

Mr. Bisno wants people to "play civilly"

It's interesting to see that Mr. Bisno wants people to "play civilly." I wonder if some of the former tenants of a property owned by his old company, Transaction Financial, thought his attempts to evict them were civil. Longtime tenants of the Lincoln Place Apartment complex in Venice, including elderly women and children, were all subjected to a lengthy campaign to push them out in search of higher rents.

According to a report appearing in the Santa Monica Mirror in July 2001, the president of a tenants association formed to combat the campaign alleged the owner was guilty of a "... reduction in services, failure to maintain the landmark-worthy buildings and grounds, frequent threats of eviction, disruptive construction work, and refusal to renew Section 8 [government subsidies], some for residents in their 90s." Not renewing government assistance for 90-year-old tenants? That doesn't sound very civil to me.

Or what about the time Mr. Bisno yelled at a member of the Community Advisory Committee after he asked about the construction of single-family residence units. "We don't plan on building any single family residence units! Does that help you Chuck?" That didn't sound very civil to me.

How about Bisno Development's over-sized economic assertions? Is it civil to promise local business owners that Ponte Vista's tenants (which nobody currently knows how many there will be because nothing has been approved yet) will spend \$101.5 million within a five-mile radius? What if the actual amount is really in the \$15-30 million range? Will Bisno Development cough up the rest of the money, or just look the other way after it moves onto another project in another town? That doesn't sound very civil to me.

Then there's the developer's local lobbyist, who somehow manufactured a slate of pro-development candidates for the Northwest Neighborhood Council Election. Sure, Mr. Bisno might not have had any hand in choosing the candidates, but that's what he paid good money to that lobbyist for. It is civil

to hire an uncivil lobbyist? I wonder. So while I disagree with Mr. Hildebrand's diction, I find it highly amusing (if not completely laughable) that Mr. Bisno's response includes a request that people act with civility. How can he ask something of people that he himself is not capable of doing?

Chris Yang
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA