

Ponte Vista poll was a sales tool

Ponte Vista's poll taker claimed there would be no reason for developer Bob Bisno to take a poll if he didn't want to know what people really thought

How naive. Has Bisno ever cared about anything other than manipulating the city of Los Angeles into letting him build 2,300 condominiums? The "poll" was designed as a sales tool, pure and simple. The spin he is putting on it shows that. Why else would he refuse to release the questions asked in the poll?

There were a couple of interesting things in it, however. One of these is how he described his project as a "mix of single-family housing, condominiums and townhous-es" with "parks, gardens, waterscapes, hiking and biking trails, and public recreation areas." There is a lot of support in town for single-family housing, of course, but even including it in the project description he could only get a two-thirds support rating. Of course, he isn't really building any single-family housing, but even with that misrepresentation, when the poll taker asked about the number, he could only get one-third support for 2,300 units.

I wonder how much lower his support would have been if he had accurately described his project as 20 buildings, each four to six stories, more than two levels of subterranean parking, and adding at least 24 percent to the average daily traffic on Western Avenue? On the flip side, what support would he have had if he asked about an all R-1 project of 429 houses? He didn't, but maybe the city should.

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