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Game Room Operator Moves Into San Diego City Limits

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SAN DIEGO (Kiii News) - San Diego's City Council voted on Wednesday to allow 8-liner game rooms to operate within the city limits, and on Thursday, 8-liner business owners wasted no time.

One game room operator is already moving in, bringing with them a 64-foot long, 60,000 pound game room to the corner of St. Charles and Bexar Street, basically right in the Duval County Sheriff's Department's back yard.



Kiii News Reporter Mike DaSilva went Live from San Diego with more on the 8-liner controversy.

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The ordinance allows there to be up to six game room businesses in town, each with up to 150 machines. The permit fee the City is charging per machine is \$1,000, bringing in a maximum of \$150,000 per game room.

Duval County Sheriff Romeo Ramirez had just finished voicing his determination to shut down game rooms that are practicing illegally when the large 8-liner game room was seen moving in. J.M.D. Housemovers of Premont had to navigate around electrical wires, trees and mailboxes to move the game room onto that piece of land.

It was just back in September of 2012 when Sheriff Ramirez sent out warning letters to all of the game room operators in the county, stating that he was going to shut them down if they were making cash payouts and operating illegally. After that, all of the game rooms shut down.

"There will be no second warning if we at the Sheriff's Office, with any assistance of any other agency, determine

that there's enough evidence to effect an arrest on any individual," Ramirez said. "And we will seize the currency that's within the machines."

"We'll just have to play it by ear," said Isabel Cantu Abrigo, owner of the new game room moving into San Diego. "Take a chance in life, right? You live and you die. You play and you play. I gamble. All the time. And I'm a big winner. I don't know about this game room but, I'm willing to try."

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