

The Coalition for Justice in Hawaiian Gardens and Jerusalem

www.stopmoskowitz.org

9553 Pico Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90035 <> P.O. Box 1471, Hawaiian Gardens CA 90716

310-553-1146 <> pager 310-797-0457

**DEVELOPER BENEFITS AT EXPENSE OF
WORKING-CLASS CITY
HIS CASINO TO COST
HAWAIIAN GARDENS MILLIONS**

NEW EVIDENCE THAT SUGGESTS CONTRACT FAVORING DEVELOPER WAS SUBSTITUTED WITH CITY'S REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONTRACT AT LAST MINUTE: CASINO, SET FOR GRAND OPENING THURSDAY, COULD GIVE NOTHING BACK TO COMMUNITY

What: **Media Availability** presenting new evidence of contract irregularity in Hawaiian Gardens Casino project

NOTE: **COLOR BLOWUPS OF THE DISPUTED SECTION OF THE TWO DIFFERENT CONTRACTS WILL BE DISPLAYED**

Who: COALITION FOR JUSTICE'S Rabbi **HAIM DOV BELIAK**,
COALITION FOR JUSTICE'S **JANE HUNTER**

When: **TOMORROW—THURSDAY FEB 10th
5:30pm – 9:00pm**

Where: *in front of the*
HAWAIIAN GARDENS CASINO
11871 Carson Street
Hawaiian Gardens CA 90716
Contacts: CFJ's Jane Hunter 760.233-8043 or
Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak, pager 310.797.0457

9 February 2000, HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA—Language in a questionable 1993 city contract could deprive the City of Hawaiian Gardens of much needed revenue from a casino that the city and its redevelopment agency went into debt to finance. The language—which lets the private casino owner pocket millions of dollars in revenue that the city understood it would share

www.stopmoskowitz.org

9553 Pico Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90035 <> P.O. Box 1471, Hawaiian Gardens CA 90716

310-553-1146 <> pager 310-797-0457

in—appears in a version of the redevelopment agreement that apparently was mysteriously swapped for the staff-drafted contract.

The **COALITION FOR JUSTICE**, a non-profit, grassroots organization that has closely monitored this public/private casino partnership has obtained the long-lost original contract in question. This original contract validates staff and other accounts that copies of the substitute document—with wording that differed sharply from the staff's recommendation and draft contract—unexpectedly appeared in a conference room where the **HAWAIIAN GARDENS COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY** held an unscheduled closed-session, after which they adopted the substituted document. The substituted document also lowered redeveloper **IRVING MOSKOWITZ'** "good-faith" deposit from \$3 million to a mere \$25,000 and removed his responsibility for toxic cleanup of the site.

In addition, a 1994 amendment to the contract excused Moskowitz from paying half the costs of relocating existing businesses. The **COALITION** is currently researching how that provision was rammed through. This contract with Moskowitz has resulted in crushing debts for the agency and the city, a working-class city of 14,800 located in the southeastern corner of Los Angeles County, while allowing his project, the **HAWAIIAN GARDENS CASINO**, to potentially reap millions for his company.

The **COALITION** has given a copy of the original contract to the state's **JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE (JLAC)**, which recently opened an investigation into Moskowitz' dealings with Hawaiian Gardens.

The "no-tax" language in the Moskowitz/Hawaiian Gardens contract, as well as copies of the original and substitute contracts, plus a three-color line-by-line comparison of the two, are available to reporters and are being posted this week on www.stopmoskowitz.org. To obtain these, please contact the **COALITION'S JANE HUNTER** at (760) **233-8043**.

The **COALITION FOR JUSTICE** is working to restore Hawaiian Gardens' public funds drained by Moskowitz' casino and to stop his funding of militant opposition to Israeli-Palestinian peace.

**DEVELOPER BENEFITS AT EXPENSE OF
WORKING CLASS CITY**

HAWAIIAN GARDENS CASINO TO COST CITY MILLIONS

NEW EVIDENCE THAT SUGGESTS CONTRACT FAVORING DEVELOPER WAS SUBSTITUTED WITH CITY'S REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CONTRACT AT LAST MINUTE: CASINO, SET FOR GRAND OPENING THURSDAY, COULD GIVES NOTHING BACK TO COMMUNITY

9 February 2000, HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA—Language in a questionable 1993 city contract could deprive the City of Hawaiian Gardens of much needed revenue from a casino that the city and its redevelopment agency went into debt to finance. The language—which may ultimately let the private casino owner pocket millions of dollars in revenue that the city understood it would share in—appears in a version of the redevelopment agreement that apparently was mysteriously swapped for the staff-drafted contract.

The **COALITION FOR JUSTICE**, a non-profit, grassroots organization that has closely monitored this public/private casino partnership has obtained the long-lost original contract in question. This original contract validates staff and other accounts that copies of the substitute document—with wording that differed sharply from the staff's recommendation and draft contract—unexpectedly appeared in a conference room where the **HAWAIIAN GARDENS COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY** held an unscheduled closed-session, after which they adopted the substituted document. The substituted document also lowered redeveloper **IRVING MOSKOWITZ'** "good-faith" deposit from \$3 million to merely \$25,000 and removed his responsibility for toxic cleanup of the site.

www.stopmoskowitz.org

9553 Pico Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90035 <> P.O. Box 1471, Hawaiian Gardens CA 90716
310-553-1146 <> pager 310-797-0457

In addition, a 1994 amendment to the contract excused Moskowitz from paying half the costs of relocating existing businesses. The COALITION is currently researching how that provision was rammed through. This contract with Moskowitz has resulted in crushing debts for the agency and the city, a working class city of 14,800 located in the southeastern corner of Los Angeles County, while allowing his project, the **HAWAIIAN GARDENS CASINO**, to potentially reap millions for his company.

The COALITION has given a copy of the original contract to the state's **JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE (JLAC)**, which recently opened an investigation of Moskowitz' dealings with Hawaiian Gardens.

The "no-tax" language in the Moskowitz/Hawaiian Gardens contract, as well as copies of the original and substitute contracts, plus a three-color line-by-line comparison of the two, are available to reporters and are being posted this week on www.stopmoskowitz.org. To obtain these, please contact the COALITION'S **JANE HUNTER** at (760) **233-8043**.

COALITION members will display a large visual representation of the stealth language *tomorrow*, **Thursday February 10th**, from **5:30 PM to 9 PM** in front of the Casino (11781 Carson Street, Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716), which holds an invitation-only gala opening at that time.

The COALITION FOR JUSTICE is working to restore Hawaiian Gardens' public funds drained by Moskowitz' casino and to stop his funding of militant opposition to Israeli-Palestinian peace.

For information on this release, please contact Jane Hunter at (760) 233-8043 or Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak at pager # (310) 797-0457.

#