

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/249211221/>

City challenges Elvis party

Celebrity homes issue: Officials say bash violates ordinance. Organizers deny they are staging a commercial event.

By DOUGLAS HABERMAN
The Desert Sun

PALM SPRINGS — The city is seeking an immediate court order stopping festivities at the Elvis Presley Honeymoon Hideaway planned as part of a Friday night through Sunday celebration of the 30th anniversary of Elvis' wedding. The matter was in court Tuesday

at the Larson Justice Center in Indio. But David Baron, attorney for the hideaway's owner, Leonard Lewis of Boston, won a one-day delay to prepare a defense.

A ruling is expected today.

VIOLATORS? "Our argument is that this home is being exploited for its celebrity status and that it is interfering with the tranquillity of the neighborhood in violation of the law," Deputy City Attorney Bill Wynder said.

After a year of debate between homeowners and tourism industry officials, the City Council on April 16 voted 4-0-1 to uphold zoning laws prohibiting commercial uses in residential neighborhoods.

The Honeymoon Hideaway is at 1350 Ladera Circle in the Las Palmas neighborhood.

"We do not operate a commercial business and never have," Baron said. The anniversary celebration events are "no different than the scores of private parties that are held in private residences all throughout the community," he said.

A ruling in favor of the city could have a chilling effect on fund-raising activities in Palm Springs, Baron said.

The Elvis Friends-Hollywood Elvis Presley Fan Club is organizing the celebration. Proceeds after expenses will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation for children with termi-

nal illnesses and to the Palm Springs Police Memorial Fund, which is raising money for a statue honoring the city's only two police officers slain in the line of duty.

THE FESTIVITIES: A Friday night reception and Saturday noon barbecue luncheon at the hideaway are part of the festivities, most of which are scheduled for the Palm Springs Riviera Resort.

The fan club has offered to restrict the two hideaway events to 60 people who will be bused to and from the hotel to cut down on traffic, and to exclude music and live entertainment, Baron said.

The fan club advertised the weekend celebration on the Web

and with fliers. Tickets cost \$75 for entry to all events.

Baron said Lewis is not receiving a fee for the use of the hideaway.

"Why is he continually publicizing it if he has no intentions of making a commercial enterprise out of it?" said Bruce Kendall, who owns a home nearby. "It's like the (O.J.) Simpson house — it creates a lot of stir."

Another neighbor hoping the city wins the fight to stop commercial use of the hideaway is Geraldine Lacey.

"I don't want it," she said, "because it's against the law. We've been fighting it for three years and we're on the right side of the law."