

Bob Bisno seems like a reasonable guy, yet. . .

Bob Bisno seems like a reasonable guy. He's responsive and open to public discussion yet I can't help but feel he's a bit disingenuous. One claim he's made in regards to his Ponte Vista development is that he needs over 2,300 units in order to keep prices lower than they would be if he built 500 individual homes. It would better serve San Pedro if he (all developers for that matter) were willing to voluntarily adhere to the same kind of low-income housing requirements imposed on other areas in Los Angeles. Barring that it would be incumbent upon Janice Hahn/though probably not politically expedient, to make that happen.

That would really serve the people in need and might also make more palatable his plan to quadruple the number of existing homes on this site. And let's face it, "market rate" means whatever the richest person is willing to pay and while I realize we are a country based on capitalism, and therefore greed, isn't Bisno rich enough already? Clearly the disadvantaged among us don't build houses, we need developers but do they have to be multimillionaires? When does profit outweigh the need for truly affordable housing? Don't we owe it to all San Pedro residents to offer them a chance at home ownership?

That's the element that's been missing in all this glorification of gentrification: the people who need developers most, the poor. Khalil Gibran wrote that two people should be like the strings of a lute that, once strummed, are integral to the tune while playing their own note. Our Port Town should be the same. Each of us an integral part of the music San Pedro makes. We should embrace our differences; teach through action and with love and tolerance. We can't afford to ignore, or even worse, try to rid ourselves of what some consider the undesirables. It will destroy what makes us San Pedro. We can't let those who already have money dictate to those of us who don't. I saw it happen in Venice under the guise of improvement and I don't want to see it happen here.

Frederic E. Bloomquist.
San Pedro; CA