

ing Capital



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APOLIS, MARYLAND, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1976

FIFTEEN CENTS

Mandel pal's high bid got housing work

Federal housing officials in Baltimore have asked the Anne Arundel County Housing Authority to justify its selection of a politically well-connected developer who submitted the high bid for a senior citizens housing project in Glen Burnie.

William L. Siskind, the owner of the Annapolis and Baltimore Hilton Inns and a former business partner of Gov. Marvin Mandel, submitted last fall a bid of \$2.8 million for the 90-unit project.

The bid was higher than four proposals submitted by two other developers and \$600,000 higher than the lowest bidder.

Siskind's firm, Pinewood Village Inc., was also the developer of a recently opened public housing project called Pinewood I. The new project is to be built on an adjoining tract of land.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development called for the justification after Joseph Della Ratta, president of Della Ratta Inc., the low bidder on the project, protested.

Mary Christhill, executive director of the housing authority, said this morning that the HUD request had come Jan. 8. She said the authority returned all its information on the bids late last week.

She said Siskind's proposal was accepted because the authority preferred the site he offered, off Old Annapolis Road, between Mountain Road and Ritchie Highway.

The other sites, proposed by Della Ratta and Leonard J. Attman, although they were cheaper, did not meet the authority's requirements, Mrs. Christhill said.

HUD, which pays the total cost of such developments and partially subsidizes their operating expenses, must approve the selection of the developer.

The projects, called "turnkey projects," are built by a developer, then turned over to a local housing authority.

Under HUD's rules, a housing authority must submit full justification when it chooses a bidder who is not the lowest.

Neither Siskind nor Della Ratta could be reached this morning. Spokesmen for both men said they were out of town.

Della Ratta's complaint to HUD charges there were irregularities in the selection of developers.

"This is the first time we have seen a flagrant abuse of the program by a housing authority," he wrote in a letter to Everett H. Rothschild, area director for HUD.

He asked HUD to reject Siskind's bid.

Della Ratta complained that Siskind's proposal allowed him to take advantage of less stringent building requirements in calculating his costs and that the housing authority sub-

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Photo by Norm Goldberg

street from College Avenue to College Creek is also shortly. Despite some remaining obstructions, the on to traffic. Cars coming into the city on Roscoe I can come south on Bladen Street to Calvert Street the bypass to Church Circle. Construction is just ber, on the new mall between the Legislative Servid the governor's mansion. That project is not exshed until late spring.



UPI Telephoto

accompanied by a U.S. Marshall, leaves in San Francisco yesterday. U.S. Judge hopes to complete jury selection today and the trial tomorrow.

Seminar offered on divorce

How do you prepare yourself emotionally, legally and financially for divorce? What does it do to your children? How do you deal with the myths and stereotypes surrounding the issues of separation, alimony and single parenthood?

These topics will be explored in a three-part seminar on divorce, with the first session being held tomorrow night, at the Severna Park public library, 45 McKinsey Rd.

The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, which will sponsor the seminars says 1,970 persons filed for divorce in Anne Arundel County last year, and that there is a "great need for a more informed public" on the problems of divorce.

Emily M. Brown, director of the Marriage and Divorce Counseling Service in Washington, will speak on three successive Wednesday nights, Feb. 4, 11, and 18, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Tomorrow night's topic will be an overview of separation, of divorce, a redefinition of the myths and stereotypes accompanying it, and practical preparation for separating.

The meeting is open to the public.

Contract probed

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mitted only Siskind's proposal to the Baltimore office, in violation of HUD rules.

Della Ratta also complained that one of his two sites was rejected because of a zoning problem.

Della Ratta proposed two sites, one near Odenton and another on McKinsey Road in Severna Park.

Mrs. Christliff said the Odenton site was rejected because it was "way out in the boon-docks."

The McKinsey Road site is now zoned R-5. Della Ratta would need R-22 zoning to develop

the mid-rise apartment building.

Attman's sites were also rejected their location, she said.

One site on Hospital Drive at Elval Glen Burnie, would have forced residents to cross Route 100 to get shopping centers, she argued. The north side of Mountain Road between and Old Annapolis Roads "just did commissioners at all," she said.

Attman bid \$2.6 million on the Hospital site and \$2.5 million for the Mountain Road property.

Della Ratta's bid was \$2.2 million.

Dock work

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object."

Final plans to rebuild the dock were approved by the council last fall after a tumultuous public hearing during which a parade of downtown merchants protested an original, more complex construction plan that included chopping off one corner of the dock and adding a park along the Compromise Street side.

In a compromise, the council approved only the first part of a two-phase plan, leaving the more controversial aspects of the design for a later vote after studies have been made of traffic problems.



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