

Pickets kill Hotel Andaluz campaign visit for Biden

The carpenter's union's ongoing bannering campaign even came into play around election time last fall.

Vice President Joe Biden was scheduled to appear at a \$1,000-a-plate luncheon at Hotel Andaluz in Albuquerque in November to help raise campaign cash for Democratic Reps. Martin Heinrich and Harry Teague.

But picketers in front of the hotel had event organizers from Washington, D.C., changing plans.

"They didn't want to cross the picket line," Gary Goodman, real estate developer and owner of the hotel, told the **Journal**. "It was a loss of national PR. It would have meant a lot."

The event was moved to Hotel Albuquerque, Goodman said, where organizers thought they'd be free from union bannering.

They were free of protesters for that day — but it is a property that was being targeted by the union during that time, and it continues to be a target of the carpenter's union.

Picketing Hotel Albuquerque and Heritage Hotels & Resorts CEO Jim Long is not right, either, Goodman said.

"Here Hotel Albuquerque is owned by Jim Long, who is working hard to create jobs in Albuquerque, and they are picketing him," he said.

It's a similar situation for Goodman, whose renovation of the former La Posada into a green boutique hotel was completed in October of last year.

"We've invested \$30 million into Downtown Albuquerque, desperately needed investment during a time when no one is working," he said. "We employed 250 people. Of that 250 people, 250 were local. Now we employ 150 people permanently, all with extensive benefit packages, better than the union offers, and yet they're trying to hurt this hotel. That's their goal."

By Staff Writer Rivkela Brodsky

Business

Outlook

MONEY RATES ♦ PAGE 16



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PAGE 3