanarrative
- Narrative Policy Analysis
DOMINANT NARRATIVE: Maintaining the status quo

- “We can’t live in fear”
- “One crazy person can’t ruin it for everyone.”
- Maintains the space as flexible; commercially viable.

COUNTER NARRATIVE: Memorialization

- 2 Sites
  - Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Sign
  - Community Healing Garden
METANARRATIVE: Defense and Law Enforcement

- Achieves both narratives at the same time as policy middle ground?
  1. Only occupying a portion of the site, allowing business as usual to continue
  2. Potential memorialization of the efforts of law enforcement
Las Vegas - a unique profile of tragedy

- 2 separate sites
  - Maintaining the status quo
  - Concert venue, didn’t immediately need to be rectified

Globally recognizable location

Lack of motive

- Helps people to cope with tragedy
- Understanding *why* can help policymakers respond to create policies to prevent future tragedies
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Too soon to talk about memorialization?

- Columbine
- Aurora, CO
- July 2012 - July 2018

July 2018 – Clark County Commission Chairman, now Governor Elect, Steve Sisolak appoints Governor Brian Sandoval to chair the “1 October Memorial Committee”
In the memorialization efforts that lie ahead, policymakers should be aware that the site of the 1 October mass shooting in Las Vegas is a unique profile of tragedy with globally recognizable, corporate, private, public, profane, and now sacred elements, each requiring their own consideration before a decision is made.
Thank You

This presentation adapted from: