

**From the January 2004 Holmby-Westwood Property Owners Association
Newsletter**

Hearing for Casden Palazzo Project Set for February 12

In November 2003, the County Grand Jury indicted a Casden VP and thirteen Casden subcontractors for money laundering in connection with campaign donations to various candidates in the 2001 city election.

Councilmember Jack Weiss, apparently to distance himself from the indictments, has come out against the Palazzo project (to construct a mixed use development in Westwood in violation of zoning regulations.) At the time the indictments were announced the LA Times quoted Councilman Weiss as opposing the project because of “poor community outreach” and because it was “bad public policy to continue consideration of the project in light of the indictment of an official of the development firm.” We (Westwood Property Owners) had requested that Councilman Weiss oppose the project because it greatly exceeds the development criteria of the Westwood Village Specific Plan.

On January 13, the LA Times again quoted Councilman Weiss: “My position remains that, given all that has transpired over the past several months, approval of this project is wrong for the community and the city. The developers ought to go back to the drawing board and take the community with them.”

The Palazzo project will be heard before the City Planning Commission on Feb. 12. Call Councilman Weiss’ office (213) 473-7005, to request a Westside venue for the hearing rather than one at City Hall.