

EL CORTEZ OWNERS ASSOCIATION

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

RAGI BURHUM – My name is Ragi Burhum, and I have been a proud owner at El Cortez for the past four years. I am a serial entrepreneur with a background in Computer Science. Over the course of my career, As a founder CEO and CTO, I have built and led multiple venture-backed companies in Silicon Valley, raising millions of dollars, guiding them through acceleration at Stanford, and successfully achieving exits. Through this work, I’ve gained deep experience in financial management, project execution, and building strong, collaborative teams.

I would like to bring these skills to serve our community. El Cortez is a beautiful historic building, but like any community of this size, it comes with challenges—parking, mail, security, and ongoing maintenance projects. I don’t claim that these issues can be solved overnight, but I believe I can contribute thoughtful problem-solving, financial discipline, and team-oriented leadership to help the board steadily improve the quality of life for all residents.

My vision is simple: to preserve the charm and value of our historic home while working pragmatically to address our shared challenges. I would be honored to serve on the board and help represent the interests of our community.

JOLENE CAUGHEY – My name is Jolene Caughey, and I am submitting my Candidate Nomination Form for the El Cortez Board of Directors. I have served with joy as President on the El Cortez Board of Directors since January 2025.

When the announcement first was posted that I had been appointed President, on the El Cortez Directors, someone I know and respect, emailed me to say: “I am so glad you are in this position, as I know we are in good hands!”

Since then when I first meet a homeowner, I say to them: “I am so glad to meet you, I am Jolene Caughey, El Cortez Board of Directors, President. The response has been so positive from the homeowners! They tell me, “Oh thank you! I really appreciate knowing that!”

My qualifications. I have been retired from education since 2009. I was a teacher for 20 years and an Administrator, School Principal, for 16 years. After moving to San Diego from our home in Redlands, I moved to the El Cortez 6 years ago and I am so proud to be a homeowner here at the El Cortez.

During my first year as President, I have worked hard to ensure our beautiful building is lovingly cared for working closely with our site Engineer Angel. When Angel and I first started working together, the supply of tools at Angel’s disposal for completing various jobs, was in great need. Working closely with Angel together we established a budget, and developed a plan to replenish his tool supply. Next Angel went a step further and he made the tools we replenished available not only for his tasks, but also available for visiting on-site contractors, and residents as well. Working with Angel we developed a checkout system so all tools can now be checked out accounted for.

In addition to serving as President, I have been proudly serving on the Architectural Committee (ARC) since 2025. Along with my ARC Team Members, Ligia Gamrasni, Erin Gee, with guidance from our Manager, Denielle Belanger. I proud to be part of the ARC effort to transform the El Cortez Lobby into a Spanish Revival showplace!

I am very proud of my accomplishments, both professionally, and here as a homeowner and serving as President on the El Cortez Board of Directors. If elected I look forward to serving another two years as your El Cortez, Board of Directors, President. Respectfully Jolene Caughey, BA, MA

STATEMENTS CONTINUE ON REVERSE

LIGIA GAMRASNI - I am honored to have served on El Cortez Board of Directors for the past two years, and I am seeking re-election to continue to provide my time and effort to our community. During my time on the the Board of Directors I have worked to support responsible financial management, I have also worked to enhance common area spaces in order to maintain the quality and beauty of this amazing building. I have also supported important decisions that provided crucial maintenance to several systems in the building.

MICHAEL MULLIGAN – Construction Experience – Plumbing / Carpentry / Electrical / General MRO

- Management – Industrial Supply Company
 - V.P. Mktg Sales HVAC Related Company
 - Pres. Business Owner HVAC Related Company
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VICTOR SPAYDE – Born and raised in San Diego I take pride ownership and owning the unit at the historical El Cortez and I want to make it better than ever

END OF CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
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