

Carrier - Post 7/20/01

Tropicana neighbors try to block expansion

By **JOHN CURRAN**
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY

Nothing gets built easily in this town. Not when it pits casinos against their neighbors, anyway.

In the latest battle of a continuing war, neighbors of Tropicana Casino and Resort are suing to block construction of a \$225 million expansion consisting of hotel rooms, restaurants, shops, a theater and a parking garage.

The suit, filed by the 172-member Brighton Towers Condominium Association, contends that traffic, noise and congestion associated with the 18-story building would make life miserable for residents of 14-story Brighton Towers.

"We've gone through hell with Tropicana," said Nina

Tyler, president of the association. "What is it they said in that movie? 'We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore?' That's the way we feel."

The 200,000-square-foot entertainment complex, dubbed "The Quarter," would consist of an 18-story, 500-room hotel tower in addition to a 2,400-space parking garage and retail establishments, linked with the main casino building via an elevated walkway.

It would be built on a 3½-acre parcel, across the street from the existing Tropicana, bordered by Pacific, Atlantic, Brighton and Iowa avenues. The land is currently a surface parking lot.

The city zoning board approved the expansion in May, brushing aside complaints from Brighton Towers' residents



BRIAN BRANCH/Associated Press

Nina Tyler stands on a balcony at Brighton Towers, overlooking Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City. Tyler is president of the condominium association that is suing to block the casino's \$225 million expansion.

The lawsuit, filed July 13, names the city zoning board and Tropicana as defendants. It claims the zoning board lacked jurisdiction to approve the project because the size and scope is so big it alters the city's master plan.

The association's lawyer, Glenn Zeitz of Haddonfield, negotiated with Tropicana officials about a settlement for the condominium association members, but no

agreement was reached.

Tyler said the suit is about preserving the quality of life of Brighton Towers residents, not getting money. Noise from the construction of a Tropicana tower in 1997 drove residents to distraction, Tyler said.

They don't want to endure that again, she said.

Tropicana officials weren't commenting on the suit Thursday.