



Downtown: Housing, business sides clicking

El Paso Times Staff

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It's a positive that the "quality-of-lifers" are placing their wagers that Downtown will revitalize. They're the people betting enough new business ventures will settle amid our historic buildings to make it profitable to build places to live.

Joining the opening of the 200-room DoubleTree El Paso Downtown/City Center Hotel are two other private groups:

The city has OK'd TVO Development's 91-unit Magoffin Park Villas, and we're confident some snags with the state's historical preservationists can be overcome. TVO has already jumped through hoops; it's a good project for El Paso and Downtown.

And this week, the brothers Karam, Luke and T.J. announced plans to transform a warehouse into the First Ave Lofts, nine condo units at First Avenue and Florence in Downtown.

These new places to stay overnight, and places to call one's home, are melding with the other side of the Downtown revitalization plan announced in March 2006 by the Paso del Norte Group and then taken over by the city.

That is, "places to live" is joining "places to do business."

Ongoing are several business projects, the largest being the joining and renovations to the Mills and Centre buildings adjacent to the Plaza Theatre and San Jacinto Plaza. That's a retail and office-space project.

The point is that one side of the "chicken-and-egg" had to start things off -- and both the chicken and egg have seemingly started at the same time.


It goes to show that both sides believe in the other, and that's good to know because at the bottom of it, both are "strictly business" sides. They want to turn a financial profit.

We continue to applaud these ventures to make Downtown El Paso a destination for people to live, shop and recreate.






That means places to work, places to eat, places to be entertained and suppliers for that. That includes stores where Downtown dwellers can keep their condos and apartments stocked with everyday household items -- and walk to get them.

It's good to see that "strictly business" is betting on Downtown El Paso.

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