

STOP
MOSKOWITZ
.ORG

For more information, or to make a donation to support our work, please visit our website www.stopmoskowitz.org or contact us at P.O. 67903, Los Angeles CA 90067 Phone (310) 553-1146 Fax (310) 286-7109 The Coalition for Justice in Hawaiian Gardens and Jerusalem

Moskowitz's provocative undertakings in Jerusalem have already claimed many lives. Over 70 people died in riots following the 1996 opening of a controversial Moskowitz-funded tunnel to the Temple Mount. Israeli analysts predict his actions in volatile Jerusalem will cause additional tragedies. "Mr. Moskowitz, you aren't a Zionist. You are a provocateur," wrote the former head of Israel's domestic security agency, Carmi Gillon, in the newspaper Yediot Aharonot.



Moskowitz-funded tunnel by the Temple Mount sparked deadly protests

MOSKOWITZ FUNDS "NEOCONS"

In the United States, Moskowitz pours hundreds of thousands of dollars into far-right anti-peace groups like the Zionist Organization of America and Americans for a Safe Israel. Additionally, Moskowitz has given \$465,000 in bingo profits to the hawkish "neocon" Center for Security Policy, a leading voice for war on Iraq and, now, war on Syria. Another "neocon" beneficiary of Hawaiian Gardens bingo funds (\$100,000) is the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, whose leader, Michael Ledeen, is calling for the overthrow of the Iranian government.



Moskowitz' use of bingo funds in Hawaiian Gardens has been strategically stingy

the COALITION FOR JUSTICE wants to



IN HAWAIIAN GARDENS & JERUSALEM

IN HAWAIIAN GARDENS, A SMALL CITY IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY...

IRVING MOSKOWITZ USED HIS "CHARITY" BINGO TO GET CONTROL OF THE CITY AND PUT IT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN DEBT TO BUILD HIM A CASINO.

Now California's gambling authority is deciding whether to license Moskowitz's casino. We believe Moskowitz should not get the license, because it would mean the government endorses his abuse of Hawaiian Gardens. We warn that, if he gets a license, Moskowitz will immediately cease paying casino revenue taxes to Hawaiian Gardens, leaving residents to pay off the casino development debts.

THE BACKGROUND

In 1988, Irving Moskowitz, a retired MD and local hospital owner, bought the non-profit Hawaiian Gardens Bingo Club, on Carson Street, the city's main thoroughfare. The City Council gave his family-controlled Irving I. Moskowitz Foundation a monopoly on charitable bingo, which persists to this day, even though Moskowitz never lived up to his promise to donate most of the proceeds locally. He simply forced out City Council members who challenged his monopoly and continued to run the taxpayer-subsidized bingo as a private piggy bank.

Over the years, the bingo club has netted dozens of millions of dollars and, rather than using the money to benefit Hawaiian Gardens, Moskowitz has funneled the bulk of it to extremist Israeli causes (see the information on Jerusalem below). By contrast, his use of bingo funds in Hawaiian Gardens has been strategically stingy, directed mostly to the hospital he owns and the food bank he and his family control. Yes, you will see some old news stories discussing how Moskowitz's bingo supported the Hawaiian Gardens government. But that was from 1995 to 1997, while he campaigned for approval of his casino. In 1999 his total giving to the city was \$35,000!

Moskowitz's bingo operation takes advantage of a state law requiring that bingo be a charity run by volunteers. His Moskowitz Foundation has no members, so he staffs the bingo with immigrant "volunteers" who work only for tips – no wages or benefits. MALDEF, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, is suing the Moskowitz bingo on behalf of 24 unpaid bingo workers.

In 1993, Moskowitz pushed through a sweetheart deal with the Hawaiian Gardens Community Redevelopment Agency to develop what, at the time, was generally thought would be a large retail complex. But by 1995, Moskowitz was backing a ballot measure approving a casino—spending over \$500,000, almost \$200 a vote. The casino would be located across the street from a school, a church and a park. A year (and some additional hundreds of thousands of campaign dollars later) Moskowitz had recalled City councilmembers opposed to the casino.

Hawaiian Gardens took a financial beating from the casino. The 1993 deal stuck the city's Redevelopment Agency with paying many costs commonly born by developers. That so drained the Agency that its auditors warned it might go belly up. The City Council bailed out the Agency with more than \$3 million. Then, with the casino still unfinished and the Agency out of funds, Moskowitz insisted on loaning the city \$3.5 million to finance additional Agency spending on the casino. The city then floated bonds to pay the debts that Moskowitz induced it to incur – including a million-dollar bill from his lawyers. The bonds are secured by the very casino revenues which once promised prosperity to the community.

Moskowitz has built two apartment developments in locations that are key to Palestinian aspirations in Jerusalem. Now he is populating the developments, Ras al-Amud and Abu Dis, with settlers, using his clout with the current right-wing government, to establish peace-stopping "facts on the ground." *"Moskowitz's rise to prominence stems not so much from the size of the funds he puts at the disposal of land-purchasing groups...but from his unerring choice of super-sensitive sites..."* wrote a Jewish Telegraphic Agency analyst.

In Jerusalem, Moskowitz is spending millions of dollars to thwart Israeli-Palestinian peace, showering bingo proceeds from Hawaiian Gardens, plus personal funds, on militant settler efforts to block land compromises favored by the majority of Israelis.



*The Casino on Carson Street...
Open 24 Hrs a Day*

Abu Dis, which is near Jerusalem, is regarded as the key to compromise on the Palestinian demand for their state's capital to be in Jerusalem. According to a pro-settler news service, Arutz Sheva Israel Broadcasting Network, "The original idea behind the new

[Abu Dis] neighborhood was to obstruct the implementation of the "Beilin-Abu Mazen Plan," a proposed compromise on land.

In addition to these major "facts on the ground," Moskowitz has long funded the secret purchase of Palestinian homes in traditionally Palestinian neighborhoods, moving in settlers who



Abu Dis: Moskowitz is building to preempt Palestinian parliament

intimidate local Palestinians and vandalize their property.

Moskowitz has given one such militant settler group, Ateret Cohanim, \$5.63 million in bingo funds through the non-profit American Friends of Ateret Cohanim. The group openly advocates exclusive Jewish control of Jerusalem. Moskowitz funneled another \$5.92 million in bingo funds into provocative Jerusalem real estate purchases through the American Friends of Everest, a US-based foundation controlled by his family.

Using his connections in the Jerusalem government, Moskowitz blocked the construction of a badly needed Arab girls' school, which was already approved by the city. He bought the land for a settler yeshiva, Beit Orot, whose leader advocates expulsion of the Palestinians from Jerusalem and the West Bank. Palestinian parents, represented by an Israeli attorney prominent in the peace movement, are suing Moskowitz.



Beit Orot

