

Daily Breeze More San Pedro April 21, 2007

When it comes to Ponte Vista, let's not get stuck on stupid

By Steve Marconi

I've reached the conclusion that what I really don't like about Bob Bisno is that he thinks we're stupid.

He's been treating his opponents all along like they're country bumpkins, that they really don't know what's good for them. It's bad enough that he thinks we can't add (Western Avenue traffic) or read (thatsham petition his hirelings passed around). Then he comes up with stuff like that "poll" he tried to foist on us, a poll that was rigged so badly that its results were rebutted in the same story that reported them.

I'd like to say his "affordable housing" arguments are just laughable, but they're also disingenuous. He calls 525 of his units, from 600 to 850 square feet in size, "entry-level." I don't know about you, but I call them apartments -- and very expensive ones at that. He even admits the \$330,000 to \$467,500 price tag is based on current costs and current project composition, and he's years away from construction.

I find his entire pitch offensive. It's based on the politics of greed (the haves vs. the have-nots) and preys on our emotions (where will our children and aged parents live?) while ignoring the overriding concern of what's best for the community as a whole.

I wish he'd just come right out and say, "Look, I'm a developer. Can a leopard change its spots? I bought this property so I could make as much money as possible. I'll make millions with R1, but I'll make gazillions with R2. I don't care about San Pedro. Why should I?"

It wouldn't sound good, but at least we'd know he's being honest with us.

Numbers game

Only someone like Bisno would try to make hay out of a random phone survey of 500 people. It's that random part that bothers me. I've said before, I don't give a hoot about anyone's opinion of Bisno's project if they don't use Western Avenue regularly, and I noticed the pollsters didn't ask about commuting habits.

I would imagine the percentages of those for and against the project would match those for people who do or don't use Western Avenue.

What should get the attention of Councilwoman Janice Hahn and her Ponte Vista Community Advisory Council is the petition that has garnered 4,000-plus signatures of area residents who want to keep Ponte Vista zoned R1 (single-family homes).

I had heard that R1 was dead, but maybe, just maybe, public opinion -- the kind that isn't tainted -- will prevail.

Like clockwork: ORANGE

So there I was, sitting in another traffic jam on Western Avenue, wishing Bob Bisno was in the car with me.

With all of his claims that he will mitigate the traffic caused by his Ponte Vista project -- and remembering that mitigate means that traffic will just be the same as it was before -- I was wondering: How he is going to mitigate those guys in the orange safety vests who pop up with frightening regularity to close off lanes -- always at peak hours -- to make our lives miserable?

Oh, that's right, that's something he can't mitigate. Silly me.