

two of a kind ::

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Vegas is constantly evolving, a function of the fact that we have some of the most talented and visionary people here, plus the influx of people from all over the world. International travel is one of our biggest growth sectors and we will see more evolution by catering to what those visitors want.

OSCAR GOODMAN, former mayor and author of "Being Oscar: From Mob Lawyer to Mayor of Las Vegas"

The role of government is to make life easy for people who live in the community. But, without the private sector, nothing happens. If the private sector wants to build three water parks and two observation wheels, that's their prerogative. The government should assist them. As long as it succeeds, there will be more.

It takes a tremendous amount of fortitude to start building a massive complex, knowing another developer will build one and try to outdo you. That's the nature of Las Vegas. It's not that things are reinvented; clever people make decisions that will produce a good bottom line.

Over the years, we've changed the way we look at ourselves from just a one-horse gambling town to a tourist destination. Now it's easier to find a wonderful restaurant here than in New York. When my wife and I moved here in 1964, we only had JCPenney to purchase nice gifts. Now, shopping opportunities abound. Entertainment is cutting edge and even risqué, pushing itself to the cusp. All of these were decisions of the private sector.

We're getting older but the younger generation appears to be very active and full of life. They enjoy going to nightclubs, spending money and having a great time. The East Fremont demographic is all young people having the best time of their lives. It has the energy of Bourbon or Beale Street and it's wonderful to see.

It's very important that we thank the tourists for choosing us. We have to let them know we don't take them for granted.

My wife is working diligently to attract new industries that would dovetail with the glamour and glitz we presently have. She met with the dean of Parsons while we were in New York and she'll be speaking to the president of the board to convince them to have a presence here. She's really gung-ho to have the movie and television industries film here but there has to be some incentive. She's committed to getting an arena downtown to secure an NBA franchise. Great sports plus great culture plus great medicine makes a great city.

We've traded off an awful lot to become the city we are today. We don't dwell on the past. Vegas is always inventing something new. All that limits us is our imagination. □

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