

March 21, 2011

VIA HAND DELIVERY

City of Las Vegas
Attn: Planning and Development
333 North Rancho Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89106

RE: EL CORTEZ – OGDEN HOUSE ENCROACHMENT OF ALLEYWAY

To Whom it May Concern:

This office represents the applicant, IKE Gaming, Inc. f/k/a Exber, Inc., d/b/a El Cortez Hotel and Casino in the above-referenced matter. This application is for an encroachment of an alleyway. This encroachment is requested because some of the desired improvements and beautification items being constructed by the El Cortez on its adjacent properties encroach into, or are to, the alley. The entire project is designed to compliment the already completed renovation of the Ogden House, now rebranded Cabana Suites. The encroachment is necessary for the beautification of the streetscape. It will tie into any future expansion and development of the El Cortez adjacent parking lot. That parking lot participates in this beautification.

These improvements, which results in the encroachment, are viewed as the second step in the expansion process. The first step was the redevelopment of the Cabana Suites f/k/a the Ogden House. IKE Gaming spent Eight Million Dollars (\$8M) completing this first phase of the project. This work consisted of an entire renovation of the interior and exterior of the Ogden House, and the re-branding of the property to Cabana Suites. The third step in the El Cortez redevelopment may be a pool and patio project built on the valet parking lot adjacent to the Cabana Suites.

The area for which applicant is seeking an encroachment is generally described as: approximately 20 feet in width x 75 feet in depth, measured from the curb, heading north from Ogden Street into the alleyway running between Stewart Street and Ogden Street, parallel to 6th and 7th Streets ("Encroachment Area"). That area is marked by hand on the attached assessor's parcel map, Attachment #1. It is also identified on the survey by LOCHSA SURVEYING, Attachment #2.

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Real Property Impacted by Proposed Encroachment. As a preliminary manner, there will be two uses of the alley: 1) the Encroachment Area running between the parcels owned by IKE Gaming on which the courtyard improvements beautifying the streetscape are constructed, and linking the two El Cortez parcels (APN 139-34-512-027 and 139-34-612-003) ("Courtyard"); and 2) the remainder of the alley, which is not improved and continues to be used as a public alleyway.

The unimproved portion of the alley is adjacent to parcels owned by S&J Group, Inc. (APN 139-34-512-029); Henry J PPTYS Las Vegas LLC (APN 139-34-512-028); JASSA Inc. (APN 139-34-612-001 and 002); Neighborhood Housing Services of Southern Nevada (APN 139-34-512-030); (collectively "Adjacent Landowners") and IKE Gaming (whose parcel abuts the entire western edge of the alley) (APN 139-34-512-027).

A. Courtyard. The Encroachment Area will be beautified by improvements to the alley and the two adjacent parcels, both owned by IKE Gaming (APN 139-34-512-027 and 139-34-612-003). We refer to its purpose and concept as the "Courtyard." A schematic drawing of the Proposed Improvement is attached hereto as Exhibit "A". The concept drawings for the Courtyard are enclosed as drawings Exhibit "B". Both indicate the nature of the improvements. Exhibit "C" displays the materials and finishes being used.

B. Unaffected Public Alleyway. With respect to the public alleyway which is not part of the improvement project, the eastern portion is abutted by property owned by the above-referenced Adjacent Landowners. The entire western side is owned by IKE Gaming.

To be clear, the visual barrier being built does not block access. This is not a closure of the alleyway.

C. Easements & Utilities. All existing utility easements remain in place. Given the existing intensive utility use of the alleyway, IKE Gaming previously dedicated a utility easement on its parcel APN 139-34-512-027 to facilitate expansion of the El Cortez Hotel and Casino and Cabana Suites. That dedication included IKE Gaming (at its expense) burying the power line in that newly dedicated underground easement. That dedication limits design choices for the gate.

We don't believe there are any street lights that need relocation or removal. One street light was relocated when the utilities were relocated underground as discussed above.

D. Adjacent Landowners. The Adjacent Landowners have been contacted on several occasions, most recently by certified mail, and verbal support has been received from 3 of the 4. We will seek letters of support, if necessary.

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E. Development Standards. At the present time IKE Gaming is not requesting any setbacks, utilities or other waivers with reference to the Courtyard, because no approvals for it are being requested. No parking study has been conducted because existing parking is not affected, and no additional parking needs are created by the encroachment.

F. Further Justification. The Cabana Suites renovation vastly improved the surrounding streetscape. Its “hip” designed room renovation is designed to attract a younger, different, more affluent clientele to the downtown. That appeal fails when a hotel guest steps out the front door and is confronted with a rundown alleyway, patched asphalt and potholes, visible unattended dumpsters, and scattered trash. Because of the guests’ and El Cortez’s security concerns related to the alley, the El Cortez has posted 24 hour security at the Cabana Suites. Turning the adjacent alleyway into the Courtyard will mitigate the security concerns, while creating a much more attractive streetscape and sense of “arrival”. The Courtyard will also compliment the existing courtyard across Ogden at the El Cortez, and upgrade the visitor appeal to this portion of Ogden Street. (See Sheet 1 of the Burnett Haase site plan attachment).

G. Fees. Enclosed with this letter are two checks - \$500, plus \$500 for notification and advertising.

H. Application. In addition to the attachments and exhibits referred to herein, enclosed are: 1) City of Las Vegas Department of Planning Pre-Application Conference Notes; 2) Department of Planning Submittal Checklist (along with the plans referenced therein); 3) the Application/Petition Form with Statement(s) of Financial Interests from Michael J. Nolan and Alan J. Woody, the persons in charge of managing this project.

I. Grant Deeds. Attached as Exhibits “D” and “E” are copies of the vesting deeds for the IKE Gaming properties abutting the alleyway.

J. Encroachment Agreement. The El Cortez also attaches as Exhibit “F” to its application a proposed Encroachment Agreement that describes the improvements and commits the El Cortez to maintain and repair the improvements that encroach upon the alley. It provides for a bond to secure that performance. It gives the City the power to enforce and remove the improvements if they are not maintained.

K. Additional Materials Provided. Pursuant to the Site Development Plan Review Submittal Requirements the following are attached: 1) Site Plan (6 folded and 1 rolled); and 2) Building Elevations (1 folded and 1 rolled).

L. Council Hearing Requested. The El Cortez requests that this matter receive a full public hearing with the City Council at its June 15, 2011, meeting. The El Cortez also requests that the Encroachment Agreement be approved at that meeting.

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M. In Closing. The Courtyard will facilitate the revitalization and redevelopment of downtown Las Vegas. It creates a sense of arrival for vehicular and pedestrian users of Ogden Street, the visitors at the El Cortez, and for the guests at the newly renovated Cabana Suites f/k/a Ogden House. This type of pedestrian patio and passageway is needed to complete the Ogden streetscape vision created by the \$8 million renovation of the Cabana Suites. It benefits the entire downtown.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and please feel free to contact myself or Mike Nolan directly should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Leslie, Chtd.

BAL/tsb

cc: Joe Woody (via email - jwoody@exber.net)
Mike Nolan (via email - mnolan@exber.net)
Alexandra Epstein (via email - aepstein@exber.net)

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