

There you go again

Robert Bisno is in the wrong business.

The Ponte Vista developer has shown with his latest proposal that his real calling is politics.

Treating us like he thought we were stupid was bad enough, but now he's acting like an office-seeker trying to buy votes.

Naturally, his biggest appeal remains to the senior set, so he's upped the ante to entice their support. In an effort to solidify backing in the business community, he's added shuttle service for all residents to downtown San Pedro. (I didn't know there was a big demand for tattoos among senior citizens.)

The most blatant attempt to sway community opinion to his way of thinking is by offering 5 percent discounts to Harbor Area residents. Just to make sure he's covered all the bases, he's offering the same discount to non-area residents who are teachers, police, firefighters, nurses, longshore workers and in the building trades. Has he left anybody out? Maybe he can set aside some housing for illegal immigrants.

He promises all the construction will be done by union labor, and the entire project will be built with "green" technology. That should satisfy another large chunk of the community. Of course, that also will increase his costs, but I'm sure he won't pass those along to the buyers.

He also continues to show he has no clue what San Pedro and east Rancho Palos Verdes are all about.

He's throwing in more park space; a nice idea, but

it's the last thing we need. We have plenty of beautiful parks. What we need is space for ball fields. Oh, that's right, he already tried to buy Eastview Little League's support, and that backfired.

He also should be remind-ed that while placating unions is a well-tested political strategy, lumping them all together is a mistake.

Giving teachers a 5 percent discount makes sense; giving the same discount to longshoremen, who make twice as much, is simply a brazen attempt to, in political terms, buy votes. Expecting a serious effort to meet community concerns, Bisno instead tries to mask an insulting offer to trim a meager 350 homes with token discounts and other forms of bribery.

Councilwoman Janice Hahn said it best: "After two years, I was a little shocked that this was his idea of a compromise."

Like any slick politician, Bisno thinks he can get his way if he throws enough money at us. We need to let him know in no uncertain terms that San Pedro isn't for sale.